

5 WAYS COMMUNITIES CAN *Take Action* for WILDLIFE

#1 Plan for Wildlife.

Conduct a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) that includes wildlife. Update an existing NRI or create a new one following the steps on takingactionforwildlife.org

#2 Know Your Wildlife.

Find out what wildlife species are in town using creative activities to engage residents, e.g a bioblitz or wildlife sightings map activity

#3 Know Your Habitats.

Use the Wildlife Action Plan Habitat maps to learn what habitats are in town and prioritize areas for protection

#4 Explore Outdoors.

Host outdoor events, such as a field visit to local wildlife habitats on municipal lands. Invite a wildlife expert to come and talk to the group

#5 Conservation Matters.

Know your local land trust and work with them to conserve important wildlife habitats in town using voluntary conservation easements and other land conservation options



There are many more actions that communities can take to help wildlife in their town. Read below and visit takingactionforwildlife.org for more information.

Taking Action
for WILDLIFE

Planning

- ✓ **Develop a Conservation Plan** for wildlife and habitats, based on your NRI
- ✓ **Prioritize areas for habitat protection** using the Wildlife Action Plan maps
- ✓ **Incorporate climate change and wildlife** into town documents
- ✓ **Update town regulations** to include practices that benefit wildlife
- ✓ **Get inspired – look at examples** of community outreach, conservation planning, natural resources inventories, etc. at takingactionforwildlife.org
- ✓ **Use the NH Wildlife Sightings Website** to report the wildlife you see
nhwildlifesightings.unh.edu

Habitat

- ✓ **Address invasive species** on town properties where removal may be feasible
- ✓ **Manage town lands for wildlife habitat** - use species- or habitat-specific Best Management Practices, get help from professionals, such as licensed foresters, wildlife biologists, etc, and avoid rare/sensitive habitats when planning trails on town lands
- ✓ **Consider ways to minimize threats to wildlife and habitat in development plans**, and design culverts large enough for fish and wildlife passage
- ✓ **Keep habitats healthy** – use vegetated buffers around water bodies and reduce use of chemicals (including Roundup-type herbicides) to minimize pollution

Education

- ✓ **Use websites and social media** to encourage residents to explore town-owned lands, report wildlife they see and to provide education about ways to protect wildlife in town
- ✓ **Host a *Speaking for Wildlife* presentation** to educate residents about species and habitats
- ✓ **Connect and collaborate with local schools** to engage teachers and students
- ✓ **Educate town residents on how to avoid spreading invasives** and promote planting of native species
- ✓ **Connect with *The Stewardship Network*** for volunteer workdays and resources
- ✓ **Educate local road agents** about Best Management Practices for utility maintenance, erosion control, roadside invasives and other activities that can impact wildlife in town

Get help.

Taking Action for Wildlife Community Assistance takingactionforwildlife.org/communities-0

NH Wildlife Action Plan wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html

UNHCE County Foresters extension.unh.edu/Contact-Forestry-and-Wildlife-Staff

NH Land Trust Coalition nhlrc.org

The Stewardship Network: New England newengland.stewardshipnetwork.org

Speaking for Wildlife extension.unh.edu/NH-Coverts-Project/Speaking-Wildlife