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1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Educational Opportunities and more!



Red-tailed Hawk in Winter, photo by Victoria Tully

Commissions Help Protect Wildlife on Town Land

Many conservation commissions help protect wildlife habitat on town-owned conservation properties by managing forests and grasslands to support and restore habitat. Cities and towns are now including wildlife protection regulations in their local ordinances. Conservation commissions can consider wildlife protection when reviewing permit applications. Learn about [wildlife friendly erosion control](#) products from US Fish & Wildlife. The Taking Action for Wildlife Team will present a webinar series focused on wildlife habitat conservation. Go to [TAFW webinars](#) for more details. The [TAFW website](#) has more information on habitat management and how your community can protect wildlife.

Education & Training Opportunities

NHACC Lunch & Learn Online Training

Program offered by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Wednesday, February 7

12 to 1:00 pm presented on Zoom

This session will provide an introduction to several NHDES online GIS mapping products. Wetlands Permit Planning Tools are available to commission members for desktop site review and screening. Participants will learn how to use online mapping tools to gather information and interpret data. Participants will be required to view several of the online tools prior to the class in order to become familiar with the options that are available online. This presentation will demonstrate the power and functionality of these tools, and familiarize viewers with the array of data available at their fingertips, in order to assess the potential natural resource impacts of proposed projects and/or identify local restoration or conservation priorities in municipalities.

Presenters: Tabitha Edwards, NH NRCS Outreach Coordinator Jessica Rock, NH NRCS RCPP Coordinator Tracey Bosivert, NH NRCS Easement Specialist Helen Castles, NH NRCS Program Analyst

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date for Upcoming Programs

Turtles of New Hampshire

Wednesday, February 28

12 to 1:00 pm presented on Zoom

Joshua Megyesy, Wildlife Biologist, NH Fish & Game Department

Overview of the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund

Wednesday, February 28

12 to 1:00 pm presented on Zoom

Emily Nichols, NH DES Wetlands Bureau

Find recorded lunch & learn programs on YouTube Channel

NHACC has a YouTube Channel with our wetlands training and other programs. Check out the [NHACC YouTube](#) for recordings of past lunch & learn programs; *PFAS in NH*, *How to Pass a Conservation Bond*, *Transfer of Development Rights*, *Learn About LiDAR, Technology and Stewardship*, and *Online Mapping Tools*. Stay tuned for more training videos and programs.

USDA Provides Funding for New England Specific Critical Conservation Areas

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) has increased funding for 2024 and the good news is local governments are eligible to apply for RCPP! The Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act provide funding for this year's RCPP projects. With this more than \$1 billion investment, NRCS has more than doubled the initial allocation for 2023 to capitalize on the unprecedented demand for RCPP and ensure project partners have the maximum amount of time to successfully

implement conservation activities before funds expire in fiscal year 2031. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has identified ways to streamline and simplify RCPP to help maximize flexibility for partners to leverage their investments with NRCS resources and capabilities. RCPP proposal application will be open soon. For the full list of RCPP improvements NRCS has identified for future implementation, visit the [NRCS website](#).



NH Coverts Project is accepting applications

The NH Coverts Project is accepting applications from new volunteers interested in taking part in the 2024 NH Coverts Project volunteer training workshop on May 8-11 at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center in Greenfield. Coverts volunteers give their time in a variety of ways. Some lead field walks or organize volunteer workdays, while others serve on town boards or manage their own property for wildlife habitat. Volunteers come from many backgrounds and professions, but they are united in their desire to help New Hampshire's wildlife and forests. The NH Coverts Project is sponsored by UNH Cooperative Extension and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. The program also receives support from the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands.

To apply for this year's NH Coverts Project training, download and complete the 2024 NH Coverts Project Application at nhcoverts.org. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2024.

Grant Opportunities

National Wildlife Foundation has Funds to Advance Land Conservation Projects

Application deadline: February 29, 2024, for pre-proposals

Description: Acres for America, a land conservation program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, provides funding for projects that conserve important large-scale habitats for fish, wildlife, and plants in the United States through voluntary land acquisitions and perpetual conservation easements. Program priorities include conserving critical habitats for birds, fish, plants, and wildlife; connecting existing protected lands to unify wild places and protect critical migration routes; providing access for people to enjoy the outdoors; and ensuring the future of local economies that depend on forestry, ranching, wildlife, and recreation. To be competitive for funding, land acquisitions and conservation easements should protect or contribute to the

protection of significant acres of land, address one or more of the program priorities, and be endorsed by appropriate government agencies as being of high conservation value. A minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services is required. For more information go to [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Acres for America](#)

Fields Pond Foundation

The primary mission of the Fields Pond Foundation is to provide financial assistance to nature and land conservation organizations that are community-based and that serve to increase environmental awareness by involving local residents in conservation issues. The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations and municipalities that request one of the following: project grants for trail making and other enhancement of public access to conservation lands, rivers, coastlines, and other natural resources; land acquisition for conservation; assistance in the establishment of stewardship endowments as a component of a land protection project; and support for related education programs and publications as components of a land protection project. Proposal outlines and formal applications may be submitted throughout the year. Detailed guidelines and forms are available on the [Foundation's website](#).

Visit our Website

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