

Forest Conservation at Audubon Society of Rhode Island



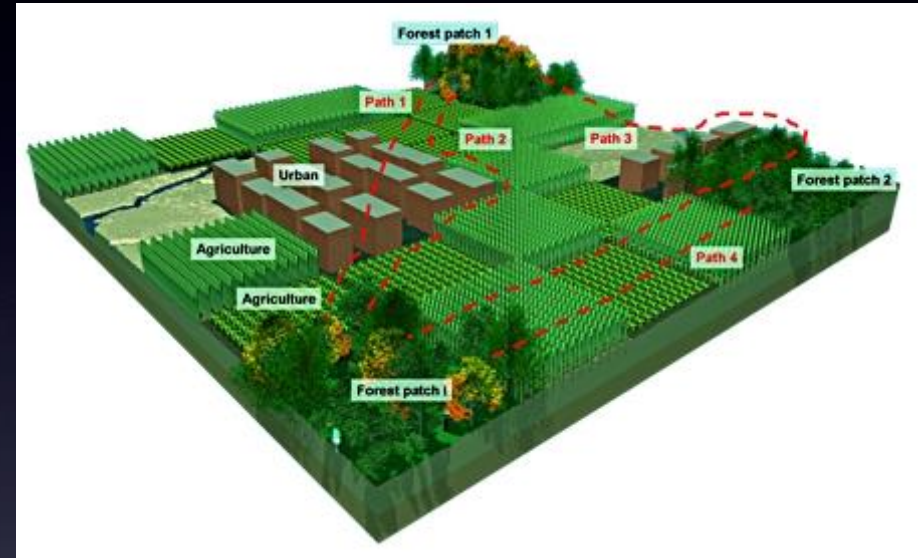
Scott Ruhren, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Conservation

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Audubon Forest Conservation Practices

- Larger, core forests are better for wildlife
- Reduce habitat fragmentation
- Connect protected lands
- Protect corridors



Audubon Forest Conservation Strategies

- Inventory natural features and develop management plans
- Steward (manage and protect) properties appropriately (not “benign neglect”)
- Leave it alone is not the same as do nothing
- Restore when possible (species, buffers, corridors etc.)

Audubon Forest Conservation Practices

Maintain -

- Biodiversity
- Forest productivity
- Forest regeneration
- Forest functions
- Native species, control
invasives



Audubon Forest Conservation Practices

Protect -

- Forest birds
- Pollinators
- Reptiles and amphibians
- Other animals
- Special plants



Audubon Forest Trails, Roads and Debris



- Safe access in public refuges
- Woody debris is natural
- Disturbance (even fire) is natural and creates gaps and patches

Audubon Forest Management Responses

- Invasive species control
- Tree die-off and disease



Forests and Fire



Long history of humans and forests

