

## 6. Natural Resources

**Goal:** Promote and protect natural resources and opportunities for recreation through public access and conservation. A key component of this goal is the desire for community beautification of public and private land through behavior change to reduce littering and through an increased focus on landscaping maintenance of property.

### Policies

6.1 Efforts should be made to build community awareness of current cultural, recreational and natural resources by continuing to utilize VALOR, a web-based data management system which provides informational resources to local officials and the public.

6.2 Canopy roads should be protected.

6.3 Areas where natural processes would be endangered by development (i.e. floodplains, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, etc.) should be conserved.

6.4 Riparian buffers of local rivers should be protected.

6.5 Alternative methods for paving dirt roads that protect natural resources and preserve the rural atmosphere should be considered.

6.6 The reestablishment of a greenspace program to establish a connected network of greenspaces and parkland should be considered.

6.7 The consistent enforcement and full consideration and evaluation of water and air permits and state environmental regulations should be encouraged, in order to protect the region's natural resources.

6.8 Innovative site design should be utilized to promote on-site detention, reduce stormwater runoff, and utilize public sanitary sewer systems in areas not suitable for on-site absorption systems.

6.9 Opportunities should be identified to optimize and cost effectively manage existing and future supplies of water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure delivery systems.

6.10 Municipal Best Management Practices for stormwater should be encouraged.

6.11 The community should coordinate with our neighbors upstream to address flooding and other problems associated with impervious surfaces.

6.12 Growth should be directed away from natural and conservation areas, and low-impact development that preserves natural areas and cultural/historic resources should be encouraged.

6.13 Education should be provided to citizens and the development community regarding natural processes of greenspaces, forestry practices such as prescribed burns, and available incentive programs for conservation.