

## **DELINEATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS**

*East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission - 2002*

Environmentally sensitive areas are geographic areas consisting of all lakes and streams shown on the USGS quadrangle maps and adjacent shoreland buffer areas as defined in Exhibit 1. All wetlands shown on the state Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Maps and floodways as delineated on the official Federal Emergency Management Administration Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps are also designated environmentally sensitive. The environmentally sensitive areas are mapped on the Sewer Service Area file photos and are also shown on the maps contained in this plan.

The purpose of designating environmentally sensitive areas is to preserve significant environmental features from encroachment by sewered development. Environmentally sensitive areas perform a variety of important environmental functions including stormwater drainage, flood water storage, pollutant entrapment, and the provision of wildlife habitat. They can also provide desirable green space to enhance urban aesthetics.

In the 1978 Sewer Service Area plans only major wetlands as shown on the USGS quadrangle maps were considered environmentally sensitive. Since that time, the Department of Natural Resources through Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 121.05(g)(2)(c), has developed guidelines which serve as minimum criteria for the identification and delineation of environmentally sensitive areas. Department of Natural Resource guidance states, "Environmentally sensitive areas will be used for all environmental features that should be excluded from sanitary Sewer Service Areas."

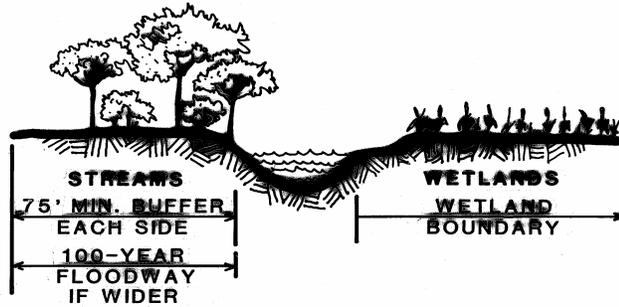
East Central, after deliberations with technical and policy advisory committees, defined environmentally sensitive areas in a manner that complements existing local, state and federal regulations which protect various environmental amenities. While NR-121 authorizes Sewer Service Area plans to identify a broad array of natural features as environmentally sensitive areas, only those features which were believed vital in the East Central Wisconsin Region to preserve environmental quality were so designated.

Although the delineation of environmentally sensitive areas is intended to provide adequate long term and uniform environmental protection for all Sewer Service Areas within the East Central Wisconsin Region, the environmentally sensitive area classification may be changed in two ways in response to specific local development proposals.

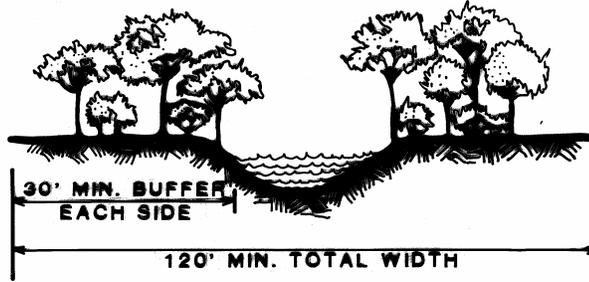
Exhibit 1

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA STANDARDS

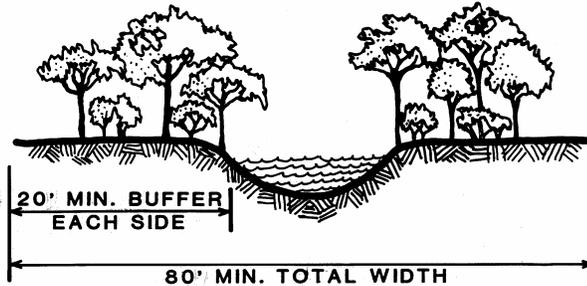
NAVIGABLE STREAMS & WETLANDS



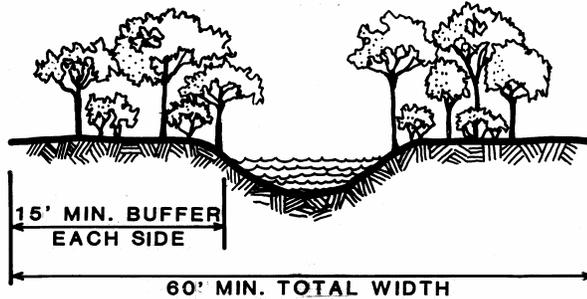
NON-NAVIGABLE STREAMS & DRAINAGEWAYS  
DRAINAGE AREA GREATER THAN APPROXIMATELY 2000 ACRES



NON-NAVIGABLE STREAMS & DRAINAGEWAYS  
DRAINAGE AREA APPROXIMATELY 300-2000 ACRES



NON-NAVIGABLE STREAMS & DRAINAGEWAYS  
DRAINAGE AREA LESS THAN APPROXIMATELY 300 ACRES



First, the classification can be removed provided that the conditions outlined in Section (E) of the Sewer Service Area Amendment Process are met. This re-designation is considered a major change. Major changes have the potential for significant impacts on water quality and would require the concurrence of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission and the Department of Natural Resources before these changes would become effective for the purpose of reviewing sanitary sewer extensions. Examples include:

1. Removal of any mapped wetland area for sewer development, unless resulting from an activity exempted by state administrative rules governing wetland protection [NR 117.05(2)] or state approved rezoning of wetlands;
2. Reduction of a delineated floodway of any navigable stream or river, or removal of any area below the ordinary high water mark of a navigable stream, pond, or lake;
3. Total removal or change in the continuity of any corridor segment including floodways, wetlands, shoreland buffer strips or steep slopes adjacent to water bodies. The water quality benefit that was associated with the portion of the corridor removed must be provided in the development proposal.

In the second instance, the environmentally sensitive areas may be modified by a minor change. Refinements and minor changes would not require prior approval of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission or the Department of Natural Resources. However, East Central would have to be informed of the change before it would be effective for the purposes of reviewing sanitary sewer extensions. East Central would then be responsible for informing the Department of Natural Resources of the change.

Refinements and minor changes are generally of two types. The first type involves changes resulting from revised, improved or more detailed background resource information to include:

- a) Improved or revised WDNR certified floodway delineations resulting from revised flood studies;
- b) Revised wetland boundaries on the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory Maps resulting from field inspections by WDNR personnel or resulting from an approved rezoning.

The second type involves changes which would not seriously affect water quality and are the result of specific development proposals to include:

- a) Relocation of a non-navigable stream or drainageway as long as the environmental integrity of the stream or drainageway is preserved;
- b) Shortening of a non-navigable stream or drainageway based upon field determination of its point of origin;
- c) Adjustments to the widths of shoreland buffer strips along non-navigable streams and drainageways within the guidelines established in Figure 1;
- d) Changes which would reduce the width of shoreland buffer strips below the minimum guidelines provided there are locally adopted stormwater drainage criteria that establish corridor widths for drainageway preservation. Locally adopted criteria must be based upon sound engineering and environmental protection criteria; and
- e) Changes which result from utility or roadway maintenance or construction which meet the criteria set forth in NR 115 or 117. It is not the intent of the environmental corridors to prevent or obstruct 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 sewered residential, commercial or industrial development in the corridors would not be permitted.