BSC GROUP

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Nature-Based Solutions Implementation Resource Guide

Nature-based Solution (NbS): Habitat Enhancement

Project Number per matrix: **60**

PREREQUISITES

- Coordinate restoration with funder (e.g., MA MVP), if applicable, and Local Master Plan.
- Obtain Town or City Conservation Commission/landowner approval.
- Obtain appropriate permits.

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

- **Project Planning and Administration**
  - Assess opportunities for coordinated habitat enhancement and educational resources.
  - Assess bordering threats such as human interference, predators, microclimate, or vegetation constraints
  - Coordinate efforts to support or retain species that are present but threatened.
  - Select locations based on connections to necessary species resources.
  - Use materials found on-site to the extent feasible.
  - Consider project stacking adding habitat to other design features.
  - Ensure project budgets and contracts with private companies include sufficient retainage for maintenance and establishment period and coordination costs for oversight.
- **NbS Installation**
  - Installation of erosion control measures where required but not typically needed.
  - Installation of snag trees, brush piles, stone cairns, puddle stones, logs, root wads, nesting boxes, nesting terrain, forage plantings, habitat plantings, and/or interpretation features.
  - Installation can be through Volunteer efforts or private contractors.
  - Site preparation, or clear and grub, through DCR or private contractor. Site preparation to include invasive vegetation removal.
  - Typically, minimal intentional soil disruption or significant excavation beyond that necessary to install enhancements.
- **Maintenance**
  - Conduct annual maintenance for constructed features and standard maintenance and establishment practices for plantings, replacement of failed plantings, and water as needed to naturalize plantings.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTION SPECS

- Typical project size: Minimal, 5-10’.
- Minimum/maximum size: Size is variable and scalable

BUDGET ESTIMATE

- Typical project budget (order of magnitude): $1,000-$7,000 (alternate DIY)
- Use the BSC Group Nature-based Solutions budget tool to develop more detailed concept budgets

SCHEDULE ESTIMATE

- 1 day of construction per unit