

Natural Resources				
State Goal: <i>To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas.</i>				
Town Goal:				
Policy	Strategy	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Budget
Regional Approaches				
<i>It is the policy of the town to cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect water resources, and shared critical natural resources.</i>	Provide local contact information at the municipal office for water quality best management practices from resources such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, Maine Forest Service, and/or Small Woodlot Association of Maine. ★	Conservation Commission, Staff	Immediate	\$
	Distribute or make available information to those living in or near critical or important natural resources about current use tax programs and applicable local, state, or federal regulations. ★	Conservation Commission	Short Term	\$
	Continue to participate in interlocal and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important resources such as the York River Partnership, the Mt. Agamenticus Conservation region, and the Salmon Falls Watershed. ★	Town Council, Conservation Commission	Ongoing	N/A
	Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality. ★	Town Council, Conservation Commission	Ongoing	N/A

Conservation				
<i>It is the policy of the town to participate in, incentivize, and plan for the conservation of land for the protection of water resources, critical natural resources, and agricultural lands.</i>	Update the South Berwick Open Space Plan and use recommendations to prioritize lands for future town acquisition and conservation. Consult regionally completed plans to incorporate best known information.	Town Council, Conservation Commission	Short Term	\$\$
	Establish conservation corridors between existing conservation lands, and work with bordering communities to create contiguous conserved lands.	Town Council, Conservation Commission	Long Term	\$\$
	Through the Town newsletter and Assessing office, communicate to residents the benefits available in landowner preservation options (tree growth, open space and easements)	Town Council, Conservation Commission, Staff	Ongoing	N/A
	Work to develop incentives for private landowner conservation and recreational easements, including the state Open Space Taxation program.	Town Council, Planning Board	Long Term	N/A or \$\$
	Consider the creation of a municipal fund or trust which reserves resources for the purchase of land for conservation and protection. Could be funded through impact fees, annual appropriations, or tree growth and open space withdrawal penalties.	Town Council	Short Term	\$\$
	Maintain existing relationship with Great Works Regional Land Trust and explore ways the town could better support the organization or advance similar goals at the municipal level.	Town Council, Conservation Commission	Short Term	N/A or \$\$
Water Resources				
<i>It is the policy of the town to protect significant surface water resources and drinking water sources from pollution and improve water quality where needed.</i>	Adopt or amend local land use ordinances as applicable to incorporate stormwater runoff performance standards consistent with: a. Maine Stormwater Management Law and	Planning Board, Town Council	Short Term	N/A

	<p>Maine Stormwater regulations (Title 38 M.R.S.A. §420-D and 06-096 CMR 500 and 502).</p> <p>b. Maine Department of Environmental Protection's allocations for allowable levels of phosphorus in lake/pond watersheds.</p> <p>c. Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program ★</p>			
	<p>Consider amending local land use ordinances, as applicable, to incorporate low impact development standards. ★</p>	<p>Planning Board, Town Council</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>\$</p>
	<p>Maintain, enact, or amend public wellhead and aquifer recharge area protection mechanisms, as necessary. ★</p>	<p>Planning Board, Town Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>\$</p>
	<p>Adopt water quality protection practices and standards for construction and maintenance of public and private roads and public properties and require their implementation by contractors, owners, and community officials and employees. ★</p>	<p>Planning Board, Town Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Provide educational materials at appropriate locations regarding aquatic invasive species. ★</p>	<p>Conservation Commission</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Develop a long-range plan for the development of other water supply sources other than in the existing aquifer, and prioritize recharge areas, uplands and watersheds for conservation. (Public Services?)</p>	<p>Town Council, DPW, SBWD, Conservation Commission</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p><i>It is the policy of the town to protect water resources in growth areas where development is most intense and upgrade existing public sewer and wastewater facilities to minimize pollution discharge.</i></p>	<p>Identify areas of stormwater infrastructure that are out of date or over capacity and plan for future upgrades and improvements pursuant to the town’s MS4 designation.</p>	<p>Town Council, DPW, Staff</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Consider streamlining on-going oversight of stormwater management plans by creation of databases and/or GIS that can be utilized by appropriate Town staff.</p>	<p>Town Council, DPW, Staff</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>Critical Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitat</p>				
<p><i>It is the policy of the town to prioritize the protection of undeveloped blocks, biodiversity, and critical wildlife habitat.</i></p>	<p>Ensure that land use ordinances are consistent with applicable state law regarding critical natural resources. ★</p>	<p>Planning Board, Town Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>\$</p>
	<p>Continue to require subdivision or non-residential property developers to look for and identify critical natural resources that may be on site and to take appropriate measures to protect those resources, including but not limited to, modification of the proposed site design, construction timing, and/or extent of excavation. ★</p>	<p>Planning Board, Town Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>\$</p>
	<p>Require the Planning Board to include as part of the review process, consideration of pertinent maps and information regarding critical natural resources from the updated Open Space Plan and other state resources (BwH). ★</p>	<p>Planning Board, Town Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>N/A</p>
	<p>Pursue public/private partnerships to protect critical and important natural resources such as through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers. ★ (Redundant?)</p>	<p>Town Council, Conservation Commission</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>\$\$\$</p>

	Eliminate the filling of wetlands within floodplains. (Older plan, not mentioned as a problem but could still be relevant?)	Planning Board, Town Council	Short Term	\$
	As part of Subdivision review, encourage retention of natural cover and vegetation to the maximum extent possible.	Planning Board, Town Council	Ongoing	N/A
	Include spatial data of wetlands delineation on GIS tools. Refer to current established wetland mapping criteria as developed by the National Wetlands Inventory to update town maps to determine total wetland size.	Town Council, Staff	Short Term	\$
	Consider amending ordinances to require a wetland values and functions assessment for certain new developments, to better understand the full impact of a project.	Planning Board, Town Council	Short Term	\$
	Incorporate wildlife conscious design in updates to all stream crossings identified as inadequate by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for better stream continuity and future increased flows.	Town Council, DPW, Staff	Ongoing	\$\$
	Recognize the value of vernal pools in the Greater Mount Agamenticus area as significant breeding habitat that supports other forms of wildlife and afford appropriate protection, such as shoreland zoning.	Planning Board, Town Council	Short Term	\$
<i>It is the policy of the town to consider the future impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of residents and the operations of town programs and services.</i>	Enroll in the state’s Community Resilience Partnership to access resources and guidance around climate change planning.	Town Council	Immediate	N/A
	Apply for grants through the Community Resilience Partnership to conduct a climate change study, consider the community’s greenhouse gas emissions or take action on climate change mitigation strategies. (More?)	Town Council	Short Term	\$\$

Agriculture and Forest Resources				
<i>It is the policy of the town to safeguard lands identified as prime farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.</i>	Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by 12 M.R.S.A. §8869. ★	Planning Board	Ongoing	N/A
	Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices. ★	Planning Board	Ongoing	N/A
	Amend land use ordinances to require commercial or subdivision developments in suitable rural areas maintain areas with prime farmland soils as open space to the greatest extent practicable. ★	Planning Board, Town Council	Short Term	\$
	Include spatial data of prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance on GIS mapping tools and tax maps.	Town Council, Staff	Short Term	\$
<i>It is the policy of the town to support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.</i>	Limit non-residential development in the most rural zones to natural resource-based businesses and services, nature tourism/outdoor recreation businesses, farmers’ markets, and home occupations. ★	Planning Board	Ongoing	N/A
	Encourage owners of productive farm and forest land to enroll in the current use taxation programs. ★	Town Council, Staff	Ongoing	N/A
	Permit land use activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations, such as roadside stands, greenhouses, firewood operations, sawmills, log buying yards, and pick-your-own operations. ★	Planning Board	Ongoing	N/A

	Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in local or regional economic development plans. ★	Town Council, Staff	Ongoing	N/A
--	--	---------------------	---------	-----

★ Denotes a state recommended strategy from the Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule (07 105 Chapter 208)

Timeline Key

Immediate = 2-3 years

Short Term = 5-8 years

Long Term = 10-15 years

Ongoing = Begin as possible, maintain ongoing

Budget Key

N/A = Does not necessarily have a cost component

\$ = One budget cycle, maybe mid-cycle allocation

\$\$ = One budget cycle, budgeted ahead of time

\$\$\$ = Two to three budget cycles

\$\$\$\$ = three or more budget cycles, maybe a reserve account