

General Conservation Measures for Protecting Natural Areas and Wildlife



Hudsonia Ltd.

- **Protect large, contiguous, unaltered tracts of land** wherever possible. Avoid fragmentation of such areas by roads, drive-ways, and other developed uses.
- **Preserve broad links** between natural habitats on adjacent properties.
- **Preserve natural disturbance processes**, such as fires, floods, tidal flushing, seasonal drawdowns, landslides, and wind exposures wherever possible. Discourage development that would interfere with these processes.
- **Restore and maintain broad buffer zones** of natural vegetation along streams, along shores of other water bodies and wetlands, and at the perimeters of other sensitive habitats.
- **Encourage development of altered land** instead of unaltered land wherever possible.
- **Promote redevelopment of brownfields** and other previously-altered sites, “infill” development, and “adaptive re-use” of existing structures wherever possible, instead of breaking new ground in unaltered areas.
- **Direct human uses toward the least sensitive areas**, and minimize alteration of natural features, including vegetation, soils, bedrock, and waterways.
- **Concentrate development along existing roads**; discourage construction of new roads in undeveloped areas.
- **Encourage pedestrian-centered developments** that enhance existing neighborhoods, instead of isolated developments requiring new roads or expanded vehicle use.
- **Preserve farmland potential** wherever possible. Discourage development on active farmland, on Prime Farmland Soils, or on Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance, and avoid fragmentation of contiguous farmland by new roads, driveways, and other non-agricultural uses.
- **Minimize areas of impervious surfaces** (roof surfaces, roads, parking lots, driveways, etc.), and maximize onsite retention and infiltration of stormwater runoff, to help protect the quality and quantity of groundwater and surface water resources. Design new development such that surface runoff from the site during and after construction does not exceed pre-construction runoff volumes.
- **Restore degraded habitats** wherever possible, but do not use restoration projects as a “license” to destroy existing high-quality habitats.
- **Consider environmental concerns early in the planning process** for new developments. Incorporate biodiversity conservation principles into the choice of development sites, the site design, and the construction practices.