

CIVIC EDUCATION SERIES

Class #7: Environmental Conservation & Sustainability

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role of the **Conservation Commission** and its impact on Rindge's environment.
2. Learn about key environmental ordinances and regulations designed to protect natural resources.
3. Explore sustainable practices that residents can adopt to support conservation efforts.
4. Discover how residents can engage in environmental initiatives and advocacy.

INTRO TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

(10 MIN)

- The importance of preserving Rindge's forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitats.
 - How environmental conservation benefits public health, property values, and future generations.
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- Key Message: *"Protecting our environment is an investment in Rindge's future."*

THE ROLE OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION (20 MIN)

- Responsibilities:
 - Managing conservation land and easements.
 - Advising the Planning Board on environmentally sensitive developments.
 - Leading public education efforts on environmental protection.
- Examples of past and current conservation initiatives in Rindge.
- Engagement: Showcase a successful conservation project that enhanced Rindge's natural beauty.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORDINANCES & REGULATIONS (20 MIN)

- Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance: Protecting wetlands, wildlife, and water quality.
- Aquifer Protection Ordinance: Ensuring the safety of Rindge's groundwater resources.
- Floodplain Management Ordinance: Managing development in flood-prone areas to reduce risk.
- Shoreland Protection Act: Ensuring responsible land use near Rindge's lakes and waterways.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FOR RESIDENTS

(20 MIN)

- Encouraging eco-friendly landscaping and reducing pesticide use.
 - Promoting rain gardens and permeable surfaces to manage stormwater runoff.
 - Reducing household waste through recycling and composting.
 - Energy-saving tips for reducing carbon footprints.
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- Engagement: Share practical tips for sustainable living that residents can adopt easily.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (15 MIN)

- How residents can participate in conservation efforts by:
 - Volunteering with the Conservation Commission.
 - Participating in clean-up events at parks, trails, and lakes.
 - Joining tree planting projects or trail maintenance programs.
- Promoting partnerships with local schools to educate students on environmental responsibility.
- Engagement Idea: Highlight an upcoming conservation event or initiative where residents can get involved.

CLOSING REMARKS AND Q&A

(10 MIN)

- Recap of key points.
- Open floor for participant questions.
- Distribute handouts with contact information for the Conservation Commission, environmental resources, and sustainable living tips.