

# Environmental Corridors Policies & Criteria – 2026 Update

## Record of Stakeholder Input

*Prepared by CARPC staff (last revised 6/2/2026)*

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
<b>Tim Asplund</b>	WDNR	Waterways
<b>Sarah Bogen</b>	WDNR	Waterways
<b>Camille Bruhn</b>	WDNR	Waterways
<b>Sharon Fandel</b>	WDNR	Endangered and Sensitive Habitats
<b>Lauren Haydon</b>	WDNR	Waterways

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

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

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

<b>Keith Comstock</b>	Town of Pleasant Springs
<b>Renee Gouaux</b>	Town of Pleasant Springs
<b>Faith Schuck</b>	Town of Pleasant Springs
<b>Jim Post</b>	Town of Rutland
<b>Brian Wilson</b>	Village of Cambridge
<b>Erin Ruth</b>	Village of Cottage Grove
<b>Sonja Kruesel</b>	Village of Cross Plains
<b>Jamie Rybarczyk</b>	Village of Windsor
<b>Bob Wipperfurth</b>	Village of Windsor
<b>Aaron Jahncke</b>	Village of Waunakee
<b>Curt Sauser</b>	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*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Dan Day</b>	D’Onofrio Kottke & Associates
<b>Chad Lawler</b>	MABA
<b>Robert Procter</b>	Axley LLP
<b>Matt Schreiner</b>	Vierbicher
<b>Jerry Tierney</b>	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. Several commissioners asked questions and provided suggested edits to the updated policies and criteria.

Topics discussed:

1. Recreational paths
2. What is considered “temporary” as it related to temporary storage of construction materials
3. Native vegetation
4. Biodiversity
5. Voluntary areas
6. Riparian woodlands

## Public Hearing

### May 2026

A public hearing was held at the CARPC Commission meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026. CARPC staff began the public hearing with an overview of the process to date, the changes that are being proposed, the schedule going forward, and when the new policies would take effect/be applied. No public comments or commissioner questions/comments were received.

## Follow-up Discussion with MABA

### June 2026

CARPC staff participated in a follow-up discussion with MABA to provide clarification on how policies surrounding intermittent streams should be interpreted.

## Commission Action

Commission action is scheduled for the June CARPC Commission meeting on Thursday, June 11, 2026.