

NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORIES

A GUIDE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMUNITIES AND CONSERVATION GROUPS



Tools for Conservation in Your Community



Extension

General suggestions for writing your Natural Resource Inventory:

- Use another town's NRI as a model or template. You can find a number of examples of community NRI's on the Taking Action for Wildlife Stories tab page – Under What, select *Natural Resources Inventories*; Under Who, select *Communities*.
- Keep your NRI document to a reasonable length – you want people to read it. A shorter NRI can also serve as the basis for the Natural Resources Chapter of the municipal Master Plan – you get two for one! This also ensures consistency between the Master Plan and the NRI, which is important for putting the NRI to work.
- Number the sections of your document so the outline is clear (see following suggested outline).
- Make sure to number all the figures and tables sequentially, starting with Table 1 for the first table and Figure 1 for the first figure. Be sure to cross reference every table or figure by its number in the accompanying text.
- NRI maps included in the NRI document should all be full-page in size so that they are easily readable. 8 ½ x11 or 11x17 (folded) sizes both work well. Use the 8 ½ x 11 Wildlife Action Plan Habitat Map and Highest Ranked Habitats maps for your town from the [Town Maps web page on the NH Fish and Game website](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/wap.html) (<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/wap.html>)
- We suggest including recommendations for next steps in each section of the NRI. Prepare a 1-2 page summary of all recommendations that can be used to implement the NRI.
- Include a list of references or resources that you have used or referred to in your NRI – you can include this as an appendix.



WHERE TO GET HELP:

UNH Cooperative Extension's Natural Resources program provides assistance and guidance to communities and conservation groups getting started on a Natural Resources Inventory, contact:

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SAMPLE NRI OUTLINE

The **Sample Outline** is simply a guideline and is not a prescriptive list of NRI sections. Review other community NRIs to get ideas for what your town would like to include in their NRI.

Section 1 Introduction

Explain the purpose and goals of your NRI - reference other existing reports that support your NRI, e.g:

- [NH's Changing Landscape Report \(2010\)](#)
- Any regional, local conservation and/or watershed plans that include your community. Check what has been done by contacting your local land trust, watershed association, regional planning commission, etc.

Section 2 Water Resources

2.1 Watersheds

2.2 Surface Waters

2.2.1 Wetlands & Vernal Pools

2.2.2 Lakes & Ponds

2.2.3 Rivers & Streams

2.3 Aquifers/Groundwater

2.4 Floodplains

2.5 Recommendations for Water Resources

Section 3 WILDLIFE AND HABITATS (use resources from takingactionforwildlife.org)

3.1 Wildlife Habitats

- Describe each habitat found in your town, using the [Wildlife Action Plan Habitat Land Cover map](#) and descriptions from [Habitats Page of the UNH Extension website](#).
- Include the wildlife likely to be found in each habitat using [NH Wildlife Action Plan](#) resources. You may also have information or studies where you can include *actual* records of local wildlife observations ([Hebron NRI](#) has an example of this)
- Include some of the stewardship (management) guidelines provided for each habitat in the [Habitat Stewardship Brochures](#).
- Cover only those habitats occurring in your town.
 - 4.1.1 Hemlock Hardwood Pine Forest
 - 4.1.2 Northern Hardwood Conifer Forest
 - 4.1.3 Lowland Spruce Fir Forest
 - 4.1.4 Appalachian Oak-Pine Forests
 - 4.1.5 Pine Barrens
 - 4.1.6 Grasslands
 - 4.1.7 Shrublands
 - 4.1.8 Floodplain Forests
 - 4.1.9 Peatlands
 - 4.1.10 Marsh and Shrub Wetlands
 - 4.1.11 Northern or Temperate Swamps
 - 4.1.11 Vernal Pools
 - 4.1.12 Rocky Ridges and Talus Slopes
 - 4.1.13 Caves & Mines
 - 4.1.14 Shorelines
 - 4.1.15 Headwater Streams

And other habitats as applicable (coastal towns to include coastal habitats, etc.)

- 3.2 **Highest Ranked Habitats**
Include information about the “pink and green” Wildlife Action Plan Map, called the [Highest Ranked Habitat Map](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap-high-rank.html) (<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap-high-rank.html>)
- 3.3 **Natural Heritage Bureau data**
Obtain list of rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species and natural communities from [NH Heritage Bureau website](#)
- 3.3 **Wildlife Conservation Priority Areas**
If you have identified any areas that are a conservation priority for wildlife, include a map identifying and naming these areas. If wildlife conservation is your goal, you can use the Wildlife Habitat map as your base map for these priority areas.
- 3.4 **Recommendations for Wildlife and Habitats**
Recommend next steps for planning for conservation of wildlife and habitats.

Section 4 Agriculture and Forestry

- 4.1 **Agricultural Soils and Active Farmlands**
- 4.2 **Forest Soils and Forestry**

Section 5 Steep Slopes and Ridgelines

- 5.1 **Steep Slopes**
- 5.2 **Ridgelines**
- 5.3 **Recommendations for Soils and Steep Slopes** (if you are considering a Steep Slopes Ordinance, refer to the chapter *NH Steep Slopes and Ridgeline Protection* in [Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development](http://des.nh.gov/repp/innovative_land_use.htm) (http://des.nh.gov/repp/innovative_land_use.htm))

Section 6 Scenic Resources

Section 7 Historic and Cultural Resources

Section 8 Public, Conserved and Recreational Lands