

# The Transformative Power of Strategic Conservation Planning



Who's in the room?



# Learning Objectives

- Understand how Strategic Conservation Planning can be helpful to your organization's mission and vision
- Consider different methods of Strategic Conservation Planning
- Envision how such methods might be applied within your organization





# What is Strategic Conservation Planning?

≠ Strategic Planning

Means of setting and communicating conservation priorities

Commonalities

- A. Specific geography
- B. Mapping
- C. Tabulation of property-specific data
- D. Outreach
- E. Fundraising/Public Engagement (note: aggregation)



# Why engage in Strategic Conservation Planning?

- Efficiencies and expedience
- Clarify within and outside of the organization what they hope to accomplish
- Find out the magnitude of conservation goals
- Apply limited resources in the smartest way
- Attract fundraising and other support
- Make alliances with partners necessary to success
- Communications to stakeholders



# Organizing Concepts

Community Based

Asset Based

Connectivity Based

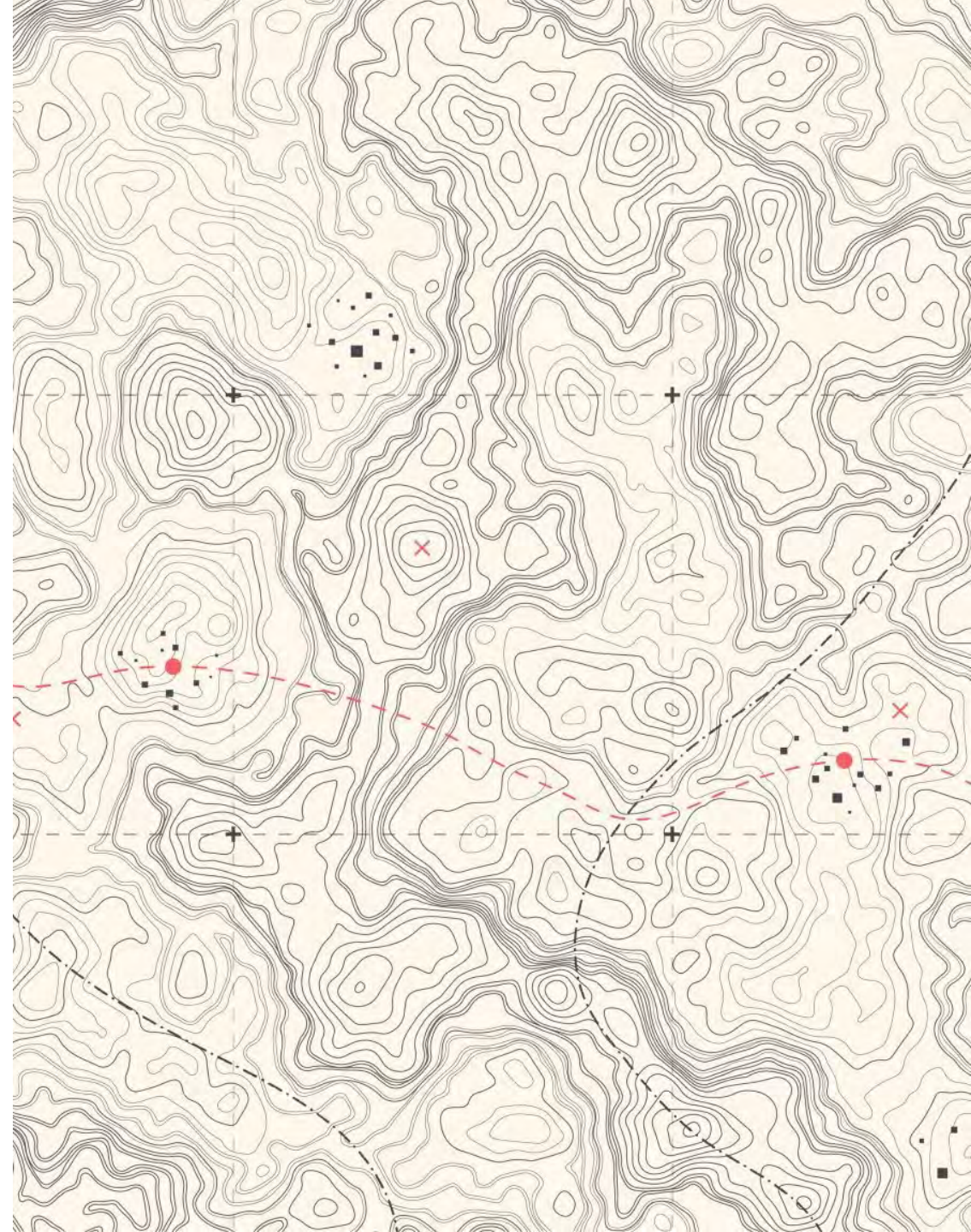
Note: Partnerships

Note: Other Land Uses



# How is it done?

- Start with Mission
- Understand the relevant factors
  - Geography/defined landscape
  - Focal attributes, both conservation and other (e.g. farm soils, core forests, walkability, historic markers)
  - Project selection criteria
  - Relational/contiguity
  - POCD
- Maps/GIS
- Tabulation
- Analysis
- Implementation Plan







Questions?



# Community Based – Kent Land Trust

1. Land located within the 23 areas identified in the 2012 Kent POCD.
2. Land which offers significant relief from potential development and which helps to define the rural character of the community.
3. Land which provides scenic views from public roads or trail corridors.
4. Land which provides trail corridors or public recreational opportunities consistent with the conservation values of the property.
5. Land which provides a buffer or is in close proximity to existing protected areas, the protection of which would broaden an area of protected land and enhance trail corridors, recreational opportunities or plant and wildlife habitat.
6. Land which is important for preserving the quality and quantity of surface or underground waters or for providing the natural control of flooding (such as wetlands, alluvial and high water table soils, and riparian buffers).
7. Land which contains habitat for plant or animal species classified as rare, endangered or threatened by the state or federal government.
8. Land which contains exemplary or critical habitat for plant or animal species not classified as rare, endangered or threatened.
9. Land which contains prime or important agricultural soil or land in active agricultural production, where the proposed project preserves agricultural use.
10. Land of sufficient size that the resources being protected are likely to remain intact even if adjacent unprotected properties are developed. While properties of at least 10 acres are preferred, KLT may consider smaller parcels, particularly in the case of fee acquisitions, where its criteria are met and the project will not involve excessive effort or expense.
11. Land which is reasonably determined to be free from any hazardous wastes, or other contamination which could expose KLT to liability.
12. Land which is reasonably determined to allow physical access for inspection and will not present difficulties in monitoring and stewardship.

- Top 30 parcels
- Reveal four areas of focus
- Note: crosswalk with Follow the Forest





# Asset-Based: Watershed

[A Conservation Vision for  
the Decade Ahead  
\(arcgis.com\)](#)

usvlt.org/strategic-planning

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## Strategic Plan

Our 10-year strategic plan is two-pronged, with a focus on organizational and conservation needs. Our **strategic organizational plan** is our guidepost to focus our resources, strengthen our effectiveness, and fulfill our priorities. Our **strategic conservation plan** evaluates our 11-town service area and determines the quality of natural resources and the greatest needs for protection. To link to a story map that captures our conservation vision for the decade ahead, [click here](#).

This story map and detailed ARCGIS work was made possible with funding from the Open Space Institute and the State of NH Conservation Committee's Moose Plate Grant, the work of Peter Howe of Cold Mountain Maps (former land trust staff member), and the Community Center for GIS. To see further resource data, please view the [USVLT Conservation Planning Map](#) in ARCGIS.



## Other Asset-Based:

### *Landscape/Geography*

- The Last Green Valley
- Wildlife Refuges (Silvio O. Conte)
- Northern Appalachian Trail Partnership

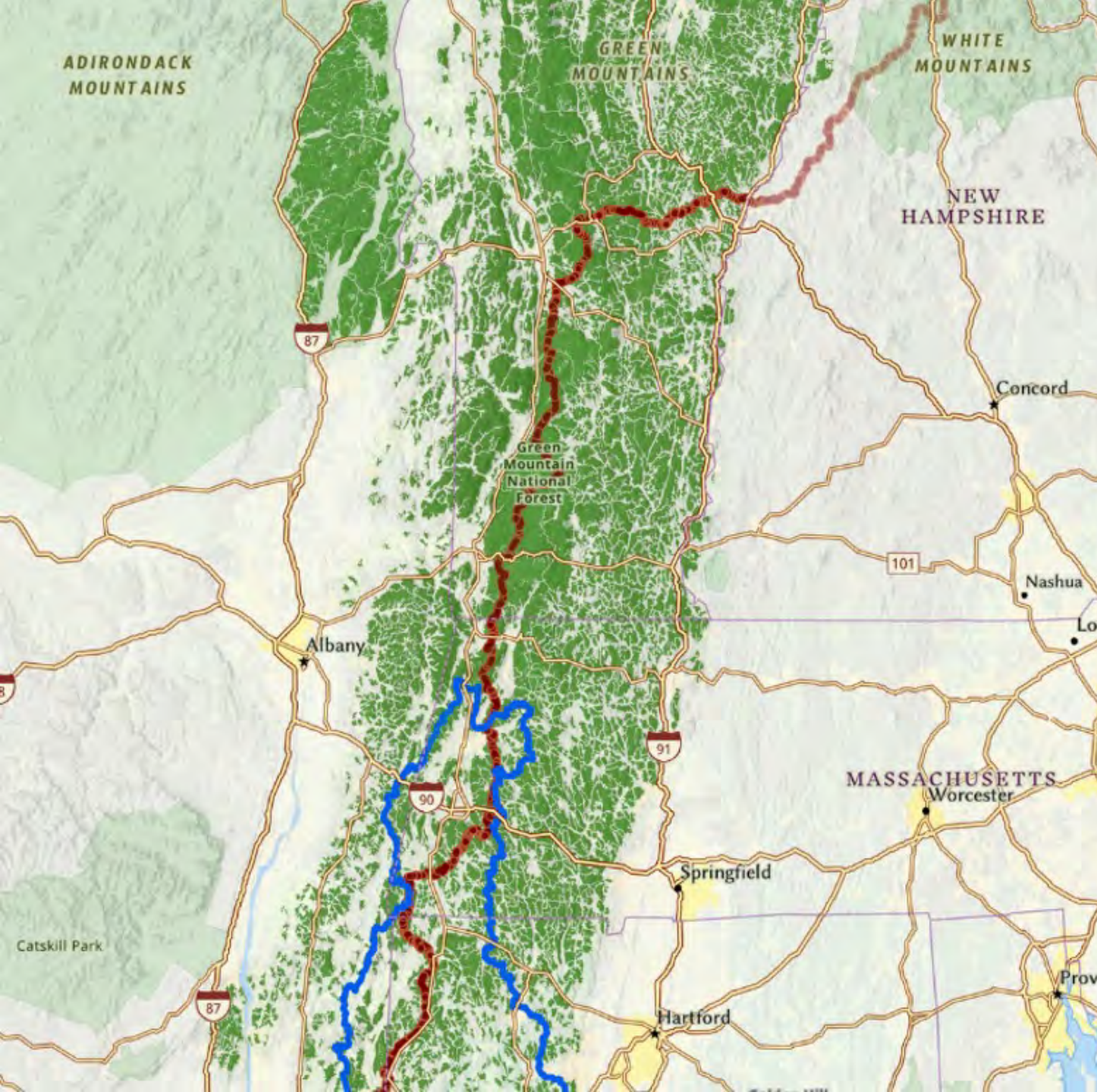
### *River Corridor*

Connect the Connecticut

### *Farmland*

*Climate-resilience*



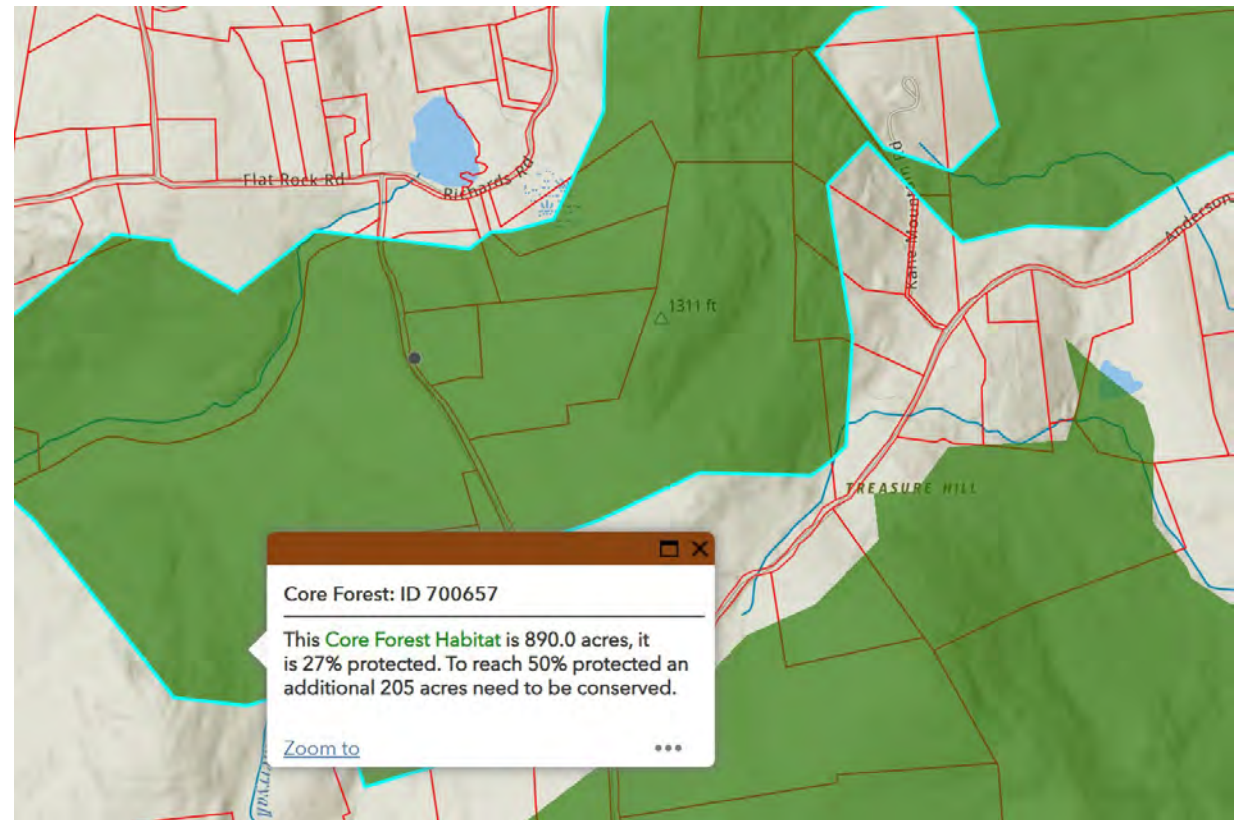
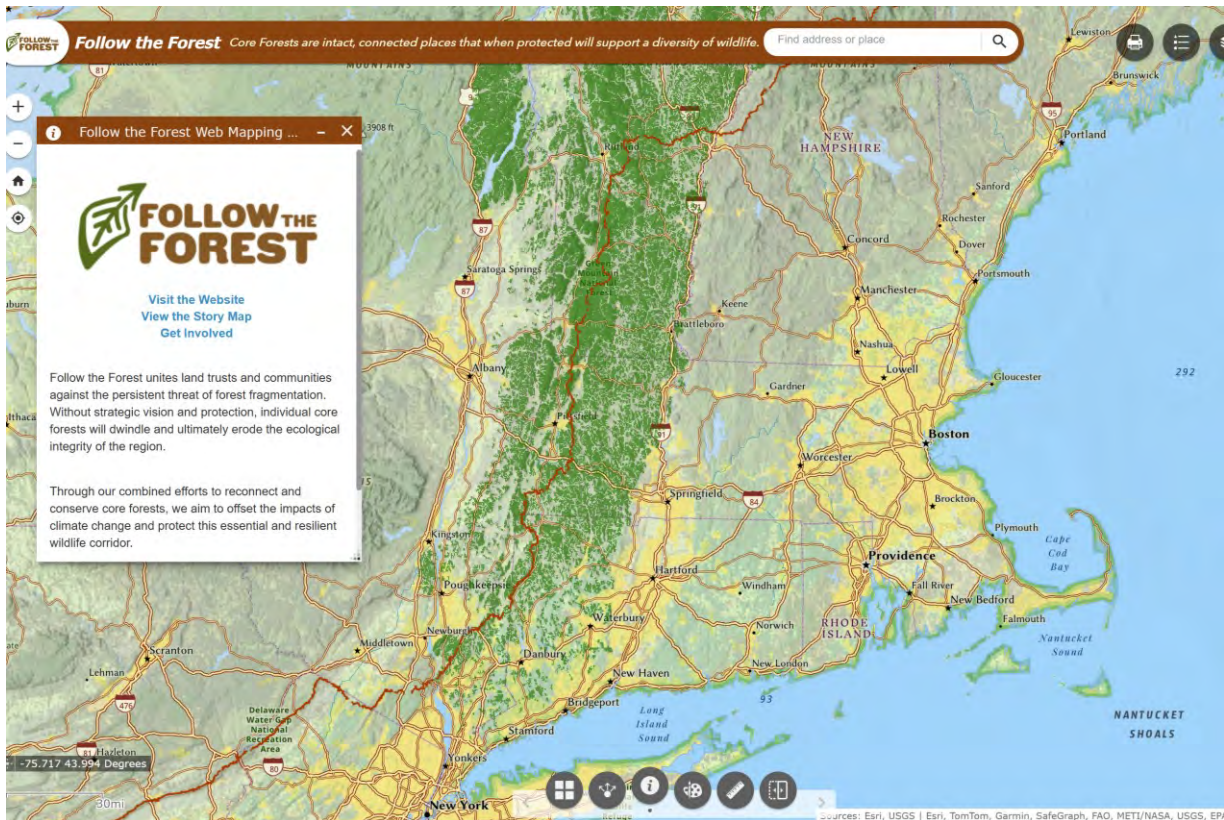


# Wildlife Connectivity: Follow the Forest

- Protect & Connect a forested, climate-resilient wildlife corridor stretching from the Southern Hudson Valley to Canada
- Enlarge contiguous protection within existing core forest, prevent fragmentation or incursion
- Locate & protect linkages between core forests



# Macro to Micro





# Other Land Use?

## **Hudson Valley Affordable Housing & Conservation Strategy**

An Innovative Collaboration of Land Trusts and  
Affordable Housing Organizations Conserving  
Critical Landscapes and Responding to the  
Region's Housing Crisis



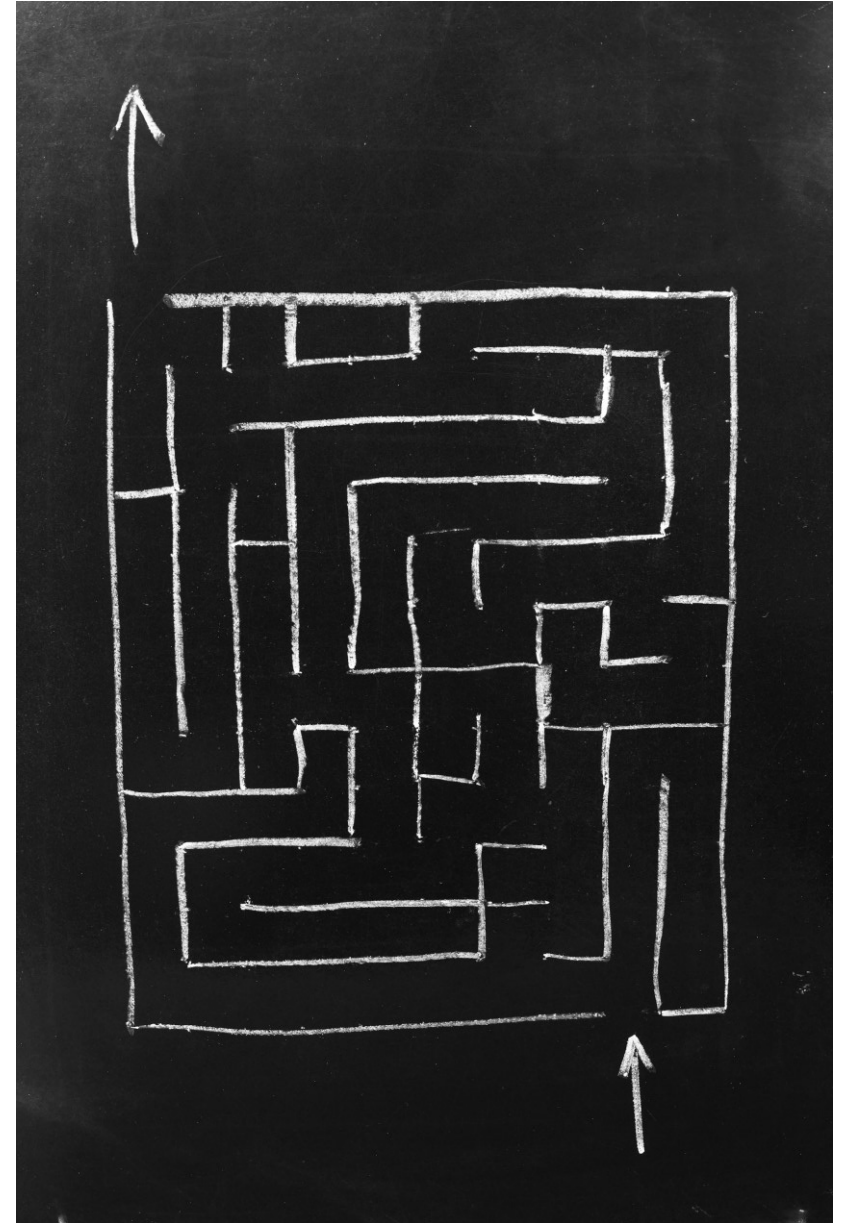


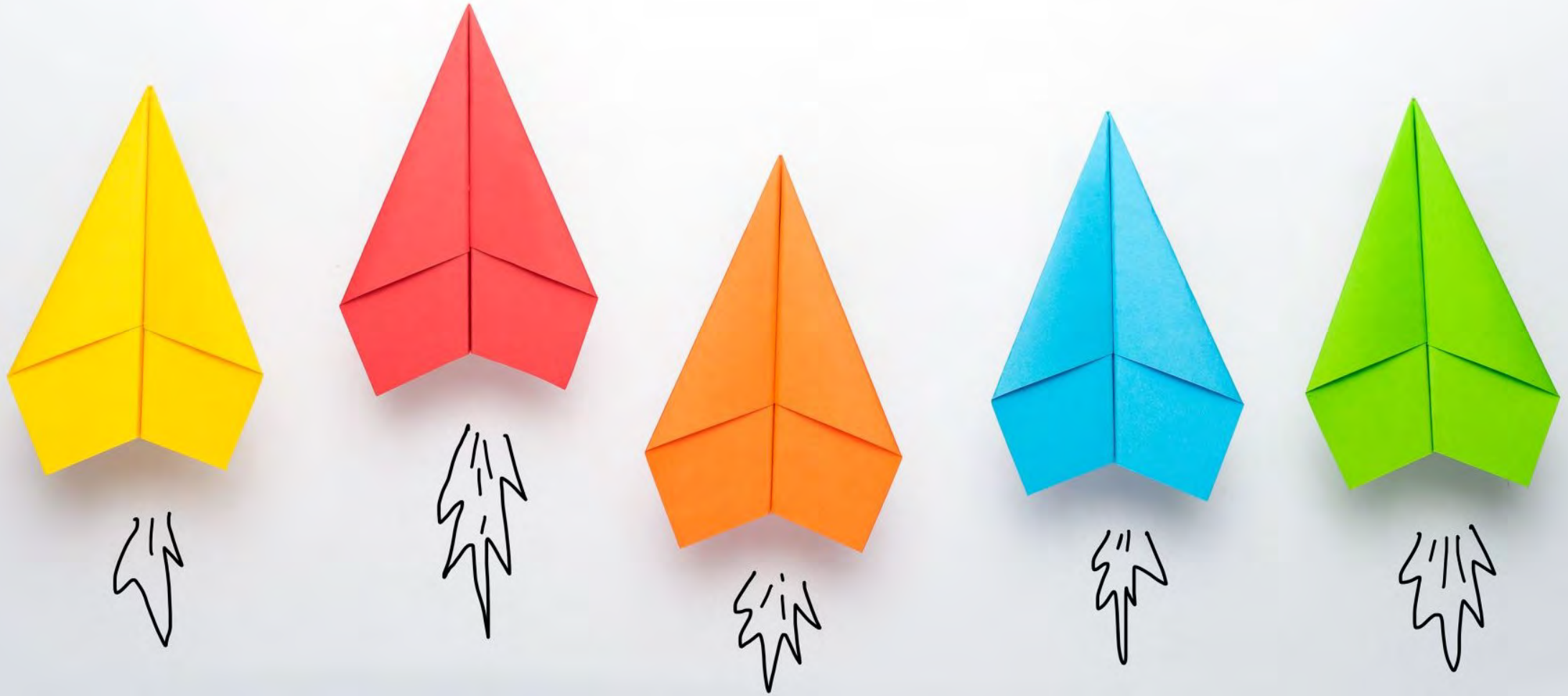
- Has your organization done any strategic conservation planning? If so, what did it do? Are there additional steps that can be taken?
- Which of the strategies for organizing a plan most resonates with you and why?
- What do you need to take the next steps? Are these things available to you?



# Additional Resources :

- [CT Geodata Portal](#)
- Land Trust Alliance [Conservation Resource Center](#):
  - Practice Narratives, Standards 8A and 8B
  - Checklist of how-tos
  - Webinar
  - Many great examples of Strategic Conservation Initiatives
- Today's examples
- Browser search!
- Funding & Other Assistance





Closing Thoughts / Your Plan



CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

*Thank You!*

Please share your thoughts: Scan the QR codes below to fill out evaluations online for the 2024 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference



General Conference Evaluations



Workshop Evaluations