

2.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory

10 Points

Objective

Identify and map your community's existing natural resources and habitats.

Complementary action:

- [Develop an Open Space Plan](#)

What to Do

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

1. Develop a natural resources and wildlife (NRW) inventory. Inventories may be completed regionally, and/or with help from regional or local partners. At a minimum, all NRW inventories submitted shall include information and mapping utilizing existing resources (listed in Step 2). Detailed wildlife inventories are not required, but are encouraged. Your maps may include the following:
 - Contour;
 - DEEP Property;
 - Natural Diversity Data Base Areas;
 - Natural Drainage Basin;
 - Protected Open Space Mapping;
 - Q3 Flood Zone Map;
 - Quaternary Geology;
 - Soil;
 - Soil Drainage Class;
 - Soil Farmland;
 - Soil Flooding Class;
 - Soil Hydric;
 - Soil Inland Wetland;
 - Soil Parent Material;
 - Surficial Materials; or
 - Water Quality Classifications.

Additionally, basic map layers can be found on CT ECO and may include:

- Base Map
- Land Cover
- Soils
- Water Resources
- Unique and Fragile Lands
- Committed Open Space

Submit: A copy of your NRW inventory. Include all mapping and provide a description of what your inventory includes. (Natural resources generally include fisheries, forests, wildlife, water resources

including wetlands, geology, plants, and insects and invertebrates). Potential sources of data include:

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[GIS Data](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Natural Diversity Data Base Maps](#)"
- [CT Environmental Conditions Online](#)
- University of Connecticut, "[Map and Geographic Information Catalog](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Endangered Species Maps](#)"
- Your Council of Government or Local Conservation District(s)

2. Integrate your NRW inventory into municipal planning documents and/or decision-making processes.

Submit: A description of how you integrated your natural resources and wildlife inventory into municipal planning documents and decision-making processes.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning department could be helpful in implementing this action.

In addition, the planning and zoning, conservation, and/or land use commissions, local council of governments, local conservation districts, and local land trusts could help implement this action.

Funding

For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Sustainable CT Resources for Certification](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Natural Resources](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Endangered Species Maps](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[GIS Data](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Natural Diversity Data Base Maps](#)"
- University of Connecticut, "[Map and Geographic Information Catalog](#)"
- New Hampshire Citizen Planner, "[Natural Resources Inventories: A Guide for New Hampshire Communities and Conservation Groups](#)"
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [EnviroAtlas](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, [Bureau of Natural Resources](#)
- [Connecticut Conservation Districts](#)

Why This Matters

Natural resources and habitats are vital to environmental and human health and wellness, and do not pay attention to municipal boundaries. The first step to maximizing those benefits is understanding what and where the resources are located.

To plan for their protection, or prioritize development in a way that minimizes harm, your community must identify and acknowledge its varied and rich natural resources and habitat types.

Benefits

A comprehensive review of the natural resources and habitat types located within your borders can help

shape all municipal planning and development activities.

Keeping the inventory updated will provide the most accurate picture possible to the towns and residents.

CT Success Stories

- Norfolk, CT: [“Natural Resource Inventory”](#)

Credit for Past Action

- Must include proof of update for the NRW inventory within the past 10 years prior to application submission.