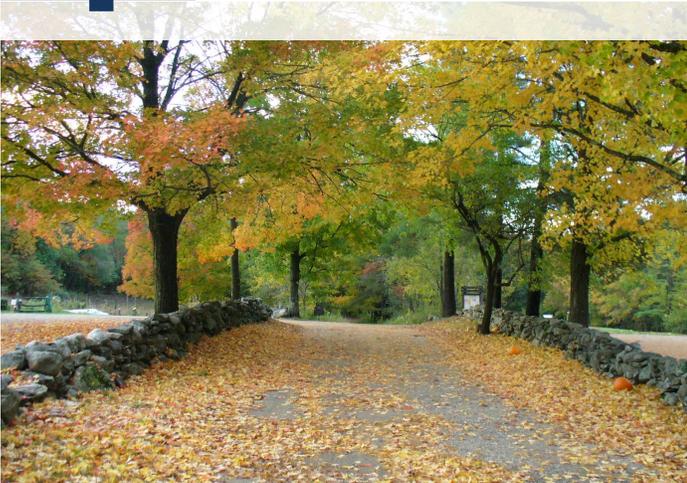


1

Preservation of rural character



Fall scene, Hollis



Nissitissit River, Brookline

9 out of the 13 NRPC communities mention protecting existing water infrastructure in their Master Plans

EXAMPLES:

AMHERST

“Protect Amherst’s extensive water resources for the benefit of residents and the environment, including surface water features, groundwater, and aquifer areas.”

LITCHFIELD

“Protect the quality and quantity of the area’s water resources through conservation, education and appropriate regulation of uses within productive aquifer zones to insure adequate recharge rates and environmental protection.”

MASON

“To protect and conserve our Natural Resources, Mason recognizes the value of natural resources in protecting our health, both physically and mentally, and the health of the environment as a whole. In order to protect those natural resources we will invest in protecting large tracts of land for wildlife habitat and water quality.”

NASHUA

“Maintain and, if possible, enhance the water quality of and public access to the Merrimack River, so that the River becomes a prime asset in Nashua’s quality of life. “

MONT VERNON

“The abundance and diversity of natural resources in Mont Vernon (wetlands, ponds, streams, fields and forests) provide opportunities for a variety of land uses while contributing to the overall quality of life in the community. Improper shoreline buffers will have negative impacts on water quality and the general character of the Town’s wetlands, streams, and ponds. Therefore, a thorough understanding of the natural resource base is extremely important in determining the limits of growth and in guiding future development in the community.”

PELHAM

“Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Town of Pelham in order to provide a safe and attractive community for current and future residents and to protect such resources from the adverse impacts of development. These natural resources include wetlands, floodplains, air, forest, soils, agricultural lands, wildlife habitats, open space, scenic vistas, ground and surface water and other sensitive resources.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Create a trail system or greenway system.
- ◇ Investigate ways to preserve ridgelines.

2

Increased Protections/Ordinances



Storm water overflow



Souhegan River, Wilton

All NRPC communities contain a section dedicated to water in their Natural Resource section of their Master Plans

EXAMPLES:

BROOKLINE

“As the amount of impervious surface increases in Brookline, consider adopting a Permanent Stormwater Management ordinance, similar to the model outlined in the Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook, and/or a Maximum Impervious Surface ordinance, similar to the model developed by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission.”

LITCHFIELD

“Shoreline Protection: A local shoreline program should be considered for adoption as part of the zoning ordinance and fashioned after the state model shoreline protection ordinance.”

MASON

“The town should identify contiguous parcels for wildlife corridors through the creation of an Open Space Plan or Natural Resources Inventory.”

MILFORD

“The Aquifer Protection District regulations have not been analyzed and reviewed relative to advances and findings in methods to protect the aquifer in relation to various land uses and environmental hazard mitigation. The current regulations should reflect updated scientific findings to further protect the aquifer.”

MONT VERNON

“Identify all sensitive areas along roadways and develop and implement a comprehensive road salt application and management program to limit or prohibit applications in sensitive areas of the Town.”

PELHAM

“Consider an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, subdivision and site plan regulations to adopt a Slope Conservation Overlay District to protect the most severe slopes in Town from unsuitable development. Development of land with slopes greater than fifteen percent should be approached with extreme caution, giving consideration to the problems presented by these slopes. As these areas are best suited for open space, reserving them for that purpose will minimize the potential for erosion and allow for maximum absorption of surface water run-off thus protecting down-slope residents.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Adopt a reduced or no-salt program in sensitive areas near concentrations of wells and surface waters.
- ◇ Adopt legislation to protect or enhance water supplies or WHPA's for current and future water supplies.
- ◇ Use Conservation Subdivision practices to protect water resources.

Water Infrastructure Workshop



COMMON THEMES in MUNICIPAL MASTER PLANS

3

Public Outreach



Paddler on Souhegan River

8 of the 13 NRPC communities have a goal to educate the public on the importance of water quality and preservation.

EXAMPLES:

BROOKLINE

“Educate the public on the importance of water quality and the steps they can take to improve it.”

MILFORD

“Educate the community about point-source and non-point source pollution within watersheds. Utilize local media to educate and inform the public on water resources, drinking water, and nonpoint pollution sources and impacts.”

PELHAM

“Take advantage of the University of New Hampshire’s Community Environmental Outreach Program (CEOP) and Natural Resources Senior Projects. These are inexpensive programs and the range of possible projects is limited only by the needs of the community and the availability of students to match those needs.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Educate the public on the importance of water quality and the steps they can take to improve it.
- ◇ Participate in the "Keeping Track Program."
- ◇ Educate the community about point-source and non-point source pollution within watersheds.

4

Stormwater and Low Impact Development



Riprap installation

10 of the 13 NRPC communities mention stormwater and low impact design in their master plans

EXAMPLES:

AMHERST

“Assure that proper erosion control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for storm water are in place when land use alterations occur.”

BROOKLINE

“Promote the use of permeable surfaces and Low Impact Development techniques throughout Brookline.”

MERRIMACK

“Protect the quality of water in Merrimack’s rivers and ground water supplies through effective stormwater management practices, subdivision regulations, and design.”

NASHUA

“The City needs to continue improvements to the storm water system along Route 101A, so that the storm water is treated before it is discharged.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Reduce impervious surface design.
- ◇ Incorporate where necessary and appropriate, the latest recommendations for stormwater management.

5

Land Conservation



Pasture in Mont Vernon

In the NRPC Region, 11 out of the 13 communities mention acquiring land for conservation and habitat protection.

EXAMPLES:

HOLLIS

“Actively manage the existing conservation lands and easements to ensure continued quality of wildlife habitat, open space, recreation and forests.”

LITCHFIELD

“Preserve tracts of agricultural land as agricultural uses and for the benefit of future generations and promote maintaining agricultural soils.”

MASON

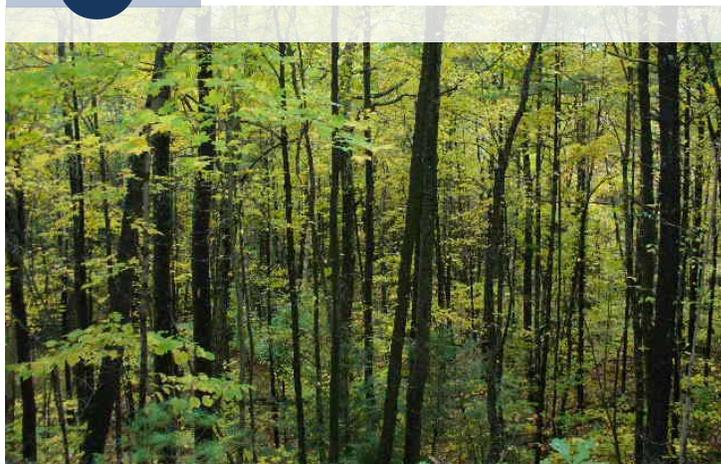
“Protect large tracts of land wherever possible for wildlife habitat and water quality by: encourage use of conservation easements to protect land while keeping it in private hands, encourage town to put conservation easements on tax title lands using land use change tax funds, identify contiguous parcels for wildlife corridors, encourage sustainable forestry as a long term land use for large parcels.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Encourage the preservation and conservation of priority agricultural lands and operations.
- ◇ Encourage sustainable forestry as a long-term land use for large parcels.

6

Develop technical studies and expertise



Forest in Hollis

In the NRPC Region, 6 out of the 13 communities mention quality of wetlands in their master plan.

EXAMPLES:

HUDSON

“Develop an inventory and monitoring system of prime habitats and areas of significant flora and fauna for future conservation.”

MERRIMACK

“Develop a review checklist for subdivisions and site plans that incorporates recharge protection and demand management protections. The checklist would address best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater control and treatment.”

NASHUA

“Undertake an inventory of vernal pools, and develop a management plan to safeguard them from any water quality or development threats.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Perform a functional evaluation of the Town's wetlands, which may lead to designation of prime wetlands.
- ◇ Create GIS mapping, parcel data that locates point and nonpoint source pollution locations, land uses in the watersheds, wetlands, and other information related to water resource management.