BioMap2

CONSERVING THE BIODIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

North Attleborough

Produced in 2012

This report and associated map provide information about important sites for biodiversity conservation in your area.

This information is intended for conservation planning, and is not intended for use in state regulations.
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Introduction

The Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and The Nature Conservancy’s Massachusetts Program developed BioMap2 to protect the state’s biodiversity in the context of climate change.

BioMap2 combines NHESP’s 30 years of rigorously documented rare species and natural community data with spatial data identifying wildlife species and habitats that were the focus of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife’s 2005 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). BioMap2 also integrates The Nature Conservancy’s assessment of large, well-connected, and intact ecosystems and landscapes across the Commonwealth, incorporating concepts of ecosystem resilience to address anticipated climate change impacts.

Protection and stewardship of BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape is essential to safeguard the diversity of species and their habitats, intact ecosystems, and resilient natural landscapes across Massachusetts.

What Does Status Mean?

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife determines a status category for each rare species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), M.G.L. c.131A, and its implementing regulations 321 CMR 10.00. Rare species are categorized as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern according to the following:

- Endangered species are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range or are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts.

- Threatened species are likely to become Endangered in Massachusetts in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

- Special Concern species have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked or occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become Threatened in Massachusetts.

In addition NHESP maintains an unofficial watch list of plants that are tracked due to potential conservation interest or concern, but are not regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act or other laws or regulations. Likewise, described natural communities are not regulated by any law or regulations, but they can help to identify ecologically important areas that are worthy of...
The status of natural communities reflects the documented number and acreages of each community type in the state:

- Critically Imperiled communities typically have 5 or fewer documented good sites or have very few remaining acres in the state.
- Imperiled communities typically have 6-20 good sites or few remaining acres in the state.
- Vulnerable communities typically have 21-100 good sites or limited acreage across the state.
- Secure communities typically have over 100 sites or abundant acreage across the state; however, excellent examples are identified as Core Habit to ensure continued protection.

In 2005 the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife completed a comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) documenting the status of Massachusetts wildlife and providing recommendations to help guide wildlife conservation decision-making. SWAP includes all the wildlife species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), as well as more than 80 species that need conservation attention but do not meet the requirements for inclusion under MESA. The SWAP document is organized around habitat types in need of conservation within the Commonwealth. While the original BioMap focused primarily on rare species protected under MESA, BioMap2 also addresses other Species of Conservation Concern, their habitats, and the ecosystems that support them to create a spatial representation of most of the elements of SWAP.

**BioMap2: One Plan, Two Components**

BioMap2 identifies two complementary spatial layers, Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape.

**Core Habitat**

Core Habitat identifies key areas that are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems across the Commonwealth. Protection of Core Habitats will contribute to the conservation of specific elements of biodiversity.

- Critical Natural Landscape identifies large natural Landscape Blocks that are minimally impacted by development. If protected, these areas will provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience to natural and anthropogenic disturbances in a rapidly changing world. Areas delineated as Critical Natural Landscape also include buffering upland around wetland, coastal, and aquatic Core Habitats to help ensure their long-term integrity.

- The long-term persistence of Massachusetts biological resources requires a determined commitment to land and water conservation. Protection and stewardship of both Critical Natural Landscapes and Core Habitats are needed to realize the biodiversity conservation vision of BioMap2.

**Components of Core Habitat**

Core Habitat identifies specific areas necessary to promote the long-term persistence of rare species, other Species of Conservation Concern, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems.

**Rare Species**

There are 432 native plant and animal species listed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) based on their rarity, population trends, and threats to survival. For
BioMap2, NHESP staff identified the highest quality habitat sites for each non-marine species based on size, condition, and landscape context.

Other Species of Conservation Concern
In addition to species on the MESA List described previously, the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) identifies 257 wildlife species and 22 natural habitats most in need of conservation within the Commonwealth. BioMap2 includes species-specific habitat areas for 45 of these species and habitat for 17 additional species which was mapped with other coarse-filter and fine-filter approaches.

Priority Natural Communities
Natural communities are assemblages of plant and animal species that share a common environment and occur together repeatedly on the landscape. BioMap2 gives conservation priority to natural communities with limited distribution and to the best examples of more common types.

Vernal Pools
Vernal pools are small, seasonal wetlands that provide important wildlife habitat, especially for amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. BioMap2 identifies the top 5 percent most interconnected clusters of Potential Vernal Pools in the state.

Forest Cores
In BioMap2, Core Habitat includes the best examples of large, intact forests that are least impacted by roads and development, providing critical habitat for numerous woodland species. For example, the interior forest habitat defined by Forest Cores supports many bird species sensitive to the impacts of roads and development, such as the Black-throated Green Warbler, and helps maintain ecological processes found only in unfragmented forest patches.

Wetland Cores
BioMap2 used an assessment of Ecological Integrity to identify the least disturbed wetlands in the state within undeveloped landscapes—those with intact buffers and little fragmentation or other stressors associated with development. These wetlands are most likely to support critical wetland functions (i.e., natural hydrologic conditions, diverse plant and animal habitats, etc.) and are most likely to maintain these functions into the future.

Aquatic Cores
To delineate integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic systems.
Species of Conservation Concern, beyond the species and exemplary habitats described above, *BioMap2* identifies intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur.

**Components of Critical Natural Landscape**

Critical Natural Landscape identifies intact landscapes in Massachusetts that are better able to support ecological processes and disturbance regimes, and a wide array of species and habitats over long time frames.

**Landscape Blocks**

*BioMap2* identifies the most intact large areas of predominately natural vegetation, consisting of contiguous forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and ponds, as well as coastal habitats such as barrier beaches and salt marshes.

**Upland Buffers of Wetland and Aquatic Cores**

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers.

**Upland Habitat to Support Coastal Adaptation**

*BioMap2* identifies undeveloped lands adjacent to and up to one and half meters above existing salt marshes as Critical Natural Landscapes with high potential to support inland migration of salt marsh and other coastal habitats over the coming century.

The conservation areas identified by *BioMap2* are based on breadth and depth of data, scientific expertise, and understanding of Massachusetts’ biodiversity. The numerous sources of information and analyses used to create Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape are complementary, and outline a comprehensive conservation vision for Massachusetts, from rare species to intact landscapes. In total, these robust analyses define a suite of priority lands and waters that, if permanently protected, will support Massachusetts’ natural systems for generations to come.

**Legal Protection of Biodiversity**

*BioMap2* presents a powerful vision of what Massachusetts would look like with full protection of the land most important for supporting the Commonwealth’s biodiversity. While *BioMap2* is a planning tool with no regulatory function, all state-listed species enjoy legal protection under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. c.131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). Wetland habitat of state-listed wildlife is also protected under the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.00). The Natural Heritage Atlas contains maps of Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats, which are used, respectively, for regulation under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and the Wetlands Protection Act. For more information on rare species regulations, and to view Priority and Estimated Habitat maps, please see the Regulatory Review page at http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/regulatory-review/.

*BioMap2* is a conservation planning tool that does not, in any way, supplant the Estimated and Priority Habitat Maps which have regulatory significance. Unless and until the *BioMap2* vision is fully realized, we must continue to protect our most imperiled species and their habitats. 

For more information on rare species and natural communities, please see our fact sheets online at [www.mass.gov/nhsp](http://www.mass.gov/nhsp).
Understanding Core Habitat Summaries

Following the Town Overview, there is a descriptive summary of each Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape that occurs in your city or town. These summaries highlight some of the outstanding characteristics of each Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape, and will help you learn more about your city or town’s biodiversity. You can find out more information about many of these species and natural communities by looking at specific fact sheets at www.mass.gov/nhesp.

Additional Information

For copies of the full BioMap2 report, the Technical Report, and an interactive mapping tool, visit the BioMap2 website via the Land Protection and Planning tab at www.mass.gov/nhesp. If you have any questions about this report, or if you need help protecting land for biodiversity in your community, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program staff looks forward to working with you.

Contact the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

By phone  508-389-6360
By fax    508-389-7890
By email  natural.heritage@state.ma.us
By Mail   100 Hartwell Street, Suite 230
          West Boylston, MA 01583

The GIS datalayers of BioMap2 are available for download from MassGIS at www.mass.gov/mgis.
Town Overview

North Attleborough lies within the Bristol Lowland/Narragansett Lowland Ecoregion, an area of flat, gently rolling plains. Forests are mostly central hardwoods and some elm-ash-red maple and red and white pine. There are numerous wetlands, some cropland/pasture, and many cranberry bogs. Many rivers drain this area.

North Attleborough at a Glance

- Total Area: 12,403 acres (19.4 square miles)
- Human Population in 2010: 28,712
- Open space protected in perpetuity: 1,353 acres, or 10.9% percent of total area*
- BioMap2 Core Habitat: 562 acres
- BioMap2 Core Habitat Protected: 174 acres or 30.9%
- BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape: 398 acres
- BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape Protected: 176 acres or 44.1%.

BioMap2 Components

Core Habitat
- 2 Exemplary or Priority Natural Community Cores
- 4 Aquatic Cores
- 7 Species of Conservation Concern Cores**
  - 1 reptile, 2 amphibians, 1 fish, 1 crustacean, 1 mussel, 4 plants

Critical Natural Landscape
- 2 Wetland Core Buffers
- 3 Aquatic Core Buffers

* Calculated using MassGIS data layer “Protected and Recreational Open Space—March, 2012”.

** See next pages for complete list of species, natural communities and other biodiversity elements.
BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape in North Attleborough

![Map of BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape in North Attleborough](image)

- **BioMap2 Core Habitat**
- **BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape**

1 Mile

For more information on rare species and natural communities, please see our fact sheets online at [www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp).
Species of Conservation Concern, Priority and Exemplary Natural Communities, and Other Elements of Biodiversity in North Attleborough

Mussels
  Triangle Floater, (Alasmidonta undulata), Non-listed SWAP species

Crustaceans
  Intricate Fairy Shrimp, (Eubranchipus intricatus), SC

Amphibians
  Blue-spotted Salamander, (Ambystoma laterale), SC
  Marbled Salamander, (Ambystoma opacum), T

Fishes
  American Brook Lamprey, (Lampetra appendix), T

Reptiles
  Spotted Turtle, (Clemmys guttata), Non-listed SWAP

Plants
  Green Rock-cress, (Boechera missouriensis), T
  Tiny-flowered Buttercup, (Ranunculus micranthus), E
  Tall Nut-sedge, (Scleria triglomerata), E
  Threadfoot, (Podostemum ceratophyllum), recently de-listed

Exemplary Natural Communities
  Forest Seep Community

Other BioMap2 Components
  Aquatic Core
  Aquatic Core Buffer
  Wetland Core Buffer

E = Endangered
T = Threatened
SC = Special Concern
S1 = Critically Imperiled communities, typically 5 or fewer documented sites or very few remaining acres in the state.
S2 = Imperiled communities, typically 6-20 sites or few remaining acres in the state.
S3 = Vulnerable communities, typically have 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state.
BioMap2 Core Habitat in North Attleborough

Core IDs correspond with the following element lists and summaries.
Elements of BioMap2 Cores

This section lists all elements of BioMap2 Cores that fall entirely or partially within North Attleborough. The elements listed here may not occur within the bounds of North Attleborough.

### Core 725

**Priority & Exemplary Natural Communities**
- Forest Seep Community

**Species of Conservation Concern**
- Tiny-flowered Buttercup  
  *Ranunculus micranthus*  
  E

### Core 733

**Priority & Exemplary Natural Communities**
- Forest Seep Community

### Core 744

**Aquatic Core**

**Species of Conservation Concern**
- Triangle Floater  
  *Alasmidonta undulata*  
  Non-listed SWAP
- American Brook Lamprey  
  *Lampetra appendix*  
  T

### Core 746

**Aquatic Core**

**Species of Conservation Concern**
- Pale Green Orchis  
  *Platanthera flava var. herbiola*  
  T
- Tiny-flowered Buttercup  
  *Ranunculus micranthus*  
  E
- Marbled Salamander  
  *Ambystoma opacum*  
  T

### Core 806

**Species of Conservation Concern**
- Green Rock-cress  
  *Boechera missouriensis*  
  T

### Core 808

**Aquatic Core**
- Priority & Exemplary Natural Communities
  - Alluvial Atlantic White Cedar Swamp  
    S2

### Core 810

**Wetland Core**

**Species of Conservation Concern**
- Four-toed Salamander  
  *Hemidactylium scutatum*  
  Non-listed SWAP
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Black Racer</td>
<td><em>Coluber constrictor</em></td>
<td>Non-listed SWAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Turtle</td>
<td><em>Clemmys guttata</em></td>
<td>Non-listed SWAP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Core 814**

Species of Conservation Concern

- Tall Nut-sedge  
  *Scleria triglomerata*  
  E

- Blue-spotted Salamander  
  *Ambystoma laterale*  
  SC

**Core 819**

Aquatic Core

Species of Conservation Concern

- Intricate Fairy Shrimp  
  *Eubranchipus intricatus*  
  SC

- Marbled Salamander  
  *Ambystoma opacum*  
  T
Core Habitat Summaries

Core 725
An 88-acre Core Habitat featuring a Priority Natural Community and a Species of Conservation Concern. Forest Seeps are in areas on wet slopes in hardwood forests where groundwater seeps out of the earth. The overstory is similar to that of the surrounding forest, but many typical wetland ferns, herbs, and shrubs occur as well. This unusual example of Forest Seep is found in a complex of regionally significant communities strongly influenced by nutrient-rich bedrock. It is good condition with high diversity, despite illicit ORV use and invasive exotic species.

Tiny-flowered Buttercup is a small inconspicuous member of the Buttercup family which grows to about 8 inches tall. It bears one to several tiny yellow-petaled flowers that are 5-6 mm across. This species blooms early in the spring and cannot be found by mid-summer. In Massachusetts, it is known from shelves and crevices of circumneutral low rocky ledges.

Core 733
A <1-acre Core Habitat featuring a Priority Natural Community.

Forest Seeps are in areas on wet slopes in hardwood forests where groundwater seeps out of the earth. The overstory is similar to that of the surrounding forest, but many typical wetland ferns, herbs, and shrubs occur as well. This unusual example of Forest Seep is found in a complex of regionally significant communities strongly influenced by nutrient-rich bedrock. It is good condition with high diversity, despite a gas pipeline and invasive exotic species.

Core 744
A 106-acre Core Habitat featuring Aquatic Core and Species of Conservation Concern.

Aquatic Cores are intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur. They delineate integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern.

Triangle Floaters are freshwater mussels commonly found in low-gradient river reaches with sand and gravel substrates and low to moderate water velocities, although they are found in a wide range of substrate and flow conditions.

The American Brook Lamprey is a primitive, eel-like fish. They live in clear, cool streams. Adults spawn in pea gravel substrates, while the larvae live in areas with substrates consisting of fine sand and muck, often in backwaters or stream margins.
Core 746

A 355-acre Core Habitat featuring Aquatic Core and Species of Conservation Concern.

Aquatic Cores are intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur. They delineate integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern.

In Massachusetts, Pale Green Orchis inhabits open to semi-shaded habitats in rich, moderately acidic, wet areas subject to seepage, intermittent flooding, or water level fluctuation.

Tiny-flowered Buttercup is a small inconspicuous member of the Buttercup family which grows to about 8 inches tall. It bears one to several tiny yellow-petaled flowers that are 5-6 mm across. This species blooms early in the spring and cannot be found by mid-summer. In Massachusetts, it is known from shelves and crevices of circumneutral low rocky ledges.

Adult and juvenile Marbled Salamanders inhabit upland forests during most of the year, where they reside in small-mammal burrows and other subsurface retreats. Adults migrate during late summer or early fall to breed in dried portions of vernal pools, swamps, marshes, and other predominantly fish-free wetlands. Eggs are deposited under logs, leaf-litter, or grass tussocks and hatch after being inundated by fall rains. Larvae metamorphose during late spring, whereupon they disperse into upland forest.

Core 806

A 27-acre Core Habitat featuring a Species of Conservation Concern.

Green Rock-cress, a biennial mustard, inhabits non-acidic ledges in rocky woods and hills with full to filtered light exposure and mesic to dry soil.

Core 808

A 393-acre Core Habitat featuring Aquatic Core and Priority Natural Communities.

Aquatic Cores are intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur. They delineate integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern.

Alluvial Atlantic White Cedar Swamps occur along smaller rivers and ponds where Atlantic white cedar is co-dominant with red maple. They receive annual flooding, making them more mineral-rich than other Atlantic white cedar wetlands. This example of Alluvial Atlantic White Cedar Swamp is large and in good condition, despite the presence of an exotic invasive species.
Core 810

A 712-acre Core Habitat featuring Wetland Core and Species of Conservation Concern.

Wetland Cores are the least disturbed wetlands in the state within undeveloped landscapes—those with intact buffers and little fragmentation or other stressors associated with development. These wetlands are most likely to support critical wetland functions (i.e., natural hydrologic conditions, diverse plant and animal habitats, etc.) and are most likely to maintain these functions into the future.

Four-toed Salamanders live in forested habitats surrounding swamps, bogs, marshes, vernal pools, and other fish-free waters that are used as breeding sites. Most breeding sites in Massachusetts are characterized by pit-and-mound topography with significant sphagnum-moss cover. Eggs are typically laid in mounds or patches of sphagnum moss that overhang water. Upon hatching, the larvae wriggle through the moss and drop into the water, where they will develop for several weeks prior to metamorphosis.

The Northern Black Racer is a snake of young upland forests, shrublands such as pitch pine/scrub oak communities and rock cliffs. Although relatively common, its range appears to be constricting and its abundance has been declining.

Strong populations of Spotted Turtles in good habitat - large, unfragmented, protected open space - continue to be of interest for the conservation of this species. This small, dark-colored turtle with yellow spots on its carapace inhabits a variety of wetlands year-round and nests in nearby uplands during spring. Road and collection are the primary conservation concerns.

Core 814

A 90-acre Core Habitat featuring Species of Conservation Concern.

Tall Nut-sedge is at its northern limit in Massachusetts. Historically, this species is known from wet pine barrens and salt marshes. Its current rarity is likely due to lack of disturbance and fire.

Adult and juvenile Blue-spotted Salamanders inhabit upland forests during most of the year, where they reside in small-mammal burrows and other subsurface retreats. Adults migrate during late winter or early spring to breed in vernal pools and fish-free areas of swamps, marshes, or similar wetlands. Larvae metamorphose in late summer or early fall, whereupon they disperse into upland forest.

Core 819

A 111-acre Core Habitat featuring Aquatic Core and Species of Conservation Concern.

Aquatic Cores are intact river corridors within which important physical and ecological processes of the river or stream occur. They delineate integrated and functional ecosystems for fish species and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern.

The Intricate Fairy Shrimp is a small, elongated crustacean that inhabits vernal pools.
Adult and juvenile Marbled Salamanders inhabit upland forests during most of the year, where they reside in small-mammal burrows and other subsurface retreats. Adults migrate during late summer or early fall to breed in dried portions of vernal pools, swamps, marshes, and other predominantly fish-free wetlands. Eggs are deposited under logs, leaf-litter, or grass tussocks and hatch after being inundated by fall rains. Larvae metamorphose during late spring, whereupon they disperse into upland forest.
**BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape in North Attleborough**

Critical Natural Landscape IDs correspond with the following element lists and summaries.

![Map of BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape in North Attleborough](image)

- **BioMap2 Core Habitat**
- **BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape**

For more information on rare species and natural communities, please see our fact sheets online at [www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp).
Elements of BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscapes

This section lists all elements of BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscapes that fall entirely or partially within North Attleborough. The elements listed here may not occur within the bounds of North Attleborough.

CNL 430
   Wetland Core Buffer

CNL 437
   Wetland Core Buffer

CNL 442
   Aquatic Core Buffer

CNL 464
   Aquatic Core Buffer
   Wetland Core Buffer

CNL 467
   Aquatic Core Buffer
Critical Natural Landscape Summaries

CNL 430
A 17-acre Critical Natural Landscape featuring Wetland Core Buffer.

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers. One, the variable width buffers methodology, included the most intact areas around each wetland and river, by extending deeper into surrounding unfragmented habitats than into developed areas adjacent to each wetland. Other upland buffers were identified through the rare species habitat analysis. In this way, the conservation of wetland buffers will support the habitats and functionality of each wetland, and also include adjacent uplands that are important for many species that move between habitat types.

CNL 437
A 3-acre Critical Natural Landscape featuring Wetland Core Buffer.

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers. One, the variable width buffers methodology, included the most intact areas around each wetland and river, by extending deeper into surrounding unfragmented habitats than into developed areas adjacent to each wetland. Other upland buffers were identified through the rare species habitat analysis. In this way, the conservation of wetland buffers will support the habitats and functionality of each wetland, and also include adjacent uplands that are important for many species that move between habitat types.

CNL 442
A 205-acre Critical Natural Landscape featuring Aquatic Core Buffer.

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers. One, the variable width buffers methodology, included the most intact areas around each wetland and river, by extending deeper into surrounding unfragmented habitats than into developed areas adjacent to each wetland. Other upland buffers were identified through the rare species habitat analysis. In this way, the conservation of wetland buffers will support the habitats and functionality of each wetland, and also include adjacent uplands that are important for many species that move between habitat types.

CNL 464
A 577-acre Critical Natural Landscape featuring Aquatic Core Buffer and Wetland Core Buffer.

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers. One, the variable width buffers methodology, included the most intact areas around each wetland and river, by extending deeper into surrounding unfragmented habitats than into developed areas adjacent to each wetland. Other upland buffers were identified through the rare species habitat analysis. In this way, the conservation of wetland buffers will support the habitats and functionality of each wetland, and also include adjacent uplands that are important for many species that move between habitat types.
CNL 467

A 48-acre Critical Natural Landscape featuring Aquatic Core Buffer.

A variety of analyses were used to identify protective upland buffers around wetlands and rivers. One, the variable width buffers methodology, included the most intact areas around each wetland and river, by extending deeper into surrounding unfragmented habitats than into developed areas adjacent to each wetland. Other upland buffers were identified through the rare species habitat analysis. In this way, the conservation of wetland buffers will support the habitats and functionality of each wetland, and also include adjacent uplands that are important for many species that move between habitat types.
Help Save Endangered Wildlife!

Please contribute on your Massachusetts income tax form or directly to the

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund

To learn more about the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program and the Commonwealth’s rare species, visit our web site at www.mass.gov/nhesp.