

Abstract

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Smart Conservation: Automating a Land Conservation Value Assessment Model

Track: Ecology, Archaeology, and Conservation

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For the past three years, the Natural Lands Trust has been developing the Smart Conservation Model, a methodology for identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing landscape resources using criteria developed in collaboration with more than 80 regional conservation scientists and practitioners. Through a series of GIS operations and spreadsheet calculations, any site in Southeast Pennsylvania can be evaluated and ranked on a standardized scale for its conservation value, habitat health, and viability. NLT and Avencia are collaborating to automate the site evaluation process and transform the sequence of manual operations into a comprehensive Web-based application. The complete Phase 1 application will be presented as well as the model and the system design.

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