Managing Natural Areas in Developments

Increasingly, parcels of land being considered for development contain important natural resources, such as rivers, streams, and wetlands, some of which need to be protected and maintained forever. The Conservation Foundation’s Natural Areas Assurance Program provides assurance to the municipality, regulators, future occupants and the community at large that their investment in good stormwater management practices, natural areas and open space within a new development is protected and will have funded, long-term management. These projects can be put in place by The Conservation Foundation or public agencies such as municipalities or park districts.

- **Assurance** that the land is permanently protected
- **Funded, long-term management** of the natural areas
  - Written into the conservation easement documents
  - Property owner assessments with Special Service Area backup
  - Overseen by an independent, knowledgeable conservation organization or public agency
  - Includes funds for monitoring, contract management and education
  - Five year cycle of site evaluation, management recommendations and assessment adjustment to adapt to changing conditions
- **Requested** and appreciated by the Army Corps of Engineers, county regulators and municipalities

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