Summary Text from Land Use Policy Plan

Greenway - stream-ways, plus parks and open space linkages to create a continuous "greenway" system through designated areas of the community. These corridors benefit existing wildlife by protecting their habitat, and they also offer a means of linking the community with a linear park system that would benefit all residents. These corridors can provide safe pedestrianways and bikeways that can increase the cohesion of neighborhoods and the surrounding communities.

Floodplain - the City of Ames has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since 1980. One of the benefits of participation are detailed FIRM maps (Flood Insurance Rate Maps) produced by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). These floodplain areas are the same as those designated on the February 20, 2008 FIRM maps as "Special Flood Hazard Areas," having a 1% annual chance flood, also known as the "100-year flood." The 100-year flood areas are known as the "base flood," which has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

□ Environmentally Sensitive Areas - the designation involves floodprone areas, wetlands, water bodies and designated natural resources that should be protected from detrimental use. Included are areas previously identified as "Floodway" and "Floodplain"; plus selective natural resources from the "Natural Resources Inventory". Areas designated "Environmentally Sensitive Areas" may or may not be suitable for development. In the event that development is determined to be appropriate, special requirements may be necessary to ensure environmental compatibility.

