



Habitat Protection Goals

- Map and maintain a system of stream bank protection areas, hedgerows, road and trail corridors, wetlands, development buffer areas, small and medium sized forest patches, and woodland reservations.
- Strive for connectivity (vegetated corridors) and proximity (stepping stones) among the vegetated open space tracts.
- Limit development on large, consolidated open space tracts.
- Allow smaller wildlife areas (patches) of 20 acres or more to be liberally scattered throughout the town.
- Work to establish soft feathered edges along woodland boundaries.
- Allow fingers of wild land to connect with suburban and urban districts.
- Encourage use of native species in landscaping.

Creating a Network Landscape

We possess an impressive network of wooded open space. It shows up on USGS maps, aerial photographs, and town and county land use maps. The figure above depicts a system of connected habitats. This map shows a kind of “natural zoning,” boundaries encompassing protected home regions for many wildlife species. **Local conservation advisory commissions (CACs)** and the **Environmental Management Council (EMC)** are in an ideal position to help the town develop wildlife preservation strategies.

Local Management

Habitat system planning should happen townwide in communication with adjacent municipalities, as well as on a site-by-site basis. Localities should know and publicize habitat requirements of wildlife residents.



5 Methods to Protect Habitats

1. Require very low density residential and conservation zones in prime wildlife areas.
2. Use conservation subdivisions to preserve habitats.
3. Use setback requirements and development policies to protect wetlands and stream corridors.
4. Selectively purchase critical conservation areas or secure protective easements on these properties.
5. Designate priority growth areas and provide for utility districts to encourage compact development patterns.

Sources:

DeGraaf and Rudis, *New England Wildlife: Habitat, Natural History and Distribution*, USDA, 1992
 Dutchess County Department of Planning and Dutchess County Environmental Management Council, *Natural Resources*, 1985
 T.T. Forman, *Land Mosaics: Ecology of Landscapes and Regions*
 National Audubon Society, *Migrating Birds and the Great Northern Forest*, December 1993