

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION CHECKLIST

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1. **Inventory and map natural resources.**

Establish priority areas for conservation focus. Include maps and language of intent in the Comprehensive Plan (Master Plan). If appropriate, amend the Comprehensive Plan (Master Plan) to incorporate results of studies and to articulate goals and policies.



Eastern Box Turtle
Photo: Michael Klemens

2. **Adopt cluster development** in the

Comprehensive Plan (Master Plan) and in the Subdivision Regulations. Establish corresponding conservation requirements and standards.

3. **Review Wetlands, Planning, Zoning and Subdivision Regulations**, and amend as necessary, to ensure that they align with the conservation policies and goals expressed in the Comprehensive Plan (Master Plan).

4. **Training:** Ensure that Planning Board members are adequately trained and familiar with conservation and development objectives. When in doubt, seek advice from Planning Board attorney.

5. **Establish and incorporate standards** for the collection of natural resources data by applicants and environmental consultants to facilitate site design review by commissions.

6. **Adopt an ordinance to fund and incorporate independent peer review** as needed by Planning Boards.

7. **Adopt a regulation providing for an optional, but recommended, pre-application review process** for proposed projects that includes public input, especially encouraged within priority conservation areas.

8. **Incorporate relevant Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Best Design Practices (BDPs)** as tools for use by Planning Boards to guide site design review and achieve conservation goals of ecosystem protection.

9. **Monitoring:** Provide adequate funding and staff time to effectively monitor permit compliance.

10. **Engage landowners** in priority conservation areas to promote ecology-friendly behaviors.