

## V. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Location

The Town of Somers is located in the far northeast corner of Kenosha County. The City of Kenosha forms the Town's entire southern border and the southern half of the Town's eastern border. The Town of Paris is located to the west, on the west side of Interstate 94. Somers borders the Racine County Village of Mount Pleasant to the north. The northern-most portion of the Town's eastern border is Lake Michigan. Somers is located within close proximity to Milwaukee and Chicago, and has good access to both of these metro areas.

### Water Features

As mentioned previously, the most notable water feature, Lake Michigan, borders the east side of roughly the northern half of the Town. This three-plus miles of shoreline provides a number of scenic vistas out over the Lake. A major Lake Michigan tributary, the Pike River, flows from the Village of Mount Pleasant south through the eastern section of the Town, and then empties into Lake Michigan in the City of Kenosha. Several smaller tributaries, including Pike Creek, flow into the Pike River from the north, west, and south. The South Branch of the Pike River, one of the larger tributaries, extends south from its confluence with the Pike River through much of the central portion of the Town. The East Branch of the Des Plaines River, locally known as the Kilbourn Road Ditch, flows through the far western section of Somers as it roughly parallels Interstate 94. This section of river then flows through the City of Kenosha to its eventual confluence with the Des Plaines River in the Village of Pleasant Prairie.

### Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas

Primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas are also located within the Town. These environmentally significant areas include both wetlands and woodlands, and they serve a multitude of purposes within the Town. They contribute significantly to the rural atmosphere that most area residents desire while preserving, help to purify drinking water, and also function as integral components of maintaining the natural ecosystem. The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has identified and delineated these environmentally sensitive areas so that local governmental agencies can protect them.

Key components of environmental corridors are: 1) rivers, streams, lakes, and associated shorelands and floodlands, 2) wetlands, 3) woodlands, 4) prairies, 5) wildlife habitat areas, 6) wet, poorly drained, and organic soils, and 7) rugged terrain and high-relief topography. Existing parks and open spaces are also considered in the delineation of environmental corridors.

Environmental corridors have been split into two major categories. Primary environmental corridors are at least 400 acres in size, two miles in length, and 200 feet in width. Secondary environmental corridors generally connect with the primary environmental corridors and are at least 100 acres in size and one mile in length. Isolated natural resource areas are at least five acres in size and are separated physically from the environmental corridors by intensive urban and agricultural land uses.