

Who's Planning for Forests?



Results from A Region-Wide Contest

National Community Forestry Center
Northern Forest Region
March, 2001

About the National Community Forestry Center . . .

The National Community Forestry Center (NCFC) is a decentralized network with four regional centers and a national coordinator. The four regional centers are located in the Southwest, the Appalachians, the Pacific Northwest, and the Northeast. The Northern Forest Regional Center of the NCFC is administered by Yellow Wood Associates, Inc. of St. Albans, Vermont. The northern forest region, our primary area of service, comprises the states of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

The core purpose of the Northern Forest Regional Center is to help rural people conduct and use research to inform decision-making about forest resources. Our goal is to add value to the work of communities, organizations, and institutions in our region who share a vision of healthy communities and healthy forests, now and for future generations.

The work of the Center includes:

- developing partnerships with existing organizations who share our vision
- assisting rural communities in defining research agendas and engaging scientists in participatory research
- conducting targeted research to address region-wide issues and opportunities
- responding to requests by rural people for information and technical assistance related to community forestry
- establishing mechanisms such as listservs, web page, newsletter, and conferences to facilitate information sharing and networking
- publishing fact sheets, reports, and other materials on forest-related topics
- working intensively with up to three communities per year based on priorities established by the Bioregional Advisory Council.

We look forward to engaging you in this unique opportunity to support rural people in creating healthy communities and healthy forests. We would be happy to respond to your inquiries about the Center's services, or about specific forest topics, and are prepared to assist you in locating forest-related information and resources.

The National Community Forestry Center is a program of the National Network of Forest Practitioners. Network members share an interest in rural community development based upon sustainable forestry, and, even more importantly, a conviction that healthy communities and healthy ecosystems are interdependent.

National Community Forestry Center

Northern Forest Region

c/o Yellow Wood Associates, Inc.

95 South Main Street, Suite 2

St. Albans, Vermont 05478-2209

From NY, NH, ME, VT: 800-727-5404

From outside the region: 802-524-6141



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While developing the idea that became the National Community Forestry Center, we conducted field visits in Vermont, Kentucky, and New Mexico Communities. We asked rural residents what information they need to make better community-level decisions about the stewardship and use of local forestland. One of the most frequent responses was, “We need to know what local policies and actions can be adopted to ensure that forests are treated as economic, social, cultural, and environmental assets within our community.” When pressed to expand upon this answer, respondents said that they wanted to know what strategies other communities have tried. They wanted real world examples.

In response to this request, we initiated a region-wide contest. We offered fabulous prizes for town plans or bylaws that specifically refer to forests or forest products. Excerpts from most of the submissions are included in this publication. We’ve also added a few examples we stumbled upon in our work.

6 prize winners

The Roxbury, Maine Comprehensive Plan has more references to forest land and forestry than any other submission in the town plan category. It recognizes multiple values of the forest, and ties policies to specific implementation strategies. Roxbury planners recognize that natural resources are shared with adjoining communities and included a Regional Coordination Program in their plan.

The Forest Management Plan for the Plaistow Town Forestlands is a compelling statement about the importance of municipal forestland to the community. The plan opens with a section that describes the full range of benefits the community derives from the town forestlands, and includes a multiple-use summary, recommendations for future acquisitions, and stand-by-stand analysis with prescriptions for Plaistow’s town forest parcels. The plan was a joint project of the town’s Conservation Commission and Selectboard.

We hope you will find useful ideas and examples in this collection. Planning effectively for the future of our communities and our forest resources will require the use of a wide variety of tools, both regulatory and non-regulatory. This publication provides only a small snapshot of the strategies in use. We hope these examples will stimulate your ideas and fuel local discussion about forest planning. Inclusion in this collection does not imply endorsement of particular language or strategies by the National Community Forestry Center, Northern Forest Region.

If you know of additional examples, please pass them along to us. We will make them available to others via our listserv and website. As we continue to collect examples, we will update and reissue this publication. Thanks to all our contributors! And a special thank you to our advisory council members, Amy Richardson and Tom Thomson, for donating the fabulous prizes for contest winners.



Plans & Bylaws with Forest or Woodland Districts

Town of Roxbury, Maine Comprehensive Plan 1993

Submitted by Ferg Lea, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, 125 Manley Road, Auburn, ME 04210, 207-783-9186

The plan recognizes that Roxbury's economy and population growth are tied to the pulp and paper industry in Rumford, and notes that downturns in the industry will be felt through losses in jobs and decreasing indirect employment opportunities. The town's goal in response is to "provide for economic growth and development which is appropriate with town character." The corresponding policies are to allow home businesses and home occupations in all areas of town and to encourage appropriate economic development including recreation/tourism related businesses that are compatible with Roxbury's current character and environment. These policies are tied to specific implementation strategies with responsibility, time-frame, and cost.

The Land Use Plan identifies commercial forest land as the most prevalent land use in Roxbury at 77.2% of the town's total land area. The plan acknowledges the value of this commercial forest in providing recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality protection, as well as pulp and saw logs. The plan acknowledges that sale and/or development of commercial woodland may significantly alter development patterns and town character. It further notes that harvesting operations may temporarily or permanently provide access to new locations. Planners express the concern that silvicultural operations not damage the quality of water resources shared by Roxbury and adjoining communities. Specific implementation strategies include the following:

- The planning board will provide annual written correspondence to commercial wood landowners as to the town's interest in maintaining significant wildlife habitat and request that management and harvest plans consider such habitats. "If such voluntary measures do not achieve the policies of this plan, local ordinance provisions should be enacted to require, prior to harvest, significant wildlife habitat is identified and measures are undertaken to maintain its value."
- The town should adopt, as local regulations, the "Best Management Practices for Erosion Control and Water Quality Protection in Timber Harvesting Operations" as prepared by the Bureau of Forestry.



6

Grand Prize Winner!!!

**Comprehensive Plan
with
Woodland/Recreational/
Rural District**

The plan's stated goal in relation to Agricultural and Forest Resources is "to encourage the continued use of land for agricultural and forest purposes." The policies relevant to forests are as follows:

- not to restrict commercial forest landowners from practicing ecologically sound forest harvesting practices
- to maintain the integrity of the forest
- to require development that takes place in forested areas to conserve forest lands and resource values

Corresponding implementation strategies include:

- Including a provision in the town's subdivision standards for review of all lots of less than 500 acres
- Requesting that the Bureau of Forestry supply the town with a copy of the "Notification Prior to Harvest" as required by state law. The town would maintain a file and notify the planning board of all harvesting operations.
- Adopting local ordinance provisions requiring low density development in the recreation/woodland rural areas (see Woodland/Recreation Rural district below)
- Adoption of local ordinance provisions allowing for non-tradition and innovative residential development where lot sizes and frontage area is reduced as long as overall required densities are maintained

Roxbury's Future Land Use Plan includes a **Woodland/Recreational/Rural District** described as follows:

The purpose of this district is to encourage commercial forestry and agriculture, and maintain current town character while allowing low density development. Residential, forestry and agricultural uses should be permitted. Residential lot standards for lots not part of a subdivision as defined [in state law] should be a minimum of 80,000 sq.ft. with a minimum of 200 feet street frontage. When subdivisions occur, an overall density should not exceed one dwelling unit per 10 acres with the area to be built upon or developed (those areas where buildings, driveways, lawns, and clearing will occur) not to exceed 40,000 sq.ft. The remaining land, if leased, should be managed by the lessee. When the land will be owned, the landowners should form a landowners association to manage the land. Management objective should relate to forestry or agriculture. Home occupations are permissible. New residential development adjacent to Routes 17 and 120 should have a minimum set back of 50 feet and maintain a buffer of existing vegetation to a minimum of 20 feet.



Commercial uses associated with rural locations including but not limited to forestry/construction equipment sales and service; recreational uses, products, sales and services; forestry and agricultural products; sawmills; and neighborhood stores are permissible after Site Plan Review. Where commercial development and wood landings or yards occur along Routes 17 and 120, performance standards should require that minimum set backs including parking are 50 feet from the rights-of-way, a maximum of one curb cut, and landscaping or retention of natural vegetation. Lot sizes for commercial uses should be a minimum of 80,000 sq.ft. with a maximum lot coverage of structures and parking not to exceed 50%.



The Roxbury Comprehensive Plan has a separate section with a Regional Coordination Program for addressing natural resource issues in recognition that these are shared resources, and joint action and coordination is necessary. In order to encourage the continued management of the region's forest resources as commercial forest land the following implementation strategy is identified:

- The planning board should encourage annual "State of the Region's Forest" meetings with adjacent towns, planning boards, land use regulation commission, and forest landowners. The purpose of the meetings should be to review regional forest issues and identify actions towns may undertake to maintain and encourage commercial forestry.

Town of Lyme, NH Master Plan 1985 & Zoning Ordinance Revised 1998

Submitted by Kenneth McWilliams, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, 77 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766, 603-448-1680

This plan considers cumulative impacts of development on wildlife and vegetation. It identifies rare and endangered species and special natural communities and includes forests, along with wetlands and fields, as "open space lands." The plan recognizes industrial forest land ownership as a significant factor in community land use, one that may change rapidly as a result of economics.

Lyme's Future Land Use Plan provides principles and policies that distinguish the degree of control the Town should exercise regarding certain aspects of development. This format feeds directly into the

town's performance-based land use controls. Among the "relative policies" is to restrict development in important forestlands. The Lyme Zoning Ordinance includes a ***Mountain and Forest Conservation District***:

The primary objective of the Mountain and Forest Conservation District is to preserve and protect Lyme's natural heritage of large tracts of undeveloped forest land in the more remote sections of town and thereby serve the following additional objectives: 1) encourage continuation of large contiguous tracts of forest land in private ownership to provide forest resources and outdoor recreation; 2) encourage forestry and timber harvesting and permit other compatible uses including very low intensity development that will allow the land to appreciate in value; 3) protect natural areas; 4) protect wildlife habitat; 5) maintain ecological balance; 6) preserve scenic views; 7) avoid the burden of unreasonable municipal expenditures for the purpose of providing municipal services to remote and difficult locations; and 8) avoid the risk to health and safety of municipal employees and volunteers of providing emergency services to remote and difficult locations.

Permitted uses in the Mountain and Forest Conservation District include forestry and tree farming, agriculture, wildlife refuges, parks and outdoor recreation uses requiring no structures, conservation areas and nature trails, single family residence, home occupation, excavation, and wells. Uses that may be permitted by special exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment include government, institution, clinic, cottage industry, daycare, office/studio/restaurant conversion, outdoor recreation, and sawmill. Minimum lot size is 50 acres with a minimum of 1,000 feet road frontage. Minimum lot width is 1000 feet. Minimum building footprint as a percentage of lot size is 1%; minimum lot coverage as a percentage of lot size is 2%. Maximum gross floor area is 14,000 feet.

**Town of New London, NH
Master Plan 1998 & Zoning Ordinance Amended March 2000**

Submitted by Kenneth McWilliams, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, 77 Bank Street, Lebanon, NH 03766, 603-448-1680

In 1998, New London planners evaluated the potential build-out of their existing plan and bylaws and didn't like what they saw. They chose to reduce overall density in rural areas and recommended



creation of a Forestry Zone with a large minimum lot size.

The New London Zoning Ordinance (amended March 2000) has a **Forest Conservation District**. The primary objective is to protect New London's natural heritage of large tracts of undeveloped forest land. Permitted uses include forestry, agriculture, wildlife refuges, publicly-owned recreational facilities, conservation areas and hiking trails, single family dwellings, home occupations, and essential services. Uses permitted by special exception include temporary sawmills, water storage facilities, structures for publicly-owned recreational facilities, privately-owned tax exempt recreational facilities available to the public, structures within wildlife refuges, and home business. Minimum lot size is 25 acres; minimum road frontage 400 feet; maximum population density 1 family/25 acres. Minimum front, side, and rear yard setbacks are 50 feet.



Farmington, NH Preliminary Draft Zoning Ordinance Sept. 26, 2000

Submitted by Matt Craig, Strafford Regional Planning Commission,
259 County Farm Road, Unit 1, Dover, NH 03820, 603-742-2523

Farmington has an **Agricultural-Rural Mixed Use District** to provide areas in the town that foster a "working rural" environment and include a mix of residential and other traditional rural uses. Rural uses include slaughterhouses, non-commercial keeping of pigs, chickens, horses, etc.; commercial agriculture, including animal husbandry; keeping of pigs, chickens, and fowl for commercial purposes; sale of agricultural products raised on the premises; aquaculture; forest management; commercial processing of wood, including cutting, sawing, splitting, and chipping; lumber yards, including the milling and distribution of wood products and the wholesale and retail sales of building materials; mineral exploration; mineral extraction; road construction; kennels; reuse of existing agricultural buildings. While these are listed as permitted uses, the regulations caution that certain uses listed may require approval by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. No criteria for either requiring or granting approval are specified.

Eustis, ME Comprehensive Plan June 1991

Submitted by Ferg Lea, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, 125 Manley Road, Auburn, ME 04210, 207-783-9186

In 1991, 95% of the town's area was industrial forestland, most of which was owned by International Paper Company. The Natural Resources section of the plan recognizes the importance of forestlands to supply job opportunities, fiber, building materials, erosion control, and recreation opportunities while also harboring a diverse array of wildlife. The section includes a characterization of the species composition. Concerns noted are impacts of harvesting upon water quality and wildlife. Two main economic engines are identified: forestry and recreation.

Plan implementation is to be guided by a Business/Industry/Government Advisory Group. The Group is expected to take a broad perspective on development and outdoor recreation issues and may be asked to research specific issues by the Board of Selectmen, or may undertake evaluation of issues on their own initiative. In addition, the Group is to develop working relationships with large landowners to cooperatively support outdoor recreational opportunities and access.

Town policies in regard to forest lands:

- Forest lands should be protected from excessive development
- Forests be harvested under sound forest management practices
- Town to manage its town-owned lots to further the other policies and strategies of this plan

Strategies:

- Adopt land use ordinances discouraging back lot development and fragmentation in forested areas
- Review impact of the state Forest Practices Act on lands in Eustis to determine if additional timber harvesting regulations are required, and if needed, prepare those regulations
- Develop timber harvest plans for town lots before cutting is accomplished
- Pursue advisability of trading town lot(s) for parcel(s) of greater use
- Review subdivision of parcels 40 acres or larger

Land Use Category:

Rural/Woodland Areas where there is a concentration of forestry activities. Forestry and forestry-related businesses are preferred activities here.



Plans & Bylaws with Special Consideration of Forested Areas

Town of Elmore, Vermont, Town Plan - Undated

Submitted by Bill Rossmassler, Lamoille County Planning Commission, P.O. Box 1009, Morrisville, Vermont 05661, 802-888-4548

The Elmore Planning Commission conducted a Forest Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (FLESA, see page 15) in 1991 that included all parcels greater than 25 acres, or 22,326 of the 25,408 in town. Special features of value to recreation or wildlife were noted and parcels were rated for their development potential. There is no indication how, or if, the information from the FLESA is used in planning or implementation.

The Elmore Land Use Plan has a separate section for forestland that recognizes recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply protection, and economic activities as benefits of the forest. The plan articulates an overall goal to “retain existing forest land use” and specifies actions in three categories - communication, research, and implementation - to achieve the goal. Specific actions are laid out in an implementation plan with responsibility assigned and time frame identified.

These actions include:

- written support for full funding of the state’s use value appraisal program
- review of zoning bylaws for revisions required to further the goal
- determination as to whether adopting of subdivision regulations would further the goal
- research to consider potential advantages and disadvantages of regional or local tax abatement program
- distribution of information about land conservation options to landowners
- a 5-year plan for road maintenance

Tinmouth, Vermont Town Plan 2001

Submitted by Bob Lloyd, Tinmouth Planning Commission, 430 Gulf Road, Middletown Springs, VT 05757, 802-235-9016

The plan explicitly recognizes “productive forests” as lands very sensitive to development. Some forestland is included in a Conservation District suitable for low-impact recreation and hiking trails. Other forested lands are included in areas protected by zoning overlays that require consideration of specific features, no matter where they occur within the community.



The plan includes a discussion of the town's vegetative history and the natural succession that has resulted in today's cover of "relatively young northern hardwood forest." The importance of "remote, unfragmented forest reaches" and protected corridors for wildlife habitat are recognized, as well as the visual attributes that allow woodland to absorb settlement with less visual impact.

Policies include:

- Settlement on lands of resource value for woodland shall occur in patterns and densities that will not substantially reduce the area or woodland productivity of those lands
- Fragmentation of forest blocks shall be avoided and connectivity between blocks encouraged.
- Cutting woodlands for settlement shall be limited to the construction of roads and home sites, thinning for views, and woodland management

Richford, Vermont Draft Town Plan 2001

Submitted by Mike Miller, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 7 Lake Street, Suite 201, St. Albans, VT 05478, 802-524-5958

The draft plan's section entitled Critical Areas has a description of the town's forested ecosystem with links to water quality, recreation, and economy noted.

Planning Documents that Consider the Economic Value of Forests

Enosburgh, Vermont Draft Town Plan 2001

Submitted by Mike Miller, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 7 Lake Street, Suite 201, St. Albans, VT 05478, 802-524-5958

The economic section of the plan has a subdivision devoted to Forestry. Planners inventoried commercial mills within a sixty mile radius and found 5 hardwood mills, 4 softwood mills, and 1 concentration yard. This is useful information for landowners and community members who may discover local sources for purchasing wood products they use in home improvement, crafts, or commercial construction.



Middleton, NH Town Codes & Regulations March 1997

Submitted by Matt Craig, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, 259 County Farm Road, Unit 1, Dover, NH 03820-6019, 603-742-2523

Allows sale of products raised, produced and processed on the premises as permitted use in Rural Residential District.

New Durham, NH Zoning Bylaw

Submitted by Matt Craig, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, 259 County Farm Road, Unit 1, Dover, NH 03820-6019, 603-742-2523

Lots greater than 10 acres may be designated as wood lots or agricultural lots. These lots may be used for growing and/or harvesting timber or agricultural products. These lots need not meet zoning requirements for frontage and lot size as long as no houses or camps are built. "A 50 foot wide deeded right-of-way providing reasonable access from a town road will be considered adequate frontage and access for each such lot."

Fletcher Town Plan

Submitted by Mike Miller, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 7 Lake Street, Suite 201, St. Albans, VT 05478, 802-524-5958

This plan describes forest soils and links them to productivity. Fletcher planners articulate a policy to encourage the development of support businesses, cooperatives, and value-added manufacturing as a means to stimulate the agricultural and forestry economy.

Richford, Vermont Draft Town Plan 2001

Submitted by Mike Miller, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 7 Lake Street, Suite 201, St. Albans, VT 05478, 802-524-5958

Economic strategies include recruiting value-added wood products companies to Richford and investigating the feasibility of an energy co-op. The town is undertaking a feasibility study to consider the costs and benefits of a wood-fired, electrical co-generating facility using local forest resources to produce steam and electricity to meet current and projected energy needs in the community.



**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy,
Lewis County, NY April 2000**

Submitted by Lewis County Planning Department, Lewis County
Court House, Lowville, NY 13367, 315-376-5422

This strategy provides an analysis of the county's forest resource and forest products industry, including labor and markets, and identifies strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in the sector. The strategy for implementation in the forest products sector is to design and produce a directory to provide detailed information about forest products goods and services. The directory would be used for marketing existing industry and opportunities, as well as to create networks and linkages between existing primary and secondary producers.

**Town of Huntington, Vermont
Guide to Huntington Forest and Wood Product Users
March 2001**

This directory, produced by the Huntington Conservation Commission, lists forty local businesses in three categories: forestry/logging; woodworkers and artisans (including building contractors and cabinet makers); and Christmas tree farms, maple sugarers, and others (such as cross-country ski businesses). In this community of about 1500 residents, most advertising of local businesses is done by word of mouth. Newcomers to the community, and even some old-timers, don't necessarily know the range of goods and services available locally. The directory will be available at local stores, the Town Clerk's office, and at Town Meeting. The Conservation Commission hopes to generate more business for local entrepreneurs and to interest forest landowners in managing their woodlots for multiple benefits that add to community economy and ecology.

Local Regulation of Timber Harvesting

Town of Colton, Land Use Code, Amended 1981

Submitted by Jon Montan, Planner, St. Lawrence County Planning
Office, Courthouse Room 255, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617-
1169, 315-379-2252.

The Town of Colton is partially within the Adirondack Park, and subject to Park Agency logging regulations. The Land Use Code applies to the whole town, both inside and outside the Park, and includes a section regulating forest practices, although the standards



are very general and it's difficult to see how they might be enforced. Forest Practices are defined as follows: "The production, management and harvest of forest and woodland products including related research and educational activities. Such term shall include the construction and maintenance of directly related structures for the storage of materials and equipment and access trails and roadways."

The Code requires that timber and forest harvest practices be "designed and carried out in accord with guidelines set forth by the NY State Section of the American Foresters with respect to protection of streams and waterways; location and improvement of roads and skid trails; relationship to public travel corridors; and improvement of roads, trails, and landing areas upon completion of the operation." Other provisions deal with visual and physical impacts of structures and roadways associated with forest use. Clearcutting in excess of 25 acres requires site plan review by the planning board.

Town of Parishville, NY Land Use & Development Code Revised November, 2000

Submitted by Jon Montan, Planner, St. Lawrence County Planning Office, Courthouse Room 255, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617-1169, 315-379-2252

The Town of Parishville is also partially within the Adirondack Park. Logging practices throughout the Town are regulated by Parishville's Land Use & Development Code as follows:

- A. A 100 foot wide buffer strip is required, along all town, county and state highways and along all river, lakes, and ponds. Buffer strips shall be cut lightly keeping at least a basal area of 50 sq.ft. per acre of residual trees, including large diameter trees (6 inches or larger). Trees shall be felled so that tops land away from roads. All hung-up, partly fallen, bent, or broken trees shall be removed.
- B. All landings shall have a 100 foot setback from any town, county, or state highway and a 200 foot setback along all rivers, lakes, ponds, or designated wetlands.
- C. The Code Enforcement Office may request assistance from professionals in the enforcement of these regulations

Fairfield, Vermont Town Plan 1993

"Clear cutting any lot over an acre requires planning commission approval."



Planning for Municipal Forests & Trees

Forest Management Plan for the Plaistow Town Forestlands

Prepared for the Town of Plaistow Board of Selectmen & Conservation Commission, April 20, 2000

Submitted by John Scruton, Town Manager, Town of Plaistow, Town Hall, 145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865, 603-382-5200 Ext. 13

The plan opens with a section that describes the full range of benefits the community derives from the town forestlands including protection of water and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, sites for observing and studying nature and forest management, models of conscientious resource management, a place to view the effects of silviculture and wildlife management over the very long term, a source of periodic income for the town, an opportunity to designate preserve areas as part of the overall management scheme, and a place where residents can relish the spiritual and aesthetic values of a non-urban lifestyle.

The concept of a plan for the town forestlands was approved by voters at Town Meeting in March 2000. The plan itself was developed and approved by the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission with the help of a professional forest consultant over a period of months. In the fall of 2000, the Selectboard with the concurrence of the Conservation Commission authorized implementing the plan. Since then, the town has conducted selective harvesting according to the plan, and received a net income of \$34,000. The money is being invested in a trust fund that will be used to improve and expand the Town's efforts in forestry.

The plan includes a discussion of the value of community forestland along with land protection recommendations and target parcels for acquisition; a forest multiple-use summary with assessments of recreational potential, sustainable forestry, water resources, and wildlife resources; forest management considerations including forest organization, forest operations summary, woodland access, forest aesthetics, and terrain and topography; silvicultural descriptions and recommendations by forest type; and appendices including an inventory of community forest parcels, tree species, soils, insects and diseases, forest type codes, glossary, and forester's credentials.

6

**Grand Prize Winner!!!
Municipal Forest Plan**



Village of Canton Urban & Community Forest Strategic Plan December 1999

Submitted by Jon Montan, Planner, St. Lawrence County Planning Office, Courthouse Room 255, 48 Court Street, Canton, NY 13617-1169, 315-379-2252

This plan includes an inventory of trees along streets and within parks with recommendations for tree maintenance priorities, scheduling, budgeting and continuing tree management program. The inventory includes documentation on species composition, size distribution, tree height, and condition. Additional findings include identification of hazard trees and a review of forestry operations. Attachments include Tree Inventory Methodology, Village Tree Ordinance, Maps of Priority Maintenance Needs.

For more information about Urban & Community Forestry contact your state's Urban & Community Forester:

Maine

Tish Carr, Maine Forest Service, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0022, 207-287-4988, tish.carr@state.me.us

New Hampshire

J.B. Cullen, NH Division of Forests & Lands, P.O. Box 1856, Concord, NH 03301 603-271-3457, jb_cullen@dred.state.nh.us

New York

Peter Frank, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Room 424, Albany, NY 12233-4253, 518-457-7370, pjfrank@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Vermont

Steve Sinclair, VT Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation, 103 South Main Street, Building 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0601, 802-241-3673, steve.sinclair@anrmail.anr.state.vt.us

City of Rutland, Vermont City Forest & City Ornamental Trees

According to the City of Rutland's Annual Report:

The City Forester and Arborist is in charge of all forestry work including the management of the City's street trees and the 4,000 acres of City forest in the watershed.

The sale of all timber in the Rutland City Municipal Forest is carried out under approved watershed management practices



to provide a regulated harvest of timber products and to protect and insure maximum sustained yields of usable water. Timber sales include sawlogs, firewood, and pulpwood. Sales are marked so as to improve the timber stand which remain while providing income for the City. Trees over 6 inches in diameter at breast height which do not promise to develop into sawtimber quality stems are removed. Large straight trees are left to become more valuable and to provide genetically superior seedlings.

The City continues to look into the purchase of additional forest land to protect its watershed. The Stafford Technical Center Forestry/Natural Resources Program uses the Rutland City Forest to train students in forestry and logging techniques. The City maintains a tree nursery to provide ornamental trees for the municipal planting program. Trees from the nursery are dug and planted by students from the Stafford Technical Center. The City of Rutland also has a Tree Ordinance governing public shade trees.

A Regional Approach

Using Forest Land Evaluation & Site Assessment (FLESA)

Regional Forestland Evaluation & Site Assessment (FLESA) for the Taconic Mountains of Bennington County, Vermont

Submitted by Bennington County Regional Commission, P.O. box 10, Arlington, VT 05250

The intent of the Taconic Mountain Regional FLESA project was to design a forestland evaluation system that could be used effectively over a multi-town region to consider both physical features of the land and the values of local residents. Five value categories were identified with public input: Productive Forest Potential, Development Potential, Recreation, Important Habitats, and Public Water Supplies. A committee developed criteria and methods to evaluate land in each of the five categories. Information from existing geographic data sources was supplemented by interviews with local residents.

Forestland Evaluation and Site Assessment (FLESA) is an adaptation of a nationwide system for ranking agricultural lands developed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. An effective FLESA considers both physical features of the land and the values of local residents. Towns have used FLESA models to evaluate the suitability of parcels of land for uses such as timber production, recreation, development, and wildlife habitat.

For more information about FLESA, see *Planning for the Future Forest*, a publication available from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation (802-241-3650) or *Planning for the Future of New Hampshire's Forest* available from Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation & Development Council (603-223-0083).



A Useful Tool

What Do Trees Have To Do With It?
A Forestry Guide for Communities
June 2000

Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service, 22 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, 800-367-0223 or 207-287-2791

This guide is an excellent starting point for communities wishing to incorporate the forest resource into their planning for land use and economic development. Part One takes a close look at the effects of different land use decisions through examples of how trees, soil, water, and wildlife habitats differ in woodlots, existing subdivisions, new subdivisions, and community-owned woodlands. Economic and recreation factors are also explored.

Part Two is a forest and natural resources primer for planners and others involved in the comprehensive planning process. Topics include Community Tree Management and Forest Management at the Municipal Level, Ecological Considerations for Municipalities, Issues Facing Private and Municipal Forest Land Owners, Tracking conditions and Changes in the Maine Forest, and Land Conservation and Protection Options for Private Landowners.

Part Three provides decision-making guidelines for including trees and forests in the comprehensive planning process. Topics include The Importance of Educating the Public; Inventory and Analysis of forest land use, forestry activity in the local economy, and important natural features associated with forest land; Guiding Questions for policy development; Development of a Comprehensive Plan; and Implementation with practical strategies to reach municipal goals.

Part Four provides a range of resources and contacts and a glossary of common forestry terms. Part Five provides information for landowners about timber harvest contracts, protection of water and wildlife during timber harvests, and avoiding property boundary disputes in Clip-n-Copy pages that are easy to copy and distribute.

