

Nature Preserves



A high-quality natural area of importance for wildlife, flora, fauna, or other special interests

Dedication is the strongest protection that can be given to land and provides permanent protection

Protected under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1981. Must take all feasible actions to avoid. Cannot be disturbed unless approved by the Commission or the Governor for an a project deemed imperative and unavoidable for public necessity

Natural Areas



High-quality areas listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), under jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Includes Nature Preserves

Protected by state regulations

Must take all feasible actions to avoid

Parks



Any publicly owned park, recreational area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge or a historic site (publicly or privately owned) of national, state, or local significance

Protected by Section 4(f) of the DOT Act of 1966 and the Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges, and Historic Sites regulation. Applies only if federal funding will be used

Must take all feasible and prudent actions to avoid. Can disturb only if there is no feasible alternative to the use of land, and the action includes all possible planning to minimize harm



Wetlands



Areas saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation adapted for wet conditions

Protected at the federal, state, and sometimes the local level. Regulations include the Clean Water Act of 1970 and the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989

Must take all feasible actions to avoid, if impacts are unavoidable must minimize impacts, and then mitigate for loss of wetland area



Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

An endangered species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

A threatened species is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future

Includes all types of animals as well as plants

May be protected by federal or state regulation, or both. Regulations include the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act of 1972

Must take all feasible actions to avoid impacts to a T&E species and their habitat, if impacts are unavoidable must minimize impacts, and may be required to mitigate for the loss of habitat



CERCLIS Sites

Sites that have been identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as having unlawfully stored hazardous substances, or have a record of accidental spills or illegal dumping

Sites are to be avoided unless no practical or feasible alternative as they represent high risk of contamination



Historic Sites



Generally, a site at least 50 years old which possesses historical, architectural, or archaeological significance

May include buildings, bridges, landmarks, historic districts, archaeological sites

National Register of Historic Places, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Protected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

Must take all feasible actions to avoid. If avoidance is not possible, the proposed act must be deemed a public necessity and be approved by federal and state agencies



Cemeteries

Land used for human burials

Protected under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990

Must take all feasible actions to avoid



Special Waste Sites

Sites that generate soils or wastes containing chemicals or petroleum residues above levels defined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

Should take all feasible actions to avoid



Schools

A public or private institution for the instruction of people

No federal or state regulations protecting schools

Should take all feasible actions to avoid



Places of Worship



A building where a group of people meet to perform acts of religious praise or devotion

No federal or state regulations protecting places of worship

Should take all feasible actions to avoid



Public Facilities



Any building or facility open to the general public

No federal or state regulations protecting public facilities

Should take all feasible actions to avoid



Agricultural Lands

Land used for the production of crops or raising livestock

Illinois Agricultural Areas Conservation and Protection Act of 1979

Should take all feasible actions to minimize agricultural land impacts

