

Blackbird-Millington Corridor Conservation Planning  
*November 2004 Draft Strategy Feedback Form*

**Which Protection strategies are the best/worst?**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Best</i>	<i>Worst</i>	<i>Why?</i>
<b>1. Modify the Delaware Agricultural Land Preservation program to provide for state protection of forestland using similar methodology as is currently use for farmland preservation.</b>	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Don't understand what is done for farmland - can't comment</li> <li>◦</li> </ul>
<b>2. Coordinate the efforts of all land-protecting organizations in the Corridor to permanently protect priority areas on private lands (forests, riparian buffers to streams, marshes, coastal plain ponds, and contributing scenic roadways and agricultural areas) by using conservation easements, purchases, and bargain sales strategically and in places appropriate to each.</b>	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ All these marked so the Corridor will not be developments</li> <li>◦ save time and money by not duplicating efforts</li> </ul>
<b>3. Increase and improve the pool of public funds available for land protection that could potentially be used in the Corridor.</b>	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ It would take a lot of incentive to compete with a developer</li> </ul>
<b>4. Overlay or combine forest protection provisions with agricultural preservation easements (existing and future) to provide greater forest protection and enhanced bids.</b>	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Good</li> </ul>
<b>5. Increase forest land protection under Forest Legacy in Blackbird Forest Legacy area.</b>	1		
<b>6. Amend Delaware conservation tax credit law to allow for the sale of credits.</b>		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Wouldn't keep leaks[?] in forest away</li> </ul>
<b>7. Explore opportunities for providing property tax relief for forest landowners.</b>	3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Don't feel this would provide enough incentive</li> <li>◦ Good idea</li> </ul>
<b>8. Support the Delmarva Conservation Corridor initiative and the opportunities it provides to increase Farm Bill funding for land protection.</b>	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Not familiar with Initiative</li> </ul>

◦ It would be helpful to have handouts explaining other policies referenced and impacts of applying these in other areas.

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**Which Economic and Compatible Development strategies are the best/worst?**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Best</i>	<i>Worst</i>	<i>Why?</i>
1. Use local planning to more effectively guide development away from Corridor priority areas.	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The counties will take the lead? Not in Delaware!</li> <li>◦ How?</li> </ul>
2. Explore mechanisms for preserving rural and scenic character of the corridor through better infrastructure planning.	3		
3. Provide technical information/assistance to current and potential farmers (for example, on higher value crops, business planning, alternative and renewable energy crops, and/or retail opportunities and niche markets for small farmers).	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Difficult and expensive for farmer to change crops/equip unless financial assistance provided.</li> </ul>
4. Find ways to minimize impervious coverage through alternative design, non-pervious surfacing and on-site mitigation (filter strips, buffers, etc; where impervious is unavoidable.)	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Hopefully development activities are curtailed in the Corridor so this shouldn't be as important.</li> <li>◦ This question needs rewording with simpler language to better understand approach.</li> </ul>
5. Include agriculture and resource-based industries in the counties' economic development plans and/or as part of comprehensive planning.	1		

- Getting the attention of county & municipal land-use decision makers and giving them technical help could be the most important action.

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**Which Communication and Education strategies are the best/worst?**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Best</i>	<i>Worst</i>	<i>Why?</i>
<b>1. Direct/coordinate/connect environmental education opportunities to/of established centers at DFS and DNERR facilities, and to incorporate MWMA; provide opportunities/information/programs to local schools, scouts, 4H, for including Corridor habitat education in their curriculum.</b>		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Lots of education opportunities already exist; low priority</li> <li>◦</li> </ul>
<b>2. Advocate for coordinated regional planning to continue advancing the conservation agenda of the BMC into the future, potentially by housing a NGO coordinator in the Corridor</b>		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Doesn't really DO anything</li> </ul>
<b>3. Conduct outreach to homeowners and homeowners' associations on how to reduce non-point source pollution from residential areas (lawn care, septic system care, management of yard waste), cost sharing grant opportunities, and Corridor habitat/values.</b>	1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Many associations and individuals including mine want to do projects and be environmentally responsible but have not idea where to go, how to get grants, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Develop and implement an advocacy training program in the Corridor.</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ What's an advocacy training program?</li> </ul>
<b>5. Create a "back-yard habitat" program for residential areas with forests, riparian areas, and/or coastal plain ponds and target to priority areas in the Corridor.</b>		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Already exists</li> </ul>
<b>6. Create new suite of community programs to enhance public awareness and understanding of Corridor issues and priorities and build community connections and support for those priorities.</b>		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Utilize programs that already exist</li> </ul>
<b>7. Provide estate/retirement planning assistance for farmers/landowners in the Corridor.</b>	2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ people desperately need help to figure these programs out</li> <li>◦ Landowners must not sell to developers</li> </ul>

- Education efforts must be targeted at making a difference on the ground. Money and resources will be wasted on feel good general educational stuff.
- Advocacy training program would target resources of people who probably already understand the importance of the Corridor. Should not be ranked high.

- Maybe schools would let you send info home with children.
- Maybe you could put info posters in supermarkets, restaurants, or other public places.
- Public education info/packets about the Natural Resources in the area

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**Which Restoration & Stewardship strategies are the best/worst?**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Best</i>	<i>Worst</i>	<i>Why?</i>
1. Focus new DNREC FW landowner incentive program funds to priority areas in the Corridor for building forest interior and buffers for streams, tidal wetlands, and coastal plain ponds, through reforestation and management.	1		Nothing else matters if the land owners sell to development
2. Increase/consolidate capacity to conduct an active landowner outreach program for restoration (reforestation, buffer creation, invasives control) and BMPs that incorporate information from a variety of programs, including:			
3. Provide technical and cost-sharing assistance to restore riparian, tidal wetland, and coastal plain pond buffers on private properties.			
4. Develop and pilot a program for aggressive and coordinated invasive species control on state and private lands.		1	The presentation said invasives were not a major problem
5. Maximize use of existing Landowner Incentive Programs (LIP) for restoration.			
6. Continue to remove DDA Forest Service and MWMA agricultural lands that are a priority for reforestation from agricultural leases when feasible.			
7. Utilize DDA Forest Service and MWMA programs/efforts to the full extent possible to achieve forest management and protection objectives in the Corridor.			
8. Request EPA 319 funds to use for riparian corridor restoration.			
9. Focus available public land protection and restoration funding and efforts on Corridor priorities to the maximum extent feasible.			
10. Maintain/strengthen the State of Delaware's phragmites control programs.			

◦ Legally forbid development in the corridor.

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**Which Research strategies are the best/worst?**

<i>Strategy</i>	<i>Best</i>	<i>Worst</i>	<i>Why?</i>
<b>1 Confirm/fine-tune baseline estimates for forest maturity and composition with more precise/accurate information.</b>	<b>1</b>		◦ lead to Forestry info and maybe money for landowners
<b>2 Continue to improve information on flora and fauna for the Corridor.</b>	<b>1</b>		◦ landowner interest in wildlife & plants
<b>3 Improve understanding of coastal plain pond key attributes.</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>4 Develop a baseline for aquatic life and flow in the Cypress Branch and Blackbird Creek.</b>	<b>2</b>		◦ Creek has been plugged with beaver and trash for 5 years; also when Route 1 was put across the creek it has got worse. ◦ landowner interest in water quality and impacts on fish
<b>5 Develop a coastal plain pond research and demonstration site in the Corridor to experiment with different management and restoration practices and their effect on habitat.</b>	<b>1</b>		◦ People are more willing to do what is needed if they understand why.
<b>6 Use radar study results to determine importance of Corridor for bird stop over.</b>			
<b>7 Refine/update the baseline for characteristic vegetation (including presence/absence of phragmites) for tidal marshes in the Corridor.</b>			
<b>8. Continue to improve baseline for coastal plain ponds in Maryland.</b>			
<b>9. Conduct a landowner survey to determine Corridor landowners' preferences for financial incentives (tax credits v. cost sharing, etc.) and/or to quantify landowner demand for conservation options.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	◦ The most important thing is not to develop. ◦ Not sure enough public understanding or response to complete meaningful survey

◦ Partner with the communication and education group to present results of research.

**General:**

Too many acronyms and unfamiliar with referenced programs to respond. Questionnaires should be accompanied by definition sheet and program information. Pieces should not use acronyms or reference programs with[out] explaining what they are about.