

The goal of this ordinance is to make sure that the public can access the river. A variation of this template ordinance language can be adopted by any local government to ensure that future development projects devote space to public waterfront access.

Example Riverfront Pedestrian Access Ordinance

Riverfront access and open space.

A. An area of not less than 150 feet in width, parallel to the river, measured from the mean water elevation of the [Waterway], shall be provided along the length of the [Waterway] on each development site. This area shall be offered for dedication to the Township. If the area is not accepted for dedication, an easement for public use must be provided along with maintenance agreements acceptable to the Township. This area shall include:

(1) A shale macadam trail of at least 10 feet in width, the length of the [Waterway], to connect to adjoining property trails.

(2) Seating areas at intervals of not more than 300 feet.

(3) Landscaping to enhance the trail, which at a minimum shall include trees in a naturalized setting at the rate of one tree per every 50 feet of trail. Other landscape treatments may be utilized if approved by the Township.

(4) Appropriate lighting fixtures shall be of a style as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

(5) Street furniture located in the floodway shall be anchored in accordance with the requirements of the Building Construction Code Floodplain regulations.

B. The width of the waterfront area may be reduced to no less than 125 feet, provided at least one public amenity is provided, the suitability of which shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors.

C. The width of the waterfront area may be reduced to no less than 100 feet, provided at least two public amenities are provided, the suitability of which shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors.

D. Public waterfront access is required in accordance with the local Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

