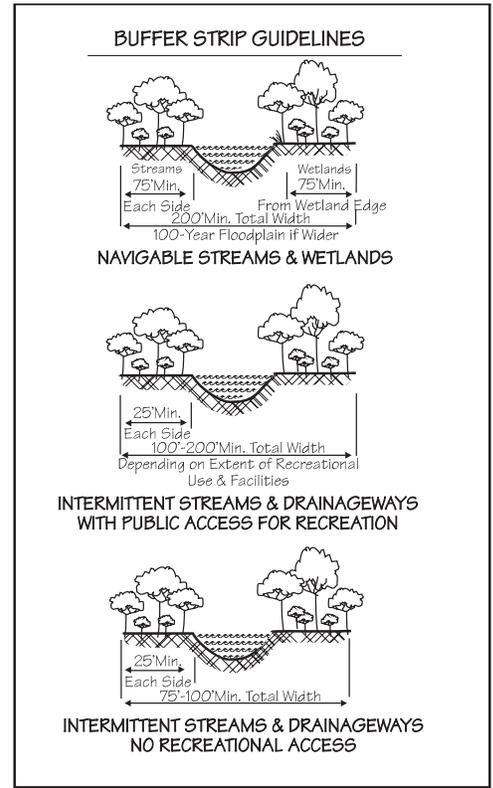


Major Changes:

Major changes have the potential for significant impacts on water quality, and require RPC and DNR approval. The review and decision process for a proposed major corridor change requires a public hearing and generally takes three months.

Major changes include:

- 1) Removing any mapped wetland area unless exempted by state administrative rules or state-approved rezoning.
- 2) Any change that would remove any area below the ordinary high water mark of a stream, pond or lake.
- 3) Any change resulting in the elimination or interruption in the continuity of any corridor segment which includes floodplains, wetlands, shoreland buffer strips or steep slopes adjacent to water bodies (defined as slopes over 12% where the base of slope does not have at least 75 feet of vegetated buffer strip between the base of slope and the ordinary high water mark of perennial streams, ponds and lakes).
- 4) Any change reducing the width of vegetated shoreland buffer strips along streams, wetlands, and drainageways below minimum guidelines (see illustration).
- 5) Grading in a wetland vegetative buffer within 30 feet of the wetland edge, where the buffer has been delineated in environmental corridors, unless the grading is re-establishing natural grades or restoring wetland habitat.



Minor Changes:

Minor changes generally do not have the potential for significant impacts on water quality, and do not require RPC approval. The RPC should be notified of the official local action (resolution, plat or development plan approval, etc.) changing the corridors.

Minor changes include:

- 1) Changes resulting from DNR-approved changes in floodplain or wetland delineations, or DNR-approved rezoning.
- 2) Relocation or shortening of a corridor based solely on intermittent streams and drainageways, or adjustment of the buffer strip width within the guidelines (see illustration).
- 3) Addition to or removal from the corridors of public or private lands which do not include water bodies, floodplains, wetlands, minimum buffer strips or steep slopes adjacent to water bodies.
- 4) Changes resulting from utility or roadway maintenance or construction which meet the criteria set forth in NR 117. (It is not the intent of the environmental corridors to prevent or obstruct necessary maintenance, expansion or construction of transportation or utility facilities intended to serve areas outside of the corridors, needed to maintain or improve continuity of those systems, or designed to serve compatible uses in the corridors, such as park shelters or facilities. Facilities intended to serve new sewer residential, commercial or industrial development in the corridors are not permitted.).

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For more information see the adopted Environmental Corridors Policies and Criteria document on our website.