

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department Community Wildlife Program is proud to announce the schedule for our Fall educational series of webinars and trainings. This year we have five new topics planned and will be offering several sessions of each. Look at our [schedule and register](#).



**Community Wildlife Program  
Fall 2022  
Virtual Workshops & Training Schedule**  
[See the schedule and register.](#)

## ***Land Use Planning for Climate Change***

Vermont's Climate Action Plan calls for an all hands approach and identifies a wide range of actions that municipalities can lead on, especially with respect to our pattern of land use and how that affects both mitigation and adaptation. It can be overwhelming to understand where to begin and what tools might be most helpful. In this session, participants will learn about a range of land use planning tools that can be used to address climate change and some examples of how they've been employed.



***Presenters:***

- Ann Janda, Senior Energy Project Manager, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner, VT Fish and Wildlife Department

## ***Using Vermont Conservation Design to Help Plan Your Town's Climate Future***



Vermont Conservation Design was first released in 2016 and has been used by towns across the state to identify landscape patterns of connected forests and waters as well as community and species hotspots. Vermont Conservation Design

certainly does show these areas of current biological diversity but also speaks to climate resilience into the future. Join Community Wildlife Program staff to learn how these concepts come together and how you can use Vermont Conservation Design on the BioFinder website to better plan for your town's climate future.

*Presenters:*

- Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner, VT Fish and Wildlife Department
- Lincoln Frasca, Conservation Planning Specialist, VT Fish and Wildlife Department

## ***Alive in the Fields: Understanding Grassland Bird Habitat and Protection***



Did you know that Vermont is home to eleven species of grassland birds? Did you know that five of these are listed as Threatened or Endangered and the other six are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)? That means that many towns across the state need to understand more about these species and their habitats and how to plan land use in a way that works for these species. Join Fish & Wildlife Department Bird Project Leader Doug Morin to learn more about this important topic and what towns can do to protect this piece of natural heritage.

*Presenters:*

- Doug Morin, Bird Project Leader, VT Fish and Wildlife Department
- Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner, VT Fish and Wildlife Department



## **Knowing Your Options; Choosing the Right Tools for Your Town.**

Are you interested in protecting your town's natural resources? Do you have conservation goals in mind and are ready to take action? Maybe you are new to municipal planning and looking for ways to get involved?. Whether you are a town

planner, landowner, or renter you can help define conservation planning options. There are many

examples of successful regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to land use planning across the state. Choosing the right tools at the right time is essential to meeting your conservation goals and balancing the needs of your town. Join the Vermont Fish and Wildlife's Community Wildlife Program staff and see how you can protect your community's ecology and economy in a changing world.

*Presenters:*

- Lincoln Frasca, Conservation Planning Specialist, VT Fish and Wildlife Department
- Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner, VT Fish and Wildlife Department

## ***Forests Matter: Land Use Planning for Forest Integrity***



The concept of maintaining intact forest in Vermont is not new and is something that town planning and conservation commissions have been implementing for years. But as rural sprawl has increased forest fragmentation and the VT Legislature passed Vermont's Forest Integrity law (often referred to as Act 171), the topic is receiving

increased interest. The Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation and the Fish & Wildlife Department has worked with partners to put together a video series highlighting this important topic. The video series pulls together interviews from a diversity of professionals in the field; from foresters, biologists to planners and volunteers working at the local level. Please join us for this exciting session.

*Presenters:*

- Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner, VT Fish and Wildlife Department
- Keith Thompson, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation
- Jim Duncan, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation
- Jamey Fidel, Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Clare Rock, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
- Jen Mojo, Agency of Natural Resources
- Brian Voigt, Waitsfield Planning Commission
- Linda Hecker, Guilford Conservation Commission
- Kevin Geiger, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission
- Charlie Hancock, Cold Hollow to Canada
- Jon Kart, Science to Action Steering Committee (Richmond)
- Alex Weinhausen, Hinesburg Planning & Zoning
- Deb Shelby, Bolton Planning Commission