

LAND CONSERVATION

Hartford has approximately 10,000 residents, making it Vermont's 9th largest town population. Hartford is made up of approximately 29,434 acres, 80% of this land remains undeveloped and 92% is privately owned. These forests, agricultural lands, surface and ground water resources provide economic resources, wildlife habitats, scenic views, recreational opportunities and a rural landscape highly valued by residents and visitors. The present abundance and quality of our natural resources reflects the care and stewardship of many past and present Hartford landowners

The HCC appreciates the critical stewardship that private landowners provide both in the past and present. Future stewardship is essential to maintain and enhance Hartford's natural resources as expected economic growth, population gain, and climate change increase the pressures on our natural environment. The HCC is committed to helping private landowners in their conservation and environmental efforts that are essential to maintaining our Town's natural resources. We welcome inquiries.

See the following links for many Vermont and New England based organizations that can provide conservation and environmental assistance for specific subjects that may interest a private landowner.

- Land Management and Stewardship
- Wildlife
- Conservation

Land Management and Stewardship

- An excellent landowner reference is a **Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation** website **Our Vermont Woods** (<https://ourvermontwoods.org/>) that provides landowners both an overall approach to land conservation and lots of information and web links.
- Information and assistance about participating in **Vermont's Use Value Appraisal** (i.e. Current Use) Certification that reduces property taxes for forestry and agricultural use land. (<https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/managing-your-woodlands/use-value-appraisal>)
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service** (NRCS) (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/vt/programs/>) assistance including financial grants (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/vt/programs/financial/>) for items such as forestry management plans.
- **Vermont Association of Conservation Districts** (VACD) – A statewide organization of the NRCS conservation districts that provides education and outreach on natural resource conservation, maintenance, improvement and development. (<https://www.vacd.org/>)
- **VT Coverts** – Provides landowner wildlife and woodland information and training. (<http://vtcoverts.org/index.html>)
- **VT Woodlands Association** Northern Woodlands magazine – Promotes forest stewardship in the northeast United States. (<https://northernwoodlands.org/about>)

Wildlife

- **Keeping Track** – Practical training for wildlife tracking, monitoring, and enhancement (<http://keepingtrack.org>)

- **Audubon** – Bird and wildlife protection and stewardship (<http://vt.audubon.org/>)
- **Trout Unlimited** – Coldwater fishery conservation (www.vtu.org)
- **Vermont Fish and Wildlife** – (<http://vtfishandwildlife.com/>)

Conservation

- **Upper Valley Land Trust** – Land conservation in 45 VT and NH towns along the upper Connecticut River (www.uvlt.org)
- **Vermont Land Trust** – Land conservation throughout Vermont (www.vlt.org)
- **Linking Land Alliance** – Collaborative grass roots conservation organization in 10 Vermont Towns along the Connecticut River (<https://www.linkinglandsalliance.org/>)
- **The Nature Conservancy** – International land and water conservation organization with a Vermont Chapter (<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/vermont/index.htm>)

The Hartford Conservation Commission invites all private landowners to join in the stewardship of our Town’s natural resources not only for today’s benefits, but also for our children, grandchildren, and future generations of Vermonters.

