5 Wildlife Corridors

A Ecologically Supportive Features and Areas

The primary function of corridors is to maintain landscape permeability for movement of species to establish a connected system of natural areas. Corridors will vary in width depending on their length, function in the landscape, and the target species. Target species are identified based on the habitats being connected and anticipated species moving across the landscape in the location of the corridor.

Corridor design will focus on natural habitat conditions using native species. Habitat features may be added to provide suitable conditions for movement (e.g., cover objects) or provide stop-over nodes. Opportunities may exist to plan trails or buried infrastructure parallel or adjacent to a corridor as a means of effectively increasing the functional width; these areas are not to be coincident with (i.e., overlap) the corridor, but can provide supplementary buffering function(s).

Where corridors are identified, they will be designed through site-specific Environmental Impact Studies or Nature Area Management Plans and implemented through land development as landscape permeability in the area being altered. Where corridors are identified within existing built-up areas, they may be designed and implemented as independent projects (e.g., restoration opportunities) or through other project works, as appropriate (e.g., road improvements). Responsibility for improvements to roads to maintain connectivity will be based on road ownership; discussion and engagement with the infrastructure owner (e.g., the City of Peterborough) should be undertaken to determine needs and an appropriate approach.

Corridor Guidelines

- Primary function is to provide connections between features and habitats. This may include features and refuge for wildlife as it moves through the corridor.
- Corridor widths may be influenced by adjacent uses. Where compatible uses are positioned adjacent to a corridor, the overall corridor width may be narrower (e.g., stormwater, park spaces with naturalized areas).
- Some uses may be supported or encouraged adjacent to or within a corridor with appropriate design (e.g., trails, infiltration swales, buried linear infrastructure).
- Crossings of corridors by infrastructure should be avoided or minimized, where feasible. Where crossings are required, design should accommodate wildlife movement to avoid impacting the corridor function.
- Minor connections may be maintained or introduced through land use planning. This may include integration of hedgerows where possible, or along active transportation routes (e.g., trails) through design.

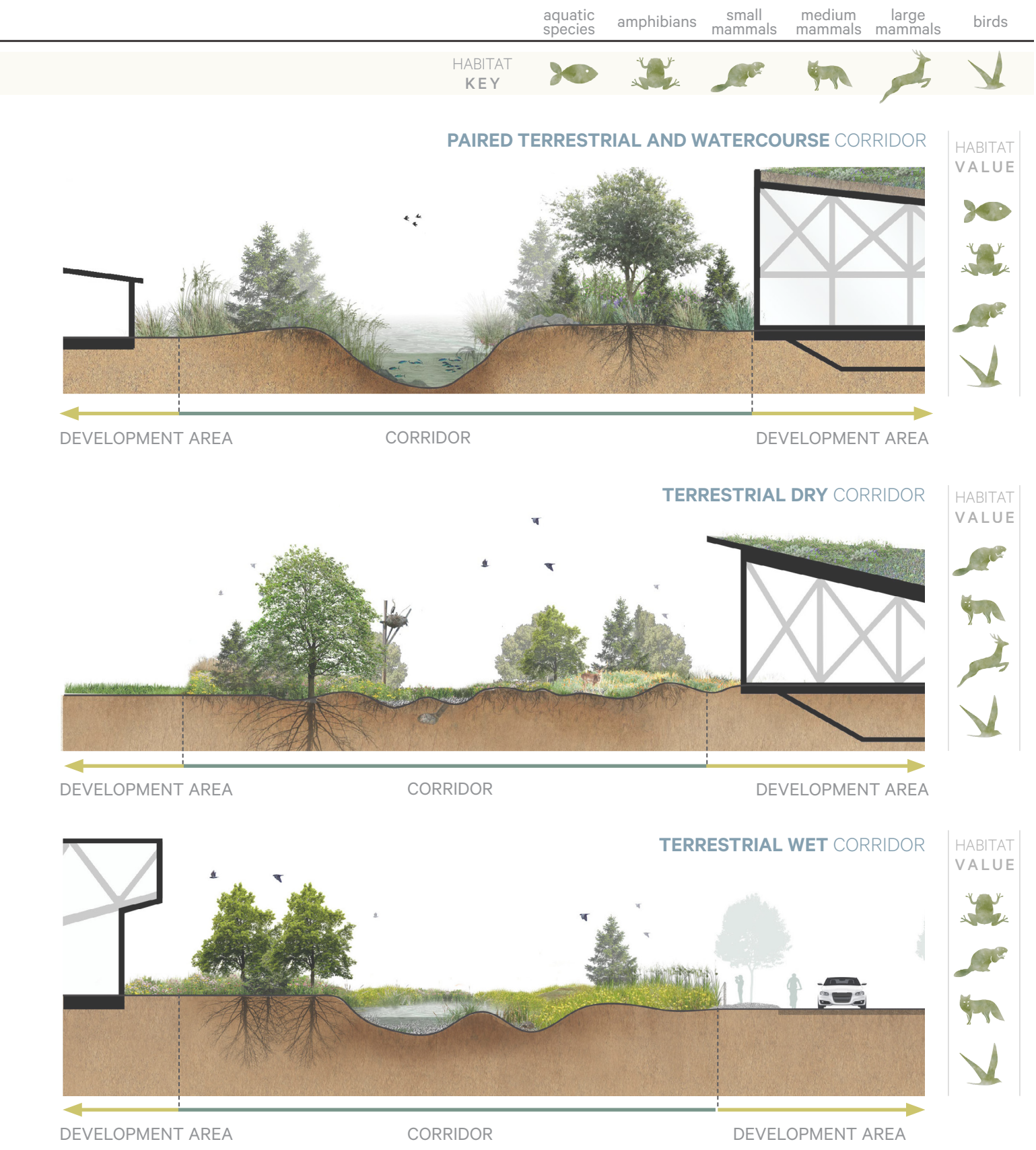

Figure 15: Examples of Wildlife Corridors

NOTE: Wider corridors are more conducive to facilitating movement by larger mammals and species.