

Draft of Natural Heritage Committee (NHC) Rolling Work Plan

Updated:

This NHC Work Plan is a working document and is intended to be continually revised. It will be reviewed and updated quarterly. The intent of this document is to help guide and focus the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and the work of the NHC.

The Work Plan is based on the 9 goals from the BAP Executive Summary, the goals of the NHC Annual Report, and ongoing discussions and feedback from the NHC. Although Key Action Items often relate to multiple goals, they are listed only once under the most relevant goal.

Please note that the BAP goals referenced are the numbered goals from the Executive Summary. These correspond to goals in the full BAP report but are numbered differently.

Template:

Goal defined/referenced here:					
Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
<i>Define each action step on its own row. Define as many action steps as necessary by adding rows to the table.</i>	<i>Identify responsible NHC Members for each action step.</i>	<i>Identify involved staff and partners</i>	<i>Define next steps planned for each action item.</i>	<i>Notes on progress, meetings, and next steps.</i>	<i>Additional comments</i>

I. Promote management of county-owned lands that conserves and enhances biodiversity and other natural resources. (BAP GOAL 5)					
Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Facilitate development of an invasive species management plan for all County owned land					
Support volunteer effort to remove invasive species at Old Mill Trails and in other Co. Parks					
Support funding for invasive plant management					
Encourage County staff to manage open grassy areas in right of ways, along roads and areas in parks that are not part of active playing fields to support wildlife through reduced mowing at					

targeted times during the year.					

II. Educate the public on the importance of biodiversity and ways to protect it. (BAP GOAL 6)					
Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Promote landowner education materials through the new County website, social media, and other outlets.			Review the website		
Educate and develop relationships with landowners of Important Sites.			Stream Health outreach letter		
Educate and develop relationships with landowners in conservation focus areas					
Advocate for educational signage in County parks and native plantings at COB					

III. Strengthen the NHC and support for its work. (Annual Report Goal)					
Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Recruit additional members to increase input from a broader range of competencies.					
Partner and engage with other organizations.	Leah			has been promoting NHC wildlife corridor efforts (bobcat study) with state & local agencies, organizations, & media	
Maintain and develop relationships with					

members of the BOS and CACs.					

IV. Promote the use of locally native plants. (BAP Goal 8)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Provide feedback for updates to County Plant List for Site Plans.					
Update Database					
Advocate for maintenance of COB native plantings and signage					
Advocate for County Native Plant Program					

V. Promote improvement of water quality and stream health throughout the County by developing strategies and providing recommendations for protection of water resources. (Annual Report Goal). Increase the amount and quality of stream buffers in the county to improve aquatic ecosystem health, water quality, and riparian habitat quality. (BAP Goal 4)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Provide recommendations for stream health policy updates					

VI. Identify, restore, and protects areas with the five key ecosystems identified in the action plan: 1) forests, 2) outcrops, bluffs, and other xeric habitats, 3) relict piedmont prairies, meadows, and grasslands, 4) rivers, streams, and riparian areas, and 5) wetlands. (BAP Goal 2)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Other Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Take steps to conserve and protect the high priority Important Sites.			Sugar Hollow – letter from NHC members to RWSA and City.		

Continue monitoring and tracking information on all Important Sites.					

VII. Manage non-native invasive species to reduce their impacts and limit their spread. (BAP GOAL 7)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Advocate for county-wide invasive species management plan				Letter (2023)	
Advocate for funding for invasive plant management on County-owned land				Letter (2023)	
Support citizen workdays to remove invasives in AC parks					

VIII. Recognize the importance of the three conservation focus areas identified in the action plan. Prioritize conservation of the land and natural resources within them. (BAP Goal 1)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Develop targeted outreach programs to landowners in Conservation Focus Areas to inform about easement programs, incentives, cost share opportunities.					Part of Stream Health Initiative
Investigate ownership of conservation focus land along the Moormans River N of Sugar Hollow but which is not in SNP?					

IX. Minimize and reduce habitat fragmentation county-wide. Maintain existing habitat connectivity and establish connectivity where possible and appropriate. (BAP Goal 3)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Evaluate potential wildlife corridors in the NW county, using expert knowledge, wildlife science, maps, more Continue investigating improvements to riverine road crossings along USHwy 29S, especially Site 4 & 4a	Leah				
Provide recommendations/feedback to Comprehensive Plan update to include Conservation Zoning or other differentiation of Rural Areas					
Provide recommendations/feedback to Comprehensive Plan update to include wildlife buffer zones & corridors Medium	Leah			Leah has provided input thru 3 means as of 7/2023	

<p>Educate & influence county planners, zoning & transportation planners to consider/incorporate wildlife corridors & buffers in development & infrastructure planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ meet with Scott Clark ❖ learn the planning process and look at any checklists ❖ establish/formalize a step in the planning process to consider wildlife habitat protection ❖ identify venue & timing for making a presentation to county planners ❖ develop a presentation for county planners ❖ inspire planners to identify an opportunity to modify a project to incorporate wildlife corridor, crossing &/or buffer Medium 					
<p>Monitor activities & coordinate with VA Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative (VSWCC)</p>	Leah				

X. Develop indicators and monitor data that reflect the state of biodiversity in Albemarle County. (BAP Goal 9)

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
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XI. Promote policy changes that support biodiversity protection and climate change action.

Key Action Items	NHC Members	Staff/ Partners	Next Steps	Progress, Completion, or Measurements of Success	Comments
Review lighting ordinances and consider recommendations to reduce light pollution.			Policy work group to study lighting ordinances in other localities and compile recommendations.	lighting policy resources	
Dark Sky Week Proclamation					
Encourage County staff to manage open grassy areas in right of ways, along roads and areas in parks that are not part of active playing fields to support wildlife through reduced mowing at targeted times during the year.				about conservation mowing in this Doc	See goal 1
Feedback on AC44					

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