

Town of Milton, New Hampshire Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020



Prepared for
Town of Milton Planning Board

By the
Strafford Regional Planning Commission

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September 7, 2004
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary

Part 1 Introduction

Part 2 Master Plan Policies and Implementation Strategies

- 2.1 The Vision for Milton
- 2.2 Natural Resources
- 2.3 Historic Resources and Community Character
- 2.4 Economic Development and Land Use
- 2.5 Transportation
- 2.6 Municipal Services and Recreation
- 2.7 Housing

Part 3 Master Plan Implementation Program

Part 4 Appendix (Under Separate Cover)

- 4.1 1983 Master Plan Background Information
- 4.2 1994 Master Plan Background Information
- 4.3 2002 Master Plan Background Information

Part 1--Introduction

A Master Plan

New Hampshire law (RSA 674:2) describes the purpose and structure of a Master Plan as follows:

The purpose of the Master Plan is to:

- *Set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the Planning Board, to*
- *Aid the Board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to*
- *Guide the Board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning and wise resource protection.*

The Master Plan shall be a set of statements and land use and development principles for the municipality with such accompanying maps, diagrams, charts and descriptions as to give legal standing to the implementation ordinances and other measures of the planning board. Each section of the Master Plan shall be consistent with the others in its implementation of the vision section. The Master Plan shall be a public record subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A (i.e. pertaining to access to public records and meetings.)

The Master Plan shall include, at a minimum, the following sections:

A vision section that serves to direct the other sections of the plan. This section shall contain a set of statements, which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the Master Plan, not only for their locality but for the region and the whole state. It shall contain a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement that vision.

A land use section upon which all the following sections shall be based. This section shall translate the vision statements into physical terms. Based on a study of population, economic activity, and natural, historic, and cultural resources, it shall show existing conditions and the proposed location, extent, and intensity of future land use.

The Master Plan may also include the following sections: transportation, community facilities, economic development, natural resources, natural hazards, recreation, utility and public services, cultural and historic resources, regional concerns, neighborhood plans, community design, housing and implementation. (See RSA 674:2III.)

Thus, a Master Plan is a long range, comprehensive, general description of what a Town wants to be and how it will achieve it. It is a commitment to do something. It is adopted so it reflects public policy. It is used to make decisions about community development and preservation issues. The issues may range from water resource protection, residential development, and transportation improvements to Town facilities and services. The Master Plan is the basis for land use and development regulations, zoning and subdivision ordinances, capital improvement programming, Town center development and beautification, open space or land conservation, and other programs and projects to improve the quality of life in a community.

Town of Milton Master Plan

The Town of Milton has an adopted Master Plan that is periodically updated.

The Master Plan includes Policies (Goals, Principles, and Standards) and Implementation Strategies aimed at achieving a quality residential community. These terms are defined as follows:

Policies

What citizens want to achieve.

Policy Goals

General statements expressing citizens' desires or what the citizens want to achieve relative to an issue.

(e.g., Natural resources protected to ensure their sustainability to meet community needs.).

Policy Principles

More specific statements expressing citizens' desires and a commitment to what they want to achieve.

(e.g., Water quantity and quality will be managed and protected.).

Policy Standards

Specific quantitative or qualitative statements that express what citizen's want, and the legislative basis for zoning and ordinance requirements or regulations.

(e.g., "The density in the water protection area shall be one dwelling unit per ten acres." or "The standards in the document *"Buffers for Wetlands and Surface Waters: A Guidebook for New Hampshire Municipalities"* that establish surface water buffer widths aimed at minimizing water quality degradation and providing wildlife habitat.").

Implementation Strategies

How citizens will achieve what they want. Actions to achieve results. (e.g., Amend the zoning ordinance to establish a water protection district and implement the Master Plan Policies.)

The Master Planning process aimed at achieving a quality residential, in part, means setting and meeting current or new policies and standards for development. If "quality" is defined as conformance to a standard, then continually improving quality means continually setting and achieving higher standards for excellence in planning, design, development, service and operations.

Citizens drive the standards: their aspirations, expectations, goals and policies or principles.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Setting standards and monitoring progress will enable the Town to:

- Retain and improve the quality of life.
- Promote economic opportunity.
- Promote health and safety.
- Promote educational opportunity.
- Promote environmental protection.
- Enable sustainable development.

The Master Plan will describe these standards. Some exist in current ordinances and regulations. Others will need to be prepared and adopted over time. Achieving them will result in achieving the vision of a quality residential community.

Thus, the Milton Master Plan is a policy document that describes the vision of Milton residents for their community's growth over the next five to ten years. Although a Master Plan does not have the enforcement strength of an ordinance, regulation or local code, it is the basis for the Town's ordinances and regulations, and gains importance when the Town's ordinances and regulations are questioned or challenged. The Master Plan provides evidence of the thought and consensus building developed for policies and implementation strategies through the Master Plan's public involvement process. The Master Plan is a policy document that will be referred to when members of the Town government are



developing and modifying Town ordinances and making decisions about where to focus annual expenditures. It is a document that the Planning Board would like to see be used by everyone in the community. When the Master Plan is understood and used, it helps keep everyone - residents, appointed and elected officials, developers and volunteers - working together to effectively meet the goals of the plan.

The following is the status of the Master Plan sections and action by the Town Planning Board.

Master Plan

Adopted September 2002

Natural Resources

Adopted September 7, 2004, amended December 19, 2017

By the Planning Board in cooperation with the Conservation

Commission and Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Part 2 - Master Plan Policies and Implementation Strategies

2.1 The Vision for Milton

Introduction

The Master Plan's Vision for Milton describes what kind of Town citizens of Milton want. The Vision describes the overall character in terms of its physical/environmental, social and economic environment.

The Vision for Milton

The Vision for Milton is to be:

A quality residential community with a New England village style town center that preserves and maintains the Town's historic and rural character.

The Town of Milton is fortunate to have an abundance of natural and historic resources. These resources provide for clean air and water, extensive recreational opportunities and a quiet rural way of life. The beauty of these resources can replenish the soul.

Milton also has a potential for economic growth. If managed properly, this growth can make our community one of New Hampshire's most desirable. Many residents of Milton along with its elected and appointed officials welcome this economic development. Our goals for economic growth have been developed as a result of community surveys and citizen forums about the Master Plan and the future of Milton. These goals take into consideration that commercial and light industrial growth is an inevitable part of our future. However, many residents live in Milton because of its rural character and want future growth to occur in such a way as to preserve the natural and historic resources that make up an important part of our quality of life. For some, this means walking out into their backyard at night and being able to see the stars. For some, it means limited traffic in the center of town and for others it means being able to hunt or hike in our woods or fish in our clean waters.

In 2002, Milton's bicentennial year, change and growth are clearly challenges facing us. Being able to balance economic development while maintaining the rural character of Milton is a daunting task. The need to compromise and work together will be an important part of Milton's

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

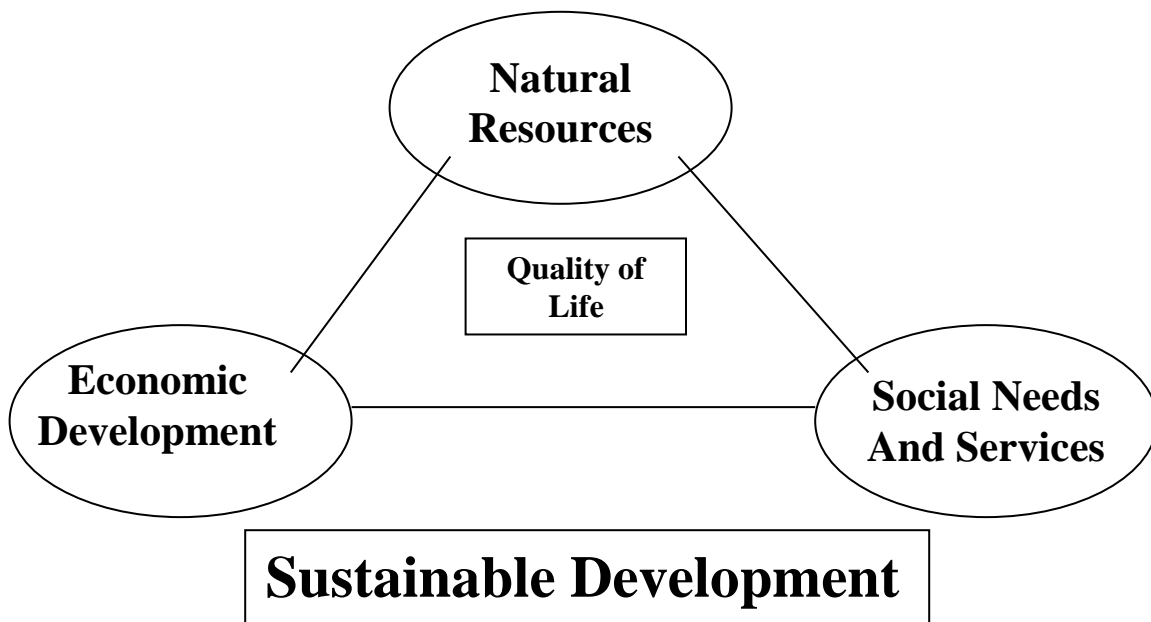
future. This means that residents and businesses need to become more involved in the planning process and listen to each other's concerns.

It is clear that urban sprawl and strip malls anywhere in Milton or Milton Mills are not part of our vision for the future. Rather, development that is unobtrusive and respects the desire to maintain the small town environment is welcome. This may mean that economic growth in Milton is extremely selective and focuses on green development.

In addition, the Planning Board encourages sustainable development. Sustainability is a goal that planners and community decision makers strive for every time a decision is made affecting development in the community. The objective is to understand the whole picture, not just the impacts on a specific There is a three-way balance amongst the environment, the economic needs in the community, and the social needs of the residents. Any land use decision may disrupt and affect the quality of life the com



is considered during decision-making, it may result in an unbalancing in other areas. In order to achieve this delicate balance, it is important for everyone to understand each other's point of view and goals. As the Master Plan was developed, the Planning Board listened closely to the concerns, perceptions, and wishes of the residents and worked to craft a document that sustains and further develops the quality of life that the residents of Milton enjoy.



Policy Goals

- 1: Encourage well-planned industrial and commercial growth in appropriate sections of Milton while maintaining the rural character of the community and protecting natural resources.
- 2: Protect the rural character of Milton by directing development in a way that respects the landscape and the existing built environment.
- 3: Protect Milton's significant open space areas and natural resources by promoting sustainable development, supporting and utilizing tools for land protection, and raising public awareness of conservation practices.
- 4: Protect the surface water resources of Milton through careful study and monitoring of the water quality in the lakes, developing effective, yet reasonable water protection regulations, and encouraging conservation practices and sustainable development.
- 5: Develop a strategy for the clean up and removal of ground water hazards. Continue to protect the ground water resources through sustainable development practices so that aquifer recharge areas are not negatively impacted.
- 6: Continue to have public safety facilities that efficiently and effectively meet the current and future needs of Milton residents.
- 7: Continue to upgrade and maintain the transportation network in Milton, and consider public transportation opportunities in the planning process.
- 8: Plan for additional outdoor recreational opportunities and social centers for Milton residents.
- 9: Support plans for school facilities that will provide the students of Milton an opportunity for a modern education and create facilities that benefit the entire Town.
- 10: Allow for a range of housing opportunities in a manner that protects and enhances Milton's rural and agricultural character while providing housing for the elderly and lower income residents.
- 11: Provide opportunities and facilities for residents to participate in activities and events that foster a sense of community and a sense of place.
- 12: Retain the unique characteristics of the historic communities and historic resources within Milton.
- 13: Encourage and support opportunities for child daycare providers as well as programs for the elderly.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

14. Protect Milton's significant open space areas and natural resources by promoting sustainable development, supporting and utilizing tools for land protection, and raising public awareness of conservation practices.

2.2 Natural Resources

Introduction

Fourteen years have passed since Milton evaluated its policies and implementation strategies regarding the protection, conservation, and use of existing natural resources. The 2004 Natural Resource Chapter of the Master Plan served as a guide for policies and actions to preserve the town's natural resources and rural landscape for the sustainable health, safety, and welfare of current and future generations.

In 2015-2016, the Milton Conservation Commission, with support from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC), updated the Natural Resources Chapter for Planning Board review and approval. This update included: a thorough review of existing policies; a reorganization of sections to provide context and scientific findings; a community snapshot of existing land use conditions; and recommendations pertaining to resource-rich areas in need of protection. The Conservation Commission and Planning Board recognize that due to their importance, certain sections of this document deserve to be standalone chapters (i.e. Agricultural and Recreational) and expanded upon. It is recommended that this task be prioritized and completed over the next several years.

To assist with this update process, a community survey was created to provide community feedback for the Conservation Commission and the Planning Board. The initiative was led by the Chair of the Milton Economic Development Committee and members of the Conservation Commission.

Relevant goals and recommendations established in the previous plan, supplemented with specific feedback derived from the survey results, were used to generate an updated vision statement regarding Milton's natural resources. The vision statement outlines ideas regarding land use and future planning activities from the perspective of what the community will look like in 2027.

Vision Statement

In 2027 and beyond, Milton's wealth of natural resources will continue to contribute and enhance its unique rural character, economic prosperity, and quality of life. Milton's natural resources – including prime agricultural soils, forests, open spaces, a chain of lakes, streams, and other significant surface waterbodies, and drinking water resources – will be well protected by thoughtful land use management practices and land protection efforts. By balancing land conservation with local development needs, Milton's local economy will have prospered and led to the successful capitalization of niche market opportunities, including agritourism, ecotourism, and cultural tourism. Milton's abundant natural resources will support seasonal businesses, as well as attract new low-impact developments, including local retail businesses, shops, and

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

restaurants. The areas surrounding Milton Three Ponds will remain an attractive destination site and an essential component of the town's character by offering recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, boating, fishing, and other lake-related activities. Milton will continue to recognize that its agricultural heritage, scenic views, and historic resources all add to the town's rural charm.

Community Input

Throughout successive Master Plans, Milton's citizens have advocated for the protection of the

town's natural resources. The responses in the community survey identified the preservation of Milton's natural resources as important goals for the town to implement. The top three goals that would benefit the town include: supporting water quality in Milton Three Pond, ensuring drinking water quality, and the protection of lakes, streams and wetlands.

Other high priorities include: the preservation of scenery/views, the protection of open space, forests, and agricultural land, attracting new retail development, and access to public spaces.

The results of the community survey show the desire to foster and protect Milton's natural resources and community character. have been used in the preparation of this chapter. These results clearly reinforce the 2004 Master Plan

which called for a re-examination of current zoning ordinances and other regulations to better protect Milton's natural resources.

2015 Master Plan Community Survey: Natural Resources¹
Responses from 344 citizens who participated in the survey

Milton residents agree with the following statements:	
Please indicate how you feel the following would help to improve Milton:	Support
Water quality in Milton Three Ponds	90%
Protect drinking water quality and quantity	90%
Protect lakes, streams, and wetlands	88%
Preservation of scenery/views	83%
Preserve open space, forests and agricultural land	82%
Attract new retail development	82%
Access to public spaces	80%
Maintain Milton's unique character	78%

Weighted Score Explained

Average Response	Weighted % Score
Very Important	81% - 100%
Important	61% - 80%
Somewhat Important	41% - 60%
Less Important	21% - 40%
Not Important	0% - 20%
No Opinion	Not counted

¹ NOTE: Most questions were open ranked, presenting a series of options that mapped to a weighted value: for example, "Very Important," "Important," "Somewhat Important," "Less Important," and "Not Important" being weighted on a scale of 5 (very important) to 1 (not important). The total number of responses for each option was then counted, weighted, and **normalized to a scale of 0 to 100%**. The higher the number, the greater the support for that item; a weighted score of 100 indicated a unanimous response of "very important." This score does NOT translate to the percentage of respondents supporting a given item, but rather the weighted score of their support.

Economic Benefits of Natural Resource Protection

Overview

Past land use decisions frequently ignored or undervalued the significance of natural resources and open spaces, because it is often a challenge to place monetary values on natural resource characteristics. More recently, there have been various studies that have attempted to calculate the value that natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide.

Ecosystem services are the processes by which the environment produces resources (ones we often take for granted) such as clean water, timber, habitat for fisheries and pollination of native and agricultural plants. These services bring significant benefits to the region's economy and are central to the well-being of its residents. [Source: "Ecosystems & Society. EPSCoR." Ecosystems & Society. EPSCoR. Accessed June 21, 2016. <http://nhepscor.org/ecosystemsandsociety>.

The following are results from some of those studies, as well as some anecdotal information about the economic impacts and benefits from natural resource protection.

Maintaining a High Quality of Life

As referenced in the 2015 Master Plan Community Survey, residents strongly support the protection of the town's natural resources to maintain the current quality of life. Maintaining water quality through the protection of its lakes, streams, and wetlands; conserving open space, forests, and agriculture land; and attracting new retail development centered on niche-market tourism opportunities are high priorities. Residents expressed the importance of protecting scenic vistas and Milton's supporting landscapes to sustain a unique sense of community and place.

Cultural and historic landmarks, such as the Farm Museum help characterize Milton's landscape and accentuate the community's identity. Milton Three Ponds is a well-known and desirable destination area that offers a wide-variety of recreational opportunities, as well as important tax revenue for the town. Town-owned parks, open spaces, and local agricultural activities, such as McKenzie's Farm and Branch Hill Farm, attract seasonal occupants and tourists who contribute to the overall economic health of Milton while infusing the local economy with non-resident retail and service business.

Each of these values expressed by residents serves as an important component of the quality of life in Milton

Property Taxes and Values

While critics of open space and other conservation activities often point to a loss of gross revenue and property taxes, there are studies that demonstrate in some communities this may not be the case. Milton prepared a cost of community services study in 2005 after several other cities and towns prepared theirs in the 1990s.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Milton's cost of community service study, which was prepared by Innovative Natural Resource Solutions LLC found that the town spends \$1.30 for every \$1.00 it takes in from residential land use. In a larger context, for every \$10,000 in property tax and other revenues the town receives from residential land use, it spends \$13,000 to provide services. For commercial and industrial land, the town spends only \$0.35 in services for each \$1.00 in revenue. For open space, Milton spends \$0.72 to provide services for each \$1.00 it receives in revenue.

Community	Land Use Categories	Revenues	Expenditures	\$ Ratio
Milton, NH [2005]	Residential	\$5,751,214	\$7,493,596	1 : 1.30
	Commercial/Industrial	\$424,421	\$148,613	1 : .35
	Open Space	\$87,158	\$62,885	1 : .72

According to the report, open space not only pays its way in Milton, one can make the argument that it may also help to subsidize the costs associated with residential development in the town.

Additional studies in other parts of the country have also shown that properties adjacent to conservation lands increase in value, resulting in a boost in tax revenue. Economists call this term hedonic pricing – paying more for something based on its characteristics or those of the surrounding areas. In other words, a property near land that is preserved ensures that there will be fewer neighbors and more natural scenery.

Tourism, Recreation, Forestry, and Agriculture

Tourism

Tourism is important to the Town's economy. According to a 2010 report prepared for the New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development, jobs in the travel and tourism export sector grew by 11% between fiscal year 2012 and 2014, while jobs in manufacturing grew by only 1%. Tourism based on the Town's natural resources should be supported and encouraged. Although not included in estimating the contribution of the tourism industry, seasonal homes in Town are largely tourism-related. These tourism-related properties are a large source of tax revenue for Milton.

Recreation

Recreational opportunities in Milton such as camping, fishing and wildlife watching are important components to call attention to and support because outdoor recreation generates roughly \$4.2 billion dollars in consumer spending in New Hampshire and approximately \$292 million in state and local tax revenue. The Town can benefit from advocating for more of these activities.

Forestry

The forest products industry and forest-based recreation could benefit the Town given its large forested areas because these uses may get their raw materials (trees) or use from conserved lands and they contribute to job creation. One of the larger sawmills is in Middleton in the adjacent Town (DiPrizio Pine Sales).

Agriculture

Milton's agricultural history has substantially changed over the years and is not the dominating land use type it once was. It should also be noted that the traditional farming industry has declined over the years because of the conversion from agricultural land to natural forests. NH ranks 2nd in the nation in percentage of forested land (roughly 84%), which has in turn provided a new form of tourism.

However, the impacts of agriculture can play an important role in Milton's economy. Small farms are making a comeback; an example of this is McKenzie's Farm which is thriving and pursuing agritourism. This industry is a contributor to the state's character and quality of life.

Surface Water

Milton has many lakes and rivers and streams. Besides serving as a wildlife habitat, these surface waters support a variety of recreational and non-recreational uses including boating, fishing, swimming, nearby camping, and electrical production.

- Camping, boating, swimming and fishing all contribute to an increase in jobs, income and retail sales. This is corroborated by reports prepared by the NH Lakes Association for the state.

Water Quality

Maintaining high water quality is extremely important in sustaining the Town's economy for recreationalists who fish, boat, and swim. According to a 2007 report, the economic impact of recreationalists decreasing their visits because of perceived changes to water quality would have a significant negative effect on the local economy.² Local decision-makers, legislators, and residents must understand that the health of the economy and the environment are intimately connected.

Surface Water Resources

Policy Statement

Milton will protect the vitality of its surface water features as key biological, social, and economic assets, while providing that public health is ensured for the benefit of present and future generations. Milton will encourage and assist in the development of management plans for the waters and shoreland to conserve and protect valued recreational and aesthetic characteristics, and those of community significance.

² Nordstrom, Anne. The Economic Impact of Potential Decline in New Hampshire Water Quality: The Link Between Visitor Perceptions, Usage, and Spending. Report. New Hampshire Lakes, Rivers, Streams, and Ponds Partnership. 2007.

Watersheds

In general terms, a watershed is an area of land upstream of a waterbody (a point in a stream or the outlet of a lake) in which all the surface water drains to the waterbody. A watershed is delineated by starting at the point in a stream or the outlet of a lake and following the highest elevation of land that divides the direction of flow until returning to the point or outlet.³

Watersheds consist of surface waters – lakes, streams, reservoirs, and wetlands--and all the underlying ground water. Larger watersheds contain many smaller watersheds. This means that every stream, brook, tributary, river, overland runoff and even some groundwater eventually reaches a larger body of water within its immediate watershed.⁴

As shown in Figure 1 and Table 1, the two major watersheds in Milton and surrounding communities are the Cocheco River and Salmon Falls River watersheds.

The principal rivers and surface waters in Milton include the Salmon Falls River, the Branch River, Milton Three Ponds, and Spaulding Pond.

As reported in Table 1, approximately 84 percent or roughly 18,544 acres of land is contained within the Salmon Falls watershed. There are four subwatersheds located inside the Salmon Falls watershed, which includes: the Headwaters – Great East Lake, Milton Pond, Jones Brook – Branch River, and Middle Salmons Falls River. The remaining 14 percent or approximately 3,392 acres of land is contained within the Cocheco River watershed. There are two subwatersheds located inside the Cocheco River watershed, which includes: the Upper Cocheco River and the Middle Cocheco River.

Figure 1: Major Watersheds of Milton

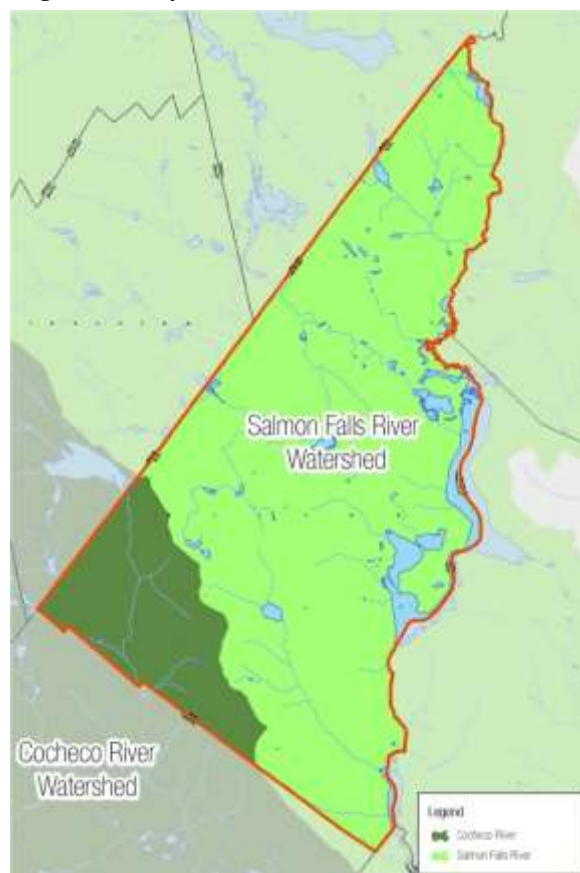


Table 1: Watersheds by USGS Hydrologic Unit Classification (HUC)

HUC 10 Watershed	HUC 12 Subwatershed	Acres	% of Municipal Area
Cocheco River Watershed	Upper Cocheco River	3,054	14%

³ "New Hampshire Watersheds." New Hampshire Watersheds. Accessed December 31, 2015.
<http://nhwatersheds.unh.edu/wiaw.html>.

⁴ "What Is a Watershed?" Watersheds and Drainage Basins, USGS Water Science School. Accessed December 31, 2015.
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html>.

(0106000306)	(010600030601)		
	Middle Cocheco River (0106000306103)	338	2%
	Headwaters – Great East Lake (010600030403)	804	4%
	Milton Pond (010600030404)	6,678	30%
	Jones Brook – Branch River (010600030402)	6,487	29%
Salmon Falls Watershed (0106000304)	Middle Salmon Falls River (010600030405)	4,575	21%

[Source: U.S. Geological Survey]

Rivers and Brooks

Milton has a total of approximately 70 linear miles of streams and rivers, including perennial streams and rivers, as well as intermittent streams, creeks, and brooks. The two largest rivers in size and in length are the Branch River and Salmon Falls River, which both have river segments classified as third, fourth, and fifth order streams. Other smaller brooks of consequence include: Miller Brook, Lyman Brook, Jones Brook, Hart Brook, Great Brook, and Dames Brook. Table 2 provides the length of these river systems.

Stream Order

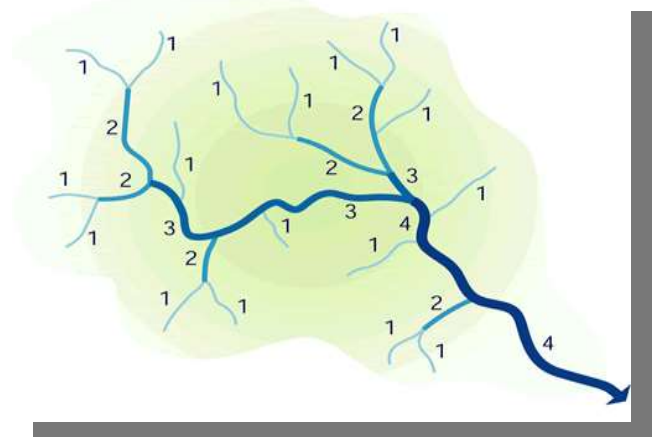
The Strahler (1957) modified Horton (1945) method for stream order hierarchy is a way to define the size of perennial (a stream with water in its bed continuously throughout the year) and intermittent (a stream with water in its bed only part of the year) streams. When using stream order to classify a stream, the size ranges from the smallest, a first order stream, to the largest, a 12th order stream. A first order stream is the smallest and consists of small tributaries. First through third order streams are also called headwater streams and constitute any waterways in the upper reaches of a watershed. Going up in size and strength, streams that are classified as fourth through sixth order are medium stream while anything larger is considered a river.

Table 2: Stream Miles

Name	Length (miles)
Salmon Falls River	16
Branch River	5
Miller Brook	2
Hart Brook	4
Lyman/Great Brook	5
Dames Brook	3
Jones Brook	5
All other perennial and intermittent streams	30

[Source: NH Hydrography Dataset]

Figure 2: Classifying Stream Orders



This method of classifying stream size is important for water management, as it promotes a better understanding of the size and strength of specific waterways and the amount of sediment in an area. It also helps scientists and biologist predict the number and types of organisms present in a stream of a given size.⁵

Salmon Falls River

The Salmon Falls River originates at Great East Lake (Wakefield, NH). The river flows principally southeast to join the Cocheco River, which flows from the west into the City of Dover, New Hampshire. Together they form the Piscataqua River, which is a tidal river that enters the Atlantic Ocean twelve miles downstream in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Kittery, Maine. The Salmon Falls River, with a length of 38 miles, forms a portion of the southern border between New Hampshire and Maine.⁶

The river provides hydroelectric power in Milton, North Rochester, Somersworth, and Rollinsford, and in Maine at Berwick and South Berwick.

Branch River

The Branch River is approximately 12 miles long and originates at Lovell Lake (Wakefield, NH). The river flows south along the Route 16 and 153 corridors, passing through the village of Union before discharging into Union Meadows Pond. From there the river flows southeast into Milton Three Ponds, where it joins the Salmon Falls River.

Other Perennial Streams

There are many smaller brooks and feeder streams that act as headwaters to the Branch and Salmon Falls rivers. These include: Miller, Lyman, Jones, Hart, Great, and Dames brooks. Due to the relative rural environment of Milton, many of these brooks are in undeveloped areas that provide recreational opportunities and extensive wildlife habitat.

Rivers Subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

The Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B), originally named the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) was enacted by the 1991 session of the Legislature, amended in 2008 and amended and renamed the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA) in

⁵ Briney, Amanda. "Stream Order: A Classification of the Rank of Streams and Rivers." About.com Education. Accessed December 31, 2015. <http://geography.about.com/od/physicalgeography/a/streamorder.htm>.

⁶ "Review of Application for Certification of South Milton Hydroelectric Project." Report to the Low Impact Hydropower Institute South Milton Hydroelectric Project Certification Request. Accessed January 7, 2016. <http://www.lowimpacthydro.org/assets/files/SouthMiltonCertificationFinalReport16Jan2013.pdf>.

2011. The act established minimum standards for the subdivision, use and development of the shorelands along the state's larger waterbodies.

In Milton, all lakes, ponds and impoundments greater than 10 acres, all 4th order and greater streams and rivers, all designated rivers and river segments under RSA 483 (The Rivers Management & Protection Act) are subject to the regulations. Table 3 identifies rivers in Milton subject to the SWQPA.

Table 3: Rivers Subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

Town	River/Stream Name	Where River/Stream becomes jurisdictional under the SWQPA
Milton	Salmon Falls River	Juncture of Miller Brook
	Branch River	Juncture of Jones Brook

[Source: NHDES – Water Division, Shoreland Program]

Lakes and Ponds

Milton is home to a variety of small ponds and other unnamed surface water bodies that are typically located within large wetland complexes in low lying areas through which rivers, streams, and small unnamed tributaries flow. The town's major lakes and ponds include Milton Three Ponds and Spaulding Pond.

Milton Three Ponds

Milton's "Three Ponds" are a collection of ponds consisting of Northeast Pond, Milton Pond, and Townhouse Pond. The Three Ponds represent a prime source of tourism and tax revenue for Milton. Properties with pond access are assessed at higher values relative to the rest of Milton, and therefore generate significantly higher tax revenues. The ponds attract seasonal occupants and tourists that contribute to the overall economic health of Milton by infusing the local economy with non-resident retail and service business. The ponds are a key element of Milton's community character. While all ponds and water resources are important and should be protected, the Three Ponds are crucial to Milton's quality of life.

Spaulding Pond

Spaulding Pond, formed on the Salmon Falls River, was historically impacted by the unregulated discharge of industrial wastes. These discharges were regulated in the 1970's, and sampling by Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) in 1999 indicated that water quality had greatly improved. Water quality is currently considered very good.

Significant Headwater Systems

Headwaters (i.e., springs and intermittent, first and second-order streams) are abundant and unique components of a river network. Because their catchments are not large and are easily influenced by small-scale differences in local conditions, headwater streams are arguably the

most varied of all running-water habitats. They offer an enormous array of habitats for microbial, plant, and animal life, but their small size also makes them especially sensitive to disruption.⁷

Other benefits provided by primary headwater streams include: reduction of sediment delivery downstream, reduction in nutrient loading (nitrogen and phosphorous), flood storage and control, and wildlife habitat corridors and aquatic habitat. The economic reasons to protect and improve primary headwater streams include: protection of public drinking water sources, maintenance of recreational uses of lakes, ponds and rivers, minimizing damage to infrastructure (bridges, culverts, dams) and property, and maintaining channel morphology and land stability.

The area in which the Branch River flows into Three Ponds, as it joins the Salmon Falls River, is recognized as an important feeder stream from Lovell Lake (Wakefield, NH), which is one of the five headwater subwatersheds identified in the Salmon Falls Headwater Lakes Watershed Management Plan.

Lakes/Ponds Subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

All lakes, ponds and impoundments greater than 10 acres are subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. Table 4 identifies lakes/ponds in Milton subject to the SWQPA.

Table 4: Lake/Pond Subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

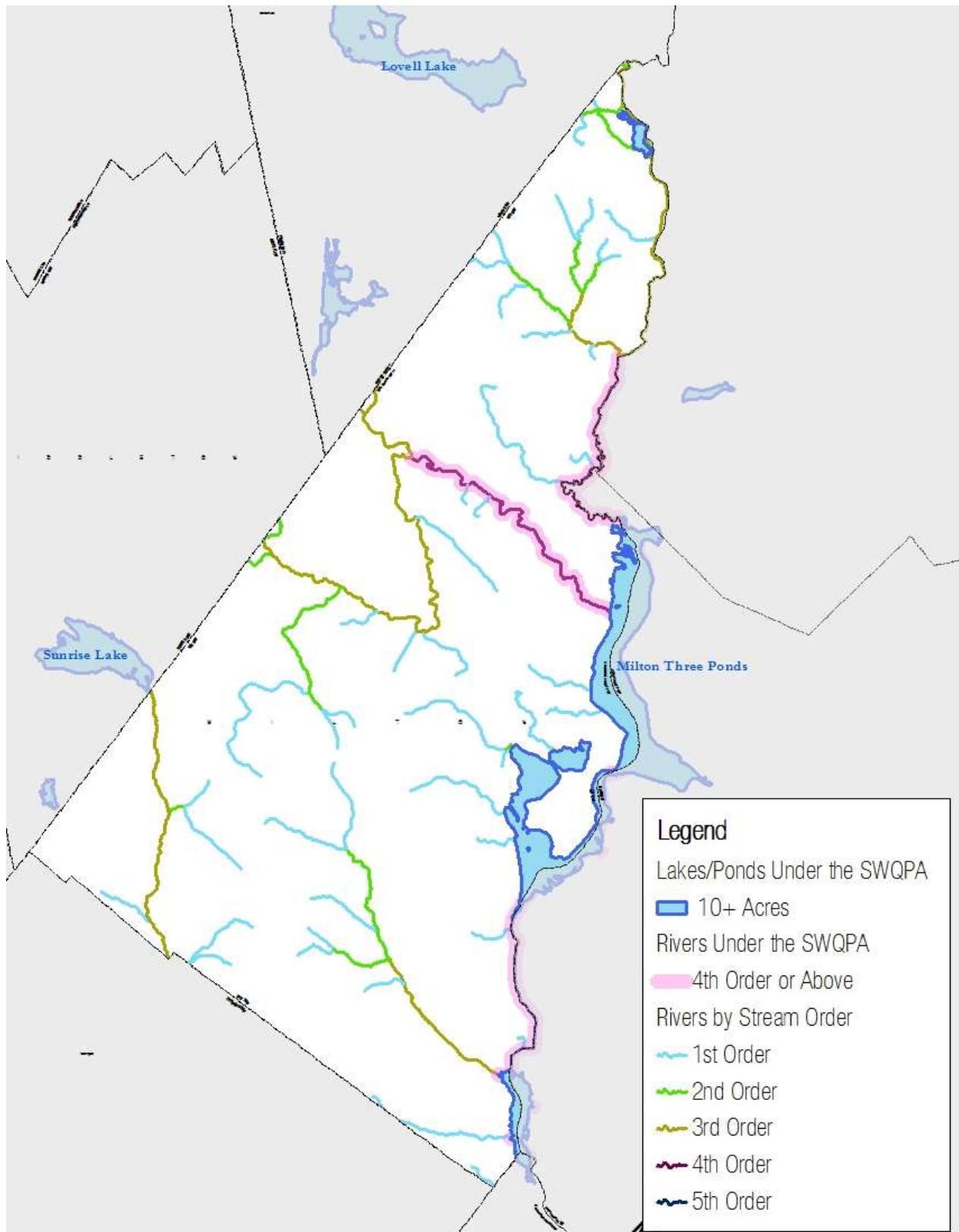
Town	Lake/Pond Name	Size in Acres	Surface Elevation
Milton	Milton Pond (NH Portion only)	120	415
	Northeast Pond (NH Portion only)	282	415
	Townhouse Pond	119	415
	Spaulding Pond	50	242
	Salmon Falls River Reservoir	>10	501

[Source: NHDES – Water Division, Shoreland Program]

⁷ Meyer, Judy L., David L. Strayer, J. Bruce Wallace, Sue L. Eggert, Gene S. Helfman, and Norman E. Leonard. "The Contribution of Headwater Streams to Biodiversity in River Networks." February 1, 2007. Accessed January 5, 2016. <http://coweeta.uga.edu/publications/3060.pdf>.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Figure 3: Stream Order and Public Waterbodies under the SWQPA



Fisheries

Fish restoration can be effective when a combination of methods is applied that address multiple stressors that affect the health of river systems. These methods are described in Table 5 on the next page.

In Milton, many of the lakes and ponds offer cold and warm water fisheries for residents and visitors. For example, Milton Three Ponds provides year-long fishing opportunities for local anglers. Principal fish species include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white perch, and chain pickerel.

Spaulding Pond is another location that offers fishing opportunities. The reservoir provides good water quality and fisheries include: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, white perch, yellow perch, white sucker, hornpout, pumpkinseed sunfish, and American eel. According to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the American eel is a Species of Special Concern in Maine. Alewives were introduced into Great East Lake in 1972, and have subsequently become landlocked and established in other lakes lower in the Salmon Falls Drainage, including Milton Three Ponds. It is also likely that landlocked alewives are present in Spaulding Pond. In addition, a walleye was caught by a winter angler in 2002. This isolated fish presumably migrated from Lovell Pond in New Hampshire, where walleyes were stocked in the early 1990's.⁸

Table 5: Fish Habitat Restoration Methods⁹

Method	Description
Dam Removal	The removal or breach of an instream structure that diverts or impounds water. In addition to restoring fish passage to upstream areas, dam removal can increase fish habitat quality by restoring water flows.
Natural-Like Fishways (NLF)	NLF's are carefully designed to mimic the natural conditions in the river reach that has been blocked. Successfully designed and constructed NLF can pass most or all naturally occurring species and provide good quality stream habitat.
Fish Ladder	A fish ladder is a series of ascending pools or steps with flowing water that allows some fish species to pass over barriers. Installation of fish ladders is an alternative restoration option when barrier removal is not feasible.

⁸ "Maine Lake Survey Maps - York County." Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Accessed January 5, 2016. https://www1.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/lakesurvey_maps/york/spaulding_pond.pdf

⁹ Ibid

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Fish Lift	A fish lift is an elevator-like mechanism where fish are attracted by species-specific water flows and are mechanically lifted up and released over a structure. Fish lifts can potentially accommodate all fish species and are most effective in bringing fish over very large structures such as large hydroelectric dams.
Culvert Enhancement or Replacement	Scientists are increasingly looking at culverts as a source of stream habitat fragmentation. NH has conducted assessments of the impacts of culverts on stream habitat continuity.
Stocking	Fish stocking involves the release of adult and juvenile fishes into a river targeted for restoration. Fish may be captured and transported from rivers supporting healthy populations, or may be trapped in the lower reaches of a river and moved above an impoundment. Fish may also be hatchery produced and introduced into the target river in the juvenile stage.
Habitat Restoration	Habitat restoration involves improvements to water and substrate quality, including: shoreland buffer restoration to address runoff and erosion issues, storm water runoff treatment to improve water quality, and restoration of stream channel morphology to increase floodplain habitat. These improvements promote the long-term reestablishment of fish populations, and address the overall ecological health of a system.

Existing Local Regulations to Protect Surface Waters

The Milton Zoning Ordinance contains an overlay district that protects surface waters by limiting development and land disturbance near them, found in Article XVII Shoreland Protection Overlay District (revised and adopted 3/11/14). The Town's Shoreland Protection Overlay District protects shorelands adjacent to all waters within the municipality which encompasses all land within 250-feet of the public boundary line of the waters.

The district prohibits certain land uses that threaten both surface and groundwater resources, including junkyards, solid waste facilities, snow dumping, and bulk storage of hazardous materials. The district also imposes additional minimum lot sizes, setback for primary structures, and provides development standards for natural buffers.

Surface Water Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Due to the small amount of conservation land within the Milton Three Ponds watershed, there is a potential for an increase in development, which could have negative impacts on water quality, wildlife, and human enjoyment of the ponds.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Goal: Comprehensive protection of shorelands along Northeast Pond, Milton Pond, and Townhouse Pond, as well as the subwatersheds that feed Milton Three Ponds and the Salmon Falls River.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

The town's decision-makers should use smart growth principles, where applicable, when reviewing its operating procedures, policies, and regulatory framework to locate development in appropriate growth areas and retain open space land around Milton's surface waters.¹⁰

Education and Outreach

Conduct an outreach program to contact landowners around Milton Three Ponds and encourage them to use Best Management Practices (BMP's) to protect key natural resources, and share information regarding voluntary land protection techniques.

Community Initiatives

Support existing local organizations, such as the Three Ponds Protective Association (TPPA), as well as the formation of new groups with the mission of providing community initiatives and workshops to protect the Milton Three Ponds and additional resources within the town.

Issue: Milton's natural resources play a fundamental role in the town's economy, rural character, and quality of life. The decline in these resources would negatively impact tax revenue.

Goal: Adequately protect all the surface water resources of Milton through careful study and monitoring of the water quality in the lakes, developing effective, yet reasonable water protection regulations, and encouraging conservation practices and sustainable development.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

Complete a regulatory audit on the existing local Shoreland Protection Overlay District to ensure it is compliant with statute and the most up-to-date information, criteria, and standards

Education and Outreach

Work with other organizations and agencies on outreach and education programs to protect water quality, including the protection of the source waters of feeder streams flowing out of the Moose Mountains Range. Encourage town decision makers to support funding for water testing and to identify and eradicate invasive species which threaten the aquatic ecosystem.

¹⁰ Milton may wish to reference, "Achieving Smart Growth in New Hampshire – July 2005" or the APA's "Policy Guide on Smart Growth".

Conservation

Support the land protection efforts of the Milton Conservation Commission (MCC), land trusts, and watershed organizations as they pertain to Milton's watershed. Submit a model warrant article that enables the MCC to use the Conservation Fund for land protection projects outside the town boundary that benefit Milton's watershed and public drinking water.

Planning

Reference existing action plans developed by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, the Nature Conservancy, Salmon Falls Collaborative, SRPC, and NH Fish & Game, to prioritize land for conservation that protects water quality, including lands adjacent to major surface water features such as streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Groundwater Resources & Protection Measures

Policy Statement

Milton will preserve, maintain, and protect from contamination existing and potential groundwater supply areas and protect surface waters that are fed by groundwater.

Importance of Groundwater Resources

Groundwater is a critical natural and economic resource for Milton. It is the most frequently used source of drinking water, in addition to being an integral part of the hydrologic system and vitally important for fish, wildlife, and recreation. Milton is among three other communities (Dover, Farmington, and Rollinsford) in the Bellamy, Cocheco, and Salmon Falls River basins that rely completely on groundwater as their source for public water supply.

Groundwater can be contaminated when chemicals or other substances are spilled or discharged onto or into the ground. Liquids can flow through the ground into groundwater, and both solids and liquids can be flushed downward by rain and snowmelt. Once contaminants reach groundwater, they often move along with the groundwater flow. The most common causes of groundwater contamination in New Hampshire are leaking underground storage tanks, mishandling of industrial chemicals, and stormwater runoff.

Stratified-Drift Aquifers

Stratified-drift aquifers are coarse-grained sand or sand and gravel deposits that contain a usable supply of water. These deposits are typically laid out in layers in meltwater streams flowing from

Table 6: Acres of Stratified-Drift Aquifers in Milton

Type	Acres	% Total Municipal Area
Stratified-Drift	2,337	10.7%

[Source: USGS]

historic glaciers. Depending on the depth and the coarseness of the material, these deposits generally provide good sources of groundwater because of their high capacity to store groundwater over large areas.¹¹ Table 6 shows the acreage of stratified-drift aquifers in Milton.

Milton Three Ponds Aquifer

Milton's most productive groundwater resource is an area of deep stratified-drift deposits (140ft), delineated in the Salmon Falls River Valley around Milton Three Ponds. A buried channel probably continues beneath the Salmon Falls River at Northeast Pond and trends northward towards Laskey Corner. In this area, thick deposits (90ft) were found between the confluence of the Branch and the Salmon Falls Rivers. Stratified-drift deposits generally are medium-to fine-grained sand in the Milton area. Where deposits are coarse grained, the potential is good for development of additional water-supply wells. Saturated thickness is large in the Milton Three Ponds area, and the ponds there would provide a source of induced infiltration.¹²

Bedrock Aquifers

Bedrock aquifers are composed of fractured bedrock or ledge. Groundwater is stored in voids that are created by these fractures. On average, bedrock aquifers tend to yield smaller volumes of groundwater than wells drilled in stratified drift. Finding a sizable void or fracture can be a costly procedure.

Areas of Milton not covered by stratified drift deposits are underlain by bedrock. Typically, most bedrock has variable water yield depending on subsurface conditions (i.e. type of bedrock and the degree of fracturing and connectivity).

State Protection Measures

The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) recommends a multi-tiered approach to protecting groundwater that includes land conservation for the most sensitive resource areas, prohibiting specific land uses that present high risk for contamination, and implementing proper management of hazardous substances. A fact sheet detailing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Groundwater Protection is available at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/documents/dwgb-22-4.pdf>

Existing Local Regulations to Protect Surface Waters

Milton Zoning Ordinance Article XVI Groundwater Protection Overlay District provides regulatory protection for existing and potential groundwater supplies and related groundwater recharge areas within the town. The district is intended to limit development and land use practices that would contaminate or reduce the recharge of the identified aquifers.

¹¹ Medalie, Laura, and Richard Bridge Moore. "Ground-water Resources in New Hampshire: Stratified-Drift Aquifers." USGS Publication Warehouse. 1995. Accessed January 26, 2016. http://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/wrir_95-4100/pdf/wrir_95-4100.pdf.

¹² Mack, Thomas J., and Sean M. Lawlor. "Geohydrology and Water Quality of Stratified-Drift Aquifers in the Bellamy, Cocheco, and Salmon Falls River Basins, Southeastern New Hampshire." USGS Publication Warehouse. 1992. Accessed January 26, 2016. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/1990/4161/report.pdf>.

Currently, the Overlay District includes all stratified-drift aquifer areas based on data developed by the United States Geological Survey, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Water Division. In 2015, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission completed a regulatory audit on the town's groundwater protection measures and provided recommendations to include all delineated wellhead protection areas around existing and potential municipal production wells in the district. The regulatory audit also included recommendations on the groundwater district map and updates to the following sections: performance standards, prohibited uses, conditional uses, and maintenance and inspection. The Planning Board will discuss the revisions and support the adoption of the updates to the overlay district.

Groundwater Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Milton relies solely on groundwater as their source for drinking water, which emphasizes the need to protect identified key aquifers to ensure certain land uses do not impact existing and future public and private drinking water supplies.

Goal: Protect groundwater resources on a community basis through local land use controls or acquisition of land or easements, as well as through regional approaches to ensure the protection of groundwater resources that cross political boundaries.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

1. Adopt revised Groundwater Protection Overlay District zoning to ensure that the town's groundwater protection regulations are compliant with state laws, consistent with current approaches and best management practices.
2. Adopt the revised Groundwater Protection Overlay District Map, which includes updated wellhead protection areas.

Education and Outreach

1. Work with adjacent communities to discuss the need for regional collaboration when protecting and regulating groundwater resources.
2. The Planning Board should encourage developers and professional landscapers to use a low-impact, ecological approach to landscaping and stormwater management techniques. Similar techniques should also be encouraged for landowners.¹³
3. Using GIS, identify groundwater contamination and hazards to prioritize sites for future clean-up and removal.

Conservation

Prioritize conservation of land that protects critical groundwater resources shown on the Groundwater Protection Overlay District Map. The town should

also use data from other relevant conservation action plans when prioritizing areas for future conservation efforts.

Issue: Older septic systems (the typical lifespan is often considered 40 years) carry a higher risk of failure and are known to be potential non-point sources of pollution in the watershed.

Goal: Ensure that existing septic systems are maintained, managed, and operated to minimize adverse impacts on water quality.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

1. Consider establishing regulations that would require septic system inspection with the transfer of title of the property.
2. Encourage the installation of enhanced performance septic systems, or regular septic system inspection when applicable.

Planning

Conduct a nutrient analysis to determine nitrogen loading from septic system along Milton Three Ponds.

Education and Outreach

1. Develop a fact sheet on the importance of proper septic system maintenance, including: inspection, water conservation, and the recommendation to pump out existing systems every two to three years.
2. Develop a survey to engage residents around Milton Three Ponds to solicit input on current septic system maintenance activities. Survey results could be used to formulate a plan of action or preparation of new regulations.
3. Apply for funding with SRPC, Milton Water District, and TPPA to implement education and outreach strategies

Municipal Drinking Water Supply

Policy Statement

Milton will provide a comprehensive drinking water program for the citizens of Milton. It shall be consistent with and at least as stringent as the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

New land development projects typically obtain water supply in one of three ways: 1) a connection to an existing public water system; 2) a stand-alone, centralized water system created

¹³ Milton may choose to reference UNH Cooperative Extension's, "Landscaping at the Water's Edge: An Ecological Approach" [2007] or NHDES's, "Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development" Chapter 3.6 Landscaping Regulations [2007] for technical assistance.

to exclusively serve the development; or 3) private on-lot wells. In many instances, the geographic area is not served by a larger public water system and the proponent of a new project is left with the option of developing a centralized water system or private on-lot water supply wells. Often a land developer finds that designing a community water system is costly and time consuming because state regulations require that the water system be monitored to ensure that the water supply have adequate quantity and quality. Similar state regulations do not exist if the developer avoids developing a community water system by subdividing land and constructing on-lot private water supply wells.¹⁴

Existing Municipal Drinking Water Sources

For nearly 10 years, Milton has been able to meet its municipal water supply needs with high quality groundwater from the Rocky Point Wellfield located on a peninsula west of the Salmon Falls River and east of Town House Pond and Milton Pond. Prior to 2007, Milton's groundwater supply needs were met by Well #5 – a gravel-packed well located west of Milton Pond along Route 125. Due to significant leaks the well has been redeveloped and the Milton Water District has instituted a rigorous leak detection protocol.

Rocky Point Wellfield

The Rocky Point Wellfield consists of four gravel-packed production wells located approximately 30 to 40 feet apart with individual production rates ranging from 50 to 78 gallons per minute (gpm). The on-site wellfield has an approved large groundwater withdrawal permit from NH DES that allows for the withdrawal of 365,760 gallons over any 24-hour period for community water supply. This permit will expire in January 2017.

The wellfield was developed by the Milton Water District (MWD) in response to Administrative Order WD 01-32 issued by NH DES, Water Division, on October 9, 2001 that required the construction of a second groundwater source and the connection of the new source to the existing system. Test wells were originally installed at Rocky Point in the late 1980's and initially tested in 1990 to evaluate the potential capacity of the wellfield; however, MWD decided not to pursue permitting of the wells at that time.

The area associated with the Rocky Point Wellfield consists of a peninsula that is largely undeveloped except for a manufactured home park and many cottages along the shoreline. Ground surface elevations range from approximately 413 feet at Milton Pond to approximately 438 feet at the northern portion of the peninsula. The wellfield is in the Milton Three Ponds Aquifer consisting of thick stratified drift deposits contained in a bedrock channel trending westerly to roughly north-south, parallel to the Salmon Falls River. Well logs indicate approximately 90 feet of sediments of relatively uniform sands and gravels with little to no clay. Depth to water is approximately 10 to 15 feet below ground surface near the wellfield and the deepest production well of the four has a total depth of approximately 44 feet.

¹⁴ The House Bill 1353 Subcommittee of the Groundwater Commission. "Permitting and Regulation of Large Groundwater Withdrawals in New Hampshire." Final Recommendations Appropriate Roles for Municipalities and Consideration of Criteria that Should Be Used. November 2010.

Service Connections Statistics and Potential Expansion

Since 2008, there have been five new connections to the Milton Water District as referenced below in Table 7. Due to major leaks at Well #5, the District had not been encouraging new connections. In 2009, it was estimated that Well #5 was losing 80% of its output. Lack of consistent maintenance and repairs were the lead factors in the pump's inability to pump at an efficient rate. Over the last few years, the Milton Water District has made significant upgrades and implemented a leak detection program, which has led to a 59% efficiency increase. During the fourth quarter of 2015, it was reported that Well #5 is losing approximately 21% of its output or roughly 13,000 gallons a day.

Table 7: New Municipal Water Connections from 2008 – 2015

Year	Type of Structure			Total Municipal Water Connections
	Single Family	Apartment/Condo	Commercial	
2008	4	-	-	4
2009 - 2014	-	-	-	-
2015	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	4	-	1	5

[Source: Milton Water District, 2016]

Currently, the Milton Water District pumps approximately 148 gallons a minute. The pumps can handle an 18% increase, however due to operating at 150lbs pressure the District cannot allow it to run any higher. The District currently uses an average of 45 gallons a minute, which is approximately 30% of their capability. The only way to increase their capacity would be to add a booster pump between the downtown area and the tank. While the state would like the District to install the booster pump, it would be quite expensive. However, it would allow for the reduction of pressure (less leaks) and provide better pressure to the tank and the streets near the tank.

As of early 2016, the Milton Water District has had informal discussions with the St. James and Pineland Park owners about potential extensions to those areas and cost estimates for implementation.

Water Use and Production Statistics

Milton's water usage has remained steady over the course of the last ten years, with an average of approximately 2 million gallons of water being withdrawn each month. It should be noted that these numbers are reported from the well meters, and does not include information on how much water is being lost due to leaks within the system.

Data reported in Table 8 shows water production statistics from 2006 to 2015 for both the Rocky Point Wellfield and Well #5. The Rocky Point Wellfield came online in 2008. In 2015, Well #5 was deactivated for equipment upgrades and repairs. As of early 2016, both sources were back online.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Table 8: Municipal Water Production and Daily Use Averages from 2006 – 2015

Year	Yearly Volume (gallons per day)			Average Monthly Use (gallons)
	Rocky Point Wellfield GPW1, GPW2, GPW3, GPW4	Well #5	Total Volume	
2006	-	45,746,200	45,746,200	3,812,183
2007	-	39,478,800	39,478,800	3,289,900
2008	13,106,100	25,030,200	38,136,300	1,589,013
2009	45,267,300	10,543,000	55,810,300	2,325,429
2010	34,512,000	17,422,000	51,934,000	2,163,917
2011	17,098,200	18,038,800	35,137,000	1,464,042
2012	14,205,000	12,256,400	26,461,400	1,102,558
2013	14,281,000	13,174,700	27,455,700	1,143,988
2014	24,991,900	954,200	25,946,000	1,081,088
2015	24,918,800	0.0	24,918,800	2,076,600
Average total and average daily production from 2006 – 2015			37,102,450	2,004,872

[Source: NH DES Drinking Water Source Protection Program, 2016]

Future Municipal Drinking Water Supplies

Local data was utilized to describe existing water demand as using approximately 50% of the capacity of the current system, however estimated projections of demand need to be calculated based on amount of developable land and land use regulations and other impediments to future development. This task should be a priority for the land use chapter of the Milton Master Plan.

Projections of Demand

It is likely that Milton has enough developable acreage in Town to push the limits of the available future water resources. Water supply systems in some locations may be inadequate to meet future demand. Although water use on a per-person basis is declining, projected population growth will result in greater water demand.¹⁵ In the Seacoast region, domestic water demand is expected to grow by 54% between 2003 and 2025, and non-domestic water demand by 62 percent.¹⁶

Other Public Water Supply Systems

A Public Water Supply (PWS) is a system for the provision of piped water for human consumption, and has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. The Town has several of these as shown in Table 10, below.

¹⁵ “New Hampshire Lives on Water,” New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission – Final Report. 2012. <http://www.nh.gov/water-sustainability/publications/documents/wsc-final-report.pdf>

¹⁶ Ibid.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Table 10: Statistics of Existing Permitted Public Drinking Water Supply by Type as Delineated by DES

PWS Id	Site Location	Type	Category	Population Served	Service Connections
1581010	Milton Water District	Community System	Large CWS (>1000 pop.)	800	350
1583010	Pineland Park	Community System	Mobile Home Park	425	170
1587030	Mi Te Jo Camping Area/South	Transient Non-Community	Campground	100	44
1587010	Mi Te Jo Camping Area	Transient Non-Community	Campground	670	223
1588080	Milton Mills Variety	Transient Non-Community	Snack Bar	50	1
1586040	Index Packaging	Non-Transient Non-Community	Industrial Facility	120	2
1585030	Milton Children's Center	Non-Transient Non-Community	Day Care	90	1
1582010	Shortridge Academy	Non-Transient Non-Community	Institution	64	6

[Source: NH DES One Stop Data Site]

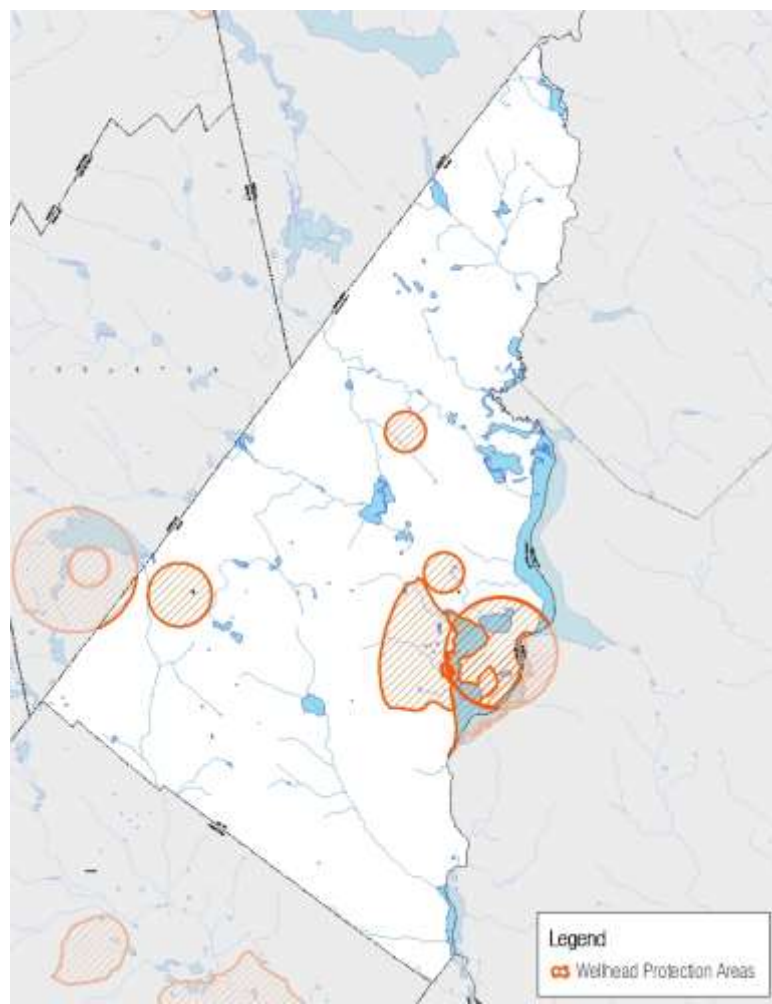
Figure 4: Wellhead Protection Areas within Milton

Approximately 2,290 acres of land are contained within the wellhead protection areas for public drinking water supplies. Milton has 630 private drinking water wells registered with the NHDES Drinking Water Protection Program water well database, which reports only new private wells drilled and registered from 1984 to the present.

Table 11: Wellhead Protection Areas for Public Drinking Water Supplies (active areas only)

Type	Protected Areas (acres)	% Total Municipal Area
Community	2,290	10.4%

[Source: NH DES, Wellhead Protection Areas, 2015]



Water Conservation Plans

Water utilities should specify water conservation planning goals in terms of expected benefits for the water system and its customers. Lowering water demand can help water suppliers avoid, downsize and postpone the construction and operation of new supply facilities. Water conservation reduces demands on both private and municipal wastewater systems, and can benefit customers and utilities by lowering energy and long-term costs.

The DES Water Conservation Program is further committed to promoting water efficiency through a partnership with the EPA WaterSense Program and a Leak Detection Grant Program. DES annually promotes the WaterSense Program's "Fix-a-leak Week" and "ShowerBetter" campaigns and continues to spread the message about WaterSense certified water fixtures and products. Annually, DES funds leak detection survey grants, providing community water systems across the state with acoustical leak detection surveys conducted by a leak detection specialist.

Municipal Drinking Water Supply Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Increases in development and the subsequent subdividing of land that results in the construction of on-lot private water supply wells can lead to impacts on the overall availability of groundwater to recharge, which can lead to localized well interference issues, and insufficient capacity supplies for new homes.

Goal: Ensure that new developments extracting groundwater from single private wells not regulated by the State (such as a new housing subdivision with private on-lot wells) will leave an adequate supply of groundwater and not adversely impact existing water users and water dependent natural resources.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

1. Develop a local source water protection plan to identify water system vulnerabilities. Establish use of techniques to manage potentially contaminating land uses, such as restrictions to the protective well radius and education on how the hydrological system works.

Issue: The average household wastes more than 10,000 gallons each year from easy-to-fix water leaks.

Goal: Work with community water systems, commercial and industrial water users, and institutional water users to develop a water conservation plan focused on reducing water losses, water waste, and water use.

Recommendations

Education & Outreach

1. Provide information to homeowners on how to check and replace leaking fixtures.
2. Encourage homeowners to participate in water audits to identify losses and implement water efficiency practices.

Wetlands

Policy Statement

Milton will protect and preserve the town's lands submerged under fresh waters and its wetlands from unregulated alteration to ensure the health and value of such areas, as well as to limit adverse impacts affecting the interests of the general public.

Overview

Wetlands are defined as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal conditions does support, a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.¹⁷ Wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

Wetlands can be identified in the field using these three indicators:

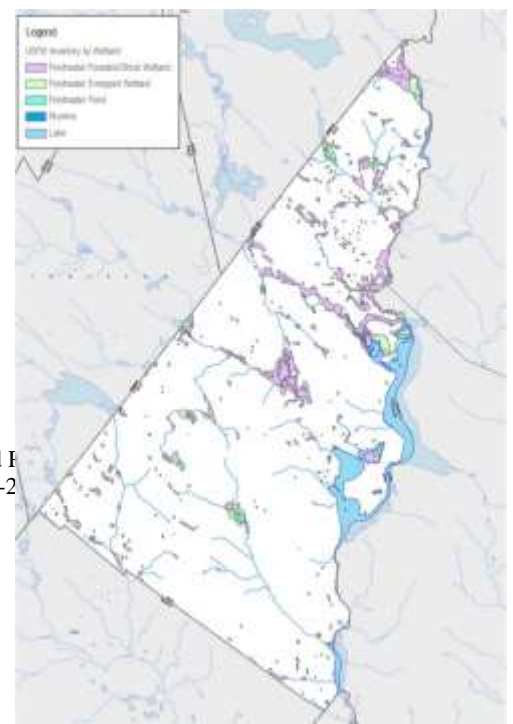
- Wetlands hydrology – the presence of water at or near the surface for at least part of the growing season
- Hydric soils – the presence of poorly drained or very poorly drained soils
- Wetlands vegetation – its prevalence and type

Wetlands are important for removing excess nutrients and sediment from the water, slowing and storing floodwaters, promoting groundwater infiltration, and providing habitat for a variety of vegetation and wildlife. In addition, wetlands provide recreational, educational and research opportunities. Vernal pools are a special type of wetland that typically dry out in the summer, have no fish population, and are especially valuable for amphibian reproduction.

Wetlands in Milton

Wetlands are an extremely sensitive natural resource that directly supports wildlife habitats and vegetation necessary for a healthy environment. They also provide important water nutrients and

Figure 5: Wetlands as identified by the US Fish & Wildlife Service



¹⁷ New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. "Chapter 482 Water Management and Wetlands. Section 482-A:2." New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulations. 2015-2

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

filtration that improve the water quality of downstream rivers and ponds.

Wetlands identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) are summarized in Table 12 by major wetland type and acreage. The total area of NWI wetlands mapped in Milton is 2,169.4 acres or nearly 10% of the town's total area.

Table 12: Wetlands by Type and Acreage

Wetland Type	Acres	% Total Municipal Area
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	1,084.8	4.9%
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	235.6	1.1%
Freshwater Pond	105.3	0.5%
Riverine	20.4	0.1%
Lake	723.3	3.3%
TOTAL	2,169.4	9.9%

[Source: National Wetlands Inventory, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2007]

Wetlands Evaluation Project

In 2004, a New Hampshire Estuaries Project (NHEP) grant funded a study to identify and evaluate significant wetlands within the six towns that comprise the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways (MMRG) service area: Brookfield, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham and Wakefield. The goals of the study were to heighten awareness of the wetland areas, educate Conservation Commission members and key town officials about the functional values of each selected wetland, and provide educational outreach toward preserving the quality of these wetlands. Preservation methods include land purchase, conservation easements, master planning, prime wetland designation, wetlands of special importance designation, and inclusion of evaluated wetlands in natural resource inventories.

The MMRG project area contains the headwaters of several regional waterways, including twelve major stratified drift aquifers. The project researched, evaluated and documented more than 60 significant wetland areas using the NH Method, and used the information gathered to create maps, NH Method data sheets, and a User's Guide to address voluntary and regulatory methods of protecting significant wetland resources.

In Milton, there were 15 wetlands identified and evaluated as part of this study. Each wetland that was surveyed was mapped (see Figure 6) and provided with a descriptive summary, including: size, classification type, general location, existing conditions and features, and observed wildlife. Sizes of wetlands varied from approximately 21 acres all the way up to 255 acres.

Prime Wetlands

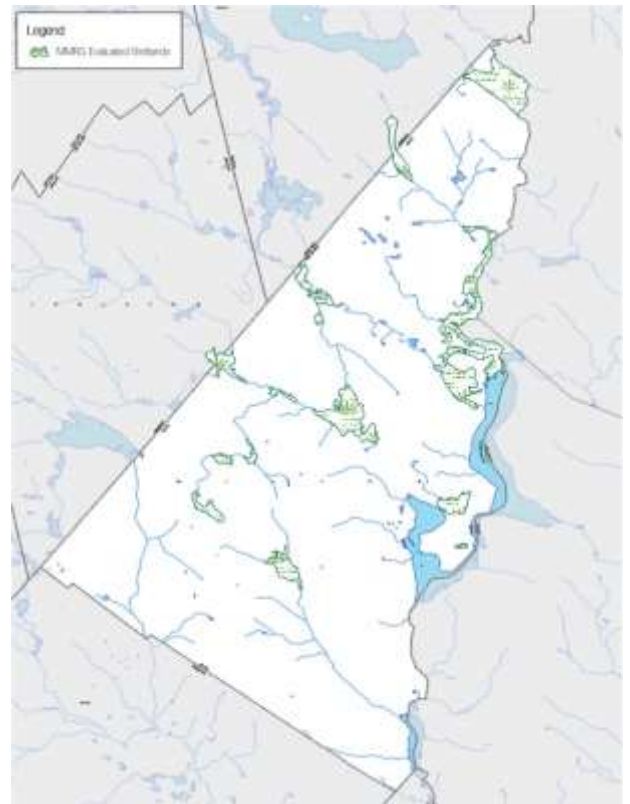
Under [RSA 482-A:15](#) and administrative rules [Env-Wt 700](#), individual municipalities may elect to designate wetlands as “prime-wetlands” if, after thorough analysis, it is determined that high-quality wetlands are present. Typically, a wetland receives this designation because of its large size, unspoiled character and ability to sustain populations of rare or threatened plant and animal species. Field and “desk top” data are used for the evaluation process.

After high value wetlands are identified, DES will apply the law and rules that are applicable to any future projects that are within the prime wetland or the 100-foot prime wetland buffer. Thirty-three municipalities in New Hampshire have designated prime wetlands in their communities.¹⁸ Currently, Milton does not have any designated prime wetlands. The Town should begin a discussion about whether it wishes to apply for this program.

Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are depressional wetlands characterized by generally small size, physical isolation, and alternating periods of flooding and drying. Precipitation and groundwater levels determine hydroperiod, though some are fed by spillover from nearby water bodies or intermittent streams. Vernal pools with a hydroperiod shorter than two months (in spring or summer) may be more properly characterized as ephemeral, as they are not inundated long enough for vernal pool species to complete their life cycle.¹⁹

Figure 6: Wetlands as identified by the 2004 Wetlands Evaluation Project



Vernal Pool in spring [Credit: Tom Lautzenheiser]

¹⁸ NH Department of Environmental Service, NHDES Water Division: Wetlands Bureau. “Prime Wetlands in NH Communities.” 2016. http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/prime_wetlands.htm

¹⁹ Colburn, E.A. 2004. Vernal pools: natural history and conservation. McNaughton & Gunn, Inc. Saline, Michigan.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Technically, vernal pools are hydrologically isolated from other water bodies; however, sites that form periodic connections with other bodies, or that do not dry every year can support vernal pool species if fish populations do not become established. Vernal pools often have little vegetation. However, pools with a long hydroperiod often have a variety of wetland plants such as Sphagnum mosses, sedges, rushes, ferns, shrubs, and trees.²⁰

Vernal Pool Species

Species typically found in vernal pools in New Hampshire include: fairy shrimp, wood frog, spotted salamander, blue-spotted salamander, Jefferson salamander, and the state endangered marbled salamander. In addition, other species of concern such as the Blanding's turtle and spotted turtle feed in vernal pools and use them as staging areas during migration.²¹

Threats to Vernal Pools

Concern for vernal pool conservation is that they are small and easily overlooked (because they are seasonally dry), thus more likely to be filled during development. Because they are temporary, they historically received weaker regulatory oversight than larger permanent wetlands. Increasing population growth in the state and associated development will result in loss of vernal pools and disruption of dispersal capabilities (via increased roads and road traffic) of species that rely on them. Significant loss of vernal pool habitat can result in local extirpation of obligate vernal pool species.²²

Local Protection Measures

Wetland Conservation Ordinance

The requirements of Article XIII Wetland Conservation Ordinance (3/9/2005) of the zoning ordinance apply to all areas delineated as a wetland using the methodology required by the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau. The approved wetlands delineation methodology uses three parameters: hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology. This ordinance controls and guides the use of land areas, which have been found to be subjected to high water tables for extended periods of time through the requirement of appropriate setbacks.

Table 13: Buffer Zone and Setback Requirements

Land Use Activity	Setback (ft.)	Buffer Zone (ft.)
Septic system, leach field, or other waste-disposal facility	50	-
Building structures, roads, and parking areas	50	-
Vegetated buffer maintained around all wetlands	-	25

[Source: Zoning Ordinance Town of Milton New Hampshire, 2012]

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Jenkins, R., and K.J. Babbitt. 2003. Developing a conservation strategy to protect land habitat functions for New Hampshire's reptiles and amphibians using the Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) as a flagship species. Final report submitted to the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, Concord, New Hampshire, USA.

²² Joyal, L.A., M. McCollough, and M.L. Hunter, Jr. 2001. Landscape ecology approaches to wetland species conservation: a case study of two turtle species in southern Maine. *Conservation Biology* 15: 1755-1762.

Wetlands Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Unregulated alteration or disturbance to land near wetland areas can adversely impact wetland function²³, health, and value of such areas.

Goal: Ensure that Milton's existing wetland and buffer protection measures are adequately maintaining the health of wetland ecosystems and water quality.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

Consider revising the town's existing Wetland Conservation Ordinance by first researching whether additional vegetated buffer requirements around bogs over 1,000 square feet, vernal pools over 500 square feet, wetlands of any size adjacent to open water, and all other wetlands over 40,000 square feet is necessary to adequately protect these natural resources or not.

Issue: Wetland areas are often overlooked and need future land protection efforts

Goal: Protect wetland areas that support wildlife habitat and vegetation necessary for a healthy environment.

Recommendations

Conservation

Use the 2004 Wetlands Evaluation Project to identify and prioritize sensitive areas with important natural resources for future conservation planning.

Floodplains

Policy Statement

Milton will protect certain areas that are subject to periodic flooding, causing serious damage to properties and municipal infrastructure through local regulatory, educational, and voluntary measures.

Overview

Flood plains are generally low-lying areas adjacent to rivers, streams and other surface water bodies, which are susceptible to flooding. Floodplains perform an important water storage function, during storm events and periods of excessive water run-off. Floodplains store water temporarily and gradually release it either back into the drainage system or into the subsurface where it is carried and eventually discharged into streams or recharges groundwater aquifers.

²³ Wetland function can be defined as having 12 primary components, including: ecological integrity, wetland-dependent wildlife habitat, fish and aquatic life habitat, scenic quality, educational potential, wetland-based recreation, flood storage, groundwater recharge, sediment trapping, nutrient trapping/retention/transformation, shoreline anchoring, and noteworthiness [Source: RSA-A:2:XI].

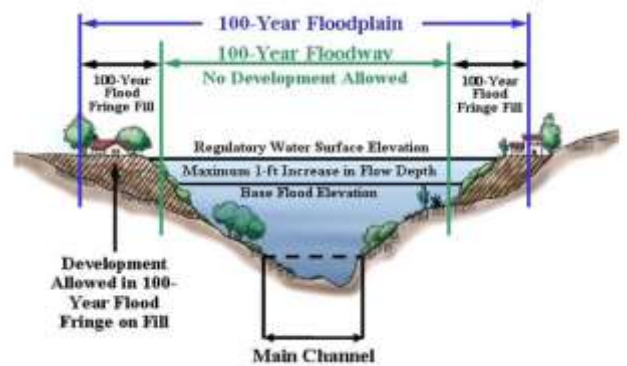
Although the flood mitigation capacities of floodplains are relatively well protected by federal and local regulations, other factors can contribute to increased flooding. These factors include: increases in impervious surface coverage, filling of wetlands in the upper watersheds, stormwater management practices that increase peak flow rates, inadequate infrastructure to accommodate current storm flow volumes, beaver dams, and reduced natural dissipation of flood flows through infiltration and interception by trees and vegetation. Refer to Figure 7 for the components of a floodplain: main channel, floodway, fringe, and the 100-year floodplain. The floodway and flood fringe serve as critical floodwater storage areas, and the floodplain vegetation acts to slow the velocity of floodwaters and reduce erosion of the floodplain and adjacent lands.

Floodplain and Flood Zones

Milton has approximately 1,740 acres of floodplain comprising nearly 8 percent of the town's total area. However, it should be noted that a large portion of the floodplain is delineated over open water along the Salmon Falls River, Spaulding Pond, and Milton Three Ponds and thus slightly overstated.

Causes of flooding other than a 100-year rainstorm are severe tropical storms (hurricane or tropical storm), rapid snow pack melt, river ice jams, erosion and mudslides, and dam breaches or failure—all have some potential to impact Milton. Storms often bring torrential rainfall. Some hurricanes have been known to deliver rainfall well in excess of that from a 500-year storm. The 100-year floodplain data available for this analysis does not well account for the effects of such

Figure 7: Anatomy of the 100-year floodplain and floodplain hazard area



The "100-year flood" Term:

The "100-year flood" is a term often used to describe a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring in any year. But the phrase is misleading, and often causes people to believe these floods happen every 100 years on average. The truth is, these floods can happen quite close together, or not for long stretches of time, but the risk of such a flood remains constant from year to year. The 100-year-flood term was originated to delineate areas on a map to determine what properties are subject to the National Flood Insurance Program. Properties within the 100-year-floodplain, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, have special requirements and mortgage holders will require owners to carry flood insurance on these properties.

[Source: The Nurture Nature Center: Focus on Floods]

special weather events. Rapid snow melt in spring is always a significant potential flooding source, given the northern, relatively cold location and climate of Milton, and has occurred multiple times in the past. Ice jam events seem not to have been a problem in the past, though the possibility of their occurrence exists. The Army Corps of Engineers Ice Jam Database contains no record of ice jams in Milton.

Major Flood Events and Flood Prone Areas

The May 2006 and April 2007 Flood Events

Both the May 2006 and April 2007 floods were significant natural events that caused high rates of runoff and elevated flood levels in basins throughout south central and southeastern New Hampshire. The reasons for the resultant flooding were different for the two events.



2007 Flooding Event [Source: Town of Milton]

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

The May 2006 event was extraordinary because of the sheer volume of rainfall, which ranged from 6 inches in inland portions of the study area to over 14 inches along the seacoast over a 2-day period. This region normally receives only about 3.5 inches of rainfall in an average spring month. The April 2007 event was extraordinary because of the combination of heavy rainfall, which ranged from 4 to 8 inches in 2 days across the study area, and rapidly melting snow. The heaviest rainfall was over coastal areas during both events.²⁴

The runoff produced during these events overwhelmed the region's rivers and streams, and inundated the region's floodplains. At locations with long-term records (starting before 1936), the May 2006 and April 2007 floods set records in the small basins of coastal New Hampshire, the portion of the study area where rainfall was heaviest.²⁵

Flood Prone Areas and Impacts

In the past, Milton has experienced flooding in the following areas: Berry Road, Piggott Hill Road, Northeast Pond Road, Mason Road, Teneriffe Road, Ford Farm Road, Sam Plummer Road, Townhouse Road, Hare Road, Park Place, Route 75, Nutes Road, and Cross Road. The town also identified high flooding vulnerability on a section of Route 125 along Town House Pond and Milton Pond, Micah Terrace, and areas along Northeast Pond from Mi-Te-Jo Campground to Bolan Road.²⁶

Milton was hit the hardest during the flooding events in 2005, 2006, and 2007. During those storms, the town experienced major flooding, which caused significant damage to public and personal property, general erosion, and road closures on Mason, Hare, Governors, and Thurston Roads for several days. During the April 2004 storm, it was confirmed that Milton Three Ponds has very little storage capacity; and further downstream the Spaulding Pond dam has no ability to control flooding along the Salmon Falls River.

Dam Operations

The "[Independent Evaluation of Recent Flooding in New Hampshire](#)" study examined the effect of dam operations during the flood events—whether they reduced or exacerbated flooding impacts. In general, the May 2006 and April 2007 events overwhelmed river channels, lessening the effect of operations performed at dams in the study area. Of the 24 dams in the four basins examined as part of this study (Salmon Falls, Suncook, Piscataquog, and Souhegan), the operations performed at only one were determined to have aggravated the flooding. During the May 2006 event, operations at the Milton Three Ponds Dam were performed to protect downstream dams in danger of failing. This action aggravated flooding on the lake shore upstream of the dam.

Table 14: Peak Discharges, Estimated Return Periods, and Other Characteristics for Flooding

²⁴ URS Group, Inc. "Independent Evaluation of Recent Flooding in New Hampshire." NHDES; Divisions; Water Division; Programs/Bureaus/Units; Dam Bureau. July 2008. Accessed February 24, 2016.

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/documents/flood_report_nh_flooding_analysis.pdf

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Pimental, Kyle. Milton, NH All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2012. Report. Rochester: Strafford Regional Planning Commission, 2012.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Gage Station Number	Gage Station Name	Return Period Discharge (cfs)				May 2006 Flood			April 2007 Flood			Maximum Peak of Record
		10-year	50-year	100-year	500-year	Peak Flow (cfs)	Return Period (years)	Runoff (inches)	Peak Flow (cfs)	Return Period (years)	Runoff (inches)	
01072100	Salmon Falls River at Milton	3,190	5,590	6,920	10,900	5,450	10-50	5.0	5,500	10-50	5.5	April 2007

[Source: Independent Evaluation of Recent Flooding in New Hampshire, 2008]

The seasonal operations of NHDES lakes that provide limited local flood control are typically as follows: The pool elevation is held at a constant elevation during the summer. Only Milton Three Ponds is operated to slowly lower its pool elevation from a June 1 target level to a Columbus Day target level. Starting in October, lake levels at all lakes are lowered to a winter elevation typically 1.5 to 5 feet below the summer elevation. This is done primarily by removing stoplogs or flashboards, although gates are operated at Milton Three Ponds.

Prior to the April 2007 flood event, Milton Three Ponds increased releases in anticipation of the event. During the event, releases at Milton Three Ponds were designed to minimize upstream and downstream flooding. Nevertheless, upstream flooding was reported at Milton Three Ponds. Scenarios assessing whether different operations at the site could have lowered the maximum pool elevation reached during the event were evaluated. The results indicate that, given the actual pool elevation at the beginning of the event, operation of the gates or the Obermeyer panel during the event would have had little impact on the peak releases or the peak pool elevation. However, significantly lower pool elevations at the beginning of the event would have lowered the maximum pool elevation. Had the lake been at the winter pool elevation, then the maximum pool would have been a third of a foot lower. Very drastic operations (such as opening all gates and removing all stoplogs) 6–8 days before the event would have lowered the maximum pool elevation reached during the event. However, anticipating events and consequently operating dams this far ahead of time is typically not possible.²⁷

Floodplains and Flood Management Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Damages caused by flooding adversely impacts Milton residents, both economically and socially for years beyond any given storm event.

Goal: Minimize the town's vulnerabilities and potential impacts from flooding to municipal and private property through floodplain management actions, thus creating a more resilient community.

Recommendations

²⁷ URS Group, Inc. "Independent Evaluation of Recent Flooding in New Hampshire." NHDES; Divisions; Water Division; Programs/Bureaus/Units; Dam Bureau. July 2008. Accessed February 24, 2016.
http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dam/documents/flood_report_nh_flooding_analysis.pdf

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

1. Adopt new floodplain maps, as they become available, add digital versions to GIS

Education & Outreach

Provide more information to residents on the benefits of enhanced floodplain management, improved buffer protection, and participation in the NFIP.

Conservation & Wildlife Habitat Protection

Policy Statement

Milton will ensure that its natural resources are adequately protected to prevent the loss of significant wildlife habitat and ecosystems through local land conservation and forest preservation measures.

Overview

Milton's location along the Salmon Falls River and the Milton Three Ponds, along with its natural resources and beautiful landscape are defining features of the community. These resources should be preserved and protected to maintain existing ecosystem services and improve the overall quality of life to the residents of Milton.

For many years residents have advocated for the protection of the town's natural resources. The responses in the 2015 community survey identified the preservation of Milton's natural resources as important goals for the town to implement.

Existing Conservation and Action Plans

Land Conservation Plan for NH's Coastal Watersheds

Spanning 990 square miles and 46 towns (including Milton), New Hampshire's coastal watersheds harbor exceptional and irreplaceable natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources. To advance the long-term protection of these resources, the State of New Hampshire, acting through the NH Coastal Program and the NH Estuaries Project, developed a comprehensive, science-based land conservation plan for our coastal watersheds. The State engaged a partnership of The Nature Conservancy, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Rockingham Planning Commission, and Strafford Regional Planning Commission to develop the plan. The plan is a regional approach to setting land conservation priorities and strategies.



Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

The full plan is available for download at the following website:
http://www.rpc-nh.org/PDFs/docs/coastal-conservation/Coastal_Plan_Complete.pdf

The Plan identifies Conservation Focus Areas and Supporting Landscapes - areas considered to be of exceptional significance for the protection of living resources and water quality in the coastal watersheds including (1) *Forest Ecosystems*, (2) *Freshwater Systems*, (3) *Irreplaceable Coastal and Estuarine Resources*, and (4) *Critical Plant and Wildlife Habitat*. This plan identifies two Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs) in Milton: Hart Brook/Mt. Tenneriffe and Northeast Pond. Table's 16 and 17 provide descriptions of the resources of significance in each of these areas. Figure's 8 and 9 provide detailed maps of these areas.

Table 16: Hart Brook/Mt. Tenneriffe Description

Location: Middleton/Milton Salmon Falls River Watershed	Core Area	Supporting Natural Landscape
Size	3,500 acres	2,350 acres
Significant Ecological Resources		
Forest Ecosystem		
<i>Unfragmented forest block</i>	A portion (~80%) of a 3,820 acre block identified as a Tier 2 priority in the 2005 Wildlife Action Plan	1,500 acres (Tier 2), 3,820 acres (Tier 2)
<i>Aggregated forest block</i>	Located within a 69,800 acre block	
Freshwater Systems		
<i>High quality stream watersheds</i>	Includes 417.5 acres of Tier 1, 747.1 acres of Tier 3, and 1,683.1 acres of Tier 4	Includes 641.2 acres of Tier 3 and 62.7 acres of Tier 4
<i>Important stream reaches</i>	Jones Brook runs right through the CFA and includes bridle shiners, which appears to be declining in NH	
<i>River and stream miles</i>	Includes 3.9 miles of 1 st order, 2.8 miles of 2 nd order, and 4.3 miles of 3 rd order	Includes 4.0 miles of 1 st order, 1.9 miles of 2 nd order
Important Plant & Wildlife Habitat		
<i>Plants of conservation concern</i>	Small Whorled Pogonia (Threatened) Ginseng (Threatened)	
<i>Animals of conservation concern</i>	Vesper Sparrow	Vesper Sparrow
<i>Significant wildlife habitats</i>	Marsh, peatland, pitch pine barren, ridge/talus	Marsh, peatland

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Other Resource Features & Public Values

Water supply		
<i>High yield aquifer (max. transmissivity >1,000ft²/day)</i>	222.0 acres	39.9 acres
<i>Wellhead protection areas</i>	Shortridge Academy (53.8 acres)	Shortridge Academy (15.2 acres)
<i>Favorable gravel well sites</i>	34.2 acres	14.5 acres
Agricultural lands		
<i>Prime or statewide importance farm soils</i>	2.8 acres of prime farmland and 39.3 acres of farmland of statewide importance	5 acres of prime farmland and 68.1 acres of farmland of statewide importance
Landscape Connectivity	Moderate connectivity value between conservation lands, and forest blocks	Moderate connectivity value between conservation lands, and forest blocks

[Source: Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, 2006.]

Table 17: Northeast Pond Description

Location:	Core Area	Supporting Natural Landscape
Size	1,800 acres	1,600 acres
Significant Ecological Resources		
Forest Ecosystem		
<i>Unfragmented forest block</i>	A portion (~15%) of a 6,170-acre block	One 6,170-acre block
<i>Aggregated forest block</i>	Located within a 58,300-acre block	
Freshwater Systems		
<i>High quality stream watersheds</i>	One 230-acre Tier 2, portions of one 2,470-acre Tier 4	~25% of one Tier 4 (2,470 acres)
<i>Important stream reaches</i>		
<i>River and stream miles</i>	0.7 miles of 1 st order, 0.1 miles of 2 nd order, 0.3 miles of 3 rd order, 5.9 miles of 4 th order, 0.1 miles of 5 th order	2.2 miles of 1 st order, 1.8 miles of 2 nd order, 0.1 miles of 4 th order, 1.4 miles of 5 th order
Important Plant & Wildlife		

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Habitat		
<i>Plants of conservation concern</i>		
<i>Animals of conservation concern</i>	Common loon (Threatened)	
<i>Significant wildlife habitats</i>	Floodplain forest, grassland, marsh, peatland, pitch pine barren	
Other Resource Features & Public Values		
Water supply		
<i>High yield aquifer (max. transmissivity >1,000ft²/day)</i>	842.7 acres	
<i>Wellhead protection areas</i>		
<i>Favorable gravel well sites</i>	240.6 acres	
Agricultural lands		
<i>Prime or statewide importance farm soils</i>	24 acres of prime farmland and 13.5 acres of farmland of statewide important	
Landscape Connectivity	High connectivity value between conservation lands, and forest blocks	High connectivity value between conservation lands, and forest blocks

[Source: Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, 2006.]

Figure 8: Forest Ecosystems & High Quality Stream Watersheds

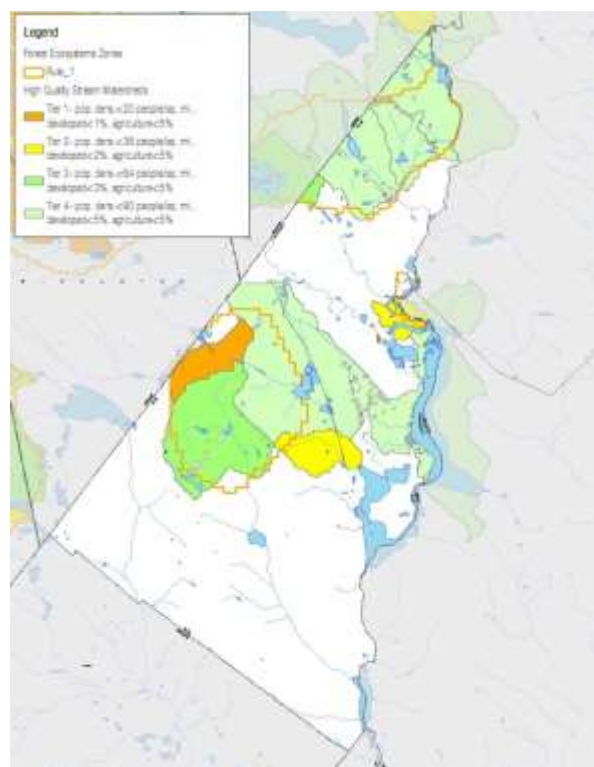
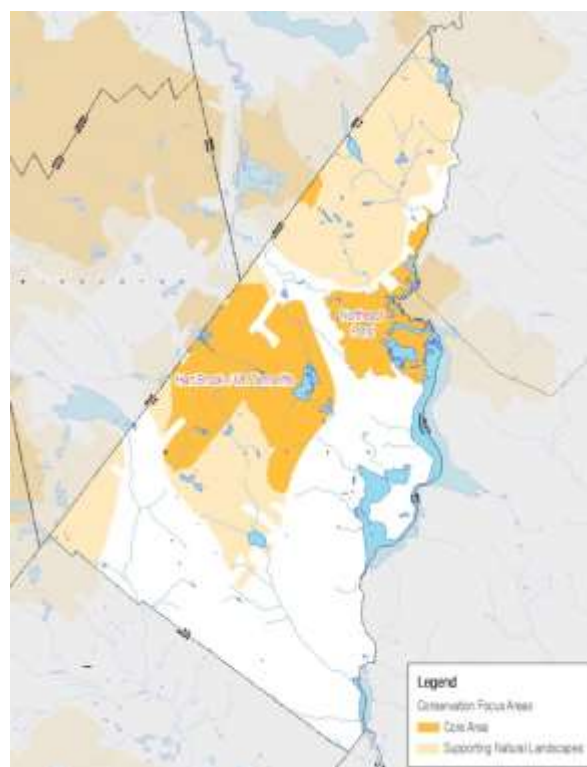


Figure 9: Conservation Focus Areas

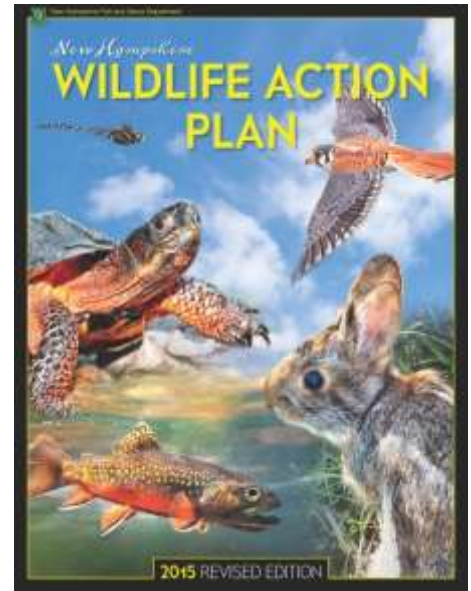


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Wildlife Action Plan 2015

In 2005 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved New Hampshire's first 10-year Wildlife Action Plan, a document that was two years in the making and which laid out strategies for managing and protecting the full array of wildlife that occurs in the state and the habitats that support them.

The 2015 revision of the Wildlife Action Plan incorporates new data, methodologies and extensive public input to identify species in greatest need of conservation, habitats that are at the greatest risk, as well as land uses and activities that present the greatest threats to wildlife and habitat. It outlines more than 100 actions that can be taken by diverse stakeholders to protect and manage wildlife and habitat in New Hampshire. Refer to Table 18 for a summary of natural habitat communities in Milton, which have been identified in the Plan.



The full plan is available for download at the following website:
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html>

Table 18: Habitats of Ecological Significance – 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan

Habitat Type	Acres	% of Total Town Area
Appalachian Oak-Pine	8,469.2	38.6
Cliff and Talus	10.2	0.1
Floodplain Forest	116.3	0.5
Grassland	1,110.9	5.1
Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine	7,953.9	36.3
NLCD Developed Classes	2,036.6	9.3
NLCD Developed Classes/Open Water	7.1	0.0
Open Water	682.1	3.1
Peatland	202.5	0.9
Rocky Ridge	23.8	0.1
Temperate Swamp	533.9	2.4
Wet Meadow/Shrub Wetland	767.6	3.5
TOTAL	21,914.1	100%

[Source: NH Fish and Game Department, 2015]

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

The Wildlife Action Plan has also mapped where wildlife habitat is in the best relative condition in New Hampshire, particularly for species of greatest conservation need. These maps summarize the highest ranked wildlife habitat by ecological condition, and are based on a series of data on species locations, landscape setting, and human influences that affect the ability of habitats to be used by wildlife.

There are three tiers of ranking: Highest Ranked in the State, Highest Ranked in the Biological Region, and Supporting Landscapes.

Table 19: Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition – 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan

Habitat Tiers	Acres	% of Total Town Area
Tier 1 - Highest Ranked in the State	3,735.7	17.1%
Tier 2 - Highest Ranked in the Biological Region	1,897.4	8.6%
Tier 3 - Supporting landscapes	4,253.5	19.4%
TOTAL	9,886.6	45.1%

[Source: NH Fish and Game Department, 2015]

Figure 10: Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition

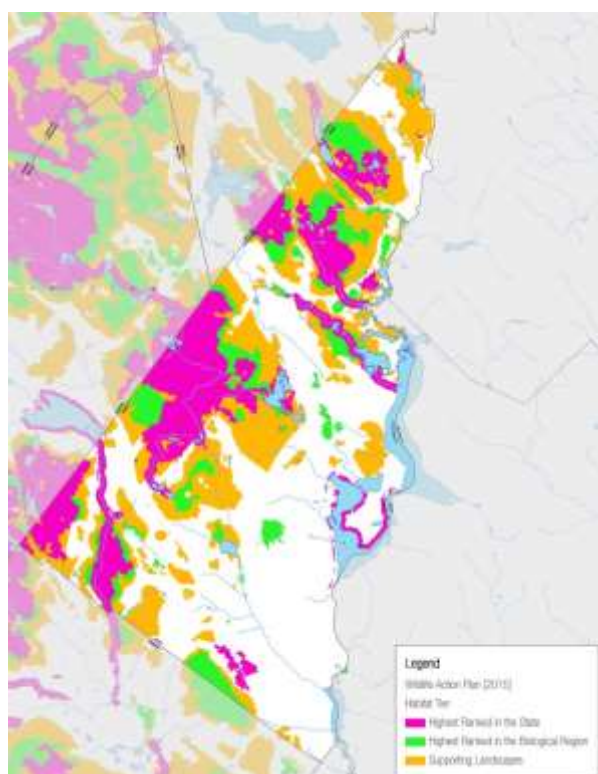
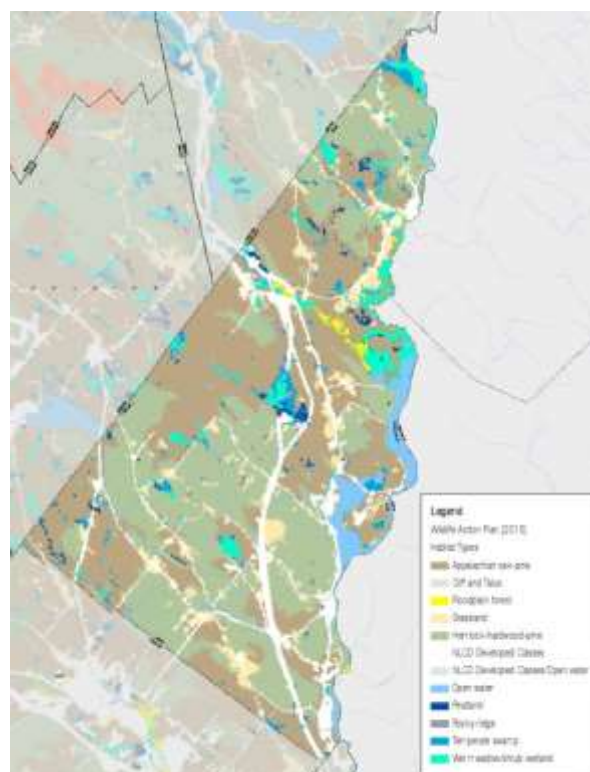


Figure 11: Habitat Types of Ecological Significance



Conservation Land and On-Going Efforts

According to the New Hampshire's Statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) Clearinghouse, NH GRANIT, approximately 3,852 acres or 18% of the town is protected as public or private conservation lands, through protective easements or as dedicated open space. Three of the largest conservation parcels in town are the Branch Hill Farm/CSFCT, the Jones Property, and the Salmon Falls Headwaters Forest.

The Branch Hill Farm is a 3,000-acre property owned and operated by the Carl Siemon Family Charitable Trust. Approximately 1,500 acres are protected through a donated easement to SPNHF and the remaining 1,500 acres are "unofficial" conservation lands protected by the CSFCT's education and conservation purposes.

The Jones Property is a 322-acre property owned by the University of New Hampshire. The property has been used extensively by forestry classes for management activities. The property is multi-use so is open to the public for recreation, including: hunting, fishing, and pedestrian traffic. This property is classified as "unofficial" conservation property because there is not a conservation easement on the property.

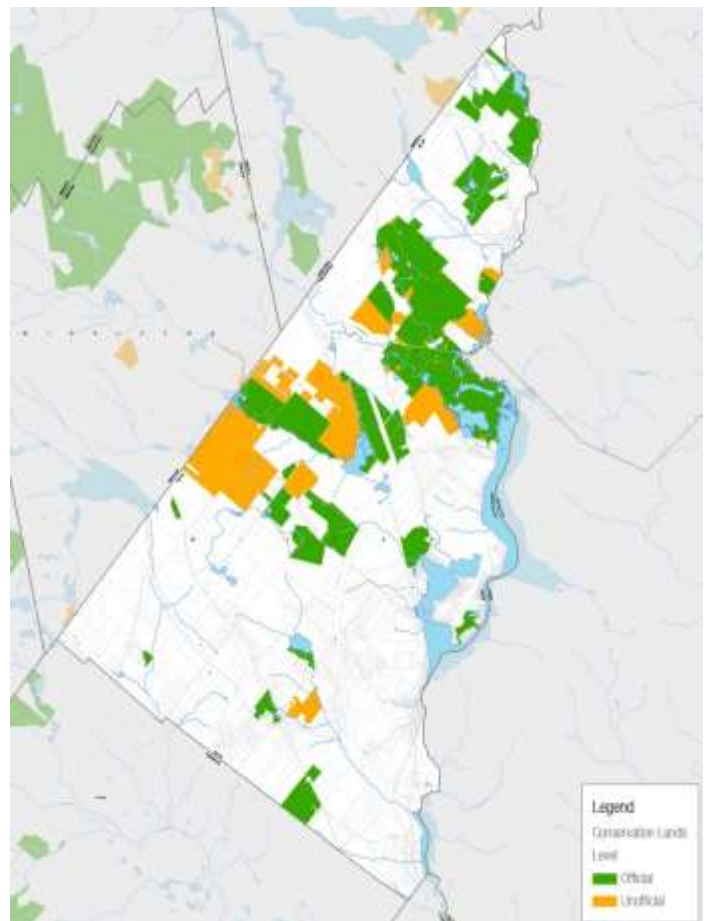
The Salmon Falls Forest is a 284-acre parcel acquired by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in 2008. The property includes a mile and a half of frontage along the Salmon Falls River and is a popular destination site for local anglers and birdwatchers.

Milton Conservation Commission

The Town of Milton Conservation Commission, is tasked with annually monitoring town held conservation lands easements. To meet this requirement, the Commission contracted UNH graduate forestry students and conservation professionals to produce baseline monitoring documentation, to mark the boundaries of all conservation properties, and to monitor all 16 Milton conservation properties (11 easements, 5 fee properties) every year.

Over the years, the following conservation easement baselines, boundary markings, and monitoring reports have been completed.

Figure 12: Conservation Lands in Milton [February – 2017]



Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Table 20: Information Chart of Milton's 16 Conservation Properties

Property	Location	Acres	Type
Current-Frisselle	Touchstone Farm, 356 Mason Road	16.9	Easement
Dames Brook	Dames Brook Drive, off Route 153	10.5	Easement
Frizzell	100ft corridor along Lyman Brook behind Frizzell's construction office and lots, Route 75; access from power line easement	4.5	Easement
Lancey-Ward	Back of lots on Hare Road	2.4	Easement
Lavalliere	Back lands off Mason Road	8.9	Easement
Liberty Circle	Behind homes on Liberty Circle at the end of Winding Road	11.2	Easement
Lyman Brook	Behind homes on Heron Circle and Rookery Road	19.8	Easement
Nute Haybarn Lot	Hare Road	10.9	Easement
Nute Plantation Lot	Governors Road	26.2	Easement
Spring Brook	Back lands at Silver Springs Estates	5.6	Easement
Wallace Way	Back lands behind Wallace Way	5.1	Easement
Ball Property	Rocky Point Road & Micah Terrace	37.0	Fee
Jones Brook Park	Route 125	19.6	Fee
Old Ski Area	Behind Cumberland Farms/Dollar General, Route 125	19.8	Fee
Payne Parcel	Route 125	3.9	Fee
Spaulding Turnpike	West side of Spaulding Turnpike, south of Exit 18	69.5	Fee
TOTAL		271.6	Fee

[Source: Milton Conservation Commission data]

Land Protection Projects

The Milton Conservation Commission assisted with the donation of a 37-acre conservation easement of a historic homestead on Hare Road. The homeowners paid most of the costs, while

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

the Town paid for the required survey from the Conservation Fund. Southeast Land Trust is the primary easement holder; the Town holds the executory interest.

The Commission worked closely with a family with generational roots in Milton to place conservation easements on their Tree Farm consisting of 37 acres on Governor's Rd. Moose Mountains Regional Greenways holds the executory interest.

In 2016, Milton Conservation Commission, with the support of the Board of Selectmen, asked Town voters to approve placing a conservation easement on tax map 41/69 consisting of 73.4 acres on Casey Rd. This property is owned by the Town of Milton through tax deed. The town voted to approve the easement, and a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission is working on a plan to place the property under easement with a qualified conservation organization.

Milton Open Space Donations

Conservation open space donations offered by developers of certain subdivisions are typically owned and managed by defunct Homeowner's Associations. Milton should move slowly on these offerings and ensure a non-municipal entity becomes permanent steward of offered easements because they are costly and difficult to monitor.

Milton's Conservation Fund

This fund receives 50% of the land use change tax, and is primarily used to assist landowners defray the cost of conservation easements. These conservation projects fulfill the conservation objectives of the Master Plan by protecting Milton's water resources, forestlands, wildlife habitat, and farmland. Side benefits are the preservation of Milton's scenic beauty and rural character.

Resource Conservation & Wildlife Habitat Protection Goals and Recommendations

Issue: There are inconsistencies and gaps between local and state records of current conservation lands; this includes incorrect parcels, lack of knowledge on public use, and out-of-date mapping.

Goal: Ensure that Milton's current conservation activities and properties are correctly catalogued, mapped, monitored, and enforced.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

1. Enforce existing conservation easement restrictions on Town-owned conservation land through regular monitoring.
2. Conduct a regulatory audit of the Town's Open Space Development zoning regulations to ensure monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship costs are addressed for conservation

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

properties in perpetuity. The PB should accept easement donations that have permanent, non-municipal stewards already named.

Planning

Work with Planner & GIS Consultant to identify and properly map the town's existing conservation land. Send updated data layer to NH GRANIT to update the statewide conservation layer.

Issue: In the face of growing development pressures, it is important to preserve Milton's most important natural landscapes that impact and shape the town's quality of life.

Goal: Preserve a minimum of 25% of the town's land for open space.

Recommendations

Conservation

1. Encourage multiple sources of financing for conservation easements and land acquisition, including bonding, grants, donations, etc.
2. Use the updated Wildlife Action Plan [2015] to identify significant wildlife areas within the town where conservation efforts should be directed and to guide proposed developments away from these areas.
3. Use the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds [2006] and MMRG's Conservation Action Plan [2017] to identify, prioritize, and preserve open space lands and important natural resource areas for the benefit of residents and the environment.
4. Encourage the formation of a citizen group to develop a management plan for the long-term future use of the Jones Farm property.
5. Encourage the establishment of greenways that promote linkages and continuity with existing or potential habitat areas on abutting properties.

Planning

1. Update the town's natural resources assessment to formally catalog all natural resources and wildlife habitats in town. This will enhance conservation efforts and can be used as a reference document for evaluating land use impacts and in developing comprehensive protection and preservation strategies to ensure measures are taken to preserve both the flora and fauna of significant aquatic and upland wildlife habitat.

Education and Outreach

1. Educate the public on the benefits associated with open spaces and conservation easements. For instance, by supporting and publicizing education workshops sponsored by the Moose Mountain Regional Greenways which encourages the donation of land for conservation through estate planning and charitable gift annuities.

2. Approach/contact abutters to existing open spaces, conservation easements, and key natural resources to educate them on the environmental implications of increased development and to encourage land protection efforts. This can be done by inviting them to MMRG and SELT workshops.
3. Form and/or expand partnerships with existing land conservation groups already operating within the town's boundaries, such as Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, SELT, the Nature Conservancy, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Agricultural Resources

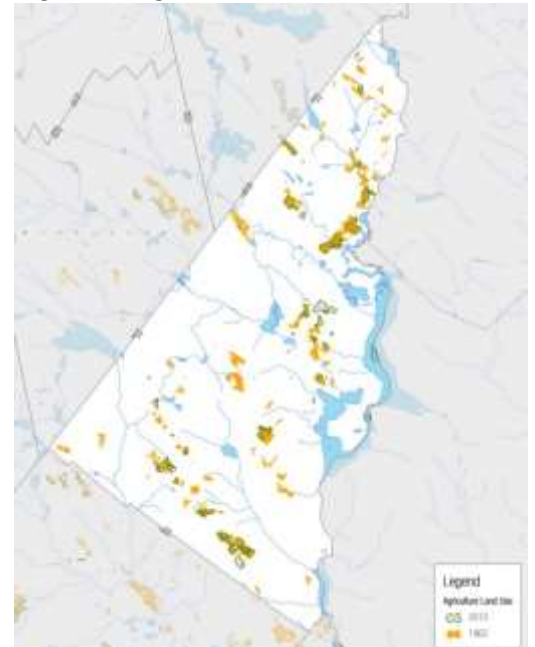
Policy Statement

Milton will ensure that its agricultural resources are adequately managed and protected to prevent loss of small, local farming activities and to preserve the town's agricultural history.

Overview

Agriculture is an important part of Milton's history and contributes to its rural charm and quality of life. Milton offers local meats and produce, including "famous" McKenzie's tomatoes, and is home to the NH Farm Museum, which hosts a variety of community activities tied directly to Milton's agricultural heritage. Active agricultural or farmland used for the public or private growth of livestock or crops, including commercial farms as well as backyard farms are important resources to protect to maintain Milton's community character. Historic farmsteads that are no longer used as working farms, but characteristic of historic NH agriculture, such as farmhouse style homes, fields, barns (especially attached barns) are indicative of old NH and should be preserved and protected.

Figure 13: Agriculture Lands [1962-2010]



Existing Agriculture Land

Not dissimilar to the rest of the state, Milton's agricultural lands have changed over the years. According to the NH GRANIT database, in 1962 approximately 920 acres (4.2%) of Milton's land was classified as agriculture. In 2010, that number had significantly dropped to 350 acres (1.6%) as land was converted from agriculture to other developed land uses within the community. It is important to note that the NH GRANIT database is intended for planning purposes and may not be an accurate representation of all agricultural activities at the local level. According to Milton's assessing data, there are over 800 acres of farm land (see Table 21).

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Table 21: Current Use Data

Current Use by Type	Acres	CU Value
Farm Land	810.3	\$279,170
Managed Hardwood	1,526.9	\$43,482
Managed Pine	1,443.3	\$106,069
TOTAL	3,780.5	\$428,721

[Source: Town of Milton Assessing data]

Important Farmland

The Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 was established to minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses, and to assure that federal programs are administered in a manner that, to the extent practicable, will be compatible with state, unit of local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland.²⁸

Prime Farmland

Prime farmland soils are defined by a range of characteristics that make it the best soil to produce food, feed, fiber and oilseed crops.

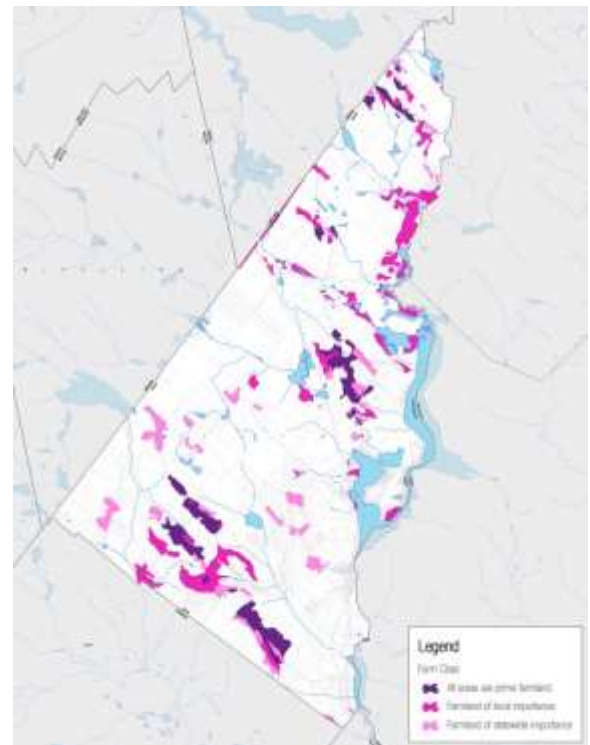
Farmland of Local Importance

Farmland of local importance is farmland that is not prime, unique or of statewide importance, but has local significance to produce food, feed, fiber and forage.

Farmland of Statewide Importance

Farmland of statewide importance is not prime or unique but is considered farmland of statewide importance to produce food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops.

Figure 14: Important Farmland in Milton



Agricultural Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Development pressures have led to decreases in agricultural land and local farming activities.

Goal: Protect and enhance Milton's existing agriculture land and tree harvesting activities through both local regulatory land use controls and local planning mechanisms

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

²⁸ New Hampshire Soil Data Dictionary. "Natural Resources Conservation Service United States Department of Agriculture." Revised March 18, 2013.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

1. Encourage low impact development techniques to ensure the design and location of any development minimizes adverse impacts on existing or potential agricultural uses.
2. Educate property owners on the current use taxation system for eligible agricultural properties.
3. Evaluate the zoning ordinance and site and subdivision regulations for elements that may hinder agricultural operations, horticulture, agricultural experimentation, and the local marketing of local produce.
4. Encourage the farm owners to apply for discretionary preservation easements for historic agricultural structures, as authorized by RSA 79-D (this program provides property tax relief for the preservation of historic barns and other agricultural structures).
5. Consider applying best management practices, which may include buffering, to be part of a condition for the planning board's approval of a site plan and/or subdivision plan that involves site timber harvesting.

Planning

1. Establish an agricultural commission to recognize, promote, and encourage farming and agricultural-based economic opportunities, and conserve agricultural land and resources. This commission would have advisory and review authority to work with the boards and agencies of local government to implement the recommendations set forth in this section of the master plan.
2. Develop an agricultural profile for the town.
3. Explore options to publicly fund conservation easements for key agricultural parcels to be held by conservation organizations such as private nonprofit land trusts or by the town or other government agencies.
4. Investigate potential areas in the downtown for the inclusion of a farmer's market.

Scenic Resources

Policy Statement

Milton will protect its scenic resources, which may include scenic corridors and views, and open spaces, to ensure these resources are protected and can be enjoyed by residents.

Overview

Scenic resources within Milton are somewhat subjectively defined, and may include areas of natural beauty, idyllic views, and the quality of the night skies for star-gazing. These are valuable quality of life resources that can be protected via the promotion of conservation, preservation of

open spaces, and the protection of views from alteration, obstruction, light pollution, and noise pollution.

Scenic Resources

Scenic quality refers to a positively heightened aesthetic sensory experience – visual, auditory, and olfactory – in the observation of natural and manmade elements of the environment. High quality landscapes produce a striking, pleasing, and memorable experience.

All elements of the landscape—landform, water, vegetation, and manmade development—contribute to the quality of the town’s scenic environment.

Table 23: Identified Scenic Resources

Site Name	Teneriffe Mountain
	Plummer’s Ridge
	Branch Hill Trails/Siemon’s Family Trust
	Areas adjacent to the NH Farm Museum
	Milton Three Ponds Dam and Park
	Town parks & conservation easements
	Night skies

[Source Branch River Valley Strategic Marketing Plan, 2015]

Everything present in a scenic landscape is in harmony and share in the intrinsic qualities. Table 23 presents seven examples of scenic resources in Milton. These may require future protection to preserve Milton’s rural characteristics.

Steep Slopes

According to the [Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques: A Handbook for Sustainable Development](#), there are a number of problematic issues associated with development on steep slopes, hillsides, and ridgelines. Foremost among them are health, safety, and environmental considerations. Another factor is that the aesthetic quality of hillsides and ridgelines can be lost when developed. New Hampshire residents and visitors place great value on the state’s natural resources. Protecting hillsides and steep slopes from development helps to preserve those unique environmental qualities that people value. Furthermore, development on steep slopes can have an adverse effect on water quality because of increased erosion and sedimentation.

In Milton, roughly 10% of the town’s topography is made up of moderate to steep slopes (as indicated in Table 24).

Table 24: Steep Slopes in Milton

Steep Slopes	Areas (acres)	% Total Municipal Area
15.1 – 25%	1,900	8.66%
> 25%	400	1.82%

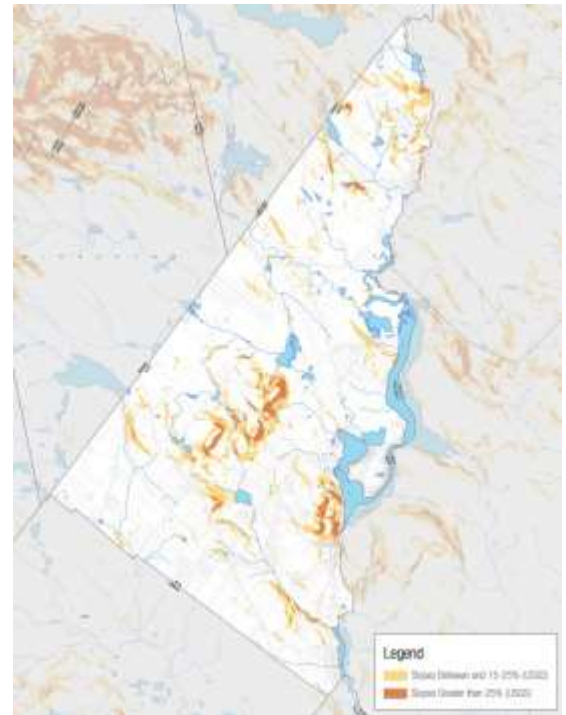
[Source: USGS]

Scenic Goals and Recommendations

Issue: Without proper oversight, unwanted development in certain areas may lead to the obstruction of scenic vistas and other features of Milton's natural landscape.

Goal: Protect the rural character of Milton by guiding development in a way that respects the landscape, scenic views, and hilltop profiles from inappropriate encroaching development.

Figure 15: Steep Slopes in Milton



Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

1. Consider ridgeline/view protection regulations after research and fact-finding.
2. Consider revising the steep slopes ordinance to preserve the town's natural topography, drainage patterns, vegetative cover, scenic views, wildlife habitats, and to protect unique areas.

Planning

1. Review existing roadways to consider scenic roadways designation to protect these resources.
2. Encourage the use of best management practices, and standards to limit the removal of stone walls or large trees adjacent to designated scenic roadways. Limit such removal on said roadways to instances where no other feasible alternatives exist to assure public safety.

Issue: Unnecessary and abundant light pollution can have negative social implications and lead to a loss of rural character.

Goal: Encourage night sky protection.

Recommendations

Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances

Review the current industrial and commercial outdoor lighting ordinance to ensure that accepted standards to minimize outdoor ambient light are being recommended and applied.

Recreational Resources

Policy Statement

Milton will encourage small scale market tourism for residents and visitors through the promotion and protection of local recreational opportunities.

Overview

Recreational resources in Milton are tied to the rural quality and many natural resources available within the town. They directly support tourism and seasonal businesses, and are an important consideration when choosing to make a home in Milton. Recreational resources include: hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, boating, swimming, fishing, and other lake-related activities.

Recreational Resources

Recreational quality involves outdoor recreational activities directly associated with and dependent upon the natural and cultural elements of the town's landscape. These recreational activities provide opportunities for active and passive recreational experiences. Some recreational activities may be seasonal; however, their quality and importance as cyclical operations must be recognized.

In addition to one town beach, Milton offers opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, fishing, boating, and snowmobiling to outdoor enthusiasts. A marked Nature Conservancy walking trail on Mt. Teneriffe can be accessed from Route 125 in Milton. The trail can be accessed from a parking lot off Teneriffe Road. Branch Hill Farm boasts numerous trails as part of the Carl Siemon Family Charitable Trust.

Table 24: Identified Recreational Resources

Site Name	Emma Ramsey Center
	Milton Three Ponds Dam and Park
	Milton Town Beach & Playground
	Mi-Te-Jo Campground
	Tut's "Pick Your Own" Blueberries
	McKenzie's Farm
	Waumbek Park
	Branch Hill Farm Trail(s)

[Source Branch River Valley Strategic Marketing Plan, 2015]

Recreational Resources Recommendations

Issue: Recreational opportunities are an important part of Milton's local economy and need to be protected and promoted.

Goal: Encourage tourism, recreation, and public use of Milton's abundant natural resources, while preserving and protecting those resources by balancing their use, conservation efforts, and development needs.

Recommendations

Conservation

1. Preserve and protect contiguous tracts of open space for passive recreation.
2. Work with local conservation organizations such as MMRG and Branch Hill Farm to develop connecting community trail systems with parking, kiosks, marked trails, and maps.
3. Encourage local volunteers to work on a passive recreational trail system on the 73-acre conservation project on Casey Rd.

Planning

1. Provide for and proactively manage a town greenway or trail system with trails that protect resources, are sensitive to property owners, and provide for recreational activities such as biking, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and jogging.

Education and Outreach

Coordinate recreational users to support mutual interests and eliminate user conflicts.

Implementation Plan

Implementation Process and Structure

This chapter provides a framework for the continued protection of the town's natural resources. The findings and recommendations in this chapter reflect the long-term planning goals of both the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission, with supplemented input from residents. Strategies for each subsection of this chapter have been compiled into a comprehensive list of prioritized implementation action items and organized within the following table.

The Implementation Strategy Table fields include: chapter section, recommendation, timeframe, planning areas, and potential partners for each strategy.

Implementation Table Key

1. <u>Chapter Sections</u>

Title of each subsection of the chapter

SWR	Surface Water Resources
GWR	Groundwater Resources
MDWS	Municipal Drinking Water Supply
WET	Wetlands
FLD MGT	Flood Management

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

CWHP	Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Protection
AGR	Agricultural Resources
SCR	Scenic and Cultural Resources
REC	Recreational Resources

2. Recommendations

A list of recommendations identified in each of the subsections of the chapter.

3. Priority Ranking & Timeframe

A ranking of each strategy by the Conservation Commission was completed based on immediate need and overall length to complete. Timeframes included:

- ∴ Ongoing
- ∴ Short: 1-2 years
- ∴ Medium: 2-4 years
- ∴ Long: 4-6 years

4. Planning Areas

Identified strategies that bridge multiple planning areas may have one primary functional area and may have one or more secondary areas. Planning areas include:

- ∴ Regulations, zoning, and land use ordinances
- ∴ Planning
- ∴ Education and outreach
- ∴ Conservation
- ∴ Community initiatives
- % Primary Function Area/ Secondary Function Area





This symbol denotes a land use recommendation to help guide the Town's Planning Board's actions

5. Potential Partners

A list of potential partners to assist with completing actions



Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
Chapter Section	Recommendations	Priority Ranking & Timeframe	Assigned Lead	Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances	Planning	Education and Outreach	Conservation	Community Initiatives	Potential Partners
SWR	The town's decision-makers should use smart growth principles, where applicable, when reviewing its operating procedures, policies, and regulatory framework to locate development in appropriate growth areas and retain open space land around Milton's surface waters	Short	Town Planner	% 	○				Strafford Regional Planning Commission; Planning Consultant
SWR	Conduct an outreach program to contact landowners around Milton Three Ponds and encourage them to use Best Management Practices (BMP's) to protect key natural resources, and share information regarding voluntary land protection techniques.	Ongoing	Three Ponds Protective Association			%		○	Three Ponds Protective Association; UNH Cooperative Extension; Milton Water District
SWR	Support existing local organizations, such as the Three Ponds Protective Association (TPPA), as well as the formation of new groups with the mission of providing community initiatives and workshops to protect the Milton Three Ponds and additional resources within the town.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission			○		%	Guest speakers from regional and statewide organization may include: UNH and NHDES.
SWR	Complete regulatory audit on existing local Shoreland Protection Overlay District to ensure it is compliant with statute and the most up to-date information, criteria, and standards.	Short	Town Planner & Planning Board	% 	○				Strafford Regional Planning Commission; NHDES

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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SWR	Work with other organizations and agencies on outreach and education programs to protect water quality, including the protection of the source waters of feeder streams flowing out of the Moose Mountains Range.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission			%		○	Adjacent conservation commissions; UNH; Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, and the Salmon Falls Collaborative
SWR	Support the land protection efforts of the Milton Conservation Commission (MCC), land trusts, and watershed organizations as they pertain to Milton's watershed. Submit a model warrant article that enables the MCC to use the Conservation Fund for land protection projects outside the town boundary that benefit Milton's watershed and public drinking water.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission			○	%		



Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
Chapter Section	Recommendations	Priority Ranking & Timeframe	Assigned Lead	Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances	Planning	Education and Outreach	Conservation	Community Initiatives	Potential Partners
SWR	Reference existing action plans developed by Moose Mountains Regional Greenways, the Nature Conservancy, Salmon Falls Collaborative, SRPC, and NH Fish & Game, to prioritize land for conservation that protects water quality, including lands adjacent to major surface water features such as streams, lakes, and wetlands.	Medium	Conservation Commission		%		○		UNH; Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Partnership; Strafford Regional Planning Commission; GIS Consultant; GRANIT
GWR	Adopt revised Groundwater Protection Overlay District zoning to ensure that the town's groundwater protection regulations are compliant with state laws, consistent with current approaches and best management practices.	Ongoing	Planning Board	% 	○				
GWR	Adopt the revised Groundwater Protection Overlay District Map, which includes updated wellhead protection areas.	Ongoing	Planning Board	% 	○				


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
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GWR	Work with adjacent communities to discuss the need for regional collaboration when protecting and regulating groundwater resources.	Long	Strafford Regional Planning Commission			%		○	Three Ponds Protective Association; Salmon Falls Collaborative; Town Planner; adjacent communities
GWR	The Planning Board should encourage developers and professional landscapers to use a low-impact, ecological approach to landscaping and stormwater management techniques. Similar techniques should also be encouraged for landowners.	Medium	Planning Board		○	%			Conservation Commission; Town Planner; Three Ponds Protective Association; UNH
GWR	Using GIS, identify groundwater contamination and hazards to prioritize sites for future clean-up and removal.	Short	Town Planner		○	%			NHDES; Board of Selectmen; GIS program


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
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GWR	Prioritize conservation of land that protects critical groundwater resources shown on the Groundwater Protection Overlay District Map. The town should also use data from other relevant conservation action plans when prioritizing areas for future conservation efforts.	Ongoing <i>Pending map adoption</i>	Town Planner & Conservation Commission		○		%		UNH; Strafford Regional Planning Commission; GIS Program
GWR	Consider establishing regulations that would require septic system inspection with the transfer of title of the property.	Long	Planning Board	% 	○				Board of Selectmen; NHDES; Granite State Designers and Installers; Office of Energy and Planning
GWR	Encourage the installation of enhanced performance septic systems, or regular septic system inspection when applicable.	Long	Planning Board	% 	○				Board of Selectmen; Code Enforcement Officer; NHDES; Granite State Designers and Installers;




Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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GWR	Develop a fact sheet on the importance of proper septic system maintenance, including: inspection, water conservation, and the recommendation to pump out existing systems every two to three years.	Short	Conservation Commission			%		○	Town Office; Strafford Regional Planning Commission; NHDES
GWR	Develop a survey to engage residents around Milton Three Ponds to solicit input on current septic system maintenance activities. Survey results could be used to formulate a plan of action or preparation of new regulations.	Short	Conservation Commission			%		○	Town Office
GWR	Apply for funding with SRPC, Milton Water District, and TPPA to implement education and outreach strategies.	Short	Conservation Commission			%		○	NHDES; UNH
MDWS	Consider developing a local source water protection plan to identify water system vulnerabilities. Consider establishing use of techniques to manage potentially contaminating land uses, such as restrictions to the protective well radius, and education on how the hydrological system works.	Short/Medium	Water District		○				Town Planner; SRPC; NHDES; GIS Program


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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MDWS	Provide information to homeowners describing how to check for and replace water-using fixtures to fix leaks.	Short	Conservation Commission			%		○	Milton Water District
MDWS	Encourage homeowners to participate in water audits to identify losses and implement water efficiency practices.	Short	Milton Water District			%		○	Conservation Commission
WET	Consider revising the town's existing Wetland Conservation Ordinance	Medium	Planning Board		○				Board of Selectmen; Conservation Commission
WET	Use the 2004 Wetlands Evaluation Project to identify and prioritize sensitive areas with important natural resources for future conservation planning.	Medium	Conservation Commission		○		%		GIS Program; Planning Board

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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FLD MGT	Adopt new floodplain maps, once they become available. add digital versions to GIS.	Medium	Board of Selectmen	% 	○				Town Planner; GIS Program
FLD MGT	Provide more information to residents on the benefits of enhanced floodplain management, improved buffer protection, and participation in the NFIP.	Short	Emergency Management Director			%		○	Board of Selectmen; Town Office
CWHP	Enforce existing conservation easement restrictions on Town-owned conservation land.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	% 					Contracted Monitoring Agent
CWHP	Conduct a regulatory audit of the Town's Open Space Development zoning regulations to ensure monitoring, maintenance, and stewardship costs are addressed for conservation properties in perpetuity. The PB should accept easement donations that have permanent, non-municipal stewards already named.	Short	Town Planner & Planning Board	% 	○				Conservation Commission;
CWHP	Work with Planner & GIS Consultant to identify and properly map the town's existing conservation land. Send updated data layer to NH GRANIT to update the statewide conservation	Ongoing	Town Planner & Conservation Commission		%		○		GIS Program



Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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	layer.								
CWHP	Retain the existing 50% current use change tax revenue to the Conservation Fund.	Short	Conservation Commission	% 			○		Planning Board; Board of Selectmen
CWHP	Encourage multiple sources of financing for conservation easements and land acquisition, including bonding, grants, donations, etc.	Medium	Conservation Commission		○		%		Board of Selectmen
CWHP	Use the updated Wildlife Action Plan [2015] and MMRG's Conservation Action Plan [2017] to identify significant wildlife areas within the town where conservation efforts should be directed and to guide proposed developments away from these areas.	Medium	Conservation Commission; Town Planner		○		%		GRANIT; GIS Program; Strafford Regional Planning Commission
CWHP	Use the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds [2006] to identify, prioritize, and preserve open space lands and important natural resource areas.	Medium	Conservation Commission; Town Planner		○		%		UNH; Nature Conservancy; GRANIT; GIS Program; Strafford Regional Planning Commission


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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CWHP	Encourage the formation of a citizen group to develop a management plan for the long-term future use of the Jones Farm property.	Medium	Conservation Commission		○		%	○	
CWHP	Encourage the establishment of greenways that promote linkages and continuity with existing or potential habitat areas on abutting properties.	Short	Conservation Commission		○		%		GIS Program
CWHP	Update the town's natural resources assessment to formally catalog all natural resources and wildlife habitats in town.	Medium	Conservation Commission		%		○		GIS Program; Strafford Regional Planning Commission; UNH; GRANIT
CWHP	Educate the public on the general benefits associated with open spaces and conservation easements. This would encourage the donation of land for conservation through estate planning and charitable gift annuities.	Ongoing	Moose Mountains Regional Greenways			%		○	Conservation Commission



Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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CWHP	Approach abutters to existing open spaces, conservation easements, and key natural resources to educate them on the environmental implications of increased development and to encourage land protection efforts.	Long	Conservation Commission			%		○	
CWHP	Form and/or expand partnerships with existing land conservation groups already operating within the town's boundaries, such as Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, SELT, the Nature Conservancy, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission			%		○	UNH
AGR	Encourage low impact development techniques to ensure the design and location of any development minimizes adverse impacts on existing or potential agricultural uses.	Ongoing	Town Planner		○				Planning Board
AGR	Educate property owners on the current use taxation system for eligible agricultural properties	Medium	Town Assessing Office		○				Conservation Commission
AGR	Evaluate the zoning ordinance and site and subdivision regulations for elements that may hinder agricultural operations, horticulture, agricultural experimentation, agritourism, and the marketing of local produce.	Short	Town Planner & Planning Board		○				Conservation Commission


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

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Chapter Section	Recommendations	Priority Ranking & Timeframe	Assigned Lead	Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances	Planning	Education and Outreach	Conservation	Community Initiatives	Potential Partners
AGR	Encourage the farm owners to apply for discretionary preservation easements for historic agricultural structures, as authorized by RSA 79-D (this program provides property tax relief for the preservation of historic barns and other agricultural structures).	Short	Town Assessing Office		○				Board of Selectmen
AGR	Consider applying best management practices, which may include buffering, to be part of a condition for the planning board's approval of a site plan and/or subdivision plan that involves site timber harvesting.	Short	Planning Board		○				Conservation Commission
AGR	Establish an agricultural commission to recognize, promote, and encourage farming and agricultural-based economic opportunities, and conserve agricultural land and resources. This commission would have advisory and review authority to work with the boards and agencies of local government to implement the recommendations set forth in this section of the town's master plan.	Long	Agriculture Commission <i>once established</i>		%	○		○	Town Planner; Planning Board; Conservation Commission
AGR	Develop an agricultural profile for the town.	Long	Conservation Commission		%				


Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
Chapter Section	Recommendations	Priority Ranking & Timeframe	Assigned Lead	Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances	Planning	Education and Outreach	Conservation	Community Initiatives	Potential Partners
AGR	Explore options to publicly fund conservation easements for key agricultural parcels to be held by conservation organizations such as private nonprofit land trusts or by the town or other government agencies.	Short	Conservation Commission		%		○		Moose Mountains Regional Greenways
AGR	Investigate potential areas in the downtown for the inclusion of a farmer's market.	Medium	Economic Development Committee		%				Board of Selectmen
SCR	Consider ridgeline/view protection regulations after research and fact-finding	Long	Planning Board	% 	○				Town Planner
SCR	Consider revising the steep slopes ordinance to preserve the town's natural topography, drainage patterns, vegetative cover, scenic views, wildlife habitats, and to protect unique areas	Short	Planning Board	% 	○				Conservation Commission

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
Chapter Section	Recommendations	Priority Ranking & Timeframe	Assigned Lead	Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances	Planning	Education and Outreach	Conservation	Community Initiatives	Potential Partners
SCR	Review existing roadways to consider scenic roadways designation to protect these resources.	Long	Planning Board & Board of Selectmen	○	%				GIS Program; Road Agent; Public Works Department
SCR	Encourage the development of best management practices and standards to limit the removal of stone walls or large trees adjacent to scenic roadways unless there are no other feasible alternatives to assuring the public safety.	Long	Town Planner & Planning Board	○	%				Road Agent; Public Works Department
SCR	Review the current industrial and commercial outdoor lighting ordinance to ensure that accepted standards to minimize outdoor ambient light are being recommended and applied.	Short	Town Planner	% 	○				Planning Board

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Implementation Strategy Table									
Chapter Section	Recommendations	Priority Ranking & Timeframe	Assigned Lead	Regulations, Zoning, and Land Use Ordinances	Planning	Education and Outreach	Conservation	Community Initiatives	Potential Partners
REC	Prepare a Recreation Master Plan Chapter	Medium	Planning Board		○				Conservation Commission
REC	Provide for and proactively manage a town greenway or trail system with trails that protect resources, are sensitive to property owners, and provide for recreational activities such as biking, hiking, rollerblading, cross-country skiing, and jogging.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission		%			○	Moose Mountains Regional Greenways
REC	Coordinate recreational users to support mutual interests and eliminate conflicts (i.e. snowmobilers and cross-country runners).	Medium	Conservation Commission			%		○	Board of Selectmen
REC	Preserve and protect contiguous tracts of open space for passive recreation.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission		○		%		Moose Mountains Regional Greenway UNH Cooperative Extension; Nature Conservancy
REC	Encourage local volunteers to work on a passive recreational trail system on the 73-acre conservation project on Casey Rd.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission						

2.3 Historical Development and Community Character

Introduction

Policy Goal

1. Protect the rural character of Milton by directing all development in a way that is sensitive to the landscape and the existing built environment.

Implementation Strategies

1. Create a recommended design review checklist for the planning board to give to developers and use during site plan review of commercial development applications.
2. Continue to discourage excessive lighting in order to preserve the night sky.
3. Allow opportunities for home-based businesses that are respectful of their neighbors and the character of the neighborhood.
4. Consider revising subdivision regulations to require site-specific information on natural resources.
5. Consider adopting a conservation open space subdivision ordinance that places resource protection a first priority.
6. Consider increasing setback requirements from main roads to preserve rural character along the roadway in appropriate areas.

Policy Goal

2. Provide opportunities and facilities for residents to participate in activities and events that foster a sense of community and a sense of place.

Implementation Strategies

1. Support efforts that encourage the rehabilitation of historic properties in each of the villages for community needs.
2. Encourage the cooperation of local organizations and institutions such as the NH Farm Museum and the schools to enhance and promote the rural and agricultural qualities and history of Milton.
3. Encourage community events such as Old Home Day, Winter Carnival, parades, etc. that can draw the community together.

Policy Goal

3. Retain the unique characteristics of the historic communities and historic resources within the town.

Implementation Strategies

1. Consider establishing a Heritage Commission in town to assist the Town leaders with decisions affecting historic resources.
2. Continue to survey and inventory the historic resources in the community.
3. Encourage the inventory of historic barns that may qualify for the State's barn preservation program.
4. Encourage business owners to capitalize on their historic commercial building through awareness/educational programs.

2.4 Economic Development and Land Use

Introduction

The Master Plan Natural Resources section includes Policies (Goals, Principles, and Standards) and Implementation Strategies related to economic development and land use.

Policy Goal

1. Encourage well planned industrial and commercial growth in appropriate sections of Milton while maintaining the rural character of the community and protecting natural resources.

Implementation Strategies

1. Identify areas for commercial nodes along major routes through town.
2. Discourage sprawling strip growth.
3. Investigate the creation of a local economic development committee.
4. Review site plan regulations for consistency in the goal of enhancing rural character and sustainable development.
5. Review site plan regulations to ensure adequate buffers are required when adjacent to residential development.
6. Support *green* business development that has a sustainable approach to utilizing natural resources.
7. Actively seek funding to address any contamination threats to the Town's water and natural resources.
8. Support tourism efforts in the community that would compliment existing businesses and services.
9. Develop and maintain an inventory of development sites.
10. Encourage the establishment of a local business association
11. Investigate ways of calming traffic to improve safety in the villages for residents, business owners, and customers.
12. Develop general design criteria to assist business owners and developers in developing projects that are complementary to the existing buildings.

Policy Goal

2. Encourage and support opportunities for daycare providers and programs for the elderly.

Implementation Strategies

1. Review the zoning ordinance and consider expanding the options of where daycare centers can be located.
2. With larger commercial development proposals, encourage the developer to consider providing or supporting daycare opportunities, or flexible work schedules for employees.
3. Support efforts to establish a senior citizen center with day program opportunities.

Zoning & Land Use Recommendations

The current zoning attempts to fulfill the town's desire to manage development by identifying the types of uses and controls that are appropriate in different areas of Milton. This current zoning may not represent the Town's development or control wishes given today's situation and demographic trends. At present, there are four primary zones in town. The Milton Zoning Ordinance is administered by the Code Enforcement Officer. These zones are identified in **MZO Article III, Section 3.2 and on the Table of Principal & Accessory Uses in Section 3.5 and the official Zoning Map.** (Adopted August 1, 2017)

Zone Abr	Zone Name	Description	Notes	Recommendation
LDR	Low Density Residential	Primarily a zone for residential & agricultural uses.	Comprises 90% of land. Cookie cutter for traditional subdivision developments, even though they may not conform w/trad. Town rural land uses. 2-acre minimum.	Split into three zones, based on general land use. One could be low density residential, the other could be rural agricultural residential with even lower density required and incentives for farm operations. Finally, the third could be a conservation district where there would be very limited use; noncommercial recreation. No structures are allowed.
CR	Commercial Residential	Primarily a zone for retail and office activity, although all types of residential dwellings are allowed.	Water & sewer hookups mandated, <u>if available</u> . 1 acre minimum. Mixed use? Does this district know what it wants to be?	Split into two zones; one based in the two village centers as a village center overlay district, and the other where this district exists currently as a mixed use overlay district. In village district, lower or eliminate minimum lot size.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

Zone Abr	Zone Name	Description	Notes	Recommendation
IC	Industrial Commercial	Primarily a zone for commercial, retail and manufacturing.	Water and sewer hookups mandated if within 100 ft. of existing lines. 2-acre minimum.	Another district that doesn't know what it wants to be. Change zone to more modern uses; light industrial/warehousing. Drop retail and "manufacturing" term.
HDR	High Density Residential	Primarily a zone for higher density residential activity, but also allows single family and duplex on smaller lots.	To receive the density allowed, developments MUST either hookup or extend to hookup water and sewer.	This district should be expanded adjacent to villages where expansion of utilities is feasible. Prepare feasibility analyses for utilities. Amend regulations to require upgrade by developers.
OD	Overlay Districts			OSD, GW Protection, Wetland Conservation, GW Use, Shoreland Protection

Master Plan Land Use Chapter Recommendations

- Research and consider expanding zoning district that requires sewer and water utilities in areas designated as feasible for said utility expansion and that meets the vision of the Master Plan. Recommend requiring clustering of developments in High Density Residential zones.
- Recommend a study be commissioned that analyzes the potential for expansion of the village utilities.
- Research and consider creating a Village Center Overlay district in the existing villages of Milton and Milton Mills.
- Research and consider creating a Mixed-Use Overlay district in suitable areas around each village.
- Research and consider revising current low density residential into three or more zoning districts based on existing conditions and uses of land; new districts could be low density residential, rural agriculture, medium density residential and conservation districts.
- Change Industrial-Commercial zone to allow more modern uses such as light industrial/warehousing, office and high tech uses. Drop retail uses and "manufacturing" term. Zoning district name should change to reflect "modernization".
- Research and consider creating a Highway Limited Commercial zoning district with appropriate permitted uses and controls along the major routes within Town.

Town of Milton, New Hampshire
Master Plan: Toward the Year 2020
Adopted September 2002
Revision: December 19, 2017

- Research and consider removing residential uses from zoning districts where such uses may not be compatible with regard to quality of life and neighborhood continuity.
- Prepare a comprehensive review of all zoning ordinance and land use regulations for recommendations to correct, bring up to date and modernize these documents. An example is the out of date and incomplete Table of Permitted Principle and Accessory Uses.
- Research and address the very small lots of record near and on the lake, that would be developable (and have the right to do so) if lot size, frontage and setback requirements put in place after their creation made it impossible to do so without a variance by considering a “Nonconforming Lots of Record” new section in Zoning.
- Research and consider instituting incentive zoning for areas and types of development that are advocated by the Master Plan and the Town. (carrot, rather than stick zoning).
- Prepare an amended Flood Plain Ordinance that meets FEMA requirements and eliminate it as a stand-alone ordinance. Add it as a section in the Zoning Ordinance.
- Use the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure the Town’s future infrastructure, school, transportation and public facility project needs are in the plan so that potential developers can legally be asked/required to pay their fair share for their impact to these public project needs during the site plan review and approval process without the need for formal impact fee ordinances.
- Consider advocating for an annual meeting of all Boards, Commissions and committees to discuss master plan guiding vision and policy setting for the Town.
- Regarding septic systems around the lake where water quality is an asset that is irreplaceable, it is recommended to craft a zoning amendment that would require new or replacement septic systems be current best practice to preserve water quality.
- Since there are large parcels in Industrial and Commercial Residential zoning districts that are in conservation easements, it may be beneficial to research and consider expanding these zones to compensate for the potential development areas of the lots lost to conservation.
- Recommend that the Scenic By-way be used to draw tourists to Town by using all available media and marketing tools to call out the historic points of interest and other nearby places of business.

2.5 Transportation

Introduction

The Master Plan Transportation section includes Policies (Goals, Principles, and Standards) and Implementation Strategies related to the movement of people, goods and services in and around the Town.

Policy Goal

Continue to upgrade and maintain the transportation network in the town and consider public transportation opportunities in the planning process.

Implementation Strategies

1. Continue to work with NHDOT to increase safety along Route 16.
2. Investigate ways of calming traffic to improve safety in the villages for residents, business owners, and customers.
3. Support efforts to establish a transit route when it becomes feasible for the operator.
4. Investigate the possibility of establishing a seasonal transit system (trolley) to improve access and safety to the town beach.
5. Develop access management policies to maintain safety and road efficiency in town.

2.6 Municipal Services and Recreation

Introduction

The Master Plan Municipal Services and Recreation section includes Policies (Goals, Principles, and Standards) and Implementation Strategies related to public services and recreation in the Town.

Policy Goal

1. To continue to have public safety facilities that efficiently and effectively meet the current and future needs of Milton residents.

Implementation Strategies

1. Prepare an annual CIP so there is a clear plan for future capital needs.
2. Urge the location of community buildings in existing communities to reinforce the sense of community.
3. Attempt to take a sustainable approach when considering future development so there is a balance between the economic, environmental, and public safety needs of the community.

Policy Goal

2. Plan for additional outdoor and indoor recreational opportunities and social centers for Milton residents.

Implementation Strategies

1. Encourage the organization of recreational opportunities in response to resident interests.
2. Encourage efforts to establish a community center for senior citizens and the youth in the town.
3. Identify facility needs of the Town's growing population and establish a list of priorities for maintenance and/or expansion of parks, beaches, and other recreational spaces and activities.



4. Improve the accessibility of all recreational opportunities, in particular the beach to all Milton residents.
5. Encourage cooperative efforts for cultural and social programs that benefit the residents. (e.g. the Greater Wakefield Resource Center.
6. Pursue the establishment of an indoor recreational center to house community activities and events.

Policy Goal

3. Support plans for school facilities that provide the students and residents of Milton a more than adequate educational opportunity and create facilities that benefit the entire community.

Implementation Strategies

1. Encourage the School Boards to work with the Town boards to identify particular strengths and weaknesses of the educational system, degree of need, level of urgency and propose a timeline for execution of projects and programs. Key factors to keep in mind include (but not limited to):
 - i. Ensure that schools curriculum meet (or are above) State requirements.
 - ii. Ensure the safety, health and cleanliness of both indoor and outdoor school facilities.
 - iii. Ensure adequate classroom space.
 - iv. Encourage professional standards for staff.
 - v. Actively seek out ways to increase/improve student and staff morale.
 - vi. Ensure that students have access to current technology.
 - vii. Ensure/promote active and positive forms of communication between school and community/ Increase student, teacher, parent, and community participation in school activities.
2. Encourage the use of schools as a community activity center.
3. Continue to seek adequate funding to provide staff with resources needed to provide improved and enhanced programs and curriculum for their students and the community.
4. Continue to encourage establishing capital reserve funds for capital improvements that are necessary to ensure that Milton schools meet the needs of the student population.
5. Consider establishing a partnership between the school and the business community.

Policy Goal

4. Encourage and support opportunities for daycare providers and programs for the elderly.

Implementation Strategies

1. Review the zoning ordinance and consider expanding the options of where daycare centers can be located.
2. With larger commercial development proposals, encourage the developer to consider providing or supporting daycare opportunities, or flexible work schedules for employees.
3. Support efforts to establish a senior citizen center with day program opportunities.

2.7 Housing

Introduction

The Master Plan Housing section includes Policies (Goals, Principles, and Standards) and Implementation Strategies related to meeting housing needs.

Policy Goal

Allow for a range of housing opportunities in a manner that protects and enhances Milton's rural and agricultural character while providing housing for the elderly and lower income residents.

Implementation Strategies

1. Review the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations for their ability to support this goal.
2. Consider allowing the sensitive conversion of abandoned commercial properties in the village zoning districts to housing for the elderly and other uses.
3. Encourage open space/conservation subdivision development in an effort to provide a range of housing opportunities while protecting Milton's rural character.
4. Continue to allow accessory apartments in the existing housing stock where the lot size is adequate.

Part 3 Master Plan Implementation Program (Pending)

(To be prepared by Planning Board in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen and other Committees, Town Officials, and Citizens)

The Master Plan' Implementation Program describes how the Policy Goals, Principles, and Standards will be implemented; when they will be implemented; and who is responsible. The Implementation Program consolidates the Implementation Strategies from each Master Plan section found in Part 2. The Implementation Program is organized into the following categories:

1. Regulatory Implementation Programs
 1. Ordinances – New or Amendments.
 2. Regulations – New or Amendments.
2. Non-Regulatory Implementation Programs
 - a. Capital Improvement Program
 - b. Natural Resource/Water Resource/Open Space Protection
 3. Etc.

In addition a responsible party is assigned to each action and a priority is given to each action –

- Immediate is to occur within the next 1-2 years.
- Short term is to occur within the next 2-4 years.
- Long term is to occur within the next 4-10 year.

The following is a sample format.

Regulatory Implementation Programs

Ordinances – New or Amendments

Action:

Responsibility:

Priority:

1. Adopt updated Open Space/Conservation Subdivision Design Zoning Ordinance
Amendment
Planning Board, Selectmen, Citizens
Immediate

2

Regulations – New or Amendments

Action:

Responsibility:

Priority:

1. Adopt Open Space Conservation Subdivision Design Regulations.
Planning Board
Immediate

2.

Non - Regulatory Implementation Programs

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

See spread sheet on next page – to be prepared)

Action:

Responsibility:

Priority:

1. Authorize the Planning Board to update the Six Year Capital Improvement Program
Selectmen
Immediate
2. Update and adopt the Capital Improvement Program for use by the Selectmen and Budget
Committee prior to the next annual budget cycle.
Planning Board
Immediate
3. Use the CIP for annual budget preparation.
Budget Committee and Selectmen
Immediate
4. Update the CIP annually.
Planning Board
Ongoing

Natural Resource/Water Resource/Open Space Protection

Action:
Responsibility:
Priority:

1. See Regulatory Implementation Actions

Part 4 Appendix

- 4.1 Master Plan 1983 Background Information
- 4.2 Master Plan 1994 Background Information
- 4.3 Master Plan September 2002 Background Information
- 4.4 Milton Master Plan Community Survey 2001
- 4.5 Milton Master Plan Survey-Preliminary Results
- 4.6 Milton Master Plan Survey-Results