City of Shakopee Natural Resource Prioritization Matrix

Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria			
1 Wood-land / Forested		**4A Forest Core**	**4B Species – type of trees – native vs. non-native**	**4C Health of woodland – healthy vs diseased**	**4D** *Ability to restore*
	BEST	Forest core distance from edge: 400' – 600'[1]	Oak forest, maple-basswood, Floodplain forest	Forest/Woodland ranked "High" or "Medium" [2]	Restoration will result in high value, high functioning forest. Desired outcome of improved forest health, improved habitat, etc. is achievable.
	BETTER	Forest core distance from edge: 200' – 400'	Similar to species in High class but with greater percent of exotic species, degradation such as compacted soils, deer browse, lack of woody debris and native species in ground layer	All Forest/woodland ranked "Low"[2]	Fair potential for restoration Desired outcome of improved forest health, improved habitat, etc. is marginally achievable.
	GOOD	Forest core distance from edge: 0- 200'	Box Elder-Green Ash Disturbed, Buckthorn, high value trees have been removed	Young trees, sparse tree cover, diseased or stressed trees, exotic species	Low potential for restoration. Desired outcome of improved forest health, improved habitat, etc. is not possible without great expense and time.

[1] Northern Scott County Natural Resource Inventory 2002: Figure 3.34 "Forest Woodland Core"
[2] Northern Scott County Natural Resource Inventory 2002: Figure 3.35 "Forest Woodland Quality"

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Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria				
2 Wetland		**6A Size**	**6B Level of degradation as determined by presence of invasive species**	**6C** *Relationship to wetland complex*	**6D** *Function as floodplain storage area*	**6E Proximity to water body** (see Lakes and Streams)
	BEST	Greater than 2 acres.	Native dominated per NRI categories with modifier indicating high quality. High proportion of native species and little evidence of human disturbance. "lack of exotic species"[2]	High potential for intense land use activities to adversely affect wetland functions – such as regulating and filtering runoff, providing habitat, etc.	"Parcel located at outlet of subwatershed to corridor and/or encompasses significant storrmwater ponding, infiltration or other feature(s) critical to surface and groundwater management."[1]	Adjacent to or connecting with a water body that provides important hydrologic and / or habitat functions (e.g. floodplain, littoral zone of a lake or pond).
	BETTER	1 – 2 acres.	NRI categories with modifier indicating medium quality: "weedy species may be evident but they are not dominant over typical native specie"	Medium potential for intense land use activities to adversely affect wetland functions – such as regulating and filtering runoff, providing habitat, etc.	"Parcel in direct drainage subwatershed of impaired lake or highly sensitive wetland community within or abutting the inner corridor."	
	GOOD	Less than 1 acre.	Non-native dominated per NRI categories and modifier indicating "natural processes are highly altered". High percentage of exotic species such as reed canary grass, quackgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, stinging nettles [2]	Little potential for intense land use activities to adversely affect wetland functions – such as regulating and filtering runoff, providing habitat, etc.	"All other parcels that border the inner corridor."	Isolated situation in the landscape with little or no opportunity to be connected in a functioning manner to other water features. I.E. doesn't positively or adversely affect water quality

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3 Lakes and Streams		**2A Stream corridors and Lakeshore (300' buffer)**	**2B Relationship to surrounding wetland complex**	**2C Drainage function**	**2D** *Ability to restore*
	BEST	Vegetated stream corridor and lakes with natural shoreline, less disturbed, higher value for wildlife habitat , high potential for recreational use (NRI land use category for 300' shoreline buffer: "undeveloped")	Wetlands immediately adjacent to streams and lakes which form a complex of open water and wetlands	High connectivity to and from other water bodies, efficiently captures and routes runoff to stormwater basins, provides a major drainage system between south Shakopee and the river valley	Low level of exotic species, minor improvements in landscape would positively affect water and habitat quality
	BETTER	Stream corridors and lakeshore with natural functions and cultivated shore vegetation (NRI category for shoreline: "agriculture")	Isolated setting in landscape. Away and unconnected to wetlands.	Artificial functions. Minimal connectivity Control structures (dams, culverts) impede	Contains non-native species, history of alterations; major restoration efforts would bring back original functions.
	GOOD	Stream corridors and lakeshore with natural or artificial functions with maintained shore vegetation, little or no value for wildlife habitat (NRI: "maintained")	(No relationship to surrounding wetland complex.)		Long-term abuse and neglect require major restoration efforts to recreate a functioning, healthy resource.

City of Shakopee Natural Resource Prioritization Matrix

Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria			
4 Slopes		**1A Percent slope / steepness**	**1B Length of continuous sloped area**	**1C Presence of native species on the slope area**	**1D Erosion potential of soil in the slope area**
	BEST	> 18% slope[1]	>= 1/8 mile in length (or 660')	Forest and herbaceous cover with native "high quality" and "medium quality" species[2]	Highest level of erosion potential for all three steepness categories
	BETTER	12 - 18 % slope	>= 1/8 mile in length (or 660')		
	GOOD	10- 12 % slope	>= 1/8 mile (or 660')		

[1] Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Management Plan, 1999
[2] Northern Scott County NRI: Figure 3.35: High quality forested parcels

City of Shakopee Natural Resource Prioritization Matrix

Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria				
5 Non-Woody Upland Vegetation		**5A Species – Native/non-native**	**5B Size of area**	**5C Area disturbed / maintained**	**5D** *Density of species in native patches*	**5E** *Ability to restore*
	BEST	NRI based selection: Herbaceous vegetation considered "Natural" based on native plants being dominant *Savanna*	10 acres and greater	NRI polygons (areas) identified as the "Highest Quality Natural Areas" See Figure 3.3 pg 18 of the NRI	"These areas tend to be larger in size, and/or with few adjacent land cover type/uses that could adversely affect the area; may have greater diversity of vegetation cover types; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of outstanding biodiversity significance by MCBS." [1]	Good potential for restoration And/or Desired outcome of improved forest health, improved habitat, etc. is achievable
	BETTER	NRI based selection: Herbaceous vegetation considered "Semi-natural" based on non-native plants being dominant	5 – 10 acres	NRI areas with MLCCS code in the 60,000 and designates "non-native"	"These areas tend to be moderate in size, and/or with more adjacent land cover types/uses that could adversely affect the area; may have greater diversity of vegetation cover types; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and given a score of outstanding biodiversity significance by MCBS." [1]	Fair potential for restoration And/or Desired outcome of improved forest health, improved habitat, etc. is marginally achievable
	GOOD	NRI based selection: Herbaceous vegetation considered "planted" "maintained", "non-row crops", and "pasture".	1 - 5 acres	NRI polygons with a 10,000 or 20,000 (Artificial Surfaces and Planted or Cultivated Vegetation) with impermeable surfaces of not more than 10%	"These areas tend to be smaller in size while still meeting the minimum size requirements (minimum size is variable based on cover type) for regional significance; may have less diversity of vegetative cover types; may have more adjacent cover type/uses that could adversely affect the area; or it may be an isolated native plant community mapped and been a score of moderate biodiversity significance by MCBS."[1]	Low potential for restoration and/or Desired outcome of improved forest health, improved habitat, etc. is not possible without great expense and time.

[1] Scott County Parks, Trails and Open Space System Policy Plan 2004, Figure 8 (Source: Mn/DNR)
[2] Shakopee NRI, 4.1, pg 23
[3] Source: Silver Creek Corridor Management Plan….

City of Shakopee Natural Resource Prioritization Matrix

Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria	
6 Wildlife		**9A** *Wildlife habitat quality: upland*	**9B** *Habitat value: wetland*
	BEST	High diversity and number of bird species and mammals "Although not documented, good potential for rare and endangered plants and animals to occur"	Provides high quality food source and cover. "Excellent wildlife habitat due to composition, quality and proximity of natural communities to local/regional elements (e.g. Minnesota River Valley). Provides habitat for habitat specialist species" [1]
	BETTER	"Provides barrier-free movement"	"Moderate wildlife habitat, generally not associated with local/regional elements. Habitat supports "habitat generalists" species.
	GOOD	Dominated by livestock or domestic animals "Current land uses may not serve as a wildlife corridor"	Generally low quality habitat that is substantially fragmented and supports limited numbers of "habitat generalists" species

[2] Shakopee NRI, 4.1, pg 23

[1] Source: Silver Creek Corridor Management Plan….

City of Shakopee Natural Resource Prioritization Matrix

Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria	
7 Endangered Species		**3A Presence of Endangered or Protected Species**	**3B Biodiversity Ranking** (recommend on-site evaluation be done by City Staff)
	BEST	Area adjacent to and within 300 feet of "Documented rare and endangered plants, animals or natural communities" Excluding polygons rated "artificial" in the NRI	Located within the CBS's Area of Biodiversity Significance with a rating of Outstanding or High
	BETTER	Area within 300 to 600 feet of "Documented rare and endangered plants, animals or natural communities" Excluding polygons rated "artificial" in the NRI	Located within the CBS's Area of Biodiversity Significance with a rating of Medium
	GOOD	Area within 600 to 900 feet of "Documented rare and endangered plants, animals or natural communities" Excluding polygons rated "artificial" in the NRI	Located within the CBS's Area of Biodiversity Significance with a rating of Below
		"Rare features not documented or likely to occur due to ecological quality of area." Buffer: 900' and 1200'	

City of Shakopee Natural Resource Prioritization Matrix

Natural Feature	Priority Ranking	Selection Criteria			
8 Recreation Opportunities		**7A Proximity to park facilities**	**7B Trail provides connectivity to recreation and open space resources**	**7C** *Proximity to proposed recreation facility*	**7D** *Potential of site for passive recreation[1] or as access to such an area*
	BEST	1/8 mile (within 660') Adjacent to existing parks.	Existing and proposed trails	Adjacent and nearby to proposed facility.	Site is such that good access is provided to recreation activities such as birding, hiking.
	BETTER	Proximity of 1/8 (660') to ¼ mile (1,320')	(All trail corridors evaluated as High.)		
	GOOD	¼ to ½ mile proximity	(All trail corridors evaluated as High.)		

[1] Passive activities: such as walking, canoeing, nature observation, etc. that require limited facility development and have limited impact on the landscape and its living communities.

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9 Infra-structure / Accessibility		**8A** *Provides stormwater function*	**8B** *Accessible because of existing easements or roadway*
	BEST	Provides stable and effective storm water runoff functions	Existing utility or roadway easements which allow public access and conditions are favorable for recreation
	BETTER	Planned storm water runoff functions.	Planned utility easements, and trail corridors needing implementation
	GOOD	No stormwater purpose	No permission to use or safety issues eliminating possibility for access