



Tools for Implementing Conservation Corridors in Northern Virginia

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Virginia Coastal Zone
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Presentation Goals

- ❑ Present examples of existing policy and regulatory tools
- ❑ Provide a sense of the range of available tools
- ❑ Stimulate further thinking about how tools might be employed



Types of Tools:

- Comprehensive/master/general plans
- Specially designated areas
- Zoning/subdivision ordinances
- Opens space plans
- Watershed plans
- Urban forestry plans
- Natural resources plans
- Cultural resources plans
- Trail plans

The “Implementation Quilt” (Benedict & McMahon)

Comprehensive/Master/General Plans - Examples

Fairfax Co. – Environment Section

- Obj. 9: Identify, protect and enhance an integrated network of ecologically valuable land and surface waters for present and future residents of Fairfax County.

Loudoun Co. – Chp. 5: The Green Infrastructure

- Green infrastructure elements identified
- Green infrastructure map

Prince William Co. – Chp. 8: Environment

- Identify, manage, and protect all ecological communities and wildlife – especially critical habitats – as well as endangered and threatened species

Special Designated Areas

Fairfax Co. - Occoquan downzoned area

- Protection for Occoquan Reservoir
- Network of protected natural areas

Loudoun Co. - Rural Policy Area (RPA)

- Specifies GI elements in RPA
- Calls for protection of GI elements
- Includes GI specific policies
- Working landscapes (agriculture, minerals)

Prince William Co. - The Rural Area (aka Rural Crescent)

- Intended to avoid the negative economic, social, and environmental characteristics of sprawl development
- Helps preserve agricultural economy and resources, groundwater supply quality, and present open space and rural character

Zoning/Sub-division Ordinances

Loudoun Co.

- Limestone Overlay District
- Mountainside Development Overlay District

Prince William Co.

- Cluster Development (Sec. 32-300.42. - Open space)

All tidewater jurisdictions – Chesapeake Bay Ordinances

- Resource Protection Areas

Open Space Plans

City of Alexandria Open Space Plan

- Green Crescent connecting Holmes & Cameron Runs, Potomac River waterfront, and Four Mile Run
- Open Space Priorities & Opportunities, 2004 – lists , prioritizes and assesses specific open space opportunities

Loudoun Co. Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Strategic Plan 2010 – 2015 (Draft)

- Create and implement a plan for the acquisition, protection and accessibility of natural open space and resources in support of the County's green infrastructure policy

Prince William Co. Parks, Open Space, & Trail Plan

- Corridors Goal: Identify, protect and preserve environmental, heritage, and recreational corridors

Watershed Plans

City of Alexandria Master Plan Water Quality Supplement

- Recognizes wildlife & habitat fragmentation issues
- Action items related to wildlife corridors

Arlington Co. Watershed Management Plan & Watershed Management Programs

- Stream & riparian buffer restoration
- Reduce stormwater impact on streams & buffers and associated wildlife habitat

Fairfax Co. Watershed Planning & Implementation Programs

- Stream Protection Strategy
- Watershed management plans for each watershed
- Stream & riparian restoration

Urban Forestry Plans

Arlington Co. Urban Forestry Master Plan

- Canopy goals: 40% o.a.; 50% suburban residential; 25% urban residential; 15% urban core

City of Alexandria Urban Forestry Master Plan

- Recommends 40% canopy goal

Fairfax Co. Tree Action Plan

- Ecosystem management approach

Natural Resource Plans

Arlington Co. Natural Resources Management Plan (Draft)

- Zero loss of county natural lands
- Natural Resource Conservation Areas
- Arlington Co. Natural Resources Inventory

Fairfax Co. Natural Resources Management Plan

- Green Infrastructure Model (FCPA) & Green Infrastructure Priorities Map
- Identify, characterize and map strategic wildlife corridors and develop protection strategies for them including acquisition and preservation

Cultural Resource Plans

Arlington Co. Historic Preservation Master Plan

- Calls for identification of archeological sites

Loudoun Co. Heritage Preservation Plan

- Calls for identification of individual sites, use of predictive techniques

Prince William Co. Cultural Resources section of Comprehensive Plan

- Historic & Prehistoric Sensitivity Areas Map

Trail Plans

City of Alexandria Open Space Plan

- Connect parks and open space w/ 15 miles of new trails over next 10 years

Loudoun Co. Greenways & Trails section of Revised General Plan

- Greenways and trails...will serve as a linking element in all policy areas to other components of the Green Infrastructure...

Prince William Co. Parks, Open Space, & Trail Plan

- A network of multi-use trails will connect residential areas with county, state, and national parks, forests, and wildlife management areas, as well as with places of cultural and historical interest...

**QUESTIONS
AND
DISCUSSION**

**What other tools are you aware of?
What opportunities exist for your locality?**