

NH OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING

Water Protection Assistance Program

Forested Floodplain Forum

October 30, 2001

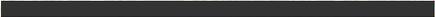


Protection of Floodplain Forests and Riparian Areas

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Inventory of Forested Floodplains and Vernal Pools

- Use Local Volunteers, College Interns, or School Science Classes.
 - Evaluate Forested Floodplains and Vernal Pools.
 - Use NH Fish and Game's Document, *Identifying and Protecting New Hampshire's Significant Habitat: A Guide for Towns and Conservation Commissions*.
 - Adopt Inventory in Water Resources Component of Master Plan.
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Potential Uses of a Forested Floodplain and Vernal Pool Inventory

- Prime Wetlands.
 - Forested Floodplain Overlay Zoning.
 - Requirements in Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations.
 - Planning Board Tool for Local Review Processes.
 - Conservation Commission Tool for Review of Fill and Dredge Applications.
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Some Forested Floodplains Can Be Prime Wetlands

- Rare Species, Critical Wildlife Habitat or Historic Significance.
 - Hydric Soils, Hydrophytic Vegetation and Wetland Hydrology.
 - Wetland Must Have 50% Very Poorly Drained Soils.
 - Use NH Method for Evaluation of Wetlands. Forested Floodplains.
 - Rank in Accordance with NH Code of Administrative Rules Chapter Wt 700.
 - Select Prime Wetlands Based Upon Ranking.
 - Local Adoption by Official Ballot Vote at Town Meeting.
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Additional Recommendations

- Adopt Local Forested Floodplain Overlay Zoning.
 - Have Town Clerk Provide Inventory Date with Wetland Permit Applications.
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Adopt a Local Forested Floodplain Overlay Zoning Ordinance

- Incorporate Inventory into Municipal Master Plan.
 - Reference as Supporting Documentation for Zoning.
 - Consider Innovative Land Use Control Option. (RSA 674:21)
 - Ordinance Can Designate a Separate Entity for Administration.
 - Planning Board Maintains Review and Comment Before Approval Granted.
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Forested Floodplain Protection Zoning

- Permitted and Prohibited Uses
 - Setbacks for Septic Tanks and Leachfields
 - Setbacks for Roads and Structures
 - Buffers, Where Appropriate
 - Methodology for Field Verification of the Resource
 - Planning Board Holds Public Hearings (RSA 675:7)
 - Local Adoption by Official Ballot Vote at Town Meeting (RSA 675:2-5)
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Forested Floodplain Protection in Subdivision & Site Plan Review Regulations

- (RSA 674:36) Subdivision Regulations to Protect Health and Safety.
 - (RSA 674:43) Site Plan Review for Effective Resource Protection.
 - Regulates Nonresidential & Multi-Family “Potential Threats.”
 - Forested Floodplains Should Be Identified on Subdivision and Site Plans.
 - Final Approval Should be Conditioned Upon State & Federal Approvals.
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