

Environmental Corridors Policies & Criteria – 2026 Update

Record of Stakeholder Input

Prepared by CARPC staff (last revised 4/10/2026)

This document summarizes input from various stakeholders that CARPC staff gathered from June 2025 to April 2026 related to possible revisions to the Policies and Criteria for Environmental Corridors.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Water Quality Staff

June 2025

Started discussion about policy updates with DNR.

Subject Matter Experts

October 2025

CARPC staff met with subject matter experts from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) surrounding four topics: endangered and sensitive habitats, geology and soils, waterways, and woodlands. Staff shared proposed clarifications/additions to the Policies and Criteria and asked five general questions about each topic:

1. What are the benefits of protecting these areas on water resources and other ecosystems?
2. What other statutory/regulatory requirements support or aid protection?
3. What is the historical perspective of such protection?
4. What hurdles or challenges do you see?
5. What other opportunities or priorities do you see?

Participants

Name	Organization	Topic
Tim Asplund	WDNR	Waterways
Sarah Bogen	WDNR	Waterways
Camille Bruhn	WDNR	Waterways
Sharon Fandel	WDNR	Endangered and Sensitive Habitats
Lauren Haydon	WDNR	Waterways

Sarah Herrick	WDNR	Woodlands
Mark Riedel	WDNR	Geology and Soils
Helena Tiedmann	WDNR	Endangered and Sensitive Habitats, Geology and Soils, Waterways, Woodlands
Cody Calkins	DATCP	Geology and Soils
Jenn Chakravorty	DATCP	Geology and Soils

Topics discussed:

Endangered and Sensitive Habitats

1. Data privacy limitations
2. Habitat Quality Ranking Tools/Criteria
3. Specific habitat categories

Geology and Soils

1. Nutrient Management Requirements
2. Flexibility of areas listed referenced in NR 121
3. Soil data categories

Waterways

1. Perennial/intermittent vs navigability distinction as it relates to vegetated buffer requirements
2. Wider vegetated buffers for high-quality water bodies
3. Restriction to grading within 30 feet of all waterways (not just wetlands)
4. Riparian wooded areas

Woodlands

1. Old growth woodlands
2. Woodlands with steep slopes (>12% grade)
3. Riparian wooded areas – definition, recommendations, and water quality benefits
4. Metrics for determinations of quality

Focus Groups

February 2026

CARPC staff gathered three focus groups: Collaborators and Land Protectors, Regulated Entities, and Madison Area Builder’s Association (MABA). Two documents were shared with

stakeholders ahead of the focus group meetings: draft update to the Policies and Criteria for Environmental Corridors and an overview of proposed changes.

The focus group meetings included a presentation by CARPC staff that gave an overview of CARPC and the Dane County Water Quality Plan, the Policies and Criteria update process, and Environmental Corridor components. It also included a summary of proposed changes related to Environmental Corridor delineation and reorganization/clarification and highlighted topics for group discussion.

Collaborators and Land Protectors

Participants

Name	Organization
Helena Tiedmann	WDNR
Kyle Minks	Dane County Land and Water Resources Department
Andy Paulios	Dane County Parks
Tony Abate	Groundswell Conservancy
Andy Bingle	Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Stephanie Judge	Driftless Area Land Conservancy

Concerns/topics discussed:

1. Buffers – preferred vegetation, temporary impacts, and enforcement
2. Protection of wetlands that are partially exempted by WDNR
3. Inclusion of restored prairies as endangered and sensitive habitats
4. High-quality woodlands – definition and importance of management
5. Enforcement of riparian wooded areas

Regulated Entities

Participants

Name	Organization
Deanna Schmidt	City of Fitchburg
Greg Fries	City of Madison
Brian Grady	City of Madison
Phil Gaebler	City of Madison
Abby Attoun	City of Middleton
Josh Clements	City of Sun Prairie
Lucas Sivertsen	City of Verona
Mark Roffers	Town of Cottage Grove, Village of DeForest, Village of Maple Bluff, and Village of Marshall
Cynthia Richson	Town of Middleton

Keith Comstock	Town of Pleasant Springs
Renee Gouaux	Town of Pleasant Springs
Faith Schuck	Town of Pleasant Springs
Jim Post	Town of Rutland
Brian Wilson	Village of Cambridge
Erin Ruth	Village of Cottage Grove
Sonja Kruesel	Village of Cross Plains
Jamie Rybarczyk	Village of Windsor
Bob Wipperfurth	Village of Windsor
Aaron Jahncke	Village of Waunakee
Curt Sauser	Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District

Concerns/topics discussed:

1. Continuity, connectivity, and linkages
2. Perennial/intermittent stream – data source/designations
3. Grandfathering of policies and what rules apply to redevelopment
4. Temporary storage of construction materials used for staging
5. Recreational use buffers
6. Temporary impacts to vegetation within no-grading buffer
7. Protection of wetlands that are partially exempted by WDNR
8. Riparian woodlands – quality, continuity, unintended consequences
9. Suggestion for external guidance document

Madison Area Builders Association

Participants

Name	Organization
Dan Day	D’Onofrio Kottke & Associates
Chad Lawler	MABA
Robert Procter	Axley LLP
Matt Schreiner	Vierbicher
Jerry Tierney	Livable Communities by Don Tierney

Concerns/topics discussed:

1. Wider buffers for waters designated as Areas of Special Natural Resource Interest (ASNRI)
2. Inclusion of riparian steep slopes regardless of vegetation
3. Criteria for distinguishing between perennial and intermittent
4. Temporary storage of construction materials used for staging

5. Grandfathering
6. Riparian woodlands – quality, effect on amount of developable land

Commission Presentation

April 2026

Provided a summary of the update process to date and the changes that are being proposed to the CARPC Commission.

Public Hearing

Scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026.