

# Pheasant Branch wetland degraded by urban runoff

The Pheasant Branch wetland receives groundwater from the north, and stormwater runoff from the south from Pheasant Branch Creek.

After re-routing of the Pheasant Branch Creek in mid-1960's, aimed at attenuating sediment runoff into Lake Mendota, floristic quality of the wetland is low.

When compared to benchmarks for wetland plant communities, many areas within Pheasant Branch Conservancy rank fair or poor.

Stormwater input

Stormwater input

Stormwater input

Old channel

Stormwater input

Sand and sediment deposition is feet above historical wetland soils

Urbanization means increased flow and erosion in the Pheasant Branch Creek channel. Highly erodable sandy soils exacerbate bank erosion and movement of sediment downstream.

Groundwater sources are highly associated with remnant wetland plant communities

Springs

Springs

Stormwater detention basins

Spring

Interior wetland areas are groundwater-fed and also buffered from invasive species

Despite significant groundwater recharge, degradation of wetland areas due to excess sedimentation is evidenced by low floristic quality throughout much of the wetland

Seeps

Seeps

Historically sedge meadow, this area is now a low-diversity upland forest dominated by invasive species.

wCa = Weighted mean Coefficient of Conservatism, a value of the endemism of a species, weighted by the abundance of each species as measured by percent cover (Wisconsin DNR).

- Surface water
- - - Trails
- Contours (20 ft)
- ▭ Parcels



PCS WGS84 UTM 16 N

Data sources: lakes (Dane Co), contours (Dane Co), trails (City of Middleton), rivers (W DNR), imagery (WisconsinView), floristic quality data produced by Adaptive Restoration, Thompson and Asso. Wetland Services, City of Middleton

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0 0.1 0.2 mi

