

Capturing Your Stories: Communities & Landowners Taking Action for Wildlife

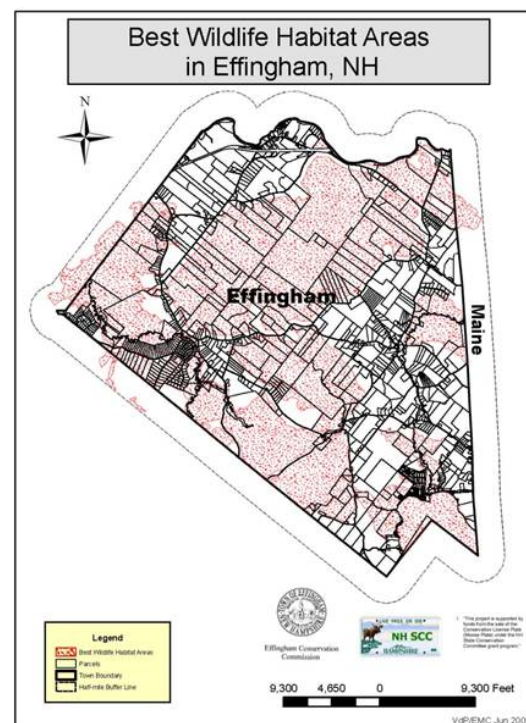
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What have other communities done? How did they do it? What strategies are landowners using to manage, enhance and restore habitats? What can you learn from them? [Read their stories](http://Takingactionforwildlife.org) at Takingactionforwildlife.org! The new website offers a place for communities and landowners to share their stories about the ways they've been Taking Action to help wildlife - in communities, in planning documents, through voluntary and regulatory means, on their own lands, and more!

In "[Community Stories](#)," you can learn how the town of Springfield used a natural resources inventory (NRI) to jump start the town's conservation planning work, and how they incorporated information from the [NH Wildlife Action Plan](#) in their work. Best of all, this brief story links directly to Springfield's planning documents. If your town is considering doing an NRI, the stories here provide great models!

- Here too, read about [Effingham's Conservation Plan](#), how they incorporated wildlife sightings data into their conservation plan, and how their discoveries shaped their conservation priorities.
- Read about the [town of Swanzey Open Space Plan](#), and how they used information from the NH Wildlife Action Plan.
- Learn how [Deerfield worked with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways](#) to acquire a new town forest, with wildlife habitat conservation a primary driver of the project.
- New Durham created [a new zoning overlay district](#) that identifies important conservation lands based on the Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds, which includes Wildlife Action Plan data.
- Learn how towns are managing their own conservation lands to benefit wildlife or to restore degraded habitats. The [town of Hooksett](#), for example, is replacing culverts on land it recently purchased and conserved, to ensure natural water flow for its wetland system. You can link to the [Town of Durham's stewardship plans](#), created for four prominent town-owned lands, and read about wildlife habitat projects planned for the future.





The new website also showcases [Landowner Stories](#), where you can read about people across New Hampshire who are managing and conserving lands for wildlife. [Larry Ely and Ginger Lawson](#) recently placed a conservation easement on their forestland in Shelburne to insure that their land would forever serve as a wildlife corridor in the Androscoggin River Valley. [Charlie and Nanci Mitchell](#) have done extensive habitat management on their property in Gilmanton, creating forest openings to benefit whip-poor-wills and American woodcock. [Betsy Hardwick](#), chair of Franconia's Conservation Commission, has helped her town acquire new Town Forest and actively manage their lands for wildlife, timber products, and new recreational trails.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US!

So far, the stories on the website have been gathered and written up by UNH Cooperative Extension and New Hampshire Fish and Game staff. But we need help adding more stories to the collection. If you or your community has your own story to share with us, we want to hear from you! [Share Your Community Story Here!](#) This link will take you to a form where you provide a brief summary - we'll contact you for more details about your project. Thank you!