

Warren Tiered Ecological Priorities

- Primary Conservation Areas
- Secondary Conservation Areas
- Conserved Public or Private Land
- ↔ General Wildlife Corridors
- Corridor Study Areas

Tiered Ecological Priorities are adapted from the analyses completed by the Forests, Wildlife and Communities Project in 2011, created as a planning tool for municipal governments in the Mad River Valley by identifying areas that ecologists have deemed important for conservation. They reflect what are believed to be the most important areas for maintaining the area's fish and wildlife populations and biological diversity.

Primary areas are the most fragile and sensitive. They are limited in area and allow little flexibility in their location and management. They can't be developed or moved (mitigated) without sacrificing current levels of biological diversity. Development should be avoided in these areas.

Secondary areas are still very significant ecologically, but are larger areas and hence offer more flexibility in how they are managed. Small portions of this area can be encroached upon or developed without losing the current ecological functions that these areas offer. Development should be avoided, where possible, in this area and efforts made to keep it to the edges, rather than penetrating into the middle of these sensitive areas.

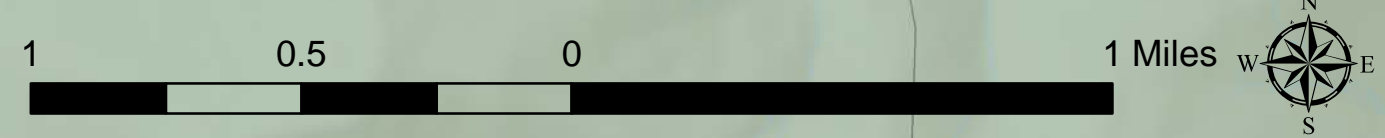
General Wildlife Corridors were mapped by Arrowwood Environmental (2008). They recommended field verification and prioritization for conservation action, and to conserve the most important travel corridors by creating buffers around them to maintain wildlife movement patterns. It is recommended to limit development to the outside edge of corridors and encourage screening, natural color schemes and other actions to limit negative effects of development in or near corridors. Improving the vegetated buffer conditions along the Mad River and its tributaries can also provide protected movement opportunities for wildlife.

Corridor Study Areas are areas that have been field verified by Arrowwood, including winter tracking and camera traps in 2016-2018, in partnership with the Warren Conservation Commission.

- Primary Conservation Areas**
- Rare, Threatened & Endangered species element occurrences
 - Wetland & Streams (with 50' buffers)
 - Bat hibernacula with 300' buffer
 - All lands over 2700' for Bicknell's Thrush
 - Vernal pools with 100' buffer
 - FEMA 100 yr floodplain
 - Fluvial erosion hazard zone
 - S1, S2, S3 natural communities and other locally significant (defined by Arrowwood)
- natural communities that have a small or large patch size
- Road crossings (delineated by Arrowwood) that occur on Rte 100, German Flats Rd, East Warren Rd, and Sugarbush Access Rd
 - All lands with natural cover (using 2006 CCAP) within 1/4 mile of the above significant road crossings

- Secondary Conservation Areas**
- Vernal pools with 600' buffer
 - Early Successional Habitats (Arrowwood)
 - Ledges (Arrowwood)
 - Grassland
 - Locally significant natural communities defined by Arrowwood and not included in Primary Conservation Areas (=S4 and S5 natural communities or ones with Matrix patch size)
 - Road crossings (delineated by Arrowwood) that are not included in Primary Conservation Areas (= road crossings on smaller roads with less vehicle traffic)
 - All lands with natural cover (using 2006 CCAP) within 1/4 mile of the above road crossings

Data Sources: Arrowwood Environmental, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.
 Vermont State Plane Projection
 Original MRV map by Jens Hilke, October 2011
 Please see mrvpd.org/forests-wildlife-communities-project/ for detailed methodology and additional information.
 Warren only map by Kate Wanner, November 2020



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