

Topic:	Natural Resource Protection & Conservation; Wildlife & Fish Habitat Regulations
Resource Type:	Regulations
State:	Massachusetts
Jurisdiction Type:	State
Municipality:	N/A
Year (adopted, written, etc.):	2004
Community Type - applicable to:	Urban; Suburban; Rural
Title:	State of Massachusetts Constitutional Rights & Objectives - Natural Resource Protection
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Abstract

This article declares the broad purpose and intent of the State to protect the state's environment, including protection of wildlife, natural resources relating to air, land water, and recreational land uses.

Resource

MASS. CONST. Art. SCVII.

Constitutional Rights and Objective - Natural Resource Protection

Article XCVII. Article [XLIX](#) of the Amendments to the Constitution is hereby annulled and the following is adopted in place thereof: - The people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment; and the protection of the people in their right to the conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources is hereby declared to be a public purpose.

The general court shall have the power to enact legislation necessary or expedient to protect such rights.

In the furtherance of the foregoing powers, the general court shall have the power to provide for the taking, upon payment of just compensation therefor, or for the acquisition by purchase or otherwise, of lands and easements or such other interests therein as may be deemed necessary to accomplish these purposes.

Lands and easements taken or acquired for such purposes shall not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of except by laws enacted by a two thirds vote, taken by yeas and nays, of each branch of the general court.

Article CX. Article [XLI](#) of the Amendments to the Constitution is hereby annulled and the following Article is adopted in place thereof:-

Full power and authority are hereby given and granted to the general court to prescribe for wild or forest lands retained in a natural state for the preservation of wildlife and other natural resources and lands for recreational uses, such methods of taxation as will develop and conserve the forest resources, wildlife and other natural resources and the environmental benefits of recreational lands within the commonwealth.

**<http://www.mass.gov/legis/const.htm#cart046.htm>
Current as of: November 24, 2004**