

# Resources

## General Resources for Planning

- ***Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage: A Guide to Community-Based Planning for the Conservation of Vermont's Fish, Wildlife, and Biological Diversity.*** This publication contains valuable information about planning for natural resources at the landscape, natural community, and species levels. Download the PDF at [http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/maps/Community\\_Wildlife\\_Program/complete.pdf](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/library/maps/Community_Wildlife_Program/complete.pdf).
- **Community Planning Toolbox:** The Community Planning Toolbox introduces users to the issues, techniques and resources for smart growth planning and natural resources protection, and features case studies and sample tools that demonstrate how other communities have addressed similar challenges. The Toolbox is organized into five main sections: Land Use Planning in Vermont, Legal Issues in Planning, Issues, Tools, and Case Studies. Learn more at <http://vnrc.org/resources/community-planning-toolbox/>.
- **Vermont Planning Information Center (VPIC):** VPIC is a clearinghouse for planning commissions, review boards, municipal staff, and all others involved in land use planning and regulation in Vermont. Learn more at [www.vpic.info](http://www.vpic.info).
- **Land Use Planning Implementation Manual:** This publication of the Vermont Land Use Education and Training Collaborative uses topic papers to comprehensively cover a variety of topics related to planning, smart growth and natural resources. Learn more at <http://www.vpic.info/ImplementationManual.html>.

## Mapping and Inventory Tools

- **Natural Resources Atlas:** This is a web-based mapping tool that was developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to provide geographic information about environmental features and sites that the agency manages, monitors, permits, or regulates. It is a good place to start in developing local maps for planning purposes. Explore this tool at <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra/>.
- **BioFinder:** This is another web-based mapping tool that was developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for identifying Vermont's lands and waters that support high priority ecosystems, natural communities, habitats, and species. The most comprehensive assessment of its kind in Vermont, BioFinder was developed to further collective stewardship and conservation efforts. BioFinder differs from the Natural Resources Atlas in that the program can analyze the data and indicate statewide priority rankings. Explore this tool at <http://biofinder.vermont.gov/>.
- **Basic Natural Resources Inventory:** This Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department website gives an overview of the types of data that should be including when developing a natural resources inventory and accompanying maps. This website provides useful guidance about inventories in general and the Agency of Natural Resources' mapping tools. Learn more at [http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cwp\\_inventory.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/cwp_inventory.cfm).
- **Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI):** VCGI is a clearinghouse for geospatial data that is used for making maps of Vermont. The website also includes mapmaking software for users. Learn more at <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/>.

## VNRC Reports & Data

- ***Roundtable on Parcelization and Forest Fragmentation – Final Report:*** This is a report by a consortium of diverse public and private perspectives containing recommendations for reducing the parcelization and fragmentation of Vermont's forests. Download the PDF at <http://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Forest-Roundtable-Report.pdf>.
- ***Wildlife Considerations in Local Planning: An Evaluation of a Decade of Progress in Vermont:*** This publication was prepared by VNRC for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department in 2011. It includes a detailed assessment of how Vermont's municipal plans, zoning bylaws, and subdivision regulations discuss and incorporate the conservation of wildlife and other natural resources. Download the PDF at <http://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Wildlife-Considerations-in-Local-Planning1.pdf>.



- **Informing Land Use Planning and Forestland Conservation through Subdivision and Parcelization Trend Information:** This publication was prepared by Vermont Family Forests and VNRC in 2010. It provides information on forestland ownership and subdivision trends in Vermont. Case studies related to zoning and forestland conservation are included. Download the full report at [www.vnrc.org/subdivisionreport](http://www.vnrc.org/subdivisionreport).
- **Forestland and Parcel Data for Your Town:** This site allows you to review statewide or town specific information. Learn more about your town including the number of acres enrolled in the Current Use Program, the number of forested parcels over 50 acres, acres of land conserved, etc. at [www.vnrc.org/subdivisionreport](http://www.vnrc.org/subdivisionreport).
- **Critical Paths: Enhancing Road Permeability for Wildlife in Vermont - Recommendations for "On the Ground" Improvements at Priority Road Crossing Zones in the Green Mountain Corridor.** This publication was prepared by National Wildlife Federation, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Vermont Natural Resources Council in 2009. It identifies eleven priority wildlife crossing zones in the Green Mountain Corridor and provides land use and management recommendations for municipalities. Download the full report at <http://vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/>.
- **Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation:** The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation is part of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Their mission is to practice and encourage high quality stewardship of Vermont's environment by monitoring and maintaining the health, integrity and diversity of important species, natural communities, and ecological processes; managing forests for sustainable use; providing and promoting opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation; and furnishing related information, education, and service. Learn more at [www.vtfpr.org](http://www.vtfpr.org).
- **County Foresters:** Housed within the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, county foresters maintain records and maps of forestland that is enrolled in the state's Current Use Program. They also provide assistance to landowners including possible management goals and strategies. Learn more at [http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for\\_forres\\_countfor.cfm](http://www.vtfpr.org/resource/for_forres_countfor.cfm).
- **Vermont League of Cities and Towns:** VLCT is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization owned by Vermont's municipalities. The league provides educational, legislative, and insurance trust services, as well as legal advice, to all political subdivisions of the state of Vermont. Learn more at <http://www.vlct.org>.
- **Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development:** VHCD staff provides training, technical and financial assistance to enhance local community and economic development programs and practices including local and regional land use and smart growth designations to enhance Vermont's unique landscape of compact centers surrounded by working landscapes. Learn more at [http://accd.vermont.gov/about\\_us](http://accd.vermont.gov/about_us).
- **U.S.D.A. Forest Service and Green Mountain National Forest Service:** The Green Mountain National Forest provides ecological and science-based forestry stewardship, clean water, diverse vegetation, high-quality forest products, economical and educational contributions, and trail-based backcountry recreation. Financial assistance through grants and cooperative agreements is available to cooperators from the Forest Service (primarily Research and State and Private Forestry units). Learn more at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/greenmountain>.
- **U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service:** The NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. Diverse assistance programs are available related to maintaining water quality, soil productivity, forestry management planning, etc. Learn more at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/vt/home/>.

## Municipal, State & Federal Entities

- **Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs):** Vermont has 11 regional planning commissions, who provide a variety of services to member municipalities. Services vary by RPC, but generally include land use, affordable housing, transportation, and open space planning expertise; GIS mapping services; brownfields assessment and redevelopment assistance; and economic development planning. Contact your RPC to learn about available technical support. RPC contact information can be found at <http://vapda.org/>.
- **Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department:** The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is part of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Their mission is to protect and conserve all species of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the people of Vermont. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department provides a broad range of services to the public including wildlife and fisheries management, threatened and endangered species monitoring and restoration, habitat conservation, and educational programs for hunters, young people and teachers. Learn more at [www.vtfishandwildlife.com/about\\_history.cfm](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/about_history.cfm).



- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Programs foster aquatic conservation and assist voluntary habitat conservation and restoration on private land. Learn more at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/vt.htm>.

## Conservation/ Forest & Wildlife Stewardship Organizations

- **Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions:** The mission of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is to build the effectiveness of conservation commissions and community groups working to sustain their natural and cultural resources. Learn more by going to AVCC's new website, which is expected to be live by Nov. 1, 2013: [www.vtconservation.org](http://www.vtconservation.org). For questions, or to join the AVCC listserv, please contact Jake Brown, Government Affairs and Communications Director at VNRC ([jbrown@vnrc.org](mailto:jbrown@vnrc.org) or 802-223-2328 x111).
- **Audubon Vermont:** Audubon Vermont is a nonprofit organization providing environmental awareness and education programs such as the Forest Bird Initiative, which integrates science, education, public policy and forest management expertise to conserve forests within Vermont that are important to birds. Learn more at <http://vt.audubon.org/>.
- **Consulting Conservation Biologists of Vermont:** Ecologists, zoologists, botanists, and conservation planners who are trained in the principles and practices of conservation biology. They can assist towns, watershed associations, multi-town groups, and individual landowners with ecological assessment, conservation planning, and site management planning. To learn more, call Liz Thompson at 802-373-7597.
- **Consulting Foresters:** Consulting foresters assist private landowners in identifying and achieving goals for their woodlands, including managing for forest products, wildlife habitat, recreation, water resources, and aesthetics. Services provided by consulting foresters include forest resource planning, marking trees to be removed, preparing and negotiating contracts, administering sales of forest products, appraisals and inventories, and assisting in tax treatment of woodlands. For a list of Vermont Woodlands accredited consulting foresters go to <http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/certified-foresters.asp>.
- **Keeping Track®:** Keeping Track® helps conserve key wildlife habitat by showing people "where the wild things are." Adult and youth training programs are designed to both inspire community volunteers as well as turn them into practitioners of a science-based field study methodology. Learn more at <http://keepingtrack.org/>.
- **Land Trusts:** There are many organizations in Vermont that are dedicated to helping Vermonters conserve their land for the enjoyment and use of future generations. Organizations That Conserve Land in VT is a detailed list of land conservation groups (primarily land trusts) and their contact information: <http://www.vnrc.org/landownersummit/conservationeasementresources.pdf>.
- **National Wildlife Federation:** NWF works to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. Part of NWF's work in Vermont is to help identify priority wildlife crossings and reconnect habitat and protect wildlife. Learn more <http://www.nwf.org/Northeast.aspx>.
- **Staying Connected Initiative:** The Staying Connected Initiative (SCI) seeks to enhance and protect landscape connectivity for animals and people in the northeastern U.S. and eastern Canada, including substantial parts of Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, and Maine. Maps and other resources, including land use and transportation planning tools, are available at <http://stayingconnectedinitiative.org/>.
- **The Conservation Fund:** The Conservation Fund's mission is to save land for future generations. In addition to saving land directly, the Conservation Funds acts swiftly to accelerate and sustain conservation. The team helps communities strategically plan for development, provides loans to small green businesses, and works with companies to compensate for environmental impacts, among other efforts. Learn more about The Conservation Fund's efforts in Vermont at <http://www.conservationfund.org/places-we-work/vermont/>.
- **The Nature Conservancy (Vermont):** TNC is a global conservation organization working nationwide and around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. In Vermont, TNC has helped (1) protect more than 183,000 acres of the state's most ecologically significant natural areas, (2) spearhead the Staying Connected Initiative, and (3) advance conservation of the Lake Champlain and Connecticut River systems. Learn more at [www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/vermont/index.htm](http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/vermont/index.htm).



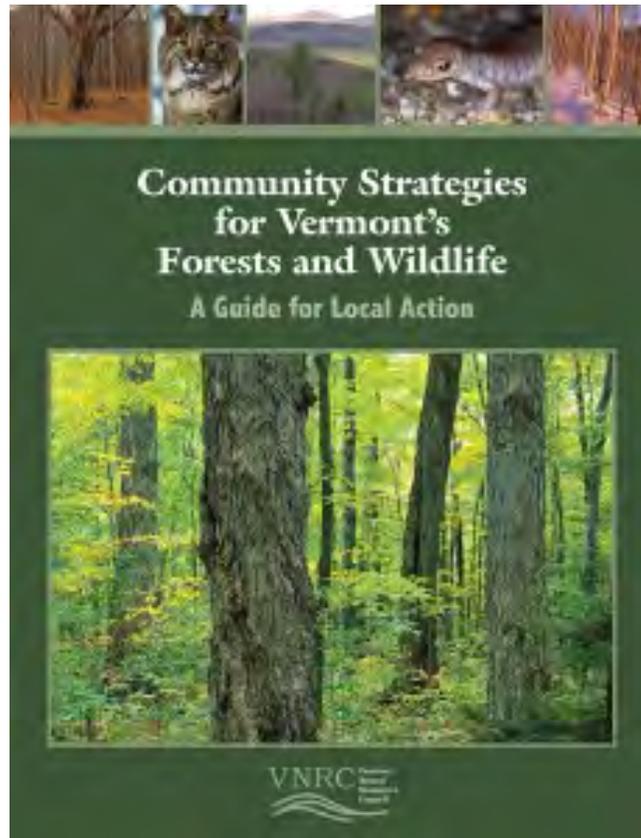
- **The Trust for Public Land (Vermont):** TPL secures conservation easements on lands until the public is able to purchase them. In this way, TPL has helped to protect approximately 53,000 acres across Vermont, resulting in the creation of community forests, parks, trails and other important public places. Learn more at <http://www.tpl.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/vermont/>.
- **Vermont Coverts:** Vermont Coverts is a nonprofit organization that works with woodland owners and managers to enhance wildlife habitat and promote healthy forest ecosystems. Learn more at [www.vtcoverts.org](http://www.vtcoverts.org).
- **Vermont Family Forests:** VFF is a family forest conservation organization that provides research, education and marketing programs in support of “family ecoforestry.” Learn more at [www.familyforests.org](http://www.familyforests.org).
- **Vermont Housing and Conservation Board:** VHCB is an independent, state-supported funding agency providing grants, loans and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, municipalities and state agencies for the development of perpetually affordable housing and for the conservation of important agricultural land, forestland, recreational land, natural areas and historic properties in Vermont. Learn more at [www.vhcb.org](http://www.vhcb.org).
- **Vermont Land Trust:** VLT is a member-supported, nonprofit land conservation organization that has permanently conserved more than 1,650 parcels of land covering more than 500,000 acres in Vermont. VLT provides technical and legal assistance to individuals, communities, and local land trusts to help them achieve their conservation objectives. Learn more at <http://www.vlt.org/>.
- **Vermont Natural Resources Council:** VNRC’s mission is to protect and restore Vermont’s natural resources and environment for present and future generations through research, education, collaboration and advocacy. VNRC assists communities and local governments with innovative planning techniques for strong downtowns and villages, as well as outlying rural areas including intact forestland and wildlife habitat. Learn more at <http://www.vnrc.org>.
- **Vermont Woodlands Association:** A nonprofit organization that strives to educate, train, and support private forest landowners in sound forest management practices that support wildlife, water quality, wood products and recreation. VWA also sponsors community and teacher educational programs. Learn more at [www.vermontwoodlands.org](http://www.vermontwoodlands.org).

*For a list of additional conservation organizations, go to:  
<http://www.vhcb.org/vermontnonprofits.html#list>.*



This chapter is part of a larger publication called ***Community Strategies for Vermont's Forests and Wildlife: A Guide for Local Action***. You can download the entire publication or individual chapters (including the endnotes, resources, and credits page) for FREE at:

[www.vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/](http://www.vnrc.org/programs/forests-wildlife/guide/)



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