Ecosystem Service Benefits

In addition to their value as wildlife habitat, natural areas and landscapes provide other valuable services to our communities, including reducing flood impacts, filtering pollution from water and air, and improving our residents' quality of life. Different types of natural areas yield differing types and levels of benefits, as shown in these matrices.

Table 1. Ecosystem Services by Practice

Conservation Goal	Potential Practices	Ecosystem Service Benefits (P = primary benefit, S= Secondary benefit)						
		Flood and Disaster Mitigation	Economy	Carbon, Energy or Heat	Quality of Life/ Health	Environmental Quality	Recreation	Habitat
Preserve existing natural areas	Acquisition; conservation easements	P	S	P	S	P	P	P
Restore natural areas	Replanting; remove invasives	P		S	P	S		
Restore streamside areas	Planting; Restoring; erosion control	P	S	S	P	P	S	S
Expand urban tree canopy	Planting; ordinances	S		P	P	P		S
Implement LID	Construct; Provide incentives	P		P		P		
Maintain or expand wetlands	Protect existing; construct; mitigation banking	P	S	S		P		S
Preserve prime soils	Agricultural /erosion best practices	S	P			S		
Develop natural recreation areas	Park / amenity development; natural areas in existing parks		P		P		P	
Build conservation into planning	Ordinances; offer incentives; develop plans	P	P	S	P	S	P	S
Promote nature tourism	Marketing; develop amenities		P		S		P	S
Promote resident conservation	Education / outreach, incentive programs	S	S	S	P	S	S	
Source water protection	Ordinances; development rights	S	P		P	P		
Promote habitat	Pollinator/bird habitat development		P		S		P	P

Table 2. *Ecosystem Services by Land Cover Type*

Ecological Assets	Ecosystem Service Benefits (*P* = primary benefit, **S**= *Secondary benefit*)						
	Flood and Disaster Mitigation	Economy	Carbon, Energy or Heat	Quality of Life/ Health	Environmental Quality	Recreation	Habitat
Undeveloped Forests	P		P	S	P	S	P
Urban Tree Canopy	P	S	P	P	P	S	S
Wetlands	P	S	S	S	P	S	P
Prairie and Grasslands	P	S	S	S	P	S	P
Agricultural Lands	S	P		S	S		
Urban Open Space	S	S	S	P	S	P	S
Healthy Waterways	S	S		S	P	S	P
Clean Air		S	P	P	P		