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Intro to Env. Study

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Richard Frost Lecture Reflection

During his lecture, Richard Frost talked about the history behind the La Crosse River Marsh, as well as the city itself. He had over 200 slides relating to the relationship between the city of La Crosse and the marsh, including pictures of how parts of the city used to look. He explained how important the marsh is to the environment, including the various number of animal species that inhabit it and the amount of water that it can hold, which helps prevent flooding in the city. A significant amount of his speech was dedicated to explaining all of the past attempts to cover up some or all of the marsh to develop the area. There was apparently one just about a year, or so ago that was a proposed road that would have gone right through the marsh but was tabled. It surprised me to learn that the marsh was not protected by law. I expected that to be the case since I knew that there were development projects that were proposed in the marsh (and the marsh is still there). It makes me thankful that there are more people aware of the marsh’s benefits than there were in the early 20th century. It would be a significant loss to the area to lose the marsh to development, no matter what went in there. It made me a little mad to find out that they had wanted to put a road right through the marsh when there are other routes that a road could take that would be less expensive and less impactful on the local environment. Not to mention that there are already plenty of roads in the area.

Even though I found the lecture to be a little long because he went into so much history of the area and tons of pictures and maps associated with it, I found the lecture to be overall pretty interesting. I found it interesting to think about how much of the original natural beauty of the area has been lost over the years. Some of the pictures that he showed brought forth a picture that is lost because of the development of the city. Even so, however, there is still plenty of beauty to be found in the area and in its inhabitants. The marsh, for example, holds so many different animals species, and I find that to be truly beautiful, even when they are not always visible. I grew up in a pretty urban area of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, so when I came to this area for the first time and was able to see signs of animals all around me in the marsh and the bluffs, I was captured by the beauty of La Crosse. I didn’t even know that muskrats existed or that river otters lived in this part of the country before coming here. After Richard Frost’s lecture, I finally became fully aware of just how important it is to preserve the marsh in its current state and try to prevent any further loss or damage to it.