

CONNECTED HABITATS

Identify and preserve significant wildlife habitats and connected vegetative corridors, as large and continuous as possible, in the development process.

Land clearing, fences, roads, drained wetlands, paving, and domesticated landscapes encroach upon, and eventually replace, natural landscapes. As the forests become more fragmented by suburban uses, plant and animal species retreat and disappear. Species extinction is occurring at an alarming rate.

We treasure our natural heritage and we consider sustainable landscapes to be a worthy goal. “Connected Habitats” presents a way to develop homes for people without destroying the home bases of other species.

Whose Land Is It?



A Shared Landscape...

We belong to a living and changing community of interdependent parts, including the surrounding soils, water, air, plants and animals.

The flora and fauna staked claim to Dutchess County long before human settlement. While mountaintops, steep slopes and wet areas have provided some self-defense from development, the remainder of the land area also contains essential wildlife habitats. This guide extends the concept of Fitting into the Landscape (A1), to **coexistence** by identifying a process to maintain our natural heritage, even as we grow and prosper.

Land ownership and subdivisions only meet human needs. But possession of space and habitats are common to all species. For some species needing deep woodlot protection, 1,800 feet to the forest interior or more than 7,000 contiguous acres may be necessary. We should begin by asking that the straight line of the surveyor be drawn only after a site’s inherent qualities, including its wildlife attributes, are understood.

Habitat Size Requirements

Less than 20 acres	Cottontail Skunk Squirrel
20-99 acres	Brown Headed Cowbird Whitetail Deer Wild Turkey Black Capped Chickadee
100-999 acres	Coyote Bobcat Red Fox Red Tail Hawk
More than 20 acres	Ovenbird Red Shouldered Hawk