

Description	<p>Preserve corridors that provide landscape connectivity. Protecting corridors provides higher quality linkages between habitat patches for wildlife and allows for informal walking trails for human movement.</p>
General Information	<p>Corridors, both natural and human-created, permeate the land. Rivers, roads, power lines, and hedgerows are familiar examples. Greenway corridors (linear open spaces or conservation areas) contribute to many ecological and societal goals. They help maintain biological diversity, protect water resources, conserve soil, support recreation, enhance community and cultural cohesion, and provide species dispersal routes. Greenways provide a crucial connectivity among parks and natural areas and can additionally protect waterways.</p> <p>Corridors help to maintain functional habitats – which include travel corridors for native wildlife as they move from nests or burrows to areas where they hunt, feed, or breed. The resulting greenways frequently offer an additional benefit through the creation of informal walking trails through woodlands, or alongside meadows, creeks, or other natural features.</p> <p>Most greenways are created with multiple goals in mind. Two of the foremost are conserving nature and providing recreational opportunities. Designers are challenged to maximize the synergism that exists between these goals while minimizing the conflict. Every greenway project should start with biological conservation and water resource protection as goals, regardless of how developed or pristine the affected area.</p> <p>When corridor protection is implemented as part of a development, the designer should consider significant unprotected biological, water, recreational, or other features that could be maintained or enhanced by a greenway or network of greenways. This will help determine greenway alignment, width and design. Greenway design can be used to connect and therefore multiply open spaces. Greenways can also be located and designed to serve as protective buffers for stream channels or other sensitive areas.</p> <p>Greenways are one way to connect neighborhoods without building streets for automobiles. A network of streams, ridges or other natural features provides excellent opportunities to connect neighborhoods with non-vehicular greenways. Preserving greenways is important particularly in places where land development has isolated - or threatens to isolate – remaining fragments of nature in floodways, in steep-sided ravines, along rocky ridgetops, or in remnant patches of upland vegetation. Greenways should be designed that maintain or enhance these natural features and associated processes.</p>
Additional Resources	<p>Dramstad, Wenche E., James D. Olson, and Richard T. Forman, 1997. <i>Landscape Ecology Principles in Landscape Architecture and Land-Use</i></p>

*Planning*, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Island Press and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Forman, R. T. et al, 2002. *Road Ecology: Science and Solutions*, Island Press, Washington, D.C.

Little, C.E., 1995. *Greenways for America*, Johns Hopkins University Press.

Smith, D.S. and P.C. Helmund, eds., 1993. *Ecology of Greenways*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, NM.