

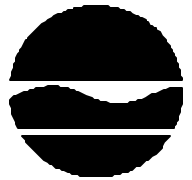
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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Hudson River Estuary

Nature in Your Comprehensive Plan: Sample Language

To include nature in your comprehensive plan, consider identifying conserving wildlife habitat or natural resources as a specific goal. Then, design a specific policy statement to reflect that goal. In it, include *what* you want to accomplish and *how* you intend to reach your goals. By doing so, a community establishes its commitment to protect nature, and creates a vision for implementation. Below are two examples of policy statements a community might in its comprehensive plan. The policy statement, along with information on the significance and benefits of the town's plants animals and habitats, lays the groundwork for creating local programs and policies that protect nature.

Adapted from Summit County, Colorado Land Use Code (Summit County 2000, section 4201)
Cited in Theobald, D.M., and T. Hobbs 2002. A framework for evaluating land use planning alternatives: protecting biodiversity on private land. *Conservation Ecology* 6(1): 5. [online]
<http://www.consecol.org/vol6/iss1/art5>

The [municipal legislature] finds that there are areas in the [county, town, village, city] that contain wildlife habitats and wildlife species, a natural resource of (choose one or all) local, statewide, national, and global significance. The diversity of wildlife species and habitat that occur in [municipality] should be maintained and enhanced in order to promote the health, prosperity and welfare of the present and future (inhabitants, residents) of the State and [municipality] in particular. In addition, several state laws give broad authority to local governments in New York to plan for and regulate the use of land to protect the environment and significant wildlife habitat. To this end, land uses and development should be planned and designed to be harmonious with wildlife habitat and the species that depend on this habitat, and should recognize and protect all types of habitats and species that occur in the [county, town, village, city]. Wildlife habitat includes areas important for the full range of aquatic, terrestrial, game and non-game species. These habitats are inhabited or have the potential of being inhabited by wildlife species that provide economic, recreational, and environmental benefits to the residents and visitors of [municipality].

Adapted from Navota, J. and D. W. Dreher. 2000. *Protecting Nature in Your Community*. Northeast Illinois Planning Commission, Chicago, IL. (Page 16)

The book is available from the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission Publications Department at (312) 454-0400 x210.

The [municipality] will attempt to ensure self-sustaining populations of all native plants and wildlife found in town by preserving adequate habitat, and preserving natural processes these plants and animals need to survive. The town will also minimize human impacts to wildlife and their habitats, where possible.

For more information or assistance please contact Karen Strong, Hudson River Estuary Biodiversity Outreach Coordinator, 845-256-3061 or 518-423-0656.