NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES:  
CONSERVATION PLANNING  
and  
ENGAGING YOUNG CONSERVATIONISTS

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Natural Resource Inventories

- What is an NRI?
- What is the Conservation Commission's role in NRI?
- Why conduct an NRI?
Why conduct a Natural Resources Inventory?

• Provides a foundation for informed decision-making, land use planning (i.e., resource conservation and protection, Master Plan)

• Contributes to vital part of cultural, economic and community structure

• Identifies resources threatened by human population growth and over exploitation

• Provides the first phase of a conservation plan
Basic NRI – Phase I

- Water Resources
Basic NRI – Phase I

• Water Resources
• Ecological Resources
Basic NRI – Phase I

• Water Resources
• Ecological Resources
• Agricultural Resources
Basic NRI – Phase I

- Water Resources
- Ecological Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Forest Resources
Basic NRI – Phase I

- Water Resources
- Ecological Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Forest Resources
- Conservation Lands
Detailed NRI – Phase II

• Wetlands Comparative Evaluation
Wetlands Evaluation
City of Claremont, NH
Map 2

Legend

- **Wetlands**
  - Purple: High Ranking
  - Green: Medium Ranking
  - Brown: Low Ranking

- **Ponds and Reservoirs**
- **Streams**
- **Rivers**
- **Roadways**
  - Town Roads
  - State Roads

Note: Streams include both perennial (year-round) and intermittent streams.

Data Sources:
Wetlands ranking and refined wetlands, ponds and reservoirs developed by Moosewood Ecological, 2013, based on 2010 aerial photography, distributed by NH GRANIT. Streams and rivers from New Hampshire Hydrography Dataset, 2006, US Geological Survey, distributed by NH GRANIT. Roadways from the City of Claremont. Town boundary adjusted to Claremont tax map by UVLSRPC, original data from NH GRANIT.

Disclaimer: Map to be used for planning purposes only. Map not intended for survey purposes. Accuracy of data to be verified by end user. UVLSRPC, Moosewood Ecological, the City of Claremont, NH GRANIT and other data originators or distributors make no claim as to the validity or reliability or to any implied uses of these data.
Detailed NRI – Phase II

- Wetlands Comparative Evaluation
- Refined Habitat Mapping and WAP Ground-truthing
## Significant Wildlife Habitats

- Vernal Pools
- Den Sites
- Caves/Mines
- Turtle Nesting Areas
- Deer Wintering Areas
- Rare/Declining Habitat Types
- Rare/Endangered Species Habitats
- Floodplain Forests
- Mast Forests
- Talus Slopes
- Heron Rookeries
- Wildlife Corridors
- Amphibian Migration
- Migratory waterfowl Stopover Areas
Detailed NRI – Phase II

- Wetlands Comparative Evaluation
- Refined Habitat Mapping and WAP Ground-truthing
- Natural Community Mapping and Rare Species Surveys
Data acquired from the Complex Systems Research Center GRANIT database, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Includes roads, streams, and 1998 digital orthophoto quads.

NATURAL COMMUNITY CLASSIFICATION

BIODIVERSITY and ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Converse Meadow Conservation Area
Rindge, NH

LEGEND

Upland Communities
- Hemlock Forest
- Hemlock-Beech-Oak-Pine Forest
- Dry Red Oak-White Pine Forest

Wetland and Riparian Communities
- Vernal Woodland Pools
- Highbush Blueberry-Sweet Gale-Meadowweet Shrub Thicket
- Intermittent and Perennial Streams
- Herbaceous Seepage Marsh
- Acidic Sphagnum Forest Seeps
- Highbush Blueberry-Mountain Holly Wooded Fen
- Leatherleaf-Sheep Laurel Dwarf Shrub Bog
- Peatland Mat Mosaic*
- Aquatic Bed
- Seasonally Flooded Red Maple Swamp
- Deep Emergent Marsh-Aquatic Bed
- Red Maple Floodplain Forest

* = Mosaic of Four Communities:
- Large Cranberry-Short Sedge Moss Lawn
- Hairy-fruited Sedge-Sweet Gale Fen
- Floating Marshy Peat Mat
- Marshy Moat

Floodplain Inset - Not to Scale

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Detailed NRI – Phase II

- Wetlands Comparative Evaluation
- Refined Habitat Mapping and WAP Ground-truthing
- Natural Community Mapping and Rare Species Surveys
- Wildlife Corridors Assessment
Detailed NRI – Phase II

- Wetlands Comparative Evaluation
- Refined Habitat Mapping and WAP Ground-truthing
- Natural Community Mapping and Rare Species Surveys
- Wildlife Corridors Assessment
- Meadows and Active Farmlands
Chesterfield NRI and Conservation Priorities
Agricultural Resources Map

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Detailed NRI – Phase II

- Wetlands Comparative Evaluation
- Refined Habitat Mapping and WAP Ground-truthing
- Natural Community Mapping and Rare Species Surveys
- Wildlife Corridors Assessment
- Meadows and Active Farmlands
- Focal Species Assessment
Conservation Priorities

• Conservation Focus Areas (CFA)
Conservation Priorities

• Conservation Focus Areas (CFA)
• Parcel-based Ecological Assessment
  • GIS assessment
  • Field assessment
**Conservation Plan**

- Purpose of the Plan/Project Background/Study Area
- Goals, Objectives, and Methods
- Reference Supporting Documents
- Incorporate NRI/Conduct Detailed Investigations
- Status of Current Conservation Lands
- Identify Conservation Priorities and CFAs
- Identify Threats to Natural Resources
- Landscape-level Interpretation/Ecosystem Reserve Design
- Recommended Actions for Conservation
- Action Plan

Adapted from UNH Cooperative Extension’s “Preparing A Conservation Plan”