

Appendix D

Excerpt from Municipal Plans

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Candia 2004 Master Plan

Page 2 Purposes

Open Space and Natural Resource Protection: Candia residents have demonstrated their support for land conservation and have allocated funds for that purpose on more than one occasion. With an active conservation commission, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, and likely continued public support for protecting open space, additional conservation projects should be anticipated. The town plan can help establish the community's conservation priorities and identify those properties, features and/or resources that are most deserving of protection.

Page 21-22 November 2003 Public Forum

The November 2003 forum specifically addressed how land should be used throughout Candia. More than 60 residents participated in the evening workshop to answer the question: "What type of development would you like to see in Candia and where should it be located?"

The protection of environmentally sensitive areas, open space and unfragmented forest land received the most votes for issues that needed to be addressed within the next 5 years.

Page 36 Land Use Goals

...To permanently preserve 25% of Candia's open space in such a way to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources and to foster appropriate outdoor activities.

Candia 2001 Open Space Plan

Page 19-23 Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Goal: To preserve Candia's scenic beauty, rural character and significant natural and cultural resources today and for future generations

Objective 1: Protect and preserve remaining open space, including agricultural land, forested land, wildlife habitat, and recreational land.

Recommendations for Unique habitat areas

- Use acquisition methods to protect these very special wildlife areas
- Work with landowners to establish easements and deed restrictions, which protect habitat areas.

Objective 2: Protect and manage for sustainability the Town's natural resources including ponds, streams, aquifer reservoirs, timber growth and mineral deposits in order to preserve biological diversity.

Objective 4: Protect environmentally sensitive areas in the Town, including watersheds, aquifers, floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes.

Recommendations: The Town should work to ensure that the most vulnerable and insufficiently protected lands are protected through conservation restrictions and managed appropriately.

Objective 5: Preserve scenic areas, wildlife habitat and recreation corridors

Recommendations: Prevent the isolation of forested patches by promoting local connectivity. This can be accomplished by acquiring conservation restrictions on properties that link existing protected parcels.

The Town of Candia should continue to promote the efforts of the Bear-Paw Regional Greenways Project (sic) to connect area state parks and other conservation lands.

Page G-I Highest Priority for Open Space

- Steep slopes greater than 15%, wetlands, wetland buffers, floodplains, aquifers, hydric soils, surface waters, riparian corridors, forest blocks greater than 2,000 acres, prime/high quality agricultural land, historic properties/sites, greenways, recreational resource lands in close proximity to villages, wildlife habitat areas

Deerfield 1999 Master Plan

Page 77 Vision Statement

Deerfield is a small, quiet, rural New England town with a strong sense of community. To maintain this scenic quality now and for the future, we will act to protect our clean air, clean water, clean land, wildlife, forest and open space....

Page 81-82 Natural Resources/Open Space

- Deerfield should continue to look for ways to protect its wetlands
- The inventory of natural and scenic resources in Deerfield should be updated regularly under the direction of the Conservation Commission. Important wildlife, existing trails and other natural resources should be protected and identified.
- The town's lakes are important natural resources in Deerfield. The Town should make every effort to protect this valuable natural resource and support organizations which strive to enhance and protect the lake and ensure water quality.
- Support completion of the Great Brook Conservation Corridor and Bear Paw Regional Land Plan.

Page 89 Conservation/Recreation

Deerfield is fortunate to have over 14% of its land area protected by public ownership. However, there are other important scenic and natural areas which should be considered for protection.

Additional areas identified by the Conservation Commission should be considered for open space, conservation and low impact recreational facilities, such as trails and paths. Identified are those areas that are important for Deerfield to preserve and protect. These lands could be purchased outright or easements obtained to insure protection.

Deerfield 2006 Open Space Plan

Page 27 Criteria for Acquisition and Protection of Open Space

1. Protect Deerfield's most sensitive natural areas, including prime wetlands, aquifers, vernal pools, streams and lakes, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors, old growth forest stands, and agricultural soils.
2. Connect areas unfragmented by roads or development with guidance from local knowledge and Bear Paw Regional Greenways.
3. Preserve the natural and cultural resources provided by Deerfield's scenic views, Class VI Road system, trails, and culturally and historically significant lands.
4. Continue to work with Bear Paw Regional Greenway and other land trusts and state and federal agencies to develop a natural greenway and trail system consisting of public and private protected lands linking Bear Book State Park, Pawtuckaway State Park and Northwood Meadows State Park.
5. Work with the NH Coastal Watershed Land Protection Program, through the Nature Conservancy, NH Estuaries Project, and regional planning commissions, to establish priorities for preservation.

Page 28-29 The following areas, roughly categorized by region, are some of the areas with the highest Co-Occurrence scores.

Southeast

- Lamprey River corridor east of Cottonwood Estates Easement
- Lamprey River corridor along Rte. 107
- Riparian corridor along the brook north of Reservation Road

Southwest

- North Branch River corridor south of South Road
- Area north of Bear Brook State Park by Rockingham/Merrimack County border

Central

- Area along Ridge Road in Drinking Water Protection Area
- Area immediately west of Old Center Road North

Northeast

- Land west of Curry protected area
- Back Creek riparian corridor
- Undeveloped shore lands of Freese's Pond (lower portion)
- Lamprey River riparian corridor

Northwest

- Mud Pond and surrounding riparian corridor
- Riparian corridor north of Pleasant Lake
- Riparian corridor west of Griffin Road

Epsom 2001 Master Plan

Page I-17 Goals

Goal 2: Discourage development of Epsom's scenic areas, ridgelines, steep slopes, wetlands, and farmlands:

- Scenic areas, ridgelines, steep slopes, wetlands, and farmland are an important aspect of Epsom’s community character
- Wetlands are important for mitigation of floods, purifying of pollutants, providing wildlife habitat, and aesthetic appeal
- Farmland is important link to Epsom’s agricultural past and is an important resource
- Steep slopes and ridgelines add to Epsom’s rural character and should be protected for future generations

Page IX-1 Conservation, Preservation, and Open Space Chapter

...Within the more rural areas, the goal is to protect and interconnect, through a greenway and open space network, tracts of land with important ecological, visual, aesthetic, and community value....

Page IX-10-11 Scenic Vistas

...Critical scenic views should be identified and protected... includes views from Fort Mountain (1,410’), McCoy Mountain (1,260’), and Nat’s Mountain (1,180’).

Page IX-13-14 Surface Waters

...The Suncook River has been cited as Epsom’s prime natural resource....According to NH F&G, the river contains brook, rainbow and brown trout.

The Town has an obligation to protect water quality, including freshwater resources used for public drinking water and as habitat for various forms of wildlife. Conservation efforts in the past have helped protect all these resource values through the Town’s Ordinances and through the acquisition of conservation land or easements. Because of these factors, it is important for the Town to take proactive steps to ensure that the quality and aesthetic value of our surface water resources are protected, enhanced, and valued.

Page IX-20-21 Wetlands

Goal: Maintain the variety and large quantity of wetlands in Epsom and ensure that wetlands retain their functional values. The Town should provide for comprehensive protection of the wetlands through regulatory, educational, and voluntary efforts.

Recommendation: The Town should identify wetlands for protection and/or acquisition because of their ecological importance, unique nature, and/or because of their location in the Town.

Goal: Protect wetlands as part of the broader ecosystem.

Recommendation: Identify landscapes, habitat blocks, corridors, or other areas deserving protection based on the value of the wetlands and the landscape context. Take steps to protect these areas.

Page IX-25 Aquifers

Goal: Develop and Aquifer Protection District that provides comprehensive protection for the aquifer, which is enforceable and is reasonable.

Recommendations: Aquifer areas designated to be highly productive by scientific research should be purchased or acquired by the Town. Possible techniques to employ to acquire such areas include:

purchase of development rights, transfer of development rights, easements, fee simple purchases, and other similar techniques.

Page IX-31 Farmland

Goal: The Town should try to retain as much of the current farmland and prime agricultural soils in productive use as possible.

Recommendations: Active farmland should be targeted for conservation and farmland easements. The NRCS Farmland Protection Program and other programs through the USDA and the State should be promoted in the farming community as a means to continue farming operations.

Page IX-33 Wildlife Habitat

Goal: Preserve wildlife corridors that currently exist within the Town from development, which would further protect prime wetland areas from fragmentation.

Recommendation: The Town should, where possible, acquire conservation easements or purchase the land where wildlife corridors exist. Special priority should be given to those corridors that connect already acquired or protected parcel of land in the Town or abutting Towns.

Page IX-38 Greenways

In the long-term, the Town through the Conservation Commission should work with Bear-Paw to help establish the proposed greenways in Epsom.

Goal: Create, expand, strengthen, and promote an Epsom greenway system.

Recommendations: Expand and strengthen the Epsom greenway system through acquisition of conservation easements on important lands through donation, purchase, or partnership with public and private conservation groups. A conservation fund should be maintained to allow matching funds for Town participation as opportunities arise. It is recommended that the Town contribute 100% of revenues from the current use change tax to this fund to be administered by the Conservation Commission.

Investigate the use of Class VI road and discontinued rail beds, that are within Town borders, as greenway/trail/wildlife corridors that could be used to link existing open space and recreational lands...Roads that should be considered include Sanborn Hill Road, Range Road, Mountain Road, and Lockes Hill Road.

A priority should be given to protecting land that would link key conservation parcels that the Town already owns or has easements on for greenway creation.

Page IX-41-43 Lands Identified for Conservation Protection

- Suncook and Little Suncook Rivers
- Yeaton Farm
- Odiorne Pond Area
- McClary House
- Fort Mountain/McCoy Mountain/Nat's Mountain/Sanborn Hill

Recommendation: The Town should encourage other agencies and non-profit organizations to pursue the acquisition of conservation easements or fee title to the properties.

Northwood 2004 Master Plan

Page 34-35 Open Space

As evident at the Master Plan Visioning Session, open space is very important to Northwood residents. It is apparent that people would like to retain the rural characteristics of our town, and open space is one of these important amenities. Retaining open space areas preserves scenic beauty, provides recreation space, encourages sustainable forestry, preserves wildlife habitats, and retains the rural feeling that citizens value.

...Property owners should be encouraged to donate or establish conservation easements and to work with the Northwood Conservation Commission and Bear-Paw Regional Greenways to promote land protection options.

Page 40 Implementation Step #8

Protect Designated Conservation Areas (1998 Master Plan) The Town shall make an effort to conserve three large areas of valuable natural resources: Northwood Meadows/Saddleback Mountain; Acorn Ponds; and Big Woods. Purchase or donation of conservation easements or land in fee simple for conservation use, privately funded primarily, are the primary means recommended to accomplish this protection.

Nottingham 1990 Master Plan

Regional Environmental Planning Program – 1999 NRI for Nottingham

Page 12 These are sites or areas that are not presently held in conservation but for which there is a desire to protect from loss due to development

Perkins Farm & Gerrish Farm
 Heron Rookery
 Nottingham Square
 Black Gum Swamps
 Small Whorled Pagonia site
 Undeveloped Shoreline of Pawtuckaway Lake
 Aquifer Recharge Area
 Cyrus and Langley Ponds
 Headwaters of Bean and North Rivers
 North River Corridor

Raymond 2002 Master Plan

Page 4 Goal 1: Preserve those community features that contribute to Raymond's village, country-like character and quality of life.

Objective 1: Preserve the natural and cultural features that contribute to Raymond's character such as lakes and ponds, streams and rivers, prime agricultural land, valuable woodlands, quality viewsapes, wetlands, country roads, stone walls, and other valuable open space areas.

Objective 6: Identify specific scenic areas and view corridors and develop a priority ranking of these areas for purposes of protection.

Page 84 Goals and Objectives – Open Space and Recreation

Goal 1: Protect and manage Raymond’s valuable open space resources.

Objective 1: Protect key open space areas based upon a systematic inventory and monitoring of Raymond’s natural resources.

Objective 2: Provide an integrated network of open space areas and recreation facilities.

Objective 3: Improve, protect, and encourage public access to Raymond’s surface waters.

Objective 6: Preserve natural features such as lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, prime agricultural land, valuable woodlands, quality views, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and other valuable open space areas that contribute to Raymond’s character.

Objective 7: Ensure protection of scenic areas and view corridors and develop a priority ranking of these areas for purposes of protection.

Objective 8: Support regional open space initiatives.

Objective 9: Ensure protection of wildlife corridors and habitats.

Raymond 2003 Open Space Plan

Page XV Goal 18

Continue to work with Bear-Paw Regional Greenways to conserve unfragmented areas, and work to conserve greenway areas for protection via easements or fee-simple purchase of land.

Page 34 The Open Space Plan Committee has determined that the following areas, listed here for planning purposes, should be considered for open space protection in the future:

- Norris Farms/Flint Hill
- Dearborn Estates
- Manchester-Portsmouth RR Bed
- Cassier-Eames
- Chandler’s Mine
- Watershed Protection
- Onway Lake
- Map ID# 1,2,3,5,6,8,9

Page 35 Highest, Medium and Low Priorities

Highest Priority: Steep slopes greater than 15%, Wetlands, Wetland Buffers, Floodplains, Aquifers, Hydric soils (very poorly and poorly drained soils), Surface waters (ponds, streams, lakes, etc.), Riparian corridors, Forest blocks (unfragmented land areas) greater than 2,000 acres, Prime/high quality agricultural land, Historic properties/Sites (mill and dam sites, villages, buildings, parks,

farmsteads, fields, cemeteries), Greenways, Recreational resource lands in close proximity to village, Wildlife habitat areas

Medium Priority: Land that provides an access or link to a proposed greenway, Forested blocks (unfragmented land areas) 500 to 2,000 acres

Lowest Priority: Forested blocks (unfragmented land areas) 250 to 500 acres

Strafford 2002 Master Plan

Page 6 Goal 4

Protect the community's significant open space areas and natural resources through initiating conservation practices, promoting sensitive development, supporting and utilizing tools for land protection, and encouraging public awareness.

Page 8 Community Character

Much of the Town's valuable natural resource land comprises the Town's scenic vistas. These include the views of Parker and Blue Job Mountains, lands along the Isinglass and Mohawk River corridors, and areas around the several lakes and ponds. Much of this land is in private hands, making it vulnerable to development. The Town needs to develop land use controls that help protect these community assets while also preserving the property owner's rights.