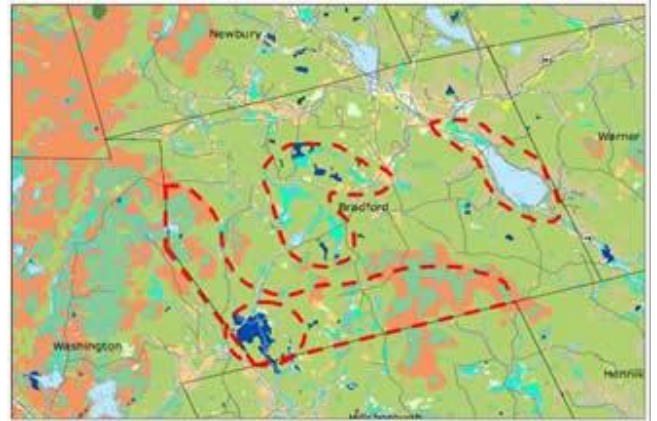


## COMMUNITY TOOLS: Conservation Planning For Wildlife

A conservation plan is a vision for the future ecological health of an area and provides an action plan to protect these features over the long term. The [Natural Resource Inventory](#) forms the basis for a conservation plan. Follow the steps below to create a conservation plan for wildlife.



### 1. Reference Your NRI

- Refer to your Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) to identify and describe important wildlife habitats in your community.
- Use the [Habitats Land Cover Map](#) map showing habitat areas you prioritized in your NRI (as shown in the [Bradford example](#)) and refine these areas. Incorporate other natural resources (e.g. water resources) into those priority areas, depending on your goals for conservation planning.
- Review NH Wildlife Action Plan [Highest Ranked Habitat Map](#) to identify habitats ranked as of highest importance statewide and regionally
- Use the [Wildlife Action Plan Critical Habitats and Possible Associated Species](#) table developed for your NRI to cross-reference species of greatest conservation concern and critical habitats in your area.

### 2. Research habitats and species of concern

- Read the profiles for each species associated with the critical habitats in your priority areas in [Appendix A of the NH Wildlife Action Plan](#) and in the [Wildlife Profiles](#)

### 3. Identify existing conservation areas

- Use the [Habitats Land Cover](#) and [Highest Ranked Habitat](#) maps to review protected and public lands in your community
- Use the [GRANITView](#) Mapper's Land Conservation data layer or other sources to identify conservation lands by protection level, primary protection type, agency level and management status.

### 4. Identify connections to link conservation lands and large habitat areas

- Locate existing conservation lands and large unfragmented habitat blocks using the [Habitats Land Cover](#) and [Highest Ranked Habitat](#) maps to identify critical habitat areas and highest ranked habitats in conservation connection areas.
- Use your community's tax parcels map to locate areas of larger parcels that could help establish conservation connections.

### 5. Using the information collected, write a conservation plan

- Use the guidelines provided in [Preparing a Conservation Plan](#)
- Review other [community conservation plans](#)
- Build support for the plan by keeping local residents and boards informed throughout the process.
- Work with your [local or regional land trust](#) so you can incorporate local or regional conservation priorities they have identified.

- Examples of some regional conservation plans in New Hampshire include:
  - [Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds](#)
  - [Quabbin to Cardigan Land Conservation Initiative](#)
  - Land Trust conservation plans, e.g. [Bear Paw Regional Greenways Conservation Plan](#)
  - Watershed Plans, e.g. [Newfound Lakes Region Association Master Plan](#)

## 6. Publicize and implement the plan

- Refer to [Conducting Public Outreach for Wildlife](#) for ideas and suggestions for a publicity plan.
- Promote conservation of prioritized critical wildlife habitats
- Use the conservation plan to guide municipal or private voluntary land conservation
- Document wildlife conservation priorities and recommended policies in a municipal master plan
- Suggest regulatory protection for prioritized wildlife habitats