

WHERE CONSERVATION ABOUNDS



Landowners often want to know how to manage large properties, without significant manpower capacity. While the answers vary, each contains strategies to shift some of the land management responsibilities to nature's own resources.

When we respect the value of cooperating with nature, rather than imposing control over it, we can carefully design and implement conservation plans that set the stage for natural resources to effect their own long-term sustainability. Best management practices serve

as our guides to let fields, ponds, vegetation and wildlife assume appropriate roles to perform specific ecological tasks. In fact, when implemented properly, the designs can enhance the function of the land by making it more productive for agricultural, recreational or habitat purposes.

Careful observation of existing conditions provides clues regarding how we, as landscape architects, can enhance natural systems to more effectively sustain themselves. Working closely with land owners and environmental specialists, we take what we learn from the natural and cultural assets of the land and leverage the potential for environmentally responsible design that respects the historical narrative.



Using a natural resource inventory as a starting point, we explore opportunities such as timber stand improvement for healthier woodland environments, vegetative corridors for wildlife movement, filtration buffers for better water quality, shoreline erosion control to protect valuable land and water, and invasive plant management to facilitate habitat diversity. Existing conditions and the owners' goals serve as guidelines for prioritizing and implementing the various options.



Combine the power of natural forces and responsible stewardship and a natural sense of balance will be achieved, healthy environments will be sustained, and the maintenance costs associated with more aggressive human intervention will be reduced.

Go with the natural forces and it's a win/win for owners and nature alike. Compromise, and constant effort will be required to maintain a status quo landscape. After all, when landowners take care of the land, the land will take care of the landowners.