

A New Way of Seeing the Landscape: Tools for Helping Engineers and Licensed Designers Develop with Natural Resources in Mind

December 8, 2015 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Noble Hall Lounge - Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier

This course is approved for 2 Non-Soil credits for Licensed Designers

Register at:

www.eventbrite.com/e/a-new-way-of-seeing-the-landscape-tickets-19301038927

Civil engineers and licensed designers are key players in land development, providing advice to their clients that can influence how land is subdivided, developed, and managed in Vermont. These decisions create the built and natural landscapes that characterize the identity of the state.

Much of Vermont's economy - including real estate, second home development, tourism, working lands, and recreation - is built on this brand and relies on a high-quality landscape. Part of what contributes to a high quality landscape are healthy watersheds, intact and productive forests, and wildlife habitat

Given the importance of an intact, scenic, and healthy landscape to Vermont, this workshop-style training will focus on **developing with natural resources in mind**. It will provide engineers and licensed designers with background information and strategies for a)

including natural resources in discussions with landowners; b) maintaining viable working forests; (c) promoting strategic site design for natural resource conservation; (d) reducing forest and habitat fragmentation; and e) encouraging options for forestland management and conservation during the land development process.





For engineers and licensed designers, fluency in discussing how natural resource and community values relates with clients is a value-added service for clients – an important skill as consumers of all kinds have increasing awareness of, and interest in, “green” approaches.

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss best practices on the ground and perspectives on the realities of working with clients

The curriculum will include:

- ways to talk with clients about developing with natural resources in mind
- presentation of strategies (regulatory and non-regulatory) and site design considerations for shaping development patterns to benefit the landscape, while also being mindful of typical landowner expectations and engineering constraints
- ways to talk with clients about the benefit of promoting long-term ownership of forests
- background information on the value of keeping forestland and habitat intact – why this is important
- a hands-on modeling exercise that utilizes the tools presented in the lecture

By the end of this session, participants will:

- understand the value of developing in a manner that supports the functions of a parcel for maintaining healthy forests, wildlife habitat, and water quality functions
- understand how different development and conservation techniques can be utilized to maintain natural resource values
- gain tools and techniques to help minimize forest fragmentation and promote healthy intact forests
- learn ways to talk about these issues with clients

Workshop Agenda

Total duration: 4 hours, plus break

8:45 - 9:00 AM	Arrival and refreshments
9:00 AM	Welcome, introductions, and program overview
9:10 AM	Integrating natural resource concepts into planning and discussions with landowners
10:00 AM	Maintaining viable working forests/programs and planning considerations
10:30 AM	Break
10:40 AM	Land use trends/how to use local zoning/subdivision standards
11:10 AM	Planning alternative development/site design and conservation considerations/smart project footprint
11:40 AM	Modeling exercise
12:20 PM	Modeling exercise debrief, Q&A
12:55 PM	Wrap up and exit survey

Presenters

Jamey Fidel, Forest and Wildlife Program Director, General Counsel, Vermont Natural Resources Council

Jamey Fidel – Jamey is Forest and Wildlife Program Director and General Counsel for Vermont Natural Resources Council. In his capacity at VNRC, he leads the Forest Roundtable, which is a quarterly meeting of diverse stakeholders focused on forest policy and forest management and conservation issues in Vermont. Jamey also works with communities across Vermont promoting planning, zoning, and non-regulatory strategies for forestland and wildlife habitat conservation. Jamey has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and a Minor in Wildlife Biology from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont and a Juris Doctor and Masters in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. He lives with his family in Waitsfield where he has served on the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board.

Jens Hawkins-Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, Community Wildlife Program, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Jens Hilke works for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department as a Conservation Planning Biologist. He helps towns, regional planning commissions and non-governmental organizations with their conservation planning efforts. This includes help with GIS natural resource mapping, advice on prioritizing significant natural features and help with implementing town conservation goals. Jens did his undergraduate work at Connecticut College in Environmental Sociology and then got a Masters in Botany from the University of Vermont as a Field Naturalist. Jens has taught high school science in Vermont, New Hampshire, and New Jersey and for a study-away program in Thailand, Southeast Asia.

Peter Lazorchak, Vice President – Principal Engineer, Wilcox & Barton, Inc.

Peter is a civil and environmental engineer with nearly 20 years in the consulting industry. He maintains expertise in stormwater management, onsite wastewater disposal, site design and land use planning. He strives to provide solutions to his clients that balance natural resource protection with the built landscape by utilizing low impact development (LID) techniques and designing green infrastructure. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a minor in Economics from Lehigh University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Vermont, a Vermont Class B Licensed Designer, and a LEED Accredited Professional.

Presenters

Kate McCarthy, Sustainable Communities Program Director, Vermont Natural Resources Council

Kate is a land use and environmental planner with interests in smart growth and regional planning. Her work at the Vermont Natural Resources Council focuses on building sustainable, compact communities that provide residents with choice, support open space and working lands, and reduce energy consumption. Prior to working in the non-profit world, she worked as a regional planner for the Windham Regional Commission in Brattleboro, where she focused on town technical assistance, supported the Brownfields program, and oversaw the Commission's energy program. She has also worked with GrowSmart Maine on the *Maine Model Town* project in Standish, Maine, which ultimately led to the town's adoption of an alternative type of land use regulation (form-based code) in 2011. Before beginning her career in planning, Kate worked in the field of international education, as study abroad advisor and then interim director of Study Abroad & Exchange Programs at Central Washington University. Kate holds a Master of Regional Planning from Cornell University, and a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Rice University.

Keith Thompson, Private Lands Program Manager, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation

Keith Thompson works with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR). He has worked as a private consulting forester, and then the Chittenden County Forester with FPR prior to beginning work as the Private Lands Program Manager coordinating the work of Vermont's County Foresters. Keith lives in Winooski and when he's not working, or playing with his new son, he's making time to walk his talk on his land in Underhill.