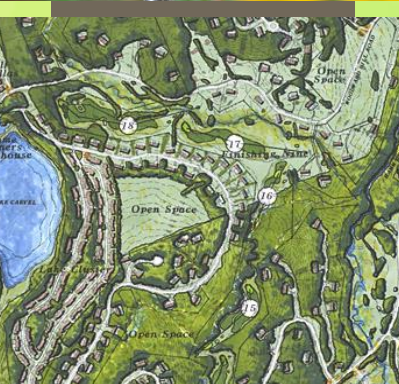


Biodiversity Assessment Training for Land Use Decision-Makers



6 – month training program

for:

town boards, planning boards,
conservation commissions,
watershed councils, staff of land trusts,
and others directly involved in
environmental reviews, land use policy-
making, and planning

Beginning April 2014 - FREE



in partnership with the
Hudson River Estuary Program

of the New York State Department of Environmental
Conservation

Application Deadline: March 3, 2014

Biodiversity Assessment Training for Land Use Decision-Makers

techniques for identifying and protecting
local biodiversity resources



Learn :

- principles of biodiversity conservation
- to identify important habitats in your town or planning area
- to apply that knowledge to policy-making, land use planning, and environmental reviews.

Who Can Apply :

- Organize a team of 5-10 volunteer participants from agencies and organizations actively involved in land use decision-making.
- Teams must be within the ten-county Hudson River Estuary Corridor.*
- Team members may represent a single municipal agency or conservation organization or a mix of several agencies and organizations. Intermunicipal groups are encouraged to apply.

* From Rockland and Westchester counties in the south to Albany and Rensselaer counties in the north.

The Training Program

Participating groups...

- attend one or two 4-hour laboratory and field training sessions per month in your own community, led by Hudsonia staff, to learn map analysis and field assessment techniques for identifying and evaluating habitats, and land use planning concepts for protection of habitats and species of conservation concern;
- hold regular group meetings between these sessions;
- conduct a biodiversity assessment on a selected land area of your choice ("the study area");
- create a map of significant habitats in your study area, and a brief written report describing the habitats and providing conservation recommendations;
- commit to using the skills taught in the course for land-use planning and conservation efforts for your municipality or organization.

Offered at no charge to
selected groups. Training
credits are available.

Application Deadline: March 3, 2014

How to Prepare and Submit an Application

Applicants are encouraged to contact Leah Ceperley, Biodiversity Educator, for guidance on preparing an application and selecting a study area. Once you have assembled a team, we would be happy to meet with the group to explain the program in greater detail, answer your questions, and help delineate your study area.

A complete application includes one or more pages describing the group, their interest in the program, and the proposed study area. Closely follow the instructions below, and organize your application according to the corresponding numbered sections:

1. Name, affiliation (e.g., environmental commission, Planning Board, name of land trust, etc.), address, phone number, and email address of primary contact for this application.
2. Name of town(s) and county where the proposed study area is located.
3. Describe (500 words or less) how participants will use their assessment skills and the biodiversity information after the training is completed. Include any relevant complementary projects occurring in the community (e.g., open space planning, natural resource inventory, zoning ordinance revision, inter-municipal conservation efforts), including projects funded by the Hudson River Estuary Program, if any.
4. Describe the geographical extent and approximate size (about 1000 acres) of the proposed study area. Append a map with the study area clearly marked on a USGS topographic base map (photocopies are fine). Include the quad name of the topo map. Use roads, streams, and other major land or cultural features (not property boundaries) to delineate the study area boundary. Choose an area that is not the subject of local controversy, and that is mostly or entirely unprotected from development. (Consult with Hudsonia staff to discuss study area size and selection.)
5. Provide the names, affiliations, qualifications, and contact information of team members, and certify that all are aware of the training expectations and are able to commit to at least 3 hours per week for the duration of the 6-month training.

Final applications are due by March 3, 2014, and decisions on early submittals will be made on a rolling basis. If possible, please double-side typewritten pages. We strongly encourage you to talk with us and/or send a draft application by February 17 (earlier if possible) so that we can help with the application process.

Submit application by ground mail or email to:
Leah Ceperley, Biologist
Hudsonia Ltd.
PO Box 5000
Annandale, NY 12504
845.758.7053 phone / 845.758.7033 fax
lceperle@bard.edu



Hudsonia Ltd.

Application Deadline: March 3, 2014