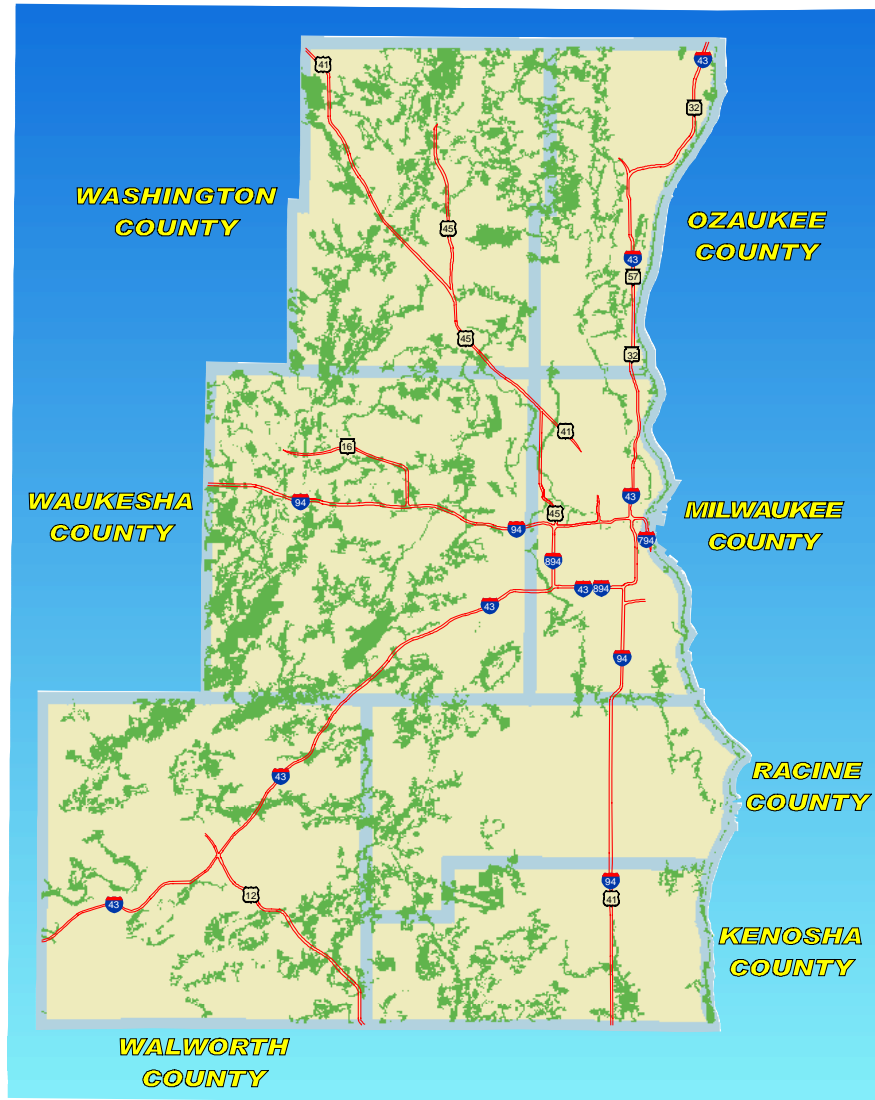


Environmental Corridors



David A. Schilling
Principal Planner
Southeastern Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission

Environmental Corridors in Southeastern Wisconsin: 2000



- **First Identified in 1966**
- **Best Remaining Elements of the Natural Resource Base**
- **Comprise About 17 Percent of Seven-County Region**
- **SEWRPC Recommends Preservation and Protection**
 - **Acquisition**
 - **Regulation**
 - **Limited development in upland areas**



Early Corridor Concepts

- **Charles B. Whitnall**
Milwaukee County Park Commission
Milwaukee County Parkway System
- **Phil Lewis — UW-Madison**
1962 State Department of Resource
Development report –
Recreation in Wisconsin



Change in State Policies

- **1979: Regional Water Quality Management Plan Adopted**
- **1979: New rules adopted by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board**
- **New rules required the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to approve only those sanitary sewer extensions that are in conformance with the adopted regional water quality plan**
- **Section NR 110**
- **Comm 82**



Change in State Policies—continued

- **New rule required refinement of certain components**
 - **Sewer Service Area**
 - **Environmental Corridors**
- **Commission Plan Recommendation**
 - **Primary Environmental Corridors – preserve and protect**
 - **Secondary Environmental Corridors and Isolated Natural Resource Areas – consider for preservation based on local needs and concerns**



*Environmental Corridor
Criteria and Mapping*

- **SEWRPC Technical Record Vol. 4, No. 2 –
*Refining the Delineation of Environmental Corridors
in Southeastern Wisconsin, March 1981***



Natural Resource Base Elements

- **Major Lakes – 50 acres or larger – 20 points**
- **Minor Lakes – 5-49 acres – 20 points**
- **Perennial River or Stream – 10 points**
- **Shoreland**
 - **Perennial - 75' – 10 points**
 - **Intermittent - 50' – 10 points**
 - **Lake Michigan - 200' – 10 points**



*Natural Resource Base
Elements—continued*

- **100-Year Floodland** — **3 points**
- **Wetland** — **10 points**
- **Upland Woods** — **10 points**
- **Wildlife Habitat**
 - **High value** — **10 points**
 - **Medium value** — **7 points**
 - **Low value** — **5 points**



*Natural Resource Base
Elements—continued*

■ **Steep Slope**

- **20 percent or greater** — **7 points**
- **12 percent to 19 percent** — **5 points**

■ **Prairie** — **10 points**

■ **Wet, Poorly Drained, and Organic
Soils – not specifically mapped**



*Natural Resource Base
Elements—continued*

■ **Existing Park or Open Space Site**

- **Open space site** — **5 points**
- **Park or recreation site** — **2 points**

■ **Potential Park Site**

- **High value** — **3 points**
- **Medium value** — **2 points**
- **Low value** — **1 point**



Natural Resource Base Elements—continued

- **Historic Site**

- **Structural** — **1 point**

- **Other Cultural** — **1 point**

- **Archeological** — **1 point**

- **Scenic Viewpoint** — **3 points**

- **Natural Area**

- **NA-1** — **15 points**

- **NA-2** — **10 points**

- **NA-3** — **5 points**



Delineation of Environmental Corridors

- **All resource and resource-related elements were delineated on 1" = 400' 1975 aerial photographs**
- **Record total composite point value for each unique polygon**
- **All polygons with a point value of 10 points or more were identified**
- **All polygons with a point value of 5-9 points were evaluated in relationship to wet, poorly drained, and organic soils**



Delineation of Environmental Corridors—continued

- **Begin by combining contiguous polygons that have a point value no less than 10**
- **Apply minimum width, length, and area criteria**
 - **Primary Environmental Corridors – 200 feet wide, 2 miles long, and 400 acres**
 - **Secondary Environmental Corridors – 1 mile long and 100 acres (no minimum width)**
 - **Isolated Natural Resource Area – 200 feet wide and 5 acres**



Delineation of Environmental Corridors—continued

- **Continuity distance between adjacent resource areas**
- **Special situations**
 - **Secondary Environmental Corridor**
 - **Termination point**
 - **Connecting two primary environmental corridors**
 - **“Holes” in the corridor resources**



Questions?