

# BioMap and Living Waters

## Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts

### Core Habitats of Lanesborough

This report and associated map provide information about important sites for biodiversity conservation in your area.

This information is intended for conservation planning, and is not intended for use in state regulations.

Produced by:

**Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program  
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Produced in 2004



# BioMap and Living Waters: Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts

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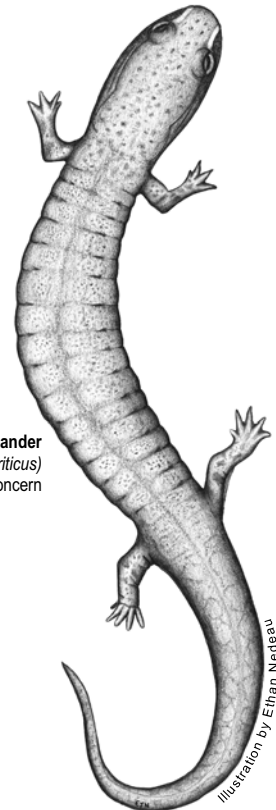
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\* Depending on the location of Core Habitats,  
your city or town may not have all of these sections.



**Spring Salamander**  
(*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*)  
Species of Special Concern

Illustration by Ethan Nedean

*Funding for this project was made available by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, contributions to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund, and through the State Wildlife Grants Program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.*



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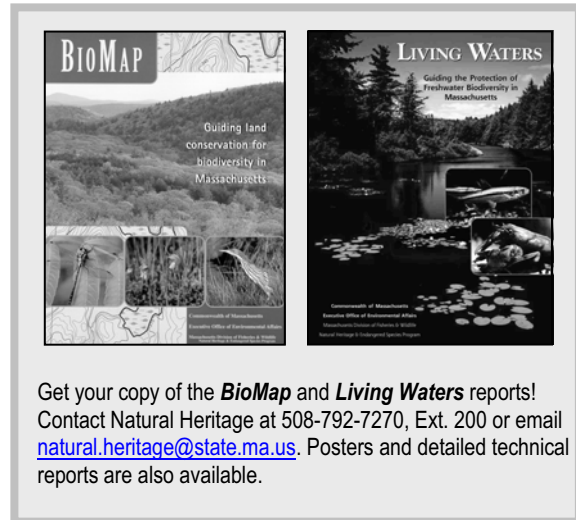
## Introduction

In this report, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program provides you with site-specific biodiversity information for your area. Protecting our biodiversity today will help ensure the full variety of species and natural communities that comprise our native flora and fauna will persist for generations to come.

The information in this report is the result of two statewide biodiversity conservation planning projects, *BioMap* and *Living Waters*. The goal of the BioMap project, completed in 2001, was to identify and delineate the most important areas for the long-term viability of terrestrial, wetland, and estuarine elements of biodiversity in Massachusetts. The goal of the Living Waters project, completed in 2003, was to identify and delineate the rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds that are important for freshwater biodiversity in the Commonwealth. These two conservation plans are based on documented observations of rare species, natural communities, and exemplary habitats.

## What is a Core Habitat?

Both BioMap and Living Waters delineate *Core Habitats* that identify the most critical sites for biodiversity conservation across the state. Core Habitats represent habitat for the state's most viable rare plant and animal populations and include exemplary natural communities and aquatic habitats. Core Habitats represent a wide diversity of rare species and natural communities (see Table 1), and these areas are also thought to contain virtually all of the other described species in Massachusetts. Statewide, BioMap Core Habitats encompass 1,380,000 acres of uplands and wetlands, and Living Waters identifies 429 Core Habitats in rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.



## Core Habitats and Land Conservation

One of the most effective ways to protect biodiversity for future generations is to protect Core Habitats from adverse human impacts through land conservation. For Living Waters Core Habitats, protection efforts should focus on the *riparian areas*, the areas of land adjacent to water bodies. A naturally vegetated buffer that extends 330 feet (100 meters) from the water's edge helps to maintain cooler water temperature and to maintain the nutrients, energy, and natural flow of water needed by freshwater species.

## In Support of Core Habitats

To further ensure the protection of Core Habitats and Massachusetts' biodiversity in the long-term, the BioMap and Living Waters projects identify two additional areas that help support Core Habitats.

In BioMap, areas shown as *Supporting Natural Landscape* provide buffers around the Core Habitats, connectivity between Core Habitats, sufficient space for ecosystems to function, and contiguous undeveloped habitat for common species. Supporting Natural Landscape was



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generated using a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model, and its exact boundaries are less important than the general areas that it identifies. Supporting Natural Landscape represents potential land protection priorities once Core Habitat protection has been addressed.

In Living Waters, *Critical Supporting Watersheds* highlight the immediate portion of the watershed that sustains, or possibly degrades, each freshwater Core Habitat. These areas were also identified using a GIS model. Critical Supporting Watersheds represent developed and undeveloped lands, and can be quite large. Critical Supporting Watersheds can be helpful in land-use planning, and while they are not shown on these maps, they can be viewed in the Living Waters report or downloaded from [www.mass.gov/mgis](http://www.mass.gov/mgis).

## Understanding Core Habitat Species, Community, and Habitat Lists

### What's in the List?

Included in this report is a list of the species, natural communities, and/or aquatic habitats for each Core Habitat in your city or town. The lists are organized by Core Habitat number.

For the larger Core Habitats that span more than one town, the species and community lists refer to the entire Core Habitat, not just the portion that falls within your city or town. For a list of all the state-listed rare species within your city or town's boundary, whether or not they are in Core Habitat, please see the town rare species lists available at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).

The list of species and communities within a Core Habitat contains only the species and

**Table 1.** The number of rare species and types of natural communities explicitly included in the BioMap and Living Waters conservation plans, relative to the total number of native species statewide.

BioMap		
Biodiversity Group	Species and Verified Natural Community Types	
	Included in BioMap	Total Statewide
Vascular Plants	246	1,538
Birds	21	221 breeding species
Reptiles	11	25
Amphibians	6	21
Mammals	4	85
Moths and Butterflies	52	An estimated 2,500 to 3,000
Damselflies and Dragonflies	25	An estimated 165
Beetles	10	An estimated 2,500 to 4,000
Natural Communities	92	> 105 community types
Living Waters		
Biodiversity Group	Species	
	Included in Living Waters	Total Statewide
Aquatic Vascular Plants	23	114
Fishes	11	57
Mussels	7	12
Aquatic Invertebrates	23	An estimated > 2500

natural communities that were explicitly included in a given BioMap or Living Waters Core Habitat. Other rare species or examples of other natural communities may fall within the Core Habitat, but for various reasons are not included in the list. For instance, there are a few rare species that are omitted from the list or summary because of their particular sensitivity to the threat of collection. Likewise, the content of many very small Core Habitats are not described in this report or list, often because they contain a single location of a rare plant



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species. Some Core Habitats were created for suites of common species, such as forest birds, which are particularly threatened by habitat fragmentation. In these cases, the individual common species are not listed.

## What does ‘Status’ mean?

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife determines a status category for each rare species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, M.G.L. c.131A, and its implementing regulations, 321 CMR 10.00. Rare species are categorized as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern according to the following:

- **Endangered** species are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range or are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts.
- **Threatened** species are likely to become Endangered in Massachusetts in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
- **Special Concern** species have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked or occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become Threatened in Massachusetts.

In addition, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program maintains an unofficial **watch list** of plants that are tracked due to potential conservation interest or concern, but are not regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act or other laws or regulations. Likewise, described natural communities are not regulated any laws or regulations, but they can help to identify ecologically important areas that are worthy of protection. The status of natural

## Legal Protection of Biodiversity

BioMap and Living Waters present a powerful vision of what Massachusetts would look like with full protection of the land that supports most of our biodiversity. To create this vision, some populations of state-listed rare species were deemed more likely to survive over the long-term than others.

Regardless of their potential viability, all sites of state-listed species have full legal protection under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. c.131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). Habitat of state-listed wildlife is also protected under the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.37 and 10.59). The **Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas** shows **Priority Habitats**, which are used for regulation under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G.L. c.30) and **Estimated Habitats**, which are used for regulation of rare wildlife habitat under the Wetlands Protection Act. For more information on rare species regulations, see the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas*, available from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program in book and CD formats.

BioMap and Living Waters are conservation planning tools and do not, in any way, supplant the Estimated and Priority Habitat Maps which have regulatory significance. Unless and until the combined BioMap and Living Waters vision is fully realized, we must continue to protect all populations of our state-listed species and their habitats through environmental regulation.

communities reflects the documented number and acreages of each community type in the state:

- **Critically Imperiled** communities typically have 5 or fewer documented sites or have very few remaining acres in the state.
- **Imperiled** communities typically have 6-20 sites or few remaining acres in the state.
- **Vulnerable** communities typically have 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state.
- **Secure** communities typically have over 100 sites or abundant acreage across the state; however excellent examples are identified as Core Habitat to ensure continued protection.



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## Understanding Core Habitat Summaries

Following the BioMap and Living Waters Core Habitat species and community lists, there is a descriptive summary of each Core Habitat that occurs in your city or town. This summary highlights some of the outstanding characteristics of each Core Habitat, and will help you learn more about your city or town's biodiversity. You can find out more information about many of these species and natural communities by looking at specific *fact sheets* at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).

## Next Steps

BioMap and Living Waters were created in part to help cities and towns prioritize their land protection efforts. While there are many reasons to conserve land – drinking water protection, recreation, agriculture, aesthetics, and others – BioMap and Living Waters Core Habitats are especially helpful to municipalities seeking to protect the rare species, natural communities, and overall biodiversity within their boundaries. Please use this report and map along with the rare species and community fact sheets to appreciate and understand the biological treasures in your city or town.

## Protecting Larger Core Habitats

Core Habitats vary considerably in size. For example, the average BioMap Core Habitat is 800 acres, but Core Habitats can range from less than 10 acres to greater than 100,000 acres. These larger areas reflect the amount of land needed by some animal species for breeding, feeding, nesting, overwintering, and long-term survival. Protecting areas of this size can be

very challenging, and requires developing partnerships with neighboring towns.

Prioritizing the protection of certain areas within larger Core Habitats can be accomplished through further consultation with Natural Heritage Program biologists, and through additional field research to identify the most important areas of the Core Habitat.

## Additional Information

If you have any questions about this report, or if you need help protecting land for biodiversity in your community, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program staff looks forward to working with you.

Contact the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program:

*by Phone* 508-792-7270, Ext. 200

*by Fax:* 508-792-7821

*by Email:* [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us).

*by Mail:* North Drive  
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The GIS datalayers of BioMap and Living Waters Core Habitats are available for download from MassGIS: [www.mass.gov/mgis](http://www.mass.gov/mgis)

Check out [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org) for information on:

- Rare species in your town
- Rare species fact sheets
- BioMap and Living Waters projects
- Natural Heritage publications, including:
  - \* Field guides
  - \* Natural Heritage Atlas, and more!



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# BioMap: Species and Natural Communities

## Lanesborough

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### Core Habitat BM130

#### Natural Communities

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Acidic Rocky Summit/Rock Outcrop Community		Secure
Calcareous Rock Cliff Community		Vulnerable
Calcareous Rocky Summit/Rock Outcrop Community		Imperiled
Calcareous Talus Forest/Woodland		Vulnerable
High Elevation Spruce - Fir Forest/Woodland		Imperiled
Rich, Mesic Forest Community		Vulnerable
Spruce - Fir - Northern Hardwoods Forest		Secure
Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamp		Vulnerable

#### Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bailey's Sedge	<i>Carex baileyi</i>	Endangered
Bartram's Shadbush	<i>Amelanchier bartramiana</i>	Threatened
Black-Fruited Woodrush	<i>Luzula parviflora ssp melanocarpa</i>	Endangered
Bristly Black Currant	<i>Ribes lacustre</i>	Special Concern
Broad Waterleaf	<i>Hydrophyllum canadense</i>	Endangered
Fen Sedge	<i>Carex tetanica</i>	Special Concern
Gattinger's Panic-Grass	<i>Panicum gattingeri</i>	Special Concern
Hairy Wood-Mint	<i>Blephilia hirsuta</i>	Endangered
Hemlock Parsley	<i>Conioselinum chinense</i>	Special Concern
Large-Leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago macrophylla</i>	Threatened
Mountain Cranberry	<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea ssp minus</i>	Endangered
Northern Bedstraw	<i>Galium boreale</i>	Endangered
Northern Bog Violet	<i>Viola nephrophylla</i>	Endangered



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# BioMap: Species and Natural Communities

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Northern Mountain-Ash	<i>Sorbus decora</i>	Endangered
Northern Prickly Rose	<i>Rosa acicularis</i>	Endangered
Sensitive Rare Plant		
Smooth Rock-Cress	<i>Arabis laevigata</i>	Threatened
Stiff Gentian	<i>Gentianella quinquefolia</i>	Watch Listed
Woodland Millet	<i>Milium effusum</i>	Threatened

### Invertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Dion Skipper	<i>Euphyes dion</i>	Threatened
Early Hairstreak	<i>Erora laeta</i>	Threatened
Elderberry Long-Horned Beetle	<i>Desmocerus palliatus</i>	Special Concern
Tule Bluet	<i>Enallagma carunculatum</i>	Special Concern

### Vertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bat Hibernaculum		-----
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Special Concern
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Special Concern
Long-Tailed Shrew	<i>Sorex dispar</i>	Special Concern
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Special Concern
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Special Concern

### Core Habitat BM489

#### Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Small Site for Rare Plant		



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# BioMap: Species and Natural Communities

## Lanesborough

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### Core Habitat BM492

#### Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Barren Strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i>	Special Concern
Crooked-Stem Aster	<i>Symphotrichum prenanthoides</i>	Threatened

#### Vertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bat Hibernaculum		-----
Bird Migration Habitat		-----
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Special Concern
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Special Concern

### Core Habitat BM502

#### Natural Communities

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Rich, Mesic Forest Community		Vulnerable

#### Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Great Laurel	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Threatened

#### Invertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Eastern Veined White	<i>Pieris oleracea</i>	Threatened

#### Vertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Special Concern



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# BioMap: Species and Natural Communities

## Lanesborough

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### Core Habitat BM597

#### Natural Communities

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Black Ash-Red Maple-Tamarack  
Calcareous Seepage Swamp

Imperiled

### Core Habitat BM598

#### Plants

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Small Site for Rare Plant

### Core Habitat BM601

#### Plants

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Small Site for Rare Plant



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# BioMap: Core Habitat Summaries

## Lanesborough

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### Core Habitat BM130

This large Core Habitat contains many high-quality natural communities associated with the slopes and summits of Mount Greylock and surrounds. Together these habitats support tremendous biodiversity with many rare species that are adapted to the cooler, montane environment. The Core Habitat contains dozens of rare plant populations, as well as habitat for rare butterflies and damselflies. It is one of the most important areas in the state for Spring Salamanders and one of the few areas to find two rare songbirds. It contains one of the state's few known populations of Long-tailed Shrews and an important underground overwintering area for bats. Along the Mount Greylock ridgeline, this Core Habitat includes the largest High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest community in the state. While part of this Core Habitat is protected as conservation land, important areas of habitat remain unprotected.

#### Natural Communities

This large Core Habitat contains many of the exemplary natural communities that occur on the slopes and summits in the Mount Greylock area. Incredibly forceful and interesting geologic events created Mount Greylock as it appears today. Pockets of nutrient-rich rocks, occasionally associated with marble cliffs and outcrops, have resulted in patches of Rich, Mesic Forest on the mountain's lower slopes that support many rare plant species. The largest High Elevation Spruce-Fir Forest in the state occurs along the Mount Greylock ridgeline. Here, atop Massachusetts' highest mountain, Balsam Fir and Red Spruce trees are stunted from extreme exposure to the wind. Poorly drained basins associated with this ridgeline contain good examples of Spruce-Fir Boreal Swamps. These two natural community types are rarely found in Massachusetts, but are more commonly found in the taller mountains to our north.

#### Plants

This Core Habitat contains dozens of rare plant populations. Many of these rare plant species are adapted to cool temperatures and montane habitats. Two of the state's best populations of the Large-Leaved Goldenrod, which grows in mountainous areas, are found here. It is also home to two large and healthy populations of Bristly Black Currant and several populations of Bartram's Shadbush. The Hairy Wood-Mint is found in this area, as are the very uncommon Northern Prickly Rose, Northern Mountain Ash, and Black-Fruited Woodrush. Lower-elevation areas within this Core Habitat support other rare plant species such as Bailey's Sedge, which is known for its unusual mace-shaped fruiting clusters.

#### Invertebrates

This Core Habitat includes important habitat for a variety of rare insect species, including the Early Hairstreak butterfly, which inhabits Northern Hardwoods Forest with a complement of Beech; the Dion Skipper butterfly, a species of calcareous fens; the Elderberry Longhorned Beetle, which inhabits wetlands and meadows with thickets of Elderberry; and the Tule Bluet damselfly, a species of lakes such as the Mount Williams Reservoir. This Core Habitat is located less than 5 km from Core Habitat in Florida and Savoy, which probably allows for occasional dispersal of Early Hairstreak butterflies and other rare insect species between these two areas.



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### Vertebrates

Numerous cold, high-gradient brooks and headwater seeps make this one of the most important Core Habitats in the state for protecting extensive, connected populations of Spring Salamanders. Significant habitat for Jefferson Salamanders occurs at lower elevations near clusters of vernal pools within deciduous forests. This is one of the few areas of the state that supports breeding Blackpoll Warblers and Mourning Warblers, two species of songbirds found more commonly in forests of northern New England. Rocky forests at upper elevations provide habitat for one of the few documented populations of Long-tailed Shrews in the state. This Core Habitat also contains forested habitat around the entrance to an important bat hibernaculum (underground overwintering area). Although this Core Habitat is anchored by the large block of conservation land protected within Mount Greylock State Reservation, other large and important areas to the east, west, and south remain unprotected.

### Core Habitat BM492

This large Core Habitat encompasses extensive mixed forest habitats and cold, high-gradient brooks within Pittsfield State Forest and surrounding unprotected lands. These areas provide significant habitat for Spring and Jefferson Salamanders, overwintering bats, migrating and breeding birds, as well as rare plants such as the Crooked-Stem Aster. Parts of this Core Habitat are protected as conservation land, and further protection of large and important areas at lower elevations is needed.

### Plants

This Core Habitat contains populations of both the rare Crooked-Stem Aster and the Barren Strawberry.

### Vertebrates

A number of brooks flowing down both the east and west slopes of this 9 mile-long section of the Taconic Range provide extensive and connected habitats for Spring Salamanders in this Core Habitat. Significant habitat for Jefferson Salamanders may be associated with vernal pools in deciduous forests at lower elevations. The large Core Habitat provides extensive breeding and migration habitat for a number of species of land birds. It also contains an important bat hibernaculum (underground overwintering area).



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# BioMap: Core Habitat Summaries

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### Core Habitat BM502

On the slopes of North and Weston Mountains, this Core Habitat encompasses many miles of coldwater streams that support Spring Salamanders. It also includes a large area of Northern Hardwoods forest that is home to the Eastern Veined White butterfly, and a small but diverse area of Rich, Mesic Woods.

#### Natural Communities

This large Core Habitat contains 35 acres of Rich, Mesic Forest in Dalton. Rich, Mesic Forests are a variant of northern hardwood forests dominated by Sugar Maple with a diverse herbaceous layer and many spring ephemerals, unusual plants that appear only in spring, in a moist, nutrient-rich environment. These woods have high species diversity, including Sugar Maple, Basswood, Leatherwood, Elderberry, Maidenhair Fern, Blue Cohosh, and Wild Leek, among others. Unfortunately the rich nutrient conditions also make the sites attractive to many exotic invasive plant species.

#### Plants

A small population of the showy Great Laurel (Threatened) is growing within this Core Habitat.

#### Invertebrates

The southwestern portion of this Core Habitat (in western Dalton, southeastern Lanesborough, and northeastern Pittsfield) includes a tract of undeveloped and unfragmented Northern Hardwoods forest with sunny openings that is inhabited by the rare Eastern Veined White butterfly. This Core Habitat is located less than 10 km from Core Habitats in Windsor and Pittsfield, which probably allows for the dispersal of Eastern Veined Whites between these areas. While some of this Core Habitat is on protected land, including the Appalachian Trail corridor and the Chalet Wildlife Management Area, much of it appears to be unprotected.

#### Vertebrates

This is an elongate, multi-lobed Core Habitat along the slopes of North Mountain. It contains over 16 miles of coldwater, high-gradient brooks and headwater seeps that support populations of Spring Salamanders. The majority of this Core Habitat is protected within the boundaries of the Chalet Wildlife Management Area.

### Core Habitat BM597

#### Natural Communities

This Core Habitat contains a good example of a Black Ash-Red Maple-Tamarack Calcareous Seepage Swamp. In Massachusetts, this unusual natural community type is found primarily in the western part of the state where mixed deciduous-coniferous forested swamps occur in areas with calcium-rich groundwater seepage. This nutrient enrichment results in many rare calcium-loving plant species.



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# Living Waters: Species and Habitats

## Lanesborough

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### Core Habitat LW298

#### Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Comb Water-Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum verticillatum</i>	Endangered
Flat Water-meal	<i>Wolffia borealis</i>	Watch Listed
Straight-leaf Pondweed	<i>Potamogeton strictifolius</i>	Endangered
Water Star-grass	<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Watch Listed

#### Invertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Appalachian Brook Crayfish	<i>Cambarus bartonii</i>	Special Concern

#### Fishes

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bridle Shiner	<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Special Concern
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	Special Concern



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# Living Waters: Core Habitat Summaries

## Lanesborough

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### Core Habitat LW298

This Core Habitat encompasses a range of standing water and flowing water habitats that support rare fishes, invertebrates, and plants.

The running waters of Kitchen Brook, South Brook, Macdonald Brook, and the upper reaches of the Hoosic River support the Longnose Sucker, a fish Species of Special Concern. This species is restricted to the western watersheds of Massachusetts, where it is found in cold, clean, oxygen-rich streams with gravel bottoms. The Longnose Sucker sometimes migrates many miles to reach its spawning grounds. The eggs are released over the gravel bottom, making them susceptible to excess sedimentation, flow alterations, and increases in water temperature. These habitat degradations can be particularly detrimental to the reproductive success of this slow-growing fish that does not reach maturity until 5 to 7 years of age.

Kitchen Brook is also habitat for the Appalachian Brook Crayfish, a Species of Special Concern. This secretive crayfish is restricted to the Hoosic River Watershed in Massachusetts, where it tunnels under large rocks and boulders in hillstreams. Potential threats to the Appalachian Brook Crayfish include competition from introduced, non-native crayfish species as well as habitat degradation from damming or development in the adjacent riparian areas.

In the well-vegetated, quieter waters of the Cheshire Reservoir and Berkshire Pond, this Core Habitat supports the rare Bridle Shiner. This fish Species of Special Concern has a small range from southern New England to South Carolina, and has been declining or extirpated in much of the region. It feeds on small aquatic insects and other invertebrates, and is an important part of the freshwater ecosystem as prey for larger fishes.

Cheshire Reservoir and Berkshire Pond also create an important aquatic complex that supports four rare or uncommon aquatic plant species. Native freshwater plants are an important component of aquatic ecosystems, providing habitat and nutrition for fishes and invertebrates, and adding oxygen to the water through photosynthesis.



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