

Environmental Review Team (ERT)

The Environmental Review Team (ERT) is an inter-agency natural resource study team, which brings together people from many disciplines to help local municipal officials assess existing resources and impacts from land use/cover change proposals.

The purpose of the ERT is to help local municipal officials make better land-use decisions.

The ERT is a public service offered by the Pilgrim RC&D Area Council, Inc. The Team members change based on each request and expertise needed. Agencies and organizations contributing technical specialists have included (but are not limited to):

- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation-Bureau of Forestry
- Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts
- Local Land Trusts
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District
- Old Colony Planning Council
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Massachusetts, College of Natural Resources and the Environment, Natural Resources Conservation
- American Farmland Trust

Specialists on the team may include foresters, hydrologists, environmental planners, soil scientists, engineers, attorneys, economists, geologists, biologists, landscape architects, and more.

The ERT Coordinator organizes the request process, compiles the team (with input from the requesting organization), schedules meetings, field reviews, compiles individual team member reports into a final report, and prepares for presentation to requesting organization.

ERT requests must come from leadership from a municipality or municipality board or commission. The request letter to the Pilgrim RC&D Area Council should include:

- Summary of proposed project, stating intended use of the land
- Location map for proposed site
- Specific areas of concern the team should review and address
- Written permission for team to gain access to property for review.
- Any other pertinent information that will assist review team.