

Rhode Island Wildlife Action Plan

From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

Rhode Island's wildlife action plan identifies threats to important species and habitats. Habitat loss and degradation from the associated impacts of human population growth are high on the long list of threats. This plan outlines a series of actions prescribed for the next decade to address these threats and to effectively conserve Rhode Island's important wildlife resources for future generations.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Conserving Healthy Wetlands

The rivers and streams that run into Narragansett Bay provide critical habitat and clean water to many priority wildlife species identified in Rhode Island's wildlife action plan. State Wildlife Grants are partially funding a project that will place a conservation easement on approximately 130 acres of land along the Sakonnet River and Donovan Marsh, which flow into Narragansett Bay, ensuring that they will remain healthy even as Rhode Island's communities grow. These wetlands harbor plants and animals that help clean water and provide flood protection but are threatened by development, like many others nationwide. Conservation easements are important management tools that purchase development rights for an area but still allow other uses such as hunting, boating, and fishing. This project benefits both people and wildlife by protecting critical wildlife habitat and conserving the natural places that are important to many of our family traditions.

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Eastern spadefoot toads rely on seasonal wetlands/
Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife



Glen Avon Farm contains important white cedar habitat/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People

Glen Avon Farm Conservation Easement

The Glen Avon Farm, in western Rhode Island, was identified in Rhode Island's wildlife action plan as a priority conservation area in the state. A conservation easement on this 1,000 acre property will both protect wildlife habitat and provide recreational opportunities. Located next to other conservation parcels, the Glen Avon Farm will become a core conservation area of over 2,700 acres that supports several key habitats and species in need of conservation. A management plan, currently being developed, will ensure public access for hiking, hunting and fishing, improving the opportunities for public outdoor

recreation. This is a cost-effective way to conserve wildlife and natural places that bring peace and relaxation to our busy lives.

Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife

Conserving Important Wildlife Habitat

Protecting priority habitat, including acquiring and protecting new land, is a key component to Rhode Island's wildlife action plan. The Grills property located in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, contains several priority habitats and is strategically located next to existing conservation parcels. Placing this area into a conservation easement would protect important habitat such as wetlands and high-quality pitch pine barrens that provide habitat to the rare Hessel's hairstreak butterfly and the

imperiled New England cottontail. Protecting these important habitats benefits the wildlife that depend upon them, conserving these species before they become more rare and more costly to protect.

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The wood frog is a priority species on Glen Avon Farm/Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife



Hessel's hairstreak butterfly/Erik Nielson

Placing this area into a conservation easement would protect important habitat such as wetlands and high-quality pitch pine barrens that provide habitat to the rare Hessel's hairstreak butterfly and the imperiled New England cottontail.