
NATURAL RESOURCES

ALBEMARLE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Natural Resources

GOAL: Preserve and manage the County's natural resources in order to protect the environment and conserve resources for future use.

Natural resources in Albemarle include surface water and groundwater resources, biological resources, agricultural and forestry lands, critical slopes, mountains, the dark sky, wooded areas and other natural habitats, soils, air, and minerals. Conservation of natural resources avoids wasteful or destructive uses, and provides for future availability. Unwise use of these resources constitutes a potential danger to the public health, safety, and welfare. It is the County's intent that development and other human activity should adapt to the natural environment, rather than unnecessarily modifying the natural environment with unknown consequences to accommodate development and man's activities.

Regulations, which currently protect natural resources, are referenced under each section. Standards, where applicable, are statements of desirable levels of protection for resources. They are intended to assist in evaluation of rezoning, special use permit, site plan, subdivision, and other reviews, and are presented in the form of recommendations.