

## **COUNTY-DEFINED ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS**

Although no counties in the Bay-Lake Region have regulations to specifically delineate and protect “environmental corridors,” many delineate and protect certain environmental features of the corridors as required by federal and state laws. County regulations protecting environmental features include sewer service area planning, farmland preservation planning, shoreland zoning, wetland district zoning, floodplain zoning, and natural features zoning.

Environmental corridors have been defined for all counties within the Bay-Lake region for use in local planning efforts. However, some counties may refer to environmental corridors by another name, such as in Florence County where they are referred to as key environmental features.

### **Brown County**

The *Brown County Environmental Corridors* (October 2002, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) report defines the environmental corridors of the Brown County with the original standard Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission definition and included additional features identified by the Door Peninsula Environmental Corridor Technical Advisory Committee. Features of the Brown County environmental corridors include:

- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- Wetlands with 25-foot buffer
- 100-year Floodplains
- Areas of steep slopes (12 percent or greater)
- State or Federal wildlife areas
- Federal, State, county and local public parks and recreation areas
- Unique natural and scientific areas
- Unique or isolated woodland areas
- Historic and archaeological sites
- Other unique natural features

### **Door County**

The *Door Peninsula Environmental Corridors* (June 2005, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) report defines the environmental corridors of the Door Peninsula with a 75-foot buffer on wetlands and included additional features identified by the Door Peninsula Environmental Corridor Technical Advisory Committee. Features of the Door County environmental corridors include:

- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- Wetlands with 75-foot buffer
- 100-year Floodplains
- Areas of steep slopes (12 percent or greater)
- WDNR Land Legacy Places
- State Natural Areas
- Public Parks and Recreational Areas
- Historical/Archeological sites
- State Wildlife Areas
- Natural Areas Inventory sites
- Niagara Escarpment
- Significant Coastal Wetlands
- Significant Wildlife Habitat and Natural Areas
- Other features of significance

### **Florence County**

In 2001, the Florence County Board of Supervisors adopted the *Florence County Land Use and Lake Protection Plan* (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission). The plan established a definition of “environmental corridors,” known as “key environmental features” in Florence County. The key environmental features/environmental corridors include:

- Wetlands
- Floodplains

- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- Areas of steep slope (12 percent or greater)
- Upland woodlands
- State Scientific and Natural Area

### **Kewaunee County**

The *Coastal Resource Identification for Kewaunee County Using Environmental Corridors* report (2001, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) defines the environmental corridors of Kewaunee County with the original standard Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission definition. Features of the Kewaunee County environmental corridors include:

- Wetlands with 25-foot buffer
- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- 100-year floodplains
- Areas of steep slope (12 percent or greater)

Other features that are part of the Kewaunee County environmental corridor definition include:

- Designated Scientific and Natural Areas
- Unique and isolated woodland areas
- Scenic viewsheds
- Historic and archaeological sites
- Unique geology
- Wetland mitigation sites
- Unique wildlife habitats
- Parks and recreations areas
- Other locally identified features

Although this definition of environmental corridors was never officially adopted by Kewaunee County, it has been widely used by local communities in their planning process.

### **Manitowoc County**

The *Environmental Corridors* report prepared in 1999 (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) defines the environmental corridors of Manitowoc and Sheboygan County with the original standard Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission definition. Features of the Manitowoc County environmental corridors include:

- Wetlands with 25-foot buffer
- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- 100-year floodplains
- Areas of steep slope (12 percent or greater)

Other features that are part of the Manitowoc County environmental corridor definition:

- Designated Scientific and Natural Areas
- Unique and isolated woodland areas
- Scenic viewsheds
- Historic and archaeological sites
- Unique geology
- Wetland mitigation sites
- Unique wildlife habitats
- Parks and recreations areas
- Other locally identified features

### **Marinette County**

The *Marinette County Environmental Corridors* report (2003, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) defines the environmental corridors of Marinette County with the original standard Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission definition, along with additional features identified by the Marinette County Environmental Corridor Technical Advisory Committee. Features of the Marinette County environmental corridors include:

- Wetlands with 25-foot buffer
- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback

- 100-year floodplains
- Areas of steep slope (12 percent or greater)
- Wild Lakes and Rivers with a 400-foot buffer
- WDNR Land Legacy Places
- Unique wildlife and fish habitats
- Rustic Roads
- State Natural Areas
- Historical/Archeological sites
- Public Parks and Recreational Areas
- State Wildlife Areas
- Significant Coastal Wetlands
- Other sites of local significance

Although this definition of environmental corridors was never officially adopted by Marinette County, it has been used by local communities in their planning process.

### **Oconto County**

The *Oconto County Environmental Corridors* report (2003, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) defines the environmental corridors of Oconto County with the original standard Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission definition, along with additional features identified by the Oconto County Environmental Corridor Technical Advisory Committee. Features of the Oconto County environmental corridors include:

- Wetlands with 75-foot buffer
- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- 100-year Floodplains
- Areas with slopes (12 percent or greater)
- WDNR Land Legacy Places
- State Natural Areas
- Public Parks and Recreational Areas
- Historical/Archeological sites
- State Wildlife and Fishery Areas
- Natural Areas Inventory sites
- Critical Groundwater Recharge Areas
- Significant Coastal Wetlands
- Significant County Natural Areas
- Other sites of local significance

Although this definition of environmental corridors was never officially adopted by Oconto County, it has been used by local communities in their planning process.

### **Sheboygan County**

The *Environmental Corridors* report prepared in 1999 (Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission) defines the environmental corridors of Manitowoc and Sheboygan County with the original standard Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission definition. Features of the Sheboygan County environmental corridors include:

- Wetlands with 25-foot buffer
- Navigable waters with 75-foot setback
- 100-year floodplains
- Areas of steep slope (12 percent or greater)

Other features that are part of the Sheboygan County environmental corridor definition include:

- Designated Scientific and Natural Areas
- Unique and isolated woodland areas
- Scenic viewsheds
- Historic and archaeological sites
- Unique geology
- Wetland mitigation sites
- Unique wildlife habitats
- Parks and recreations areas
- Other locally identified features

Source: Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, *Environmental Corridors of the Bay-Lake Region*, June 2012, Pages 11-14.