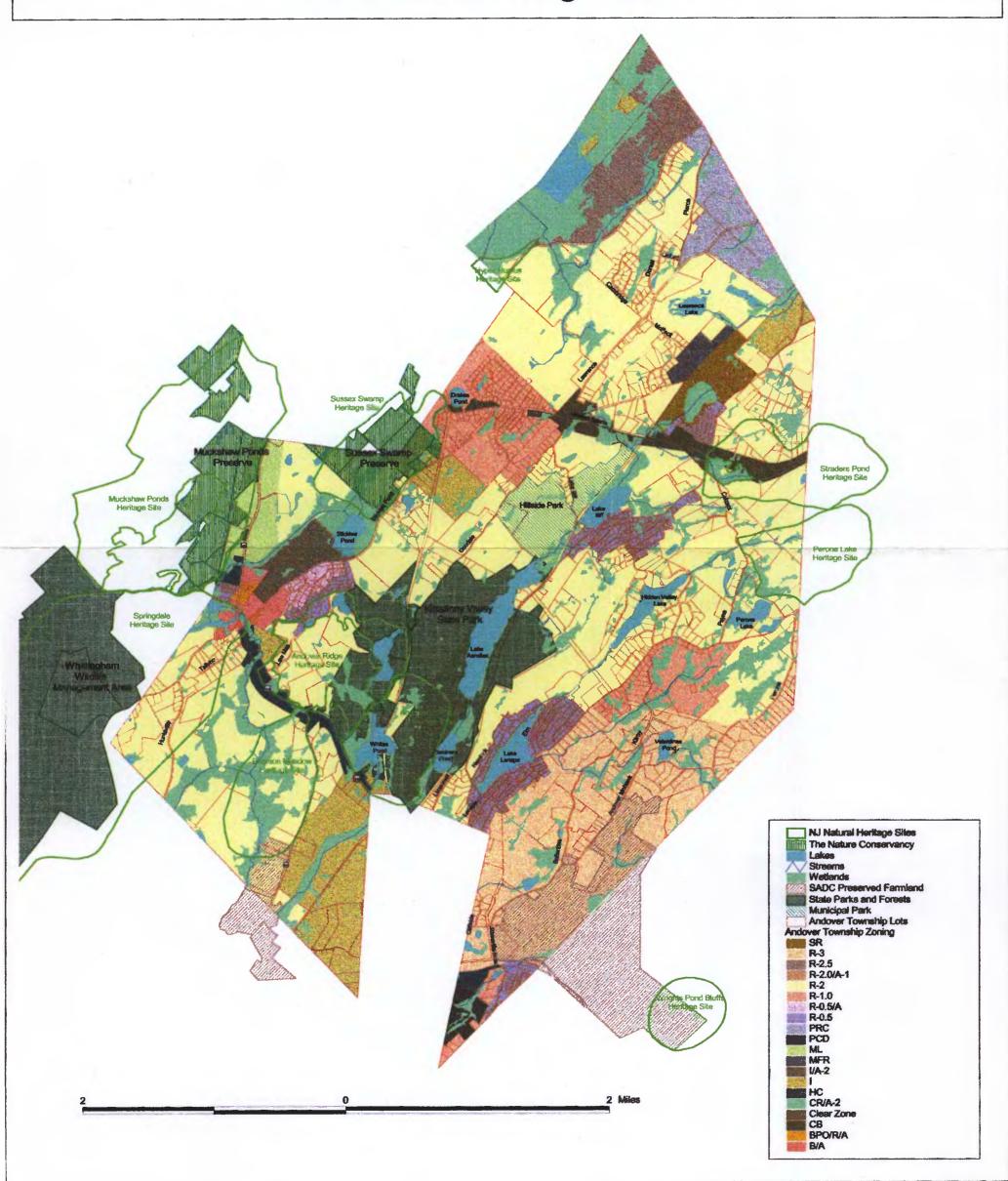




# Andover Township NJ Natural Heritage Sites





## ANDOVER TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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# **MEMORANDUM**

To:

**NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection** 

**Township Committee** 

Township Clerk Planning Board

Township and Board Professionals Sussex County Planning Board

From:

**Andover Township Environmental Commission** 

Re:

New Township base map/zoning map

Date:

January 23, 2003

The attached color copy of an updated base map and zone map was prepared by T & M Associates with the aid of a grant from the DEP Environmental Services Program. This map is also available on CD ROM in G.I.S. mapping format. An 30 x 40 enlargement of the zone map has been laminated and is available for public use.

### Andover Township, New Jersey NJ Natural Heritage Sites

<u>Andover Junction</u>-The site contains a concentration of state endangered plant species and special concern plants.

Andover Ridge-The site contains one state endangered plant.

<u>Brighton Meadow</u>-The site contains a globally rare wetland natural community; a globally rare plant species and additional state endangered plant species.

Hyper Humus-The site contains a small example of a globally rare natural community, an occurrence of a globally rare insect, and several state endangered plant species.

<u>Muckshaw Ponds</u>-The site contains a high quality assemblage of natural communities with a concentration of state significant plants and animals.

<u>Perona Lake-The site contains two state endangered plant species.</u>

<u>Springdale</u>-The site contains several state significant and globally rare natural communities, an excellent population of a globally rare state endangered plant species, and a concentration of additional state listed endangered plant and animal species.

<u>Straders Pond</u>-The site contains a good example of a globally imperiled wetland natural community and several rare plant species.

<u>Sussex Swamp</u>(Site 564)-The site contains significant natural community with numerous globally and state-imperiled plant and animal species.

Wrights Pond Bluffs-The site contains two state endangered plant species and one special concern plant species.

Source: An Atlas of Natural Heritage Priority Sites for the Preservation of Biological Diversity, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, Natural Lands Management, June, 1999.

#### **Conservation Strategies**

Primary home and commercial development is the most critical threat to environmentally sensitive areas in Andover Township. Perhaps the most obvious stress from development is the destruction or the outright removal of specie's habitat Habitat fragmentation is also a concern for certain species that rely on dispersal to maintain gene flow and thus, a healthy viable population. Private wells for new homes compete for groundwater and can adversely affects the natural hydrology of certain species. Changes in natural hydrology also open the door for invasive species, which is the second most critical threat to environmentally sensitive areas.

Invasive species are the second most critical threat to environmentally sensitive areas in Andover Township. Particularly problematic species include Lythrum salicaria (purple loosestrife), Phragmites australis (Phragmites), Rosa Multiflora (multiflora rose), Berberis thunbergii (Japanese barberry), Microstegium vimineum (Japanese stiltgrass), and Alliaria petiolata (garlic mustard). Acer rubrum (red maple) and Alnus serrulata (smooth alder) are also a problem. Even though red maple succession can be slower than purple loosestrife invasion, for example, it can also change habitat drastically. In either case, succession or invasion, there is the potential for severe degradation of specie's habitat or the species itself. Due to their overabundance, deer contribute to invasive species by eating more palatable native species. Deer also contribute the additional stress of excessive herbivory.

The following strategies are possible ways to abate these critical threats:

#### I. Land Protection and Land Use

- 1. Acquire priority habitat by working with the state, county and non-profit organizations to purchase key tracts within environmentally sensitive areas.
- 2. Acquire easements on priority habitat by working with state, county and non-profit organizations to secure development and/or conservation easements on key tracts within environmentally sensitive areas.
- 3. Promote the enactment of an open space fund.
- 4. Work to promote smart growth and environmental ordinances.
- 5. Educate landowners of priority tracts about its conservation value.

#### II. Invasive Species

- 1. Manage invasive species through mechanical, chemical and biological methods.
- 2. Foster use of native species for landscaping through education and outreach.
- 3. Work with private landowners to develop strategies to address deer overpopulation.