

**Table K.1  
Guidelines for Development Considered Compatible with Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas**

Component Natural Resource and Related Features within Environmental Corridors <sup>a</sup>	Permitted Development (see General Development Guidelines below)																
	Transportation and Utility Facilities				Recreational Facilities											Rural Density Residential Development	Other Development
	Streets and Highways	Utility Lines and Related Facilities	Engineered Stormwater Management Facilities	Engineered Flood Control Facilities <sup>b</sup>	Trails <sup>c</sup>	Picnic Areas	Family Camping <sup>d</sup>	Swimming Beaches	Boat Access	Ski Hills	Golf	Playfields	Hard-Surface Courts	Parking	Buildings		
Lakes, Rivers, and Streams	-- <sup>e</sup>	-- <sup>fg</sup>	--	-- <sup>h</sup>	-- <sup>i</sup>	--	--	X	X	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Riparian Buffer <sup>j</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	X	--	--
Floodplain <sup>k</sup>	-- <sup>l</sup>	X	X	X	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	X	X	--	--
Wetland <sup>m</sup>	-- <sup>l</sup>	X	--	--	X <sup>n</sup>	--	--	--	X	--	-- <sup>o</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wet Soils	X	X	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	--	X	--	--	X	--	--	--
Woodland	X	X	X <sup>p</sup>	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X <sup>q</sup>	X	X
Wildlife Habitat	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Steep Slope	X	X	--	--	-- <sup>r</sup>	--	--	--	--	X <sup>s</sup>	X	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prairie	--	-- <sup>g</sup>	--	--	-- <sup>r</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Park	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	--	--
Historic Site	--	-- <sup>g</sup>	--	--	-- <sup>r</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	X	--	--	--
Scenic Viewpoint	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	--	X	X	X	--	--	X	X	X	X
Natural Area or Critical Species Habitat Site	--	--	--	--	-- <sup>g</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Note: An "X" indicates that facility development is permitted within the specified natural resource feature. In those portions of the environmental corridors having more than one of the listed natural resource features, the natural resource feature with the most restrictive development limitation should take precedence.

**APPLICABILITY**

These guidelines indicate the types of development that can be accommodated within primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas while maintaining the basic integrity of those areas. Throughout this table, the term "environmental corridors" refers to primary and secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

Under VISION 2050:

- As regionally significant resource areas, primary environmental corridors should be preserved in essentially natural, open use—in accordance with the guidelines in this table.
- Secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas warrant consideration for preservation in essentially natural open use, as determined in county and local plans and in a manner consistent with State and Federal regulations. County and local units of government may choose to apply the guidelines in this table to secondary environmental corridors and isolated natural resource areas.

**GENERAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES**

- **Transportation and Utility Facilities:** All transportation and utility facilities proposed to be located within the important natural resources should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to consider alternative locations for such facilities. If it is determined that such facilities should be located within natural resources, development activities should be sensitive to, and minimize disturbance of, these resources, and, to the extent possible following construction, such resources should be restored to preconstruction conditions.

The above table presents development guidelines for major transportation and utility facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

**Table continued on next page.**

## Table K.1 (Continued)

- **Recreational Facilities:** In general, no more than 20 percent of the total environmental corridor area should be developed for recreational facilities. Furthermore, no more than 20 percent of the environmental corridor area consisting of upland wildlife habitat and woodlands should be developed for recreational facilities. It is recognized, however, that in certain cases these percentages may be exceeded in efforts to accommodate needed public recreational and game and fish management facilities within appropriate natural settings. In all cases however, the proposed recreational development should not threaten the integrity of the remaining corridor lands nor destroy particularly significant resource elements in that corridor. Each such proposal should be reviewed on a site-by-site basis.

The above table presents development guidelines for major recreational facilities. These guidelines may be extended to other similar facilities not specifically listed in the table.

- **Rural Density Residential Development:** Rural density residential development may be accommodated in upland environmental corridors, provided that buildings are kept off steep slopes. The maximum number of housing units accommodated at a proposed development site within the environmental corridor should be limited to the number determined by dividing the total corridor acreage within the site, less the acreage covered by surface water and wetlands, by five. The permitted housing units may be in single-family or multifamily structures. When rural residential development is accommodated, cluster subdivision designs are strongly encouraged.
- **Other Development:** In lieu of recreational or rural density residential development, up to 10 percent of the upland corridor area in a parcel may be disturbed in order to accommodate urban residential, commercial, or other urban development under the following conditions: 1) the area to be disturbed is compact rather than scattered in nature; 2) the disturbance area is located on the edge of a corridor or on marginal resources within a corridor; 3) the development does not threaten the integrity of the remaining corridor; 4) the development does not result in significant adverse water quality impacts; and 5) development of the remaining corridor lands is prohibited by a conservation easement or deed restriction. Each such proposal must be reviewed on a site-by-site basis.

Under this arrangement, while the developed area would no longer be part of the environmental corridor, the entirety of the remaining corridor would be permanently preserved from disturbance. From a resource protection point of view, preserving a minimum of 90 percent of the environmental corridor in this manner may be preferable to accommodating scattered homesites and attendant access roads at an overall density of one dwelling unit per five acres throughout the upland corridor areas.

- **Pre-Existing Lots:** Single-family development on existing lots of record should be permitted as provided for under county or local zoning at the time of adoption of the regional land use plan.

All permitted development presumes that sound land and water management practices are utilized.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>a</sup> The natural resource and related features are defined as follows:

**Lakes, Rivers, and Streams:** Includes all lakes greater than five acres in area and all perennial and intermittent streams as shown on U. S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

**Riparian Buffer:** Includes a band 50 feet in depth along both sides of intermittent streams; a band 75 feet in depth along both sides of perennial streams; a band 75 feet in depth around lakes; and a band 200 feet in depth along the Lake Michigan shoreline.

**Floodplain:** Includes areas, excluding stream channels and lake beds, subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual probability flood event.

**Wetlands:** Includes areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency, and with a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**Wet Soils:** Includes areas covered by wet, poorly drained, and organic soils.

**Woodlands:** Includes areas one acre or more in size having 17 or more deciduous trees per acre with at least a 50 percent canopy cover as well as coniferous tree plantations and reforestation projects; excludes lowland woodlands, such as tamarack swamps, which are classified as wetlands.

**Wildlife Habitat:** Includes areas devoted to natural open uses of a size and with a vegetative cover capable of supporting a balanced diversity of wildlife.

**Steep Slope:** Includes areas with land slopes of 12 percent or greater.

**Prairies:** Includes open, generally treeless areas that are dominated by native grasses; also includes savannas.

**Park:** Includes public and nonpublic park and open space sites.

**Historic Site:** Includes sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Most historic sites located within environmental corridors are archaeological features such as American Indian settlements and effigy mounds and cultural features such as small, old cemeteries. On a limited basis, small historic buildings may also be encompassed within delineated corridors.

**Scenic Viewpoint:** Includes vantage points from which a diversity of natural features such as surface waters, wetlands, woodlands, and agricultural lands can be observed.

**Natural Area and Critical Species Habitat Sites:** Includes natural areas and critical species habitat sites as identified in the regional natural areas and critical species habitat protection and management plan.

Table continued on next page.

## Table K.1 (Continued)

- <sup>b</sup> Includes such improvements as stream channel modifications and such facilities as dams.
- <sup>c</sup> Includes trails for such activities as hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, nature study, and horseback riding, and excludes all motorized trail activities. It should be recognized that trails for motorized activities such as snowmobiling that are located outside the environmental corridors may of necessity have to cross environmental corridor lands. Proposals for such crossings should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and if it is determined that they are necessary, such trail crossings should be designed to ensure minimum disturbance of the natural resources.
- <sup>d</sup> Includes areas intended to accommodate camping in tents, trailers, or recreational vehicles that remain at the site for short periods of time, typically ranging from an overnight stay to a two-week stay.
- <sup>e</sup> Certain transportation facilities such as bridges may be constructed over such resources.
- <sup>f</sup> Utility facilities such as sanitary sewers may be located in or under such resources.
- <sup>g</sup> Electric power transmission lines and similar lines may be suspended over such resources.
- <sup>h</sup> Certain flood control facilities such as dams and channel modifications may need to be provided in such resources to reduce or eliminate flood damage to existing development.
- <sup>i</sup> Bridges for trail facilities may be constructed over such resources.
- <sup>j</sup> Previous editions of these guidelines identified this category as "Shoreland," rather than "Riparian Buffer." Riparian buffers, as defined in footnote "a" of this table, typically would be located within a State-defined shoreland area (see Chapters NR 115 and NR 117 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code).
- <sup>k</sup> Consistent with Chapter NR 116 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- <sup>l</sup> Streets and highways may cross such resources. Where this occurs, there should be no net loss of flood storage capacity or wetlands. Guidelines for mitigation of impacts on wetlands by Wisconsin Department of Transportation facility projects are set forth in Chapter Trans 400 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- <sup>m</sup> Any development affecting wetlands must adhere to the water quality standards for wetlands established under Chapter NR 103 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- <sup>n</sup> Only an appropriately designed boardwalk/trail should be permitted.
- <sup>o</sup> Wetlands may be incorporated as part of a golf course, provided there is no disturbance of the wetlands.
- <sup>p</sup> Generally excludes detention, retention, and infiltration basins. Such facilities should be permitted only if no reasonable alternative is available.
- <sup>q</sup> Only if no alternative is available.
- <sup>r</sup> Only appropriately designed and located hiking and cross-country ski trails should be permitted.
- <sup>s</sup> Only an appropriately designed, vegetated, and maintained ski hill should be permitted.

Source: SEWRPC