

Revised Request for Proposal (RFP)

Charlotte Conservation Commission – Habitat Connectivity Mapping Update

1. Overview

The Charlotte Conservation Commission (CCC), on behalf of the Town of Charlotte (TOC), is accepting proposals for consultant services to develop and deliver an updated **Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Corridor Map**. The purpose of this project is to identify and map **priority wildlife corridors and habitat connectors** within the Town of Charlotte to support ecological connectivity, species movement, and landscape-scale conservation planning.

This project will refine and update connectivity-related elements of the Significant Wildlife Habitat Map completed in 2008, focusing specifically on **linkage habitats, wildlife corridors, and landscape permeability for wildlife movement**.

This effort will support updates to the Town Plan, meet Act 171 directives related to forest block connectivity, and advance Act 59 biodiversity conservation goals. The resulting map and supporting documentation will be used by the Conservation Commission, Planning Commission, DRB and Town staff to inform conservation planning and development review.

This RFP seeks proposals from qualified consultants to identify, analyze, and map wildlife movement corridors and linkage habitats using GIS-based landscape modeling and existing datasets. Work on other habitat types (e.g., forest blocks, aquatic habitat, shrublands) as well as field verification is **explicitly excluded** from this scope.

2. Goals

Project Goals

1. Habitat Connectivity Mapping

- Identify and map linkage habitats, wildlife corridors, and stepping-stone habitats using GIS modeling, landscape resistance analyses, and existing regional datasets.
- Produce updated GIS layers for:
 - Wildlife linkage corridors
 - Connectivity nodes and stepping-stone habitats
 - Landscape permeability / resistance surfaces

2. Connectivity Change and Fragmentation Analysis

- Evaluate changes in landscape connectivity since the 2008 Significant Wildlife Habitat Map, including fragmentation from development, roads, and land cover change.
- Identify priority areas where connectivity has been lost or is at risk.

3. Data Integration and Public Access

- Coordinate with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to integrate connectivity datasets into regional GIS platforms.

2. Final Documentation

- Deliver a Final Report describing methods, assumptions, datasets, corridor prioritization criteria, and recommendations for conservation and land-use planning and development review.

3. Project Scope and Funding

The scope of this project is limited to **habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors only** and includes the following minimum tasks:

1. GIS-Based Connectivity Modeling

- Compile and analyze publicly available datasets (e.g., land cover, topography, roads, conserved lands, wildlife habitat datasets).
- Develop resistance surfaces and connectivity models (e.g., least-cost paths, circuit theory, or similar accepted methodologies).
- Produce town-wide corridor and linkage habitat GIS layers.

2. Connectivity Change Assessment

- Compare current connectivity conditions with the 2008 Significant Wildlife Habitat Map and other historical datasets.
- Identify major fragmentation drivers and priority restoration or protection areas.

3. Data Delivery and Reporting

- Provide GIS data layers compatible with CCRPC and Town systems.
- Produce a Final Report documenting methodology, findings, and recommendations for conservation planning and development review.

Explicit Exclusions from Scope

The following tasks are **outside the scope of this project**:

- Field visits, field surveys, or ground-truthing
- Wildlife monitoring, camera trapping, or biological inventories
- Mapping or assessment of forest blocks, aquatic habitats, shrublands, or habitat quality metrics unrelated to connectivity

4. Schedule

June 2, 2026	RFP Released
June 17, 2026	Deadline for proposal submissions
June 18-21, 2026	Review of Proposals by the Charlotte Conservation Commission
June 22, 2026	Review by Selectboard
June 24, 2026	Selection of Consultant Announced

5. Proposal Guidelines

Requirements:

- Proposed methodology, including project timeline and key milestones
- Detailed cost proposal broken down by phase and task (total project budget is \$xxx)
- Evidence of professional liability insurance

This Request for Proposal (RFP) represents the requirements for an open and competitive process. Any questions regarding this RFP should be submitted via email to the Charlotte Town Administrator at townadmin@townofcharlotte.org.

If the organization submitting a proposal must outsource or contract any work to meet the requirements contained herein, this must be clearly stated in the proposal. Additionally, all costs included in proposals must be all-inclusive to include any outsourced or contracted work. Any proposals which call for outsourcing or contracting work must include a name and description of the organizations being contracted.

All costs must be itemized to include an explanation of all fees and costs.

Contract terms and conditions will be negotiated upon selection of the winning bidder for this RFP.