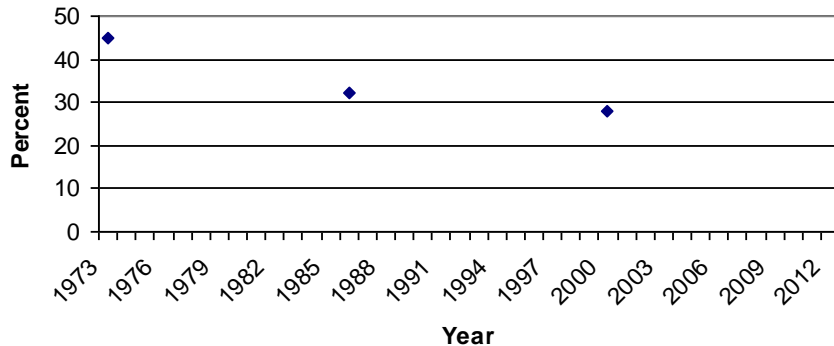# Goal: Green Infrastructure

Preserve natural areas and features that are ecologically unusual or environmentally sensitive. Preserve and enhance a diversity of plant and animal species in self-sustaining concentrations. Increase and conserve forests and slow the growth of impervious surface.

Proposed re-draft of goal: Conserve, manage and increase natural areas and wildlife habitat. Preserve and expand tree canopy and natural systems while reducing untreated impervious surfaces with a balanced approach.
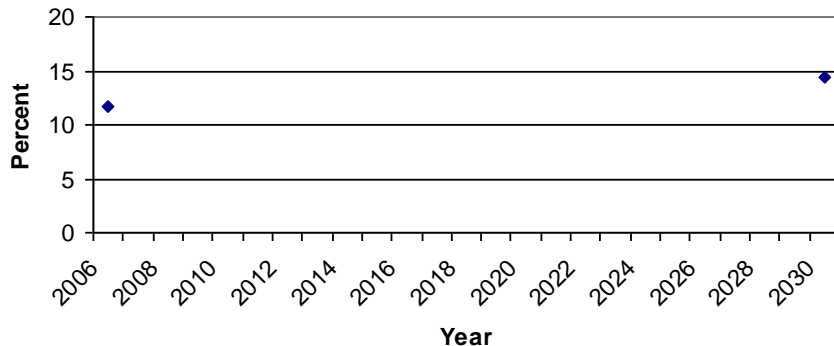
Content Expert: Christine Conn, MD DNR

Indicators

Forest Cover

Impervious Surface

Some Highlights from Indicator Discussion

• Don't trade forest cover for tree cover

• Create tree canopy database

Potential Indicators

• Ratio between development and impervious surfaces

• Ratio between demand for housing and adequate public facilities with green environment

• Total storm water runoff

• Impervious surfaces tracked by watershed

• Measure cumulative impact of projects coming in (net loss)

• Percentage of continuous forest acreage, urban tree canopy, tree canopy- monitor how much, condition, and extent of

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Story Behind the Trend lines

Prioritized Factors

- Prioritized Factor Categories *(overlapping, not independent)*
  - Education

  - Market Forces

  - Regulation and Policy

  - Conflicting Goals (affordable housing vs. environment)

  - Economics (lack of incentives, developers, public investment, impact opportunities, individual issues)

  - Development (type, smart growth, plan for high density vs. agricultural land use)

  - Cultural Expectations & Demands

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Potential Strategies/Actions (including partners and their roles):

ASSUMPTION: *Infill/redevelopment contributes more to loss of tree canopy and pervious surface than does new development*

IDEAS:
- Educate homeowners or developers on efficient redevelopment
- Spread the word, person-to-person
- Get government/media/school system to spread word
- County Council has monthly recognition of homeowners whose 'rehab' led to largest reduction in energy consumption

KEY PLAYERS: Diverse group (people in this room)- media, County Council, utility companies

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Potential Strategies/Actions (including partners and their roles):

***IDEAS*:**
- Biking, rail, consolidating stops for buses
- Greater public advocacy
- Home buying process: Realtors and Builders, home buyers, incorporating high efficiency products- creating pamphlets, website with 'green cookbook'
- High efficiency products
- High cost- rail

***KEY PLAYERS*:** Smart growth consultants, transit authority, consumers, Planning board and Council, county agencies

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Potential Strategies/Actions (including partners and their roles):

IDEAS:
- Education via utility bill reduction strategies
- Put visuals projected on walls (i.e. strip malls)
- Integrate in school curriculum

KEY PLAYERS: PSAs (via government agencies), people in this room, MCPS, non-profit conservation groups

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Potential Strategies/Actions (including partners and their roles):

IDEAS:

- Students pass an environmental competency test
- Weed Warrior program expanded
- Impervious surface tax and credit (tax reduced for mitigation)
- TV commercials
- Neighborhood tree-planting contest
- Coupon for tree-planting

KEY PLAYERS: Community organizations, Park and Planning, Government

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Potential Strategies/Actions (including partners and their roles):

IDEAS:

- Cost/benefit model
- Incentives for financial behavior modification, tools like real-cost
- Valuing the ecological services provided

KEY PLAYERS : County regulations/government agencies

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Potential Strategies/Actions (including partners and their roles):

IDEAS:
- Information and resource sharing
- Developing new resources
- Make use of volunteers
- Image of sustainability- what does it look like?- how we build? Preserve green infrastructure?

KEY PLAYERS : Developers, planners, zoning board, media, peer localities (similar communities to MoCo with success), residents/community members

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