The Project

Environmental planning principles call for the first step in developing a new site to be an assessment of natural features that are worth protecting from development and/or planned as an amenity. A sample 30-square mile area primarily contains pasture, cropland, and rural residential uses, and it is expected to gradually develop.

The Question

What is the potential for natural land cover protection in the project area?

Analysis

Envision Tomorrow provides options to model land protection in two ways: 1) protect land by land cover in the same proportion each land cover type exists in the study area, and 2) prioritized protection according to prioritization rankings set by user.

Proportional preservation of wetland and riparian land cover models protection of 109 acres (5 percent scenario) or 219 acres (10 percent scenario).

Prioritization of wetland and riparian land cover models protection of 1,529 acres (5 percent scenario) or 1,975 acres (10 percent scenario).

The land cover module provides information that makes it easier to analyze appropriate levels and locations for preservation of natural land cover. Once the project area is selected on a map, the tool provides a summary of the percentage of land cover preserved by using priority criteria for each land cover class set by the user.