
The Rockingham County Conservation District:

Is established under state law (RSA 432:12) to carry out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water and related resources. Districts are resource management agencies, coordinating and implementing resource and environmental programs at the local level in cooperation with federal and state agencies and the private sector. Districts work with landowners and users, local government agencies, and other local interests in addressing a broad spectrum of resource concerns. These concerns include but are not limited to surface and ground water quality and quantity, nonpoint source pollution, erosion and sedimentation, stormwater, flooding, wetlands, forestlands, wildlife habitats, and solid waste.

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Board of Supervisors

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James Raynes, Vice Chair
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Rockingham County Conservation District

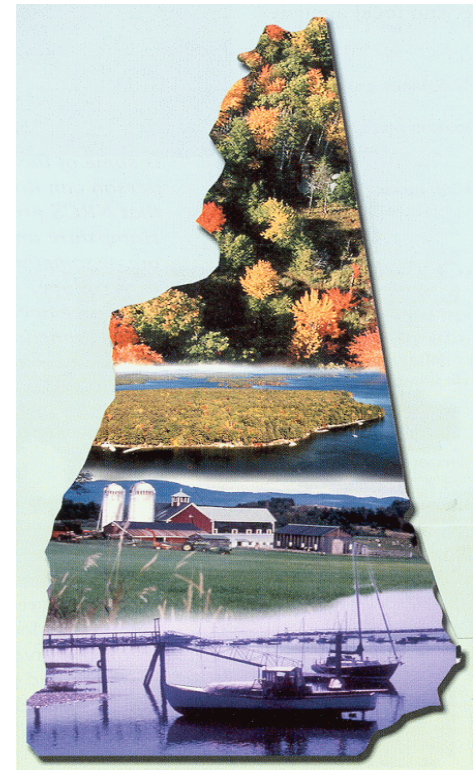
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Land Preservation Program & Policies



The mission of the Rockingham County Conservation District is to conserve and sustain the natural environment for present and future generations by working to make wise land use decisions.

Conservation Easements

It is the policy of the District to work with individuals and towns that want to protect property for future generations. The district currently holds conservation easements on over 4,200 acres around the county.

Easements are found on a salt marsh, agricultural land, town-owned land, forest, and lands protecting exemplary communities such as the source of the Exeter River or a portion of the Winnicut River. The donation of a conservation easement is a major commitment for any landowner. Although tax benefits may result from such a gift, the primary reward



Herrick Woods, Chester

for donating an easement is the knowledge that your exceptional property will forever be protected from development.

Conservation Easement Priorities

- ★ Conservation of productive farm and forestlands
- ★ Preservation of open space, scenic value, and enjoyment by public
- ★ Conservation of wildlife habitat
- ★ Protection of water resources

Criteria for Property Protection

- ★ Conserves critical soil types to ensure productive farm and forest lands
- ★ Links adjacent buffers for greater protection of natural resources in an area
- ★ Prevents probable threat of future development
- ★ Is of sufficient size for public benefit and resource values will be intact even if nearby properties are developed
- ★ Serves as a precedent for additional protection
- ★ Can be reasonably monitored and legally defended

“The Board of Supervisors retains final judgment of disposition based on the merits of each case.”

Policy for Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund

In accepting a conservation easement the RCCD is making a major commitment. It assumes the legal responsibility to carry out the donor’s intentions by upholding the terms of the easement forever. These responsibilities include annual monitoring and being

prepared to enforce the terms of the easement if it is violated or challenged. The RCCD has established the Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund for the purpose of covering costs associated with baseline documentation, monitoring, legal defense, and where appropriate, management of resources. In order to complete these responsibilities the RCCD must have consistent information about land use changes and ownership changes over time on all of its protected properties.

It is the policy of the RCCD to request that landowners make a tax-deductible gift of cash to the Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund at the time of their easement donation.

Factors that are considered in establishing the amount of the Fund request, in consultation with the landowner: size and nature of easement area; location in relationship to other easements; extent to which easement provisions impose administrative burdens (i.e. approval of building sites; co-easement holders); general administrative costs; potential legal costs; potential for present or future violations; management purposes. All properties will be defended equally and to the fullest extent that the RCCD resources allow.

If you are interested in additional information on the Conservation Easement program please contact us at rccd@rockinghamccd.org or call 679-2790.
