

# REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM



NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

JANUARY 2000

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# REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING PROGRAM (REPP)

## Final Report

January 2000

Nashua Regional Planning Commission  
115 Main Street  
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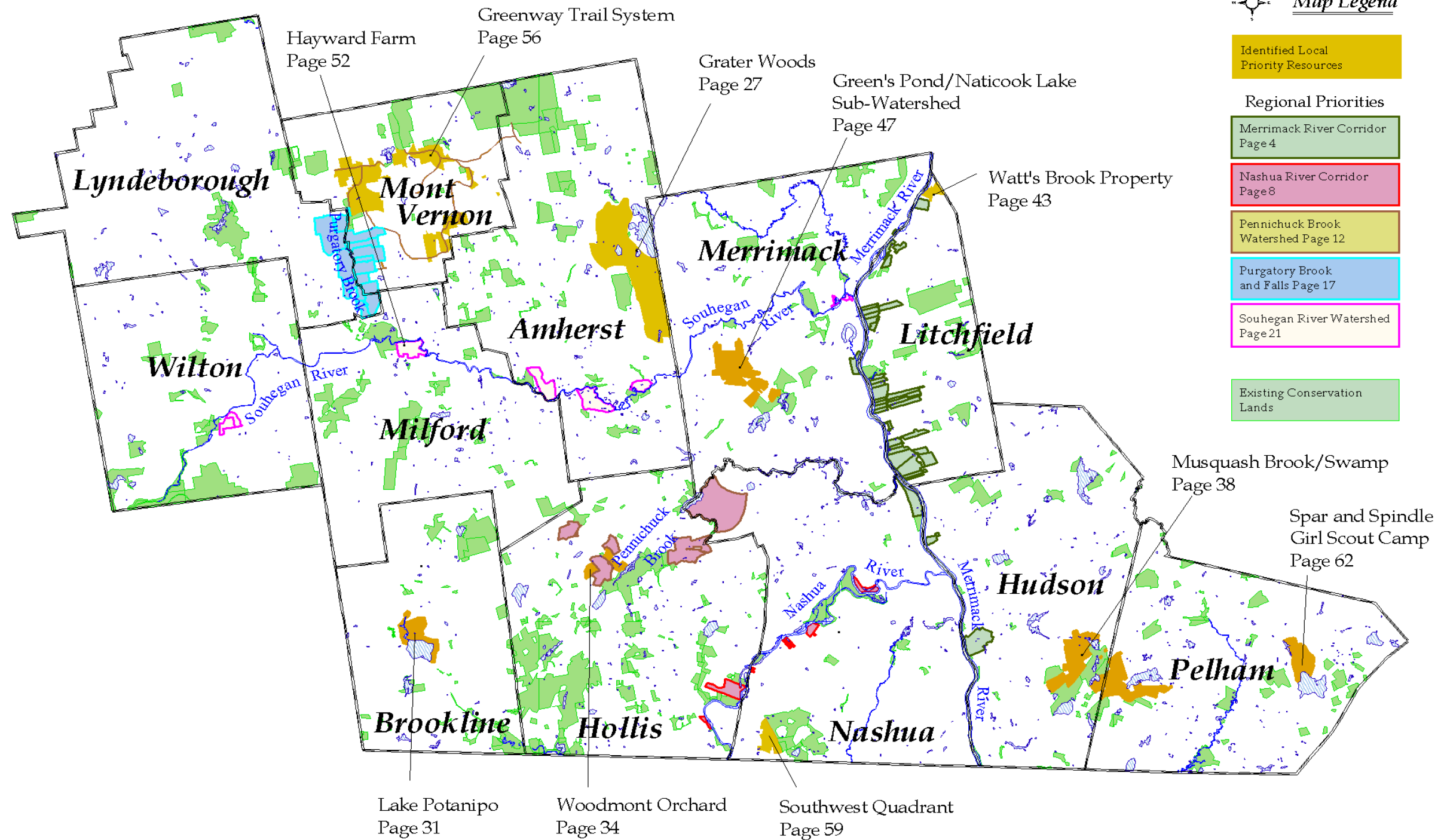
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## Local and Regional Conservation Priorities in the NRPC Region (1999)





## INTRODUCTION

The Regional Environmental Planning Program (REPP) was funded by the Department of Environmental Services as a means to develop an inventory of New Hampshire's most significant unprotected water, land, forest, historic, cultural, ecological, geological and public resources. The Land and Community Heritage Commission (LCHC) was created with the passage of SB 493. The LCHC has recommended that funding be made available annually to communities, non-profit organizations and state agencies through a competitive application process for the voluntary conservation and preservation of targeted resources. REPP was established, in part, to respond to SB 493.

During year one, a comprehensive inventory was assembled through local conservation and historical commissions. In year two, the assembled data was refined and public meetings were held to select five priority resources for each community. Planning boards, historic district commissions, watershed associations, land trusts, environmental groups, charitable and philanthropic organizations and other stakeholders were contacted by each of the region's conservation commissions and invited to provide input. In addition, the conservation commissions were asked to identify their highest priority resource and gather a comprehensive set of data, based on the following criteria: resource type, significance of the property, imminence of threat, leverage; local support, partnerships; public access, stewardship, and method of preservation.

The year one report also categorized "Regional Priorities". These were resources that were identified by more than one town. Although eleven were cited, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) staff selected five for more detailed analysis: Purgatory and Pennichuck Brook Watersheds and the Merrimack, Nashua and Souhegan River Corridors. The Conservation Commissions used the same criteria for choosing the highest regional priority as they did for the local properties.

While it is important to create and maintain a database of all resources, this report will highlight the resources in the region that are in most serious need of protection. This final document will provide a detailed profile of the top local and regional priorities in each community. The report will call attention to resources 2 through 5, but will not provide extensive details about them. Detailed information on the remaining priorities, and a complete resources inventory, is available at NRPC and local Conservation Commission offices. In addition, the complete inventory provided by the communities during Year One is available in a companion document prepared by the NRPC. That document is available at NRPC or through its website ([www.nashuarpc.org](http://www.nashuarpc.org)).

This report is to be used as a tool for developing options and strategies for resource protection. It does not represent regional or municipal government policies or programmatic actions.

# REGIONAL PRIORITY



## MERRIMACK RIVER CORRIDOR

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## MERRIMACK RIVER CORRIDOR

### MERRIMACK, NASHUA, LITCHFIELD AND HUDSON

The Merrimack River is the most significant surface water resource in the NRPC region. The shoreline of the river is remarkably undeveloped for an urban area, however development pressures are increasing. This growth may be attributed to development within the corridors of Routes 3 and 3A. Improved water quality has increased the river's desirability for development. Each community has identified the protection of shorefront parcels as a priority. There is public access to the river in all four communities. Merrimack seeks to increase its ownership of shorefront properties to provide additional public access, and a linked network of trails along the River. Hudson plans to increase public access to the river, by conducting a shoreline survey to identify existing and potential walking trails along the river, and boat access points. Litchfield's priority is to preserve the active agricultural lands along the river and to preserve the Town's character. Nashua would like to extend Greeley Park along the River and add additional athletic fields, picnic areas, and trails.



Upland trail along Moores Falls in Litchfield

## RESOURCE TYPES

All four communities have experienced significant growth since the 1950s, and that trend is expected to continue into the future. Particularly threatened is the agricultural land and winter eagle roosting areas in mature trees along the river in Litchfield. The majority of the land on the undeveloped river frontage in Litchfield and Hudson is zoned industrial. This segment of the river was designated as a Community River under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Act on June 26, 1990. There is potential for a boat ramp in Merrimack at the old Thornton's Ferry site, and on several properties in Hudson. This area also has historic significance associated with the location of several ferry crossings.



## SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
MERRIMACK			
M-1	6E-1/64	1.80	These areas will connect to public property and form a corridor along the shoreline of the river. There is low development potential for these lots due to limited access, location and lot configurations.
M-2	3D-1003	30.80	Key shoreline parcel in Merrimack – existing access under the railroad tracks. Potential for developing boat access at this site. Historic significance Thornton’s Ferry. Moderate development threat – road access, wetland and floodplain issues.
LITCHFIELD			
M-4	M1-7	23.10	Preservation would help protect the rural character of Litchfield. Possible buffer to proposed highway and bridge. Rated as prime agricultural soils all of these parcels are actively farmed.
M-5	M1-16	98.02	
M-6	M1-17	106.22	
M-7	M1-18	26.38	
HUDSON			
M-8	13-8	88.90	Large parcel with river access and potential for recreational development. Pond and stream on the property.
M-9	23-4	31.42	A possible partner with NH Dept. of Fish and Game for public boat access.
NASHUA			
M-10	49-11	7.43	Directly adjacent to Greeley Park. Would extend the park along the river. Provide additional sports fields. Medium priority, currently under remediation.
M-11	48-08	78.10	



## SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

These properties were selected for the following reasons:

- Many of these parcels augment existing conservation lands and/or are links in a planned greenway.
- The Litchfield parcels are active agricultural operations and acquisition will preserve prime agricultural soils and maintain the community's historic agricultural heritage.
- The parcels could provide improved boat and fishing access to the Merrimack River.
- There is potential for active and passive recreational development.
- Parcel M-8 is the last large undeveloped tract in south Hudson with substantial environmental and recreational potential.

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

The threat of development is most significant for the parcels in Litchfield and Hudson. Completion of the Circumferential Highway will provide direct access to the Everett Turnpike for both of these communities, potentially accelerating development pressure. In addition, much of the agricultural land in Litchfield is zoned for commercial/industrial use. The parcel in south Hudson, which is adjacent to an industrial park, is also zoned for industrial use. The parcel in Nashua is currently a hazardous waste remediation site. The Nashua site will take several more years to complete groundwater cleanup, but will be an attractive site for redevelopment in the future. Development of the Thornton's Ferry parcel in Merrimack is constrained by wetlands, floodplains and limited access.

## LEVERAGE

Several of the property owners have indicated a desire to sell their property to local interests. The City of Nashua, in its 1999 Recreation Master Plan, has identified the Beazer site as one of its top priorities for acquisition.

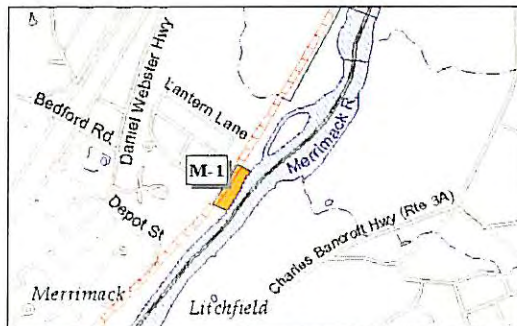
## LOCAL SUPPORT

There is local support in Merrimack for the continued acquisition of riverfront land to connect and expand the Town's current holdings. Litchfield's boards and residents are supportive of

preserving the agricultural character of the community; however, the Town is well aware of the need to purchase the development rights or purchase the land in fee simple. Hudson is actively attempting to identify additional public access points to the Merrimack River. The current and projected shortfall of rectangular sports fields in the City of Nashua make the Beazer property very attractive from a recreation standpoint, and as such, the general citizenry is likely to support the designation of matching funds for its acquisition.



Uplands below Eagle Roosting area



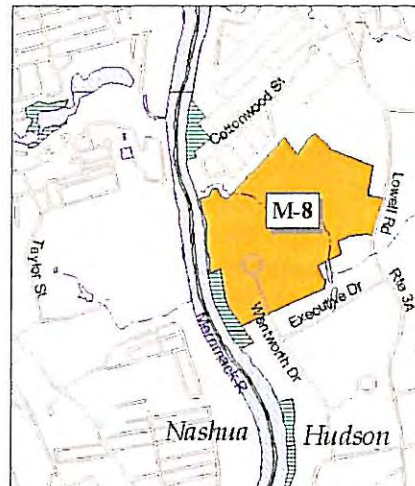
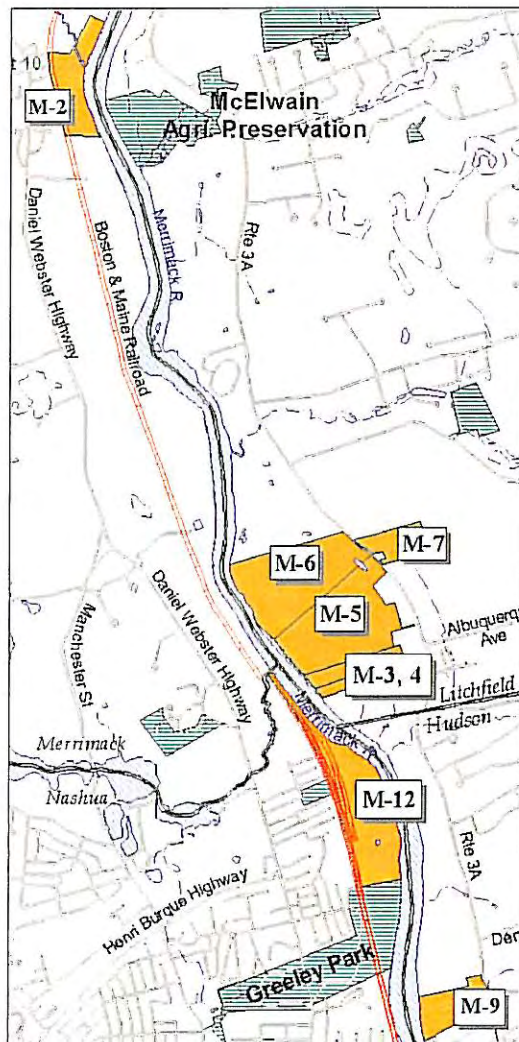
### Regional Conservation Priorities in the Lower Merrimack River Corridor

Existing Conservation  
Properties

Identified Priority  
Regional Resources



*Not to Scale*





## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The NH Fish and Game Department has expressed an interest in acquiring a portion of parcel M-9 in Hudson for a potential boat access. In addition, NH Fish and Game Department may be a partner with the Town of Hudson for development of boat access on Parcel M-8. There is statewide acknowledgment that the agricultural lands in Litchfield are some of the most productive in the state. The Town has recommended that agricultural land be purchased as mitigation for the Circumferential Highway project.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

Identified parcels could either augment public lands or provide additional access to the river. The parcels identified in north Merrimack are adjacent to and across the river from land already in public ownership. The parcel in north Hudson has the potential to be developed as a boat access facility in conjunction with NH Fish and Game. The Nashua property has direct access from Greeley Park.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

The four Conservation Commissions are willing to be responsible or share stewardship duties with other organizations to maintain any easements that may be purchased. Since many of these parcels are adjacent to existing town owned parcels, a strong argument could be made in favor of public ownership. In Litchfield, however, the development rights should be purchased for the agricultural lands to allow the land to be held mainly for agricultural use with some provision for limited passive recreational use.

## **METHOD OF PRESERVATION**

With the exception of the purchase of development rights on the parcels in Litchfield, the identified parcels should be purchased in fee simple. It is possible that the Department of Transportation could purchase easements to be administered by Conservation Commissions for the mitigation of highway construction projects.

#530D-3

# **REGIONAL PRIORITY**



## **NASHUA RIVER CORRIDOR**

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## NASHUA RIVER CORRIDOR HOLLIS, NASHUA

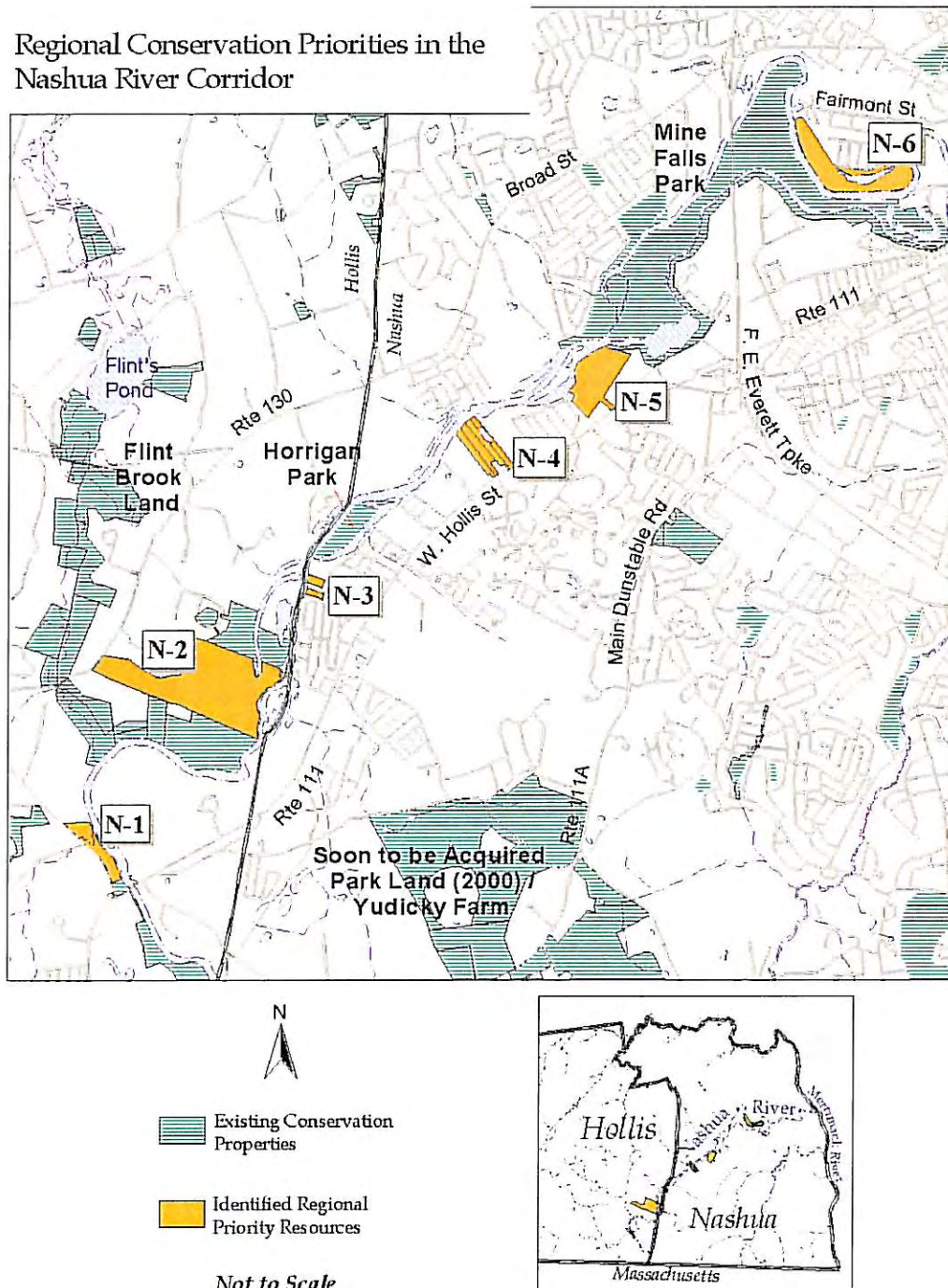
The Nashua River flows northerly from its headwaters in central Massachusetts through Hollis and Nashua to its confluence with the Merrimack River. Both Nashua and Hollis have identified the River as a high priority area for protection of wildlife habitat, prime wetlands and a potential wildlife corridor. A potential addition to Horrigan Park, along the Hollis line, also ranked as a high priority for Nashua. Hollis wants to create a greenway along the river that would connect protected parcels. In Nashua, the largest protected area is Mine Falls Park. Protection of the Intervale land, another high priority area identified by Nashua, would preserve a pristine floodplain habitat and expand the area around Mine Falls Park to the northern shore of the River.

### SIGNIFICANT PARCELS

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
<b>HOLLIS</b>			
N-1	9-58	13.78	Greenway along river connects with conservation property to the south that is at location of Nashua River dam/rapids. Potential location for boat launch.
N-2	5-71	122.00	Property is currently being used as fish and game club, however there are no formal protections on it. Key piece of property that connects a series of protected parcels to the south with a larger piece to the north. Good candidate for a conservation easement.
<b>NASHUA</b>			
N-3	D18-119	0.46	This small wooded parcel could provide parking space at the end of the road and access to the eleven acre Horrigan Park, which is on a narrow river front peninsula.
N-4	F1-60	2.26	Irregularly shaped undeveloped parcels with access to the River, adjacent to densely populated city neighborhood.
	F1-61	3.42	
	F1-62	0.50	
	F1-63	0.50	
N-5	E6-1359	21.87	Located south of and adjacent to the southern portion of Mine Falls Park. This parcel would be a logical extension of the Park. Power lines that traverse the property could be used as a bicycle path. Parcel would also be a good location for a boat launch.
N-6	70-13	22.22	The "Intervale" is between the river and one of its coves north of Mine Falls Park. Area is within the 100 yr. Floodplain. Best example of a floodplain forest in Nashua. Contains a wide variety of vegetation and is an ideal habitat for many species. It is a prime resting and feeding area for migratory birds.
	70-05	9.60	
	70-12	6.63	



## Regional Conservation Priorities in the Nashua River Corridor





## RESOURCE TYPES

The Nashua River is a water resource of regional significance to the States of New Hampshire and Massachusetts due to its historical heritage, pristine floodplains in the western part of the watershed and various recreational activities associated with the river.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

The identified parcels, in addition to the conservation properties, could result in a continuous greenway along the bank of the river, and the expansion of Mine Falls Park in Nashua. Many of these parcels augment existing conservation lands. The river is a popular fishing, boating and picnicking destination. Parcel N-6 may be unbuildable, but the trees provide a significant view shed for the north end of the Park and river near a planned boat access.



Nashua River flowing from headwaters in central Massachusetts through Hollis

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

Properties in Nashua and Hollis are under tremendous development pressure. On the Nashua side of the River, all of the properties are adjacent to densely populated suburban neighborhoods. Some of the parcels on the Hollis side, particularly the Fish and Game club, are being used for conservation related purposes; however, they have no permanent protection mechanism in place.

## LEVERAGE

Several owners have indicated a desire to sell their property to local interests or have expressed a willingness to sell development rights through a conservation easement. Parcel N-4 owners have recently declared bankruptcy and may be more willing to sell than to continue development.



Downstream view of the Nashua River looking toward the Hartwell property



## LOCAL SUPPORT

Hollis and Nashua Conservation Commissions (HCC/NCC) have pledged their support to preserve significant properties associated with the river. The City of Nashua has a strong interest in land preservation and recreational access along the Nashua River as demonstrated by the acquisition of Mine Falls and Horrigan Parks.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Nashua River Watershed Association has long promoted preservation of riverfront greenways throughout the 4,000 square mile watershed and would be an appropriate partner for educational outreach and maintenance. There are no financial commitments at this time.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

The Hartwell property (N-1) is adjacent to existing conservation lands accessible from Runnels Bridge Road (Route 111) and Depot Road. A logging road could easily be upgraded to connect Depot Road to the river for a boat ramp/beach. Trail access is available from Route 130 through HCC land. Along the backwaters in Hollis, pedestrian access is difficult due to marshy conditions. The public heavily uses Mine Falls Park. On the northern end there are seven designated entrances, but limited parking. The identified parcels of land would augment existing conservation lands, resulting in the creation of a greenway and the extension of protected parkland.



View across the Nashua River from the Intervale area towards Mine Falls

## STEWARDSHIP

Since many of the parcels are adjacent to existing town and city owned parcels, a strong argument could be made in favor of public ownership. In some cases however, the land is being used for conservation related purposes by private entities, therefore, participation by a land trust or watershed organization could be a viable alternative. With respect to the Lone Pine Fish and Game Club property, securing a conservation easement would enable this current use to continue in perpetuity.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The method of preservation to be employed varies depending upon ownership status and location of the properties. Those properties adjacent to municipal land would be strong

candidates for public acquisition. In other cases, where property is currently being used by a private entity for conservation related activities, conservation easements would be appropriate. Yet in other cases, where a portion of the property is slated for development, effective site plan design techniques could be employed to conserve open space along the river and help to preserve the natural components of watershed ecosystems.

#530C-4

# REGIONAL PRIORITY



## PENNICHUCK BROOK WATERSHED

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## PENNICHUCK BROOK WATERSHED

### HOLLIS, NASHUA, AMHERST AND MERRIMACK

The Pennichuck Brook feeds a chain of small ponds that supply drinking water to Nashua, Merrimack, Amherst, Milford, and Hollis under the management of Pennichuck Water Works. This watershed supplies the chain ponds with water through surface flow (runoff) and baseflow (groundwater). Pennichuck Brook has its headwaters around Silver Lake. The parcels selected by the Town of Hollis complement existing conservation lands including the Silver Lake State Park and the Hollis Town Forest (Spaulding Park).

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

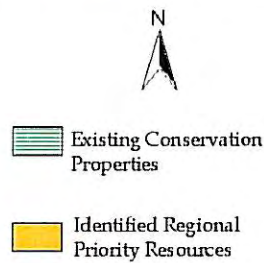
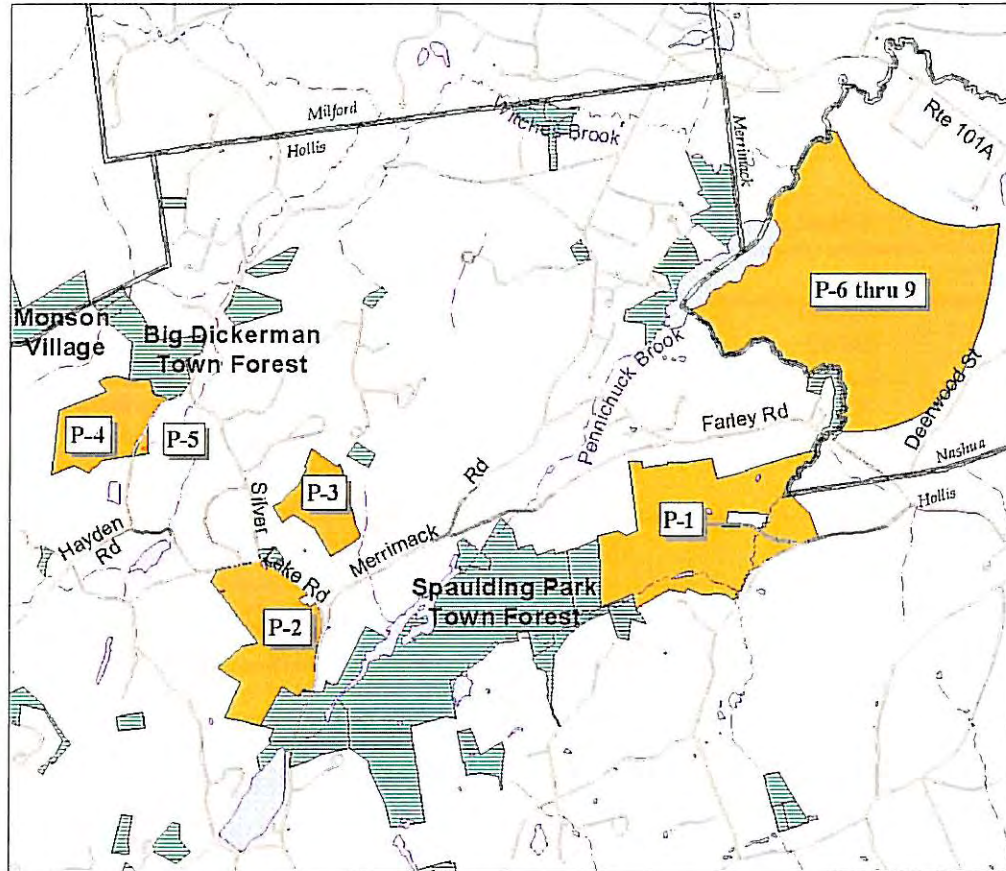
Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
<b>HOLLIS</b>			
P-1	37-12	265.00	Contiguous with town forest and a state park
P-2	35-63	138.80	Woodmont Orchards parcel high on a hill with a scenic view of Hollis
P-3	36-4	57.40	Orchard parcel with state important agricultural soil and a scenic view
P-4	41-1	86.00	Will add to the Hollis greenway and is near the parcels above
P-5	41-65	53.10	Near the Hollis greenway
<b>NASHUA</b>			
P-6	H-577	363.68	Largest contiguous tract within Nashua City limits; portions are currently being sold
P-7	H-523	131.00	Pennichuck Brook with associated wetlands
P-8	I-8	117.70	Heavily forested with a network of wetlands
P-9	H-524	31.00	Pennichuck Brook and associated wetlands

### RESOURCE TYPES

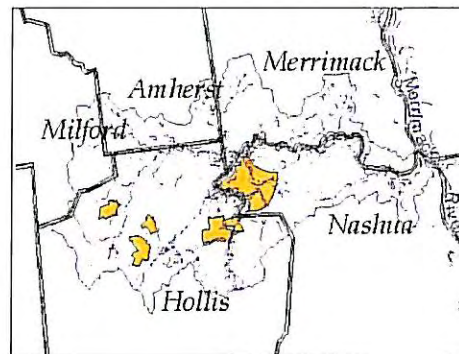
In Hollis the properties are being farmed or left as forest. Pennichuck Brook winds it's way eastward towards Nashua. The Nashua segment of the brook is characterized by wetlands, uplands and forested areas.



## Regional Conservation Priorities in the Pennichuck Brook Watershed



Not to Scale





## SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY

In Hollis the first parcel (P-1) is contiguous to the Woodmont Orchards property that is considered a high local priority. The property is a large undeveloped parcel in a rapidly growing area, and is a major recharge to the water supply of Muddy and Pennichuck Brooks. This area is included in the Pennichuck Brook watershed, which, when taken in full scope, supplies approximately 40% of the hydrologic contribution to the water supply of Nashua and Merrimack. The property is contiguous with two protected conservation and recreation areas, Silver Lake State Park (about 100 acres) and Spaulding Park Town Forest (about 190 acres). Acquiring this property (P-1) will assure that a significant land area will remain undeveloped and free of potential water contamination. All of the properties are defined in the Natural Resources chapter of the 1998 Hollis Master Plan.

All the identified parcels in Nashua are within the watershed of Pennichuck Brook, Nashua's primary surface water supply. The area is comprised of dense forests with a network of wetlands crossing throughout. This section is the largest unbroken, contiguous forest and wetland habitat within the city limits of Nashua and likely to be of high ecological value.

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

Because Hollis has a local shoreline protection ordinance, it is believed that imminence of threat along the brook is very low; however, because of size and location, the identified properties are considered very developable. The owner of Woodmont Orchards has stated that if any "good business deals" come his way he would examine them. Although landowners have yet to be contacted, it is likely that the development pressures threatening Woodmont Orchards would also threaten these parcels.

In Nashua the area west of the B&M railroad tracks and the Nashua Airport is zoned for industrial park development. Until recently, the lack of access and remote location have precluded any development of this area. In 1997, however, approvals were granted to extend a road from Northwestern Boulevard across the railroad tracks to allow for the development of an office building. Though this development only consumed about 37 acres, it is anticipated to be the first in a series of office, research and development, and industrial park uses to locate in this area. Much of this future growth is anticipated to occur on lot H-577, which with 364 acres could accommodate extensive development within the constraints of wetland and watershed regulations. Land not purchased or otherwise set aside for preservation within the next five years is likely to be developed, given the current economic conditions and the shortage of suitable industrially-zoned land.



Woodmont Orchard in Hollis



Rock Farm abuts a town forest and state park



## LEVERAGE

In Hollis several sources of funding may be available including support from Pennichuck Water Works (who may participate as a partner) and a forthcoming statewide initiative to purchase water supply conservation lands. Town money may also be available because two parcels (P-2, P-3) were selected as local priorities. Information has been presented to the Nichols-Smith Land Conservation Trust, a local land trust, and to the Hollis Greenway Conservancy, a local *ad hoc* conservation group. Neither group is working with the Hollis Conservation Commission (HCC) at this time. Despite discussions of the properties at HCC meetings, the landowners have yet to be contacted. The HCC chairman has stated that the commission intends to allocate funds from their Land Management and Acquisition fund toward the acquisition or protection of any of these high priority properties. They will seek local support should any of the landowners be willing to participate. The HCC will seek help and support from regional (SPNHF) or national conservation organizations (National Farmland Trust) to accomplish these goals.

There is strong support in Nashua to protect its water supply. Pennichuck Water Works has the incentive of protecting watershed lands from a water quality standpoint and has a good track record of acquiring environmentally sensitive acreage in recharge areas.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

Public support exists for the preservation of Woodmont Orchards, and it is hoped that support would also be extended to preserving all five parcels, which serve as an important groundwater recharge area. The parcels have multiple resource attributes including protecting open space, water quality, rural character and growth management. It is believed that this project would be supported by Hollis residents. Preserving farmlands is also consistent with longstanding local planning goals. One way the HCC could acquire the property would be through the Conservation Commission's Land Management and Acquisition Fund, and a potential warrant article at a special meeting.



The City of Nashua held several public hearings prior to passing a Water Supply Protection District amendment to the City's zoning ordinance. This helped to raise citizen awareness of the necessity of protecting sensitive watershed areas. Because of the increased public awareness, efforts to protect all or part of the selected properties are likely to be well received and supported by the general public.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Pennichuck Water Works and the Merrimack Village District, as water suppliers, will provide technical support and possible funding since this is directly related to water quality. Technical and grant writing support are also available at the state and regional level. Currently, there is only one landowner that might be willing to work with the HCC. Contact will be made with owners in the future so this public process can proceed smoothly.

The Nashua Conservation Commission will approach the New Hampshire Audubon Society as a possible partner since the Society owns two adjacent parcels.



## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

The Hollis properties are currently in agricultural operation and the preferred protection method is the purchase of agricultural easements. Public access would be limited to trails delineated by the land owner and the HCC. In Nashua, wetlands make it unsuitable for traditional recreation activities. A trail in upland areas might be possible for passive recreation.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

In Hollis several stakeholders listed earlier may become involved in stewardship of the properties. In addition, Pennichuck Water Works has a property management enterprise that is responsible for overseeing much of their conservation holdings. The Nashua Conservation Commission would like to share stewardship duties with the New Hampshire Audubon Society since they have abutting properties.

## **METHODS OF PRESERVATION**

In Hollis, the Conservation Commission is considering an agricultural easement that would satisfy the landowners and potential partners. A generalized consensus is that Hollis would like to see the properties operate in their current uses in perpetuity. Additionally, a significant amount of area in the identified parcels is shoreline and wetlands, which are already protected by local ordinances. Nashua has not determined a method of preservation at this time but is considering various source water protection grants.

#530D-5

# **REGIONAL PRIORITY**



## **PURGATORY BROOK AND FALLS**

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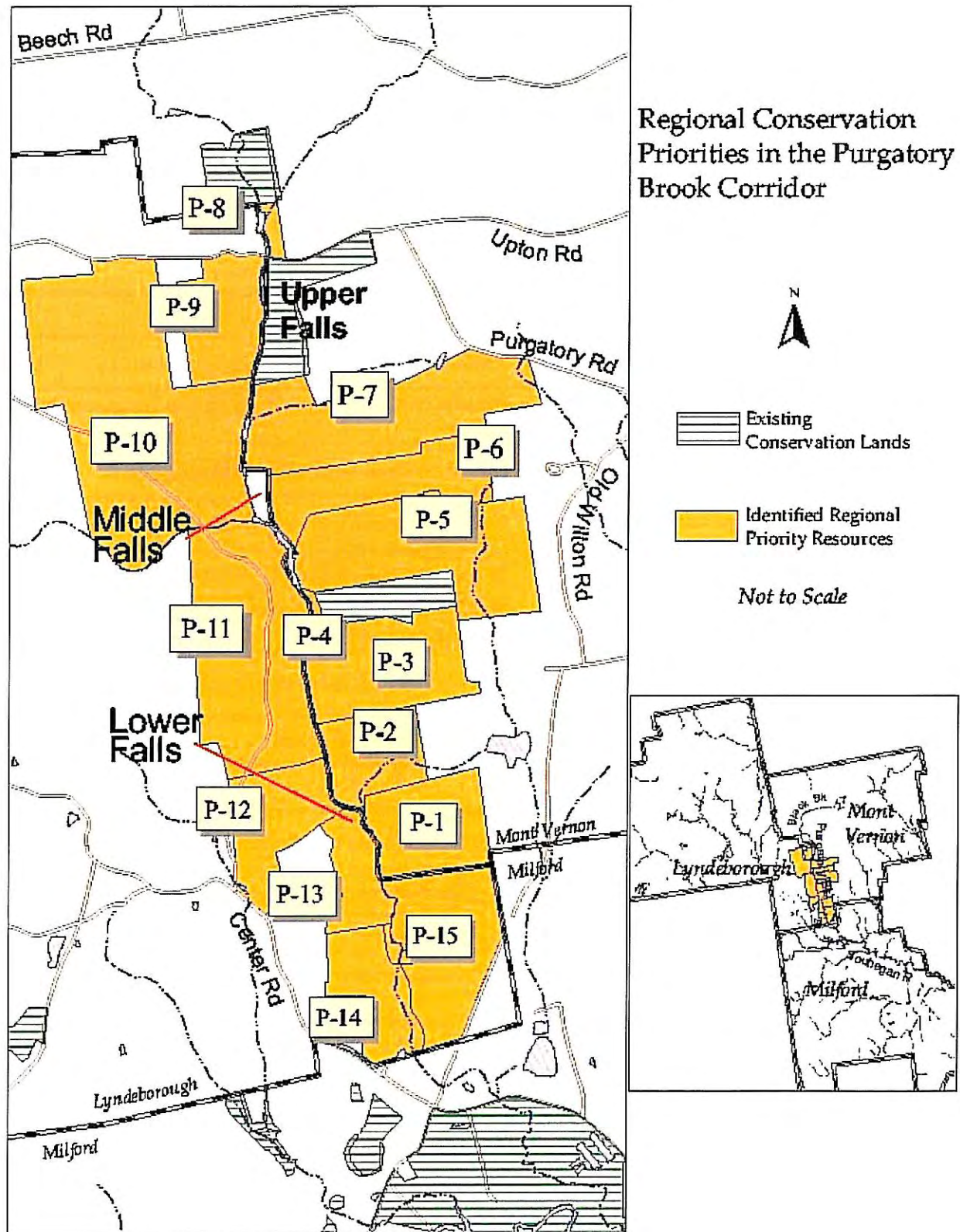


## PURGATORY BROOK AND FALLS - UPPER AND LOWER MONT VERNON, LYNDEBOROUGH

Purgatory Brook serves as the north/south border between Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough. Black Brook is a tributary of Purgatory Brook, cutting its way through granite rock leaving natural rock formations near the Upper Falls. The water flows south over the Lower Falls to join the Souhegan River. The watershed area is approximately 4,729 acres and drains most of western Mont Vernon.

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
<b>MONT VERNON</b>			
PB-1	1-2	60.00	Predominantly mature white pine forest
PB-2	1-5	50.00	For sale. Gravel pit operation. Snake Tongue orchids habitat
PB-3	1-6	60.00	For sale. Mixed hardwoods and softwoods
PB-4	1-11	2.71	Very steep banks with old hemlock
PB-5	1-9	121.00	The Middle Falls is heavily wooded and for sale
PB-6	1-19	78.00	The Middle Falls is heavily wooded and habitat to many types of dragonflies
PB-7	1-22	126.00	The Middle Falls is heavily wooded and for sale
PB-8	3-44	7.62	Heavily wooded and wet
<b>LYNDEBOROUGH</b>			
PB-9	1-54	150.00	Very steep banks with old hemlock groves
PB-10	1-56	40.00	Good habitat game birds/mammals
PB-11	1-57	31.00	Rolling topography
PB-12	1-65	50.00	Rolling topography
PB-13	1-66	4.00	Fairly flat and wet with good bird habitat
PB-14	4-47	70.00	Conservation Easement has been offered but not finalized
PB-15	4-49	236.00	Part of a two-town parcel of 600 acres that has been sold. Recently logged. A conservation easement of 300' is being pursued.





## RESOURCE TYPE

Purgatory Brook flows through heavily wooded, pristine forest. The water surges through a deep flume before cascading into the pool below. Geologic formations and boulders deposited by ancient glaciers dot the landscape. A large pothole known as the "Devil's Beanpot" is a well-known legend. Historically the falls were a popular tourist spot complete with bandstand, dancing platform, and bowling alley.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY

Conservation easements could provide access to a north/south greenway from trails along the Souhegan River in Milford to the northern area of the region through Mont Vernon and Amherst. The Falls are a popular picnicking and hiking area listed in the New Hampshire Waterfalls Brochure, *The Green Guide* and *Hiking the Monadnock Region*. The brook is a unique visual, historical, aquatic and wildlife resource in a largely undeveloped area. The quarter of a mile to the Lower Falls is through a steep scenic gorge with great cliffs. Garnets and black tourmaline are visible in some areas. Flowers such as trailing arbutus and yellow violets grow in some places along the brook. The properties near the Milford town line are flatter, wetter and a rich habitat for a variety of birds, including neo-tropical migrants.



Cardinal Flowers spread across the brook

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

The Lower Falls, although not quite as spectacular as the Upper Falls, have interesting rock formations and outcrops. The falls are part of a two-town parcel of about 600 acres that has been sold. The area near the falls has very limited access and wetlands. Both Conservation Commissions will pursue a 300' conservation easement on both banks. The area south of the falls is still very steep and at the moment is not threatened with development.

## LEVERAGE

The falls are a very popular spot woven into the town fabric. The owners in both towns, with one exception, have verbally agreed to the establishment of the trail and it is hoped that the owners will be willing to grant recreational easements.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

Mont Vernon rated acquisition of conservation land and the development of trails and maps one of their top five town priorities in a recent Community profile. The newly formed Trails Committee has received permission from every landowner along the length of the brook to create a trail system. The Committee has begun clearing, mapping and marking the brook. The Purgatory Brook Trail project has the full



support of the Lyndeborough and Mont Vernon Conservation Commissions. Both towns have limited funds currently available but will seek trail grants in the future.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

A possible future partner for both towns would be the Souhegan Valley Land Trust.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

In Mont Vernon there is public access to the 30 acre Purgatory Falls Conservation Area. The trail will be continued south to the "Lower Falls" and on to the "Souhegan Trail". The northern end is proposed to connect to the Mont Vernon Greenway Trail System, the local REPP II priority project. This trail system will connect conservation land and eventually reach the 373-acre Joe English Conservation Area in Amherst. There is access to the Lower Falls in Lyndeborough in the southern section from Purgatory Road.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

The Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough Conservation Commissions will assume stewardship for the protection and maintenance of easements acquired along the Brook.

## **METHOD OF PRESERVATION**

Mont Vernon and Lyndeborough Conservation Commissions recommend that a riparian buffer of 300-500 feet be established on both sides of the brook. This would ensure the idyllic and scenic nature of the area and provide water quality and wildlife corridor protection. Both Commissions are in the process of pursuing pedestrian easements.



Faithful friend on lower falls

#530D-6

# REGIONAL PRIORITY



## SOUHEGAN RIVER WATERSHED

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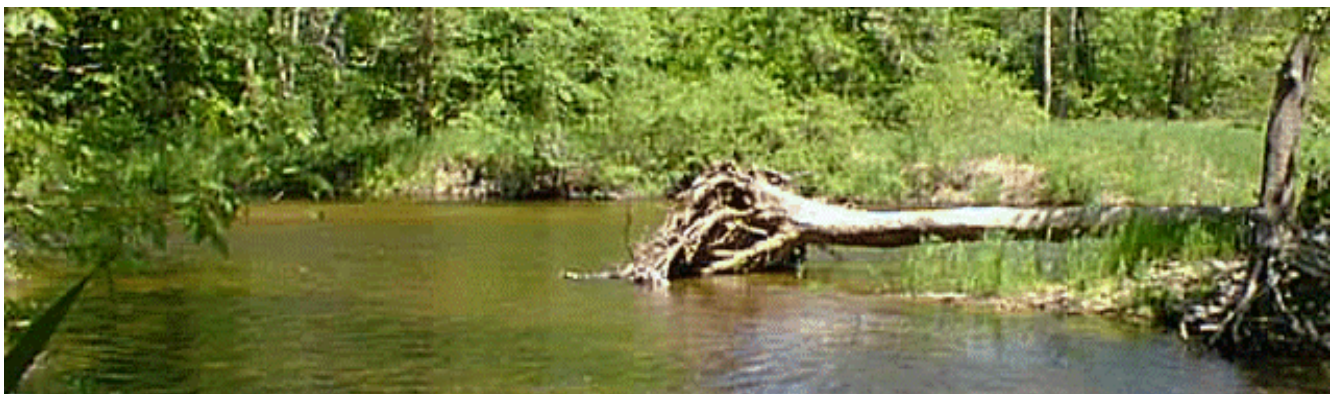


## SOUHEGAN RIVER CORRIDOR WILTON, MILFORD, AMHERST, AND MERRIMACK

The Souhegan River is formed by the confluence of the South Branch and the West Branch of the Souhegan Rivers in New Ipswich. From there it flows 34 miles in a northeasterly direction until it converges with the Merrimack River. The river is an important Atlantic Salmon nursery habitat because of the rocky substrate, riffles and runs, and mature tree canopy. An average of 100,000 fry are stocked annually in the river. Schools from all over New Hampshire and Massachusetts participate in the US Fish and Wildlife Service Adopt-A-Salmon Program. The stratified drift aquifer that is located in the Souhegan River Corridor supplies municipal water to Merrimack, Milford, and Nashua. The high transmissivity of these deposits is important to the region as potential future water sources.

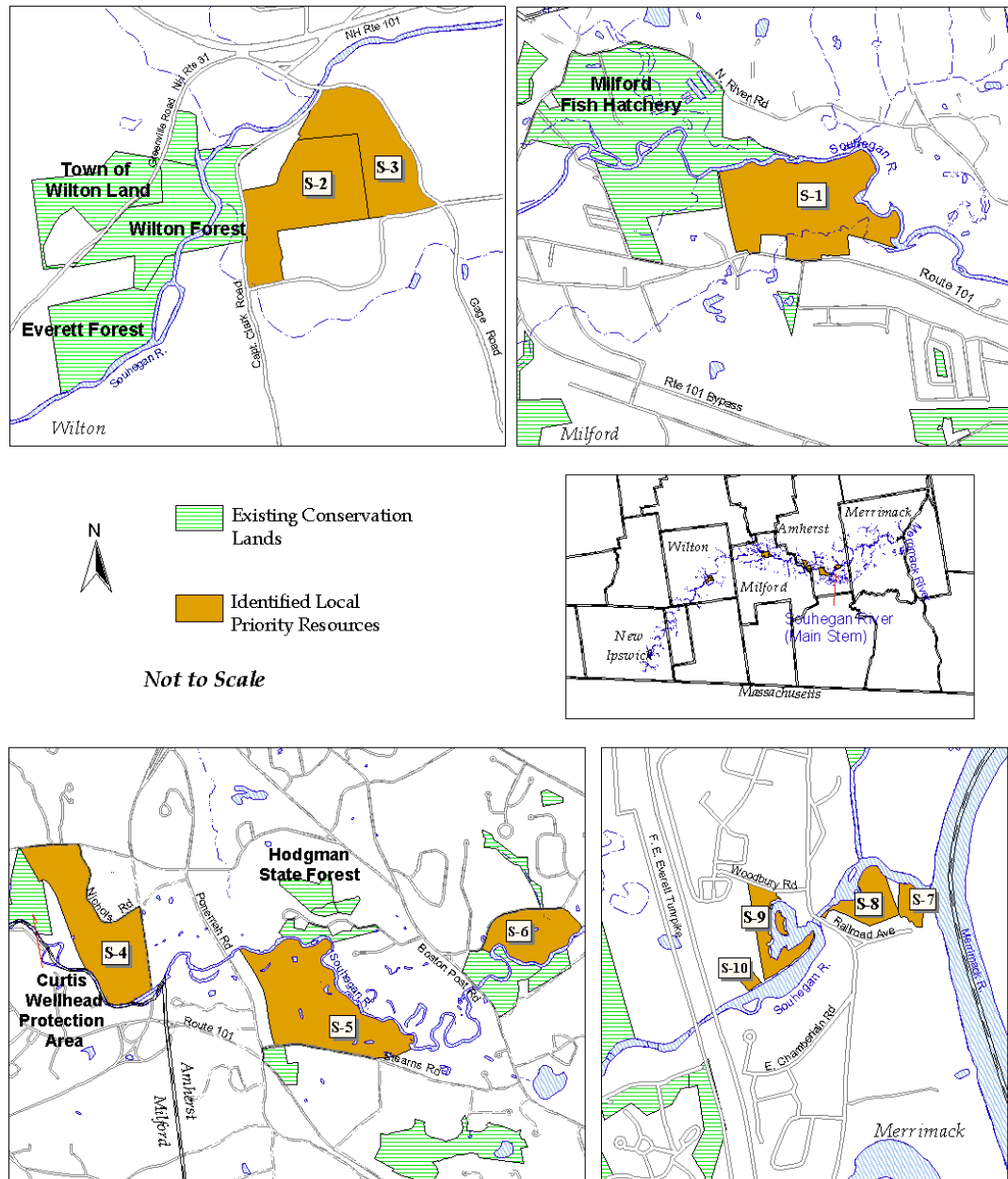
### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
<b>WILTON</b>			
S-1	F-137	37.23	Last forested and open field farm on the river in town
S-2	F-139	61.30	Abuts the property above
<b>MILFORD</b>			
S-3	7-10	122.00	Tucker Brook flows through this open farm
<b>MERRIMACK</b>			
S-8	5D-1-3	4.70	Junction of Merrimack and Souhegan Rivers
S-9	5D-4-78	8.60	Borders the above parcel on west, south of Souhegan River
S-10	5D-4-10	0.92	Landlocked in town land on the Souhegan River
S-11	5D-4-01	14.26	North side of the river



Souhegan River splits to form an island near Hayward Farm

## Regional Conservation Priorities in the Souhegan River Corridor





## RESOURCES

The parcels in Wilton provide scenic, historical, cultural, and wildlife habitat while preserving open space. The Town's two municipal water supply wells and a spring water company are located within the Souhegan corridor, and are in close proximity to the high priority site.

Hayward Farm in Milford is currently being farmed and contains prime agricultural soils. Archaeological research by the Sargent Museum in Manchester reveals that this was a burial ground for Native Americans. Tucker Brook runs through the site and empties into the Souhegan. Wetlands and associated uplands are scattered throughout the property. The Souhegan Corridor is an extremely important water resource for the Town of Milford. The most significant stratified drift aquifer in the region is located along the river corridor and provides Milford's main source of drinking water. As a result, six high yield wells are located in the river corridor, Milford's Savage and Keyes wells (closed due to contamination), the Milford Fish Hatchery Well, and three other industrial wells. The large aquifer has the potential to provide future water supplies for the region. The river corridor in Amherst has good riparian zones and wide, flat floodplains. Most of the floodplains in Amherst are currently in hay production or recreational use. Merrimack's parcels provide historical, cultural, and ecological resources along the river. They all have the potential to be developed as pocket parks.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

The two parcels in Wilton are currently being farmed and are among the last working farms in town with frontage on the Souhegan River. Throughout the Souhegan corridor, habitat has changed as bottomland farms have given way to development. Grassland birds, barn swallows, brown thrashers, and field sparrows are on the decline with the loss of fields. In Milford, Hayward Farm abuts the Milford Fish Hatchery with 163 acres of old hayfields and only one parcel of land between it and town owned conservation lands to the north. The Conservation Commission hopes to acquire both parcels in the future. Hayward Farm will add a significant section to the proposed Souhegan River Trail, the greenbelt connecting Osgood Pond to the Brox and Beaver Brook land, the orchards in northwest Milford and the Mayflower Hill Town Forest expansion. Ultimately, the Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards want the Trail to run along the banks of the river from Wilton to Merrimack.

The properties in Amherst are situated in a prime aquifer recharge area on both shores of the river and are actively used for agriculture (hay) and playing fields. The shoreline in this section of the river is considered fairly steep and highly erodible. Three golf courses are located in Amherst and there is concern over increased phosphorous levels and potential shoreline development. Protecting the identified parcels provides the potential for creating a minimum 150 foot riparian buffer to reduce erosion and non-point source impacts to water quality. This will also add shoreline acreage to a proposed regional Souhegan River Trail.

A long-standing goal for the Town of Merrimack has been to create a town center. All the identified parcels border the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers and connect to other town-owned properties. A unique easement exists on the properties surrounding parcel S-8 that requires easements on all abutting land before it can be publicly accessible. Parcel S-8 is the only property left that needs a conservation easement. Once an easement is secured, it will open a large segment of walking trail along the Merrimack River. This parcel is located at the junction of the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers with trail easements being sought by regional groups for both rivers. The Souhegan parcels (S-9, 10, 11) have historic significance because this is one of the earliest areas settled in Merrimack and was once occupied by the Chamberlain homestead and gristmill. They all have river access and could be used as picnicking spots for boaters.



Souhegan River flowing past Hayward Farm in Milford

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

Of the four towns in the corridor, Wilton has had the least amount of development in recent years. However, this could change as real estate values increase in towns to the east. The open farm fields and river frontage is particularly vulnerable to residential development.

The property in Milford is the last large piece of undeveloped farmland along Route 101A from Nashua to Milford and has been proposed as the site of a golf course since 1989. The owner wants to keep the tract open and is seriously considering selling to a golf development consortium.

The floodplain in Amherst is wide, flat, and easily developable. The area is accessible by roads which further increases the development pressure on all of the river front parcels.

Due to wetlands on most of the undeveloped sites the prospects are low for immediate development in Merrimack. Access is limited on S-8 to a certain extent but could be engineered for commercial ventures. There is no threat to S-10 because it is landlocked by Town owned lands.

## LEVERAGE

The Wilton Conservation Commission has existing funds of up to \$60,000 for conservation purposes. The Milford Conservation Commission will actively seek funds through the Trust for Public Lands and the American Farmland Trust until funds become available through the Land and Community Heritage Program. The Hayward Farm abuts existing conservation lands and is close to others so a strong argument could be made for public ownership. The Amherst Land Trust has had a past interest in the Souhegan River Trail and may invest in the project. Local grants from the Bean Foundation have been used in the past to help fund similar projects. Amherst Conservation Commission Management and Acquisition Fund income comes from 50% of the land use change tax. Several of the parcels in Merrimack do not appear to have any commercial value or opportunity for development due to the presence of floodplains.



## LOCAL SUPPORT

The Wilton Conservation Commission fully recognizes these parcels as their top regional priority. Wilton has an outstanding history of community support for public projects and the protection of groundwater. The purchase of development rights may limit public desire to contribute since the land would remain in private hands.

The Milford Conservation Commission is committed to the project and will solicit support as needed. The Town of Milford has a good track record for supporting environmental issues and recreation access along the Souhegan River. Milford has initiated a Well Head Protection Program and has adopted a Health Ordinance for Well Head Protection Areas and all surface waters.

There is a demonstrable public interest in Amherst in all conservation issues. A shoreline survey was recently completed by citizens and this has sparked a great deal of interest in the river and its preservation.

The Merrimack Planning Board has recently adopted a Town Center Plan with a location near the Souhegan River. There is continued interest in the creation of a trail along the Town frontage on the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers.



Souhegan River near the Milford Fish Hatchery

## PARTNERSHIPS



A quick river biology lesson

The four Conservation Commissions, Souhegan Watershed Association, Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, and scout troops have all pledged their support for in-kind services.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Preserving the working farm in Wilton will provide a protected viewshed, and the shoreline will be incorporated into the Souhegan River Trail network. The property in Milford has road access on Route 101A and could be used as an active/passive park. The approximately 3,000 feet of shoreline provides opportunities for picnicking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming. In Amherst the soccer fields belong to a private club but a river trail will be accessible to everyone. The remainder of the properties would remain agricultural with public access along the river. There is growing interest in Merrimack for creating a town center and these sites could serve as eastern and western gateways and a central park. All of the parcels will be accessible for fishing, walking, canoeing, kayaking and swimming.



## **STEWARDSHIP**

At this time, both Wilton and Amherst have not determined who will assume stewardship. The Milford and Merrimack Conservation Commissions will assume stewardship duties for the parcels in their communities

## **METHOD OF PRESERVATION**

The Wilton Conservation Commission will first negotiate development rights but will purchase outright as a last resort. It is a stated goal to allow the property to continue as low impact farming.

The sale of lots along Route 101 in Milford could possibly fund the cost of the remaining development rights or an agricultural easement. Farmers in the area have expressed their desire to farm the property.

Amherst has not determined a method of preservation at this time.

Merrimack must purchase parcel 5D-1/3 to activate a unique easement that exists along the Merrimack River. Easements are a possibility on other parcels. The site would be developed with hiking trails and perhaps canoe launch areas. The bulk of the area would be left in a natural state for wildlife.

#530D-7

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of AMHERST**

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## **GRATER WOODS CORRIDOR AMHERST'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY**

The proposed corridor would connect existing protected lands and establish a greenway running north/south along the approximate course of Pond Parish Road. The properties would add to the Pond Parish Town Forest and more than double its extent. This would create a semicircle approximately 1 mile in radius centered on the Amherst-Merrimack border. It is the largest undeveloped tract in Amherst and overlays a highly productive aquifer. These conservation lands would form an eastern anchor to a large potential greenway to the north with New Boston.



Amherst Village

### **RESOURCE TYPES**

Situated in the northeast section of Amherst, these properties represent a combination of forest, wetlands and open meadows.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES**

The area contains other conservation and recreation holdings most notably the Pond Parish Town Forest. It could serve as the eastern anchor connecting open space in Amherst to that owned by other towns. The property is part of a watershed that is a recharge area for the Pennichuck aquifer, which supplies water to Nashua and surrounding towns. Agriculturally significant soils can be found in most upland areas. The property is among the largest undeveloped areas in town.

### **IMMINENCE OF THREAT**

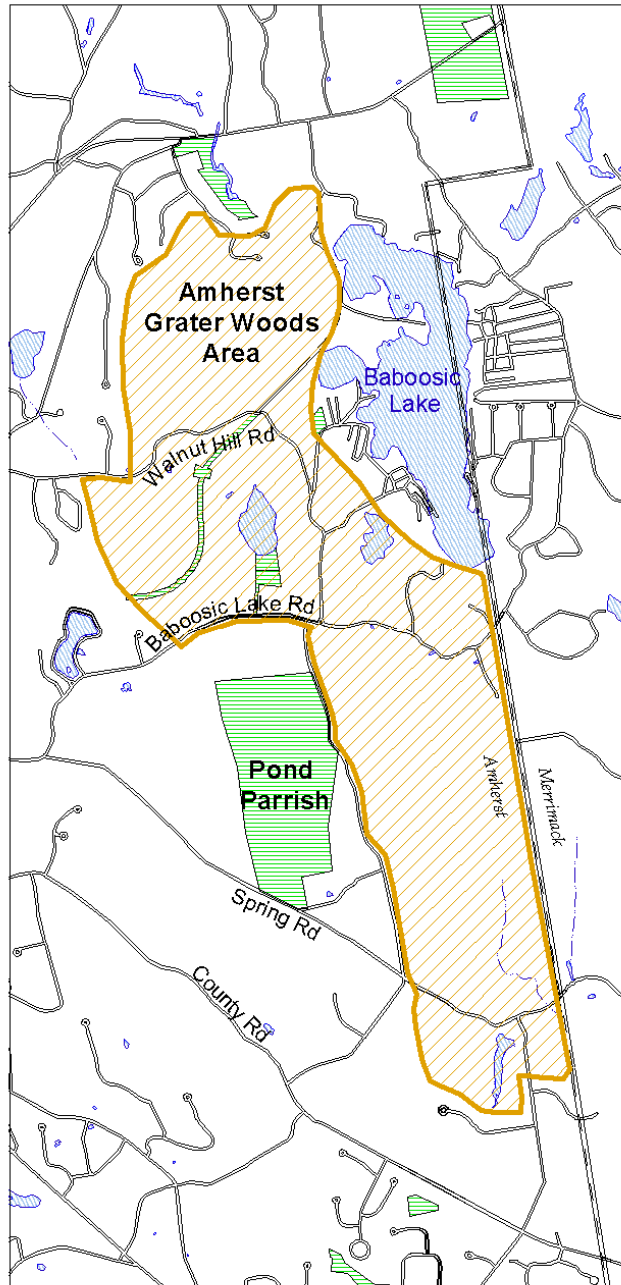
The area is gently rolling land, rural in character, with good access to Pond Parish and Spring Roads. Amherst is experiencing rapid development because of its historical charm, landscape and school system. These parcels, if developed, could accommodate approximately 200 new homes.

### **LEVERAGE**

Since 1996, the Town of Amherst has dedicated 75% of the land use change tax to the Amherst Conservation Commission.


### **LOCAL SUPPORT**


The Town has a solid track record of proactive conservation. These include the Conservation Commission's Land Acquisition Program, participation in the activities of the Souhegan Watershed Association, and the Peabody Environmental Center. The Conservation Commission is committed to working with various boards to ensure that the Grater Woods Corridor is preserved.



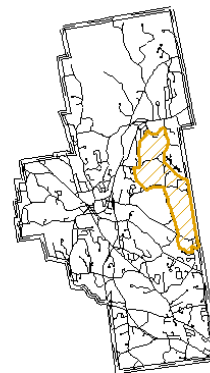
### Local Conservation Priorities in Amherst



 Existing  
Conservation Lands

 Identified Local  
Priority Resources

*Not to Scale*



*Amherst*



## PARTNERSHIPS

The Amherst Conservation Commission has a strong relationship with the Audubon Society (which owns property in town), the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and voluntary organizations such as scout troops.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Existing trails will be mapped and maintained to provide passive recreation and keep them segregated from the larger areas of wildlife habitat.

## STEWARDSHIP

Several of the potential partners enumerated are candidates for stewardship duties. In addition, the Town has a long history of volunteerism and working stewardship of historical sites and conservation areas.



Amherst Village with Congregation Church steeple

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

A variety of land preservation methods could be used to protect this corridor. Priority or sensitive parcels could be purchased in fee simple using local land conservation funds or by using these funds to leverage other available monies such as the Land and Community Heritage Program. Funds could also be used to purchase conservation easements along the corridor. In addition, the Planning Board could negotiate with developers for conservation easements when parcels come before them for development approvals. Any lands purchased by the Town would be managed in accordance with the existing Forest Management Plan.

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Souhegan River Riparian Buffer** - A riparian buffer of at least 150 feet from each bank on both sides of the river should be managed for bank erosion and runoff filtration. The buffer will contain a mix of plant species from ground cover to shrubs and trees. This will be part of the Souhegan River Trail that will run from Merrimack to Wilton.

**B & M Trail Corridor** - Plans include widening the corridor along the route of the existing B & M Trail that runs from near the village to the town owned Bragdon Farm. This corridor borders the marshes beside Route 101 at Baboosic Lake Road, the shore of Little Baboosic Lake, and farmland. It qualifies as a corridor that enhances wildlife movement and breeding, recognizes the former B & M Railroad construction as a cultural feature, and is actively used recreationally. Securing additional rights of way and improving the trail for bicycle use and access for special populations would enhance this popular trail.

**Northern Extension of the B & M Trail** - Development of a northern corridor from Bragdon Farm to Joe English Reservation and the Bedford Land Trust Pulpit Run property. A recreation easement would probably best suit this trail since it lies almost entirely across smaller, privately owned parcels.



**Village to Village Corridor** – A village to village corridor from Amherst to Milford would cross Great Meadow near Wilkins School, property as yet unprotected, and Conservation Commission lands off Lyndeboro Road. This corridor will provide a route for wildlife movement and viewscape protection around the village.

#530D-8

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of BROOKLINE**

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## LAKE POTANIPO BROOKLINE'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

Lake Potanipo is the headwater of the Nissitissit River which flows southeasterly through Brookline, Hollis, and into Pepperell, Massachusetts where it converges with the Nashua River. The approximately 170 acres of surface water provide opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming.

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
BR-1	E-15	220.00	Contains the camp and buildings
BR-2	E-14	9.30	Landlocked wetlands north of BR-1

### RESOURCE TYPES

Open shoreline with minimal development, mixed woods and wetland areas.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

The two parcels are part of 590 acres of undeveloped land, which spans a large portion of the lake's watershed as well as a highly productive aquifer. North Stream, formed by the confluence of Spaulding and Scabbard Mill Brooks, flows southerly through wetlands into Lake Potanipo. The Town hopes to purchase an easement on the rest of the land in the future. This 590 acres connects with another large tract of undeveloped land. This would potentially link the Lake Potanipo area with another proposed corridor in Mason to provide east/west movement of wildlife. A greenway identified as a high priority in Milford would potentially provide for a north/south extension of this same corridor.

### IMMINENCE OF THREAT

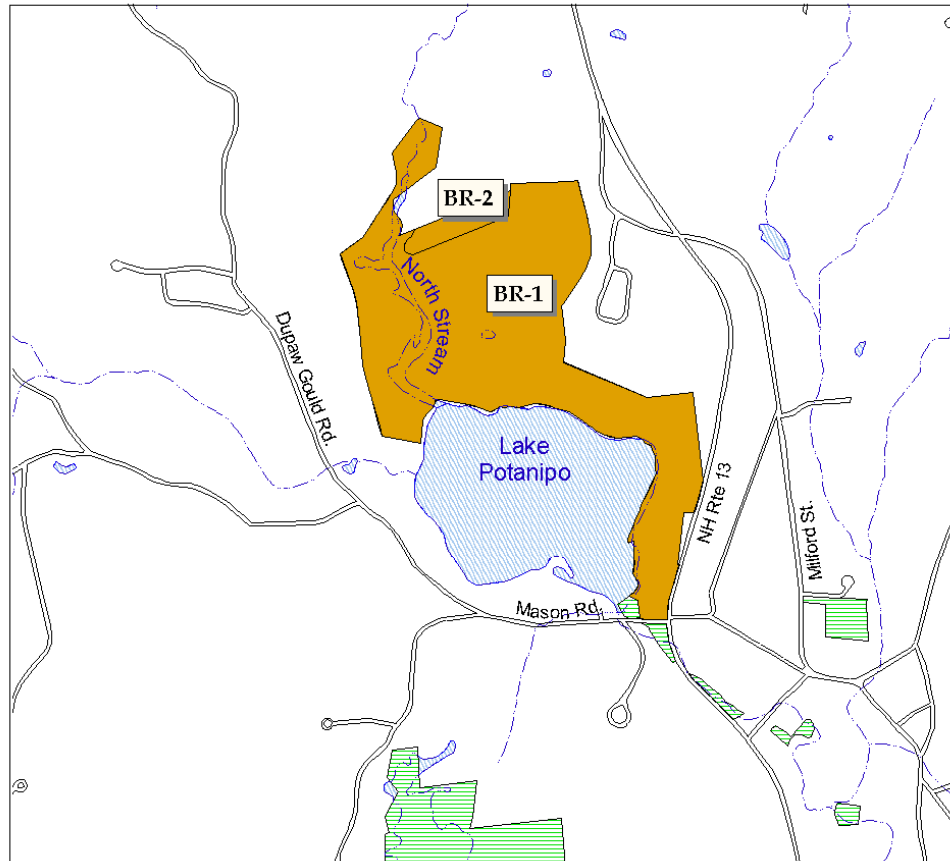
The land around Lake Potanipo is currently used as a private summer camp, but future use is uncertain if the property were to change hands. Lake front property in southern New Hampshire is a scarce and valuable commodity. Brookline is the fastest growing community in New Hampshire during the 1990's.



Lake Potanipo is the headwaters of the Nissitissit River



## Local Conservation Priorities in Brookline





## LEVERAGE

Brookline Conservation Commission Management and Acquisition fund income comes from 50% of the land use change tax.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

This is a very popular area year-round for the citizens of Brookline. Currently the boat launching area does not have room to park both cars and trailers. The Town would support additional access, parking, and public beaches.

## PARTNERSHIPS

There are currently no partnerships.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

The camp would be used for parking and the public will have access to the shoreline and existing trails. Access to the camp is available from Mason Road, and trails from the camp to the Brookline Town beach could be developed.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Nissitissit River is a sub-watershed of the Nashua River and a possible partnership with the Nashua River Watershed Association might be formed. The Nissitissit River Land Trust owns and manages ten parcels within Brookline totaling approximately 100 acres. They may be willing to share stewardship duties. Beaver Brook Association owns property in Hollis and Brookline in close proximity to the site, and may also be a possible partner.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The Brookline Conservation Commission feels that conservation easements are the best method of preservation and will pursue easements when state funding becomes available.

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Stonehouse Geological Site** – The “Stonehouse” is a unique rock structure near the Stone Brook Ravine that is a popular recreation site and an important historical resource.

**Russell Hill** – The unprotected land around Russell Hill is a significant feature of the local landscape and is largely undeveloped. It provides a scenic view of the Town from its 738-foot summit.

**Rail Corridor** – This would serve as a potential wildlife corridor from Lake Potanipo to the Florence Palmer Conservation Land. The Palmer Preserve is an important wildlife habitat and provides natural flood control. Waters from Melendy Pond pass through the Palmer property into Lake Potanipo and eventually into the Nissitissit River.

#530D-9



Nissitissit River flowing southeasterly to the Nashua River

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of HOLLIS**

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## WOODMONT ORCHARD

### HOLLIS' TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

Woodmont Orchards consists of about 300 acres of apple orchard at the intersection of Route 122 and South Merrimack Road.

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
HO-1	35-63	138.80	Hilly with small pond abuts Silver Lake State Park
HO-2	36-4	57.40	State important agricultural soils, scenic view of Hollis
HO-3	36-9	29.60	Rolling hill with State important agricultural soils
HO-4	36-32	26.40	Abuts Dunklee Pond and Spaulding Town Forest
HO-5	35-63-1	41.80	High hill overlooking Hollis abuts 35-63

### RESOURCE TYPES

The property is a productive apple orchard. The most significant values are for farmland and as a cultural landscape.



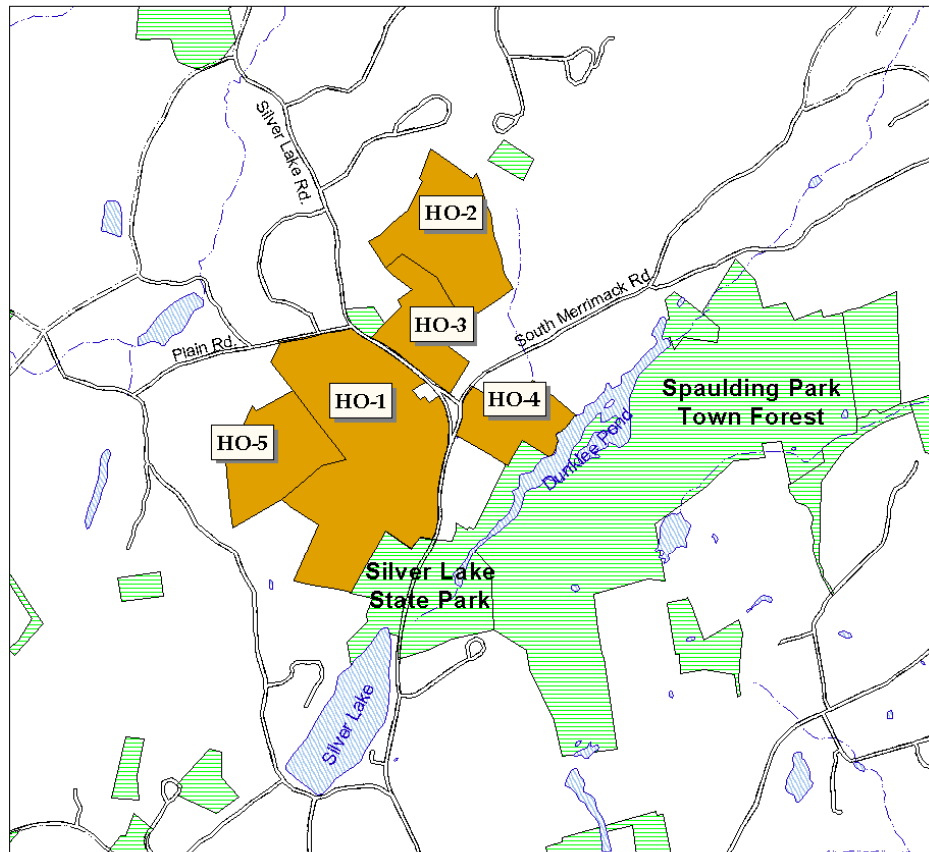
Spring time in Woodmont Orchards


### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY


This property was selected for several reasons, many of which are mentioned in the 1998 Hollis Master Plan. The property is a gateway to Hollis, helping to define the rural and agricultural character of the Town. The property is an apple orchard now and contains, in its eastern area, farm soils of statewide importance. It includes land on a high hill overlooking central Hollis. The property is part of a watershed that is a recharge area for the Pennichuck watershed, which supplies water to Nashua and Merrimack. Portions of the property are contiguous with two, large, existing conservation and recreation areas: Silver Lake State Park (about 100 acres), and Spaulding Park, a Hollis Town Forest (about 190 acres). The addition of the orchard parcels would help maintain a diverse habitat for wildlife. The property is defined in the Hollis Master Plan as being a priority natural area to conserve. If some public access is granted, this property would be another link in the Hollis greenway system.



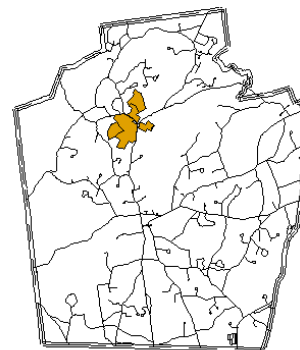
## Local Conservation Priorities in Hollis



 Existing Conservation  
Lands

 Identified Local  
Priority Resources

*Not to Scale*



*Hollis*



Hollis farm stand

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

The Hollis Conservation Commission (HCC) has learned that the owner would prefer to continue agricultural operations, although he would entertain other development offers. He has agreed to inform the HCC if such offers are made. The apple business is complicated and under pressure, but due to its size and location, the property is very desirable. It is likely that the property will be under threat of development within the next five years.

## LEVERAGE

The landowner is aware that the HCC is working to protect the conservation values of the property. The information about this property has been presented to the Nichols-Smith Land Conservation Trust, a local land trust, and to the Hollis Greenway Conservancy, a local, conservation group. Neither group is working with HCC at this time.

The HCC plans to allocate funds from the Land Management and Acquisition fund and seek local support for acquisition of this property, if they can work with the landowner. If necessary, the HCC will seek help and support from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests or the American Farmland Trust to accomplish their conservation goals. An opportunity exists to bundle this project into the Hollis proposal for a natural resource area and water supply protection area of regional importance.



## LOCAL SUPPORT

The strongest support would be from the Hollis taxpayers, through the Conservation Commission's Land Management and Acquisition Fund, and the potential for a warrant article at a special Town Meeting. The Town has already successfully done this in 1997. The taxpayers in Hollis have demonstrated their support for conserving rural character and natural resources.



Winter scene at Woodmont Orchard

## PARTNERSHIPS

Partnership efforts will begin with the landowner. Technical and grant writing support are available at the state and regional level. The HCC will seek support from the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests or the American Farmland Trust.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Many of the parcels are currently in agricultural operation and public access would be limited to trails delineated by the landowner and the HCC. Public access has yet to be determined on the remaining parcels and will be contingent on the level of public interest and support.

## STEWARDSHIP

Several of the potential partners listed earlier are candidates for stewardship duties, which include but are not limited to inspections, management plans, and maintenance. The Hollis Historic Commission could possibly share the responsibility since the orchard is a cultural landscape.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The method of preservation for this property will be determined based on the cost and manner of funding. Development of a management plan will take place upon determination of a funding strategy for conservation of the site.

#530D-10

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of HUDSON**

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## MUSQUASH BROOK/SWAMP

### HUDSON'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

The land around Musquash Brook and Swamp includes a wide variety of terrain, including steep, bouldered slopes, wetlands, and mature maple groves on upland forests.

#### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
HU-1	12-20-1	35.63	Has a house but may be able to get an easement on 29 acres
HU-2	12-21	8.30	Has a house, possible easement
HU-3	12-36	215.24	Prime hilltop real estate with incredible views, easement on southwest corner would provide connection between Guertin and Musquash properties
HU-4	16-01	0.85	Landlocked, inside Musquash Conservation Land
HU-5	16-02	1.10	Landlocked, abuts Musquash
HU-6	16-07	40.00	Undeveloped, currently landlocked
HU-7	19-06	7.35	Easement along back would protect Musquash Swamp #3
HU-8	19-06-2	23.17	Has house, straddles Musquash Swamp #3, easement along back would give protection
HU-9	19-07	62.00	Has house, easement would protect Musquash Swamp #3

#### RESOURCE TYPES

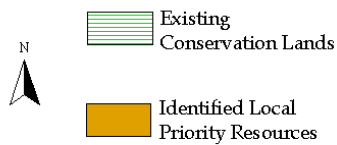
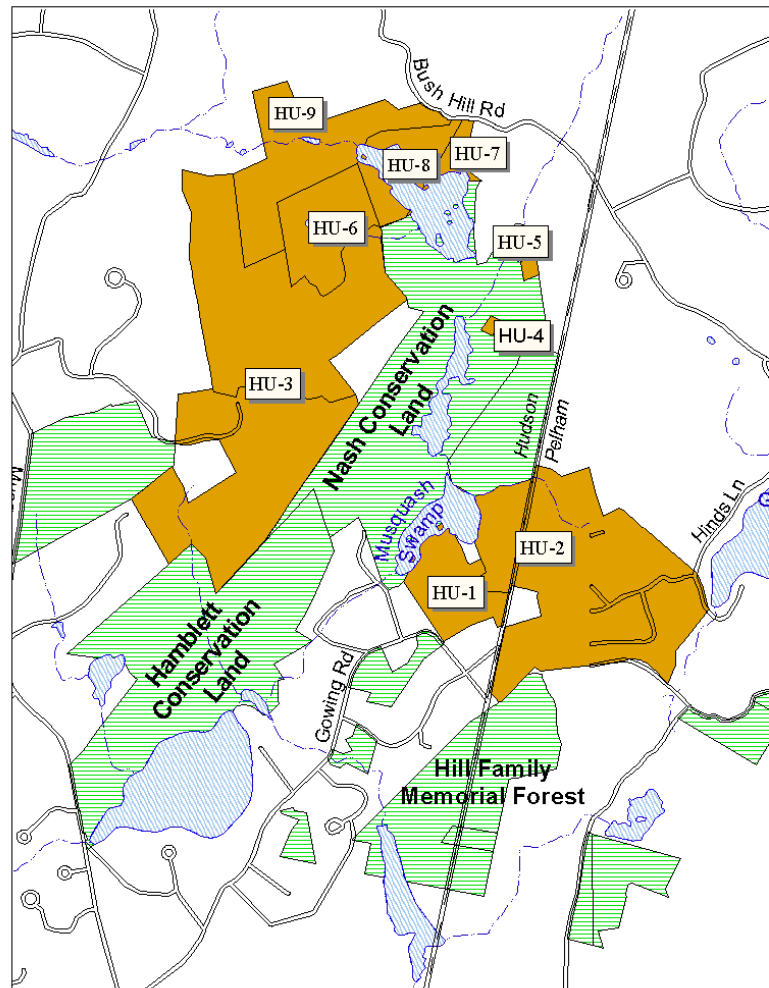
While this project focuses on the protection of water resources, it also provides protection for undeveloped forestland and diverse wildlife habitat. This region is inhabited by several species considered rare or threatened in New Hampshire. The site also contains historic resources and scenic vistas.

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

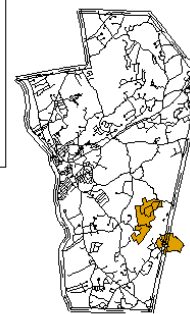
This project has been selected as the top local priority for Hudson because of the significance of the Musquash Brook watershed in terms of water resource and wildlife habitat protection. The area that has been designated for protection is relatively free of development and remains in a near natural condition. The watershed contains a vast network of beaver ponds and wetlands that provide significant and diverse wildlife habitat. The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory has identified several species in this region that are considered rare, threatened or endangered. These species include the eastern box turtle, slender bush-clover, smooth forked chickweed, rue anemone, banded sunfish, pink azalea, swamp azalea and small bidens. Additional species that are known to exist in this watershed include ermine, otter, fisher cat, kingfisher, whip-poor-wills, red efts, osprey and loon. This region was also one of the first areas settled in Hudson and Pelham. The area is dotted with old cellar holes, farm roads, stone walls, culverts, dams, and other significant archaeological resources. Native American archaeological sites have also been found in this area. The Nash-Hamblett (a.k.a. Musquash Conservation Land, 416.5 acres) and Guertin (50 acres) properties already provide some protection to the watershed within Hudson.



## Local Conservation Priorities in Hudson



Not to Scale



Hudson



The New England Forestry Foundation owns protected property in both towns that abuts the property proposed for protection. The goal is to connect these existing conservation lands into a large, regional greenway, maintaining this relatively unfragmented wildlife habitat in its current undeveloped state. Another goal is to extend the protected area laterally, adding width to the long, narrow area that is currently protected. Extension of this protection to Hudson's second priority, the Second Brook watershed (which also has some protection) would increase the value of this habitat even further.

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

With its proximity to Nashua and the Massachusetts border, this property in the southern part of Hudson faces increasing pressures for development. Large portions of Hudson's open space have been developed over the past decade. Much of the area within the Musquash Brook Watershed has escaped this development due to the existence of wetlands, steep slopes and ledge; however, increases in housing prices over the past few years have made development of these "marginal" properties more feasible. Several new housing developments along Musquash Road, Gowing Road and Bush Hill Road are currently being proposed, and increased development can be expected over the next five years. This development will have a significant effect on the water quality and wildlife habitat in this area. As the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory stated in their report on the Bush Hill/Merrill Hill region, "Because of the rapid development of this region of the state our concern for these species and habitat is heightened." Parcel H-2 faces immediate threat as evidenced by recent blasting, loam removal, and alteration of the natural water flow on this site. A subdivision plan on a large parcel adjacent to HU-3 was recently submitted to the Planning Board and will most likely be developed into 30 house lots within the next year. The plan includes a road right-of-way to parcel H-3, significantly increasing the threat for development of this property and others in the Musquash watershed.



Upland trails surround Musquash



## LEVERAGE

The Hudson Conservation Commission has a conservation fund, which is available for the purchase of conservation land or easements. Additional money will be added to this fund in the near future from a change of current use on another property in Town. Over the past few years the Town's voters have been supportive of the purchase of land for conservation purposes, voting to purchase both the old Benson's property and the old Friary property.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

Hudson's 1996 Master Plan and 1990 Conservation Plan both identify the protection of open space as a priority for Hudson. The Town has made progress in this area over the past few years, with the acquisition of the Nash-Hamblett property and the vote to purchase the old Benson's Animal Farm property. As a result of the Community Profile Workshop a Hudson Natural Resources Group has emerged as an advocate for the protection of the Town's remaining open space. The community supported the purchase of the Nash-Hamblett property under the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) and the property is widely used for passive recreation. Numerous community groups have contributed to the support and maintenance of this property. Extension of the area under protection would be widely supported by the Town's citizens.



Friendly inhabitants

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Trust for New Hampshire Lands was involved in the preservation of the Nash-Hamblett property, which was purchased in 1990 under the Land Conservation Investment Program. They would potentially support the extension of this protection to adjacent lands.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Public access to this property for passive recreational purposes will be available through the existing Nash-Hamblett property. Access to hiking trails and car-top boats is currently available from Musquash Road. The Hudson Planning Board has been actively pursuing public access and parking from new developments at the eastern end of the Nash-Hamblett property on Bush Hill Road. Acquisition of additional land under this program would provide possible access on Gowing Road. There are already numerous trails and old farm roads on this property, which could be connected to the Nash-Hamblett trail system.

## STEWARDSHIP

The principal use of this property would be for conservation and wildlife habitat, as well as passive recreation. The primary responsibility for protection of this land would rest with the Hudson Conservation Commission, with professional assistance from the Town planning, engineering and public works departments. Maintenance would be conducted by volunteers from the community under the direction of the Conservation Commission. The Town of Hudson has successfully recruited volunteers from the Hudson Junior Woman's Club, Alvirne High School, the Wilbur Palmer Vocational-Technical School Forestry Program, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the community at large to construct and maintain the trails on the existing Nash-Hamblett property. These volunteer efforts have been very successful and



were highlighted in the New Hampshire Office of State Planning's video "Volunteers Make It Happen". The Hudson Conservation Commission is currently considering the establishment of a formal "adopt-a-trail" system to ensure that all areas of the trails are properly maintained. These volunteer efforts would be extended to any additional lands purchased.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The key property (HU-2) would best be protected by acquisition in fee simple. The remaining parcels are all under the same ownership and do not contain any residences or other development. Acquisition of these parcels would provide a permanent connection between the Nash-Hamblett property, the New England Forestry Foundation land, and other protected parcels in Pelham. Acquisition of conservation easements or development rights would be an acceptable means of protecting additional land within the watershed, since many of these properties do contain residences.

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Second Brook Watershed** – This watershed is directly connected to the top priority Musquash Brook Watershed, extending the chain of beaver ponds and wetlands to the north, east, and west. While the lower portions of this watershed are somewhat developed, the headwaters are relatively pristine and undeveloped. Together with the Musquash Brook watershed, this area forms a large and significant unfragmented wildlife habitat. The proposed Circumferential Highway corridor will extend through this watershed.

**Robinson Pond Watershed** – Robinson Pond is a significant natural and recreational resource for the Town, but development in recent years has resulted in decreased water quality and available wildlife habitat. The Hudson Conservation Commission/Hudson Natural Resources Group would like to see this area restored and the remaining natural areas protected.

**Nadeau Farm** – This farm on Old Derry Road in the northern end of Hudson is the last remaining large agricultural operation in Hudson and is one of only five remaining dairy farms in Southern New Hampshire. Although it is not under any immediate threat, there will be increasing pressures to develop this prime land.

**Bush Hill Orchard** – The orchard on Bush Hill is the only apple orchard of any size in Hudson. It falls within the Second Brook watershed and provides some of the most dramatic scenic vistas in Hudson.

#530D-11

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of LITCHFIELD**

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## WATTS BROOK PROPERTY

### LITCHFIELD'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

The Watts Brook area is a forested watershed located in the northernmost portion of the Town. These properties form the northern "Gateway" to Litchfield from the City of Manchester. Continued regional growth and the expansion of nearby Manchester Airport may impact the natural resources and rural character of the Town. The preservation of Watts Brook is viewed as a means by which to buffer the rural community from the expansive Manchester economy.

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
LI-1	M23-16	32.30	River frontage at confluence of Watts Brook and the Merrimack River
LI-2	M23-17	42.30	Watts Brook runs through the property east of Rt. 3A. Good buffer for high density neighborhood to the north

### RESOURCE TYPES

This expansive floodplain area includes forests, wetlands, active agricultural lands, and an ecologically diverse area. In addition, it possesses significant opportunities for passive recreation.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

This segment of the river and floodplain forest are known habitat and perching area as well as a winter roosting area for Bald Eagles. Both parcels provide a good buffer against the large urban population of Manchester which begins with the city limits approximately 1,000 feet north of the property line. The parcels have some open space areas and offer a variety of habitats for wildlife. Its aesthetic value is ideal for passive recreation.

### IMMINENCE OF THREAT

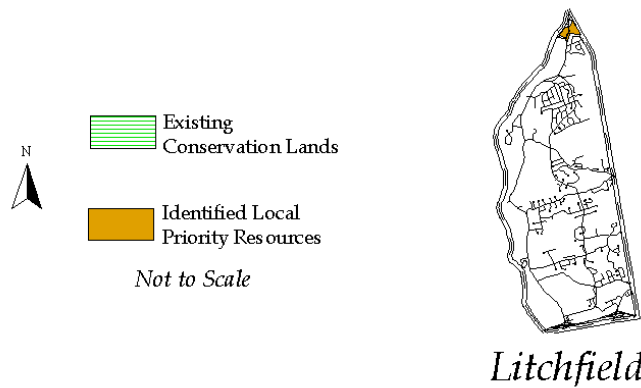
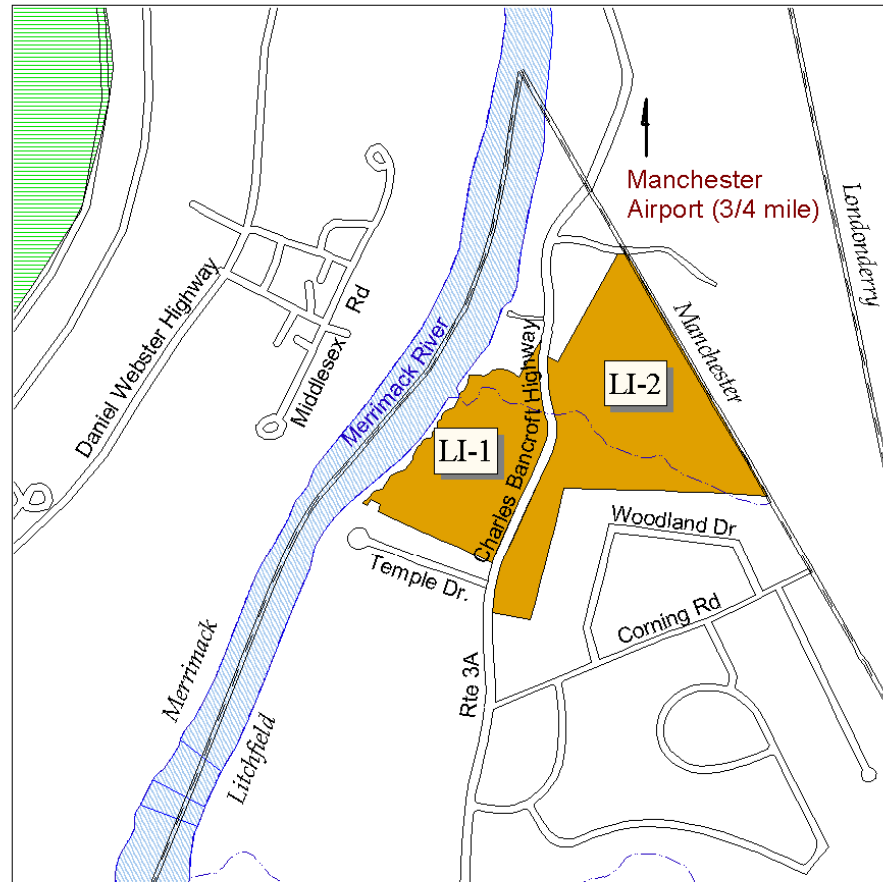
Proximity to the Manchester City limits and the regional airport increase the likelihood of developmental pressures on this property.



Watts Brook watercourse flood plain just upstream of the Merrimack River



## Local Conservation Priorities in Litchfield





## LOCAL SUPPORT

The project has the full support of the Conservation Commission and the Audubon Society. The Board of Selectmen has expressed an interest in farmland preservation, and, in 1999 the Town voted to start a Farmland Preservation Fund. There also may be support from the property owner.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Nongame Department and the Audubon Society would be supportive partners since this is a well-documented bald eagle roosting area.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

If allowed, it would be very accessible off of Route 3A for passive recreation.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Conservation Commission will develop a maintenance plan for passive recreation and assume all stewardship responsibilities.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The Conservation Commission will pursue conservation easements, the purchase of development rights, or fee simple purchase from the owner.



Location where Watts Brook enters  
the Merrimack River

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Farmland Preservation** – The parcels include approximately 89 acres of prime agriculture soils with Merrimack River frontage that would be an ecological and visual buffer to the northern Commercial Zone. This property is contiguous with 64 acres already in protection by the Town and a local land trust. The properties abut several islands and prime wildlife habitat. A key component of this site is the stands of large, old trees that provide a scarce, but necessary eagle nesting spot.

**Properties at the end of Colonial Drive** – This 177 acre group of parcels includes a large marsh and is a significant part of the Colby Brook watershed. It has been found to have a large amount of biodiversity. This area is contiguous with Town Conservation Land and near a State Forest. This area would extend the wildlife corridor to the Mushquash Swamp, and provide additional recreational opportunities.

**Half Moon Pond and the Surrounding Area** – The area, around Half Moon Pond and the Chase Brook Watershed is approximately 465 acres and contains a bog, a transitional bog, wetlands, forested wetlands and associated uplands. Therefore it is a significant component of the biodiversity and ground water recharge capacity. The bog ecosystem has endangered species identified and documented by New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory. The prime farmland parcels are also listed in the Regional Priority Report.



**Chase Brook Corridor** – The 244 acres of land is nearly pristine and located near a public water well. The Chase Brook Corridor is a valuable area for wildlife habitat and travel corridors. Records indicate that species of special concern have been identified in this area. The parcels are locally used for hunting and fishing. Several of the parcels abut various town properties.



Half Moon Pond

#530D-12

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



## TOWN of MERRIMACK

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## GREENS POND/NATICOOK LAKE SUB-WATERSHED

### MERRIMACK'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

The local priority consists of five parcels located in the general vicinity of the intersection of Naticook Road and Greens Pond Road.

#### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
ME-1	3B-259	46.54	43 acres in current use across from Wasserman Park Conservation Area
ME-2	3B-164	391.35	Borders 35 acre town-owned land
ME-3	3B-260	50.34	Contains large wetlands that feed Greens Pond
ME-4	3C-430	10.50	Abuts Wasserman Park and MVD owned land & MCC Town Forest
ME-5	3C-44-1	16.40	Abuts conservation areas and important aquifer recharge

#### RESOURCE TYPES

Land/forestry, water, historic, ecological and public facilities

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

The area around Greens Pond is an important aquifer recharge zone for Merrimack Town Wells Nos. 1, 2, and 3. It is an important ecological area, providing habitats for many varieties of marsh dwellers, waterfowl, songbirds, and upland bird species including wild turkey. Beaver, otter, muskrat, deer, fox, and other animal species make their homes in and around this area. Acquisition of these parcels would provide for a continuous wildlife habitat corridor as well as provide for hiking trails. The trails could extend from the Wasserman Park recreation area on Naticook Lake, following the course of Naticook Brook to Greens Pond and thence northeastward to the Gilmore-Hill Memorial Forest. Portions of parcels M-2 and M-3 contain a segment of the Old Kings Highway, a state Class 6 abandoned road. Protection of these lots would also preserve a piece of this historic roadway that played a vital role in settling this part of New England. Parcel ME-1 may have been part of the Perley Rogers Homestead, one of the old "Merrymac Farms."



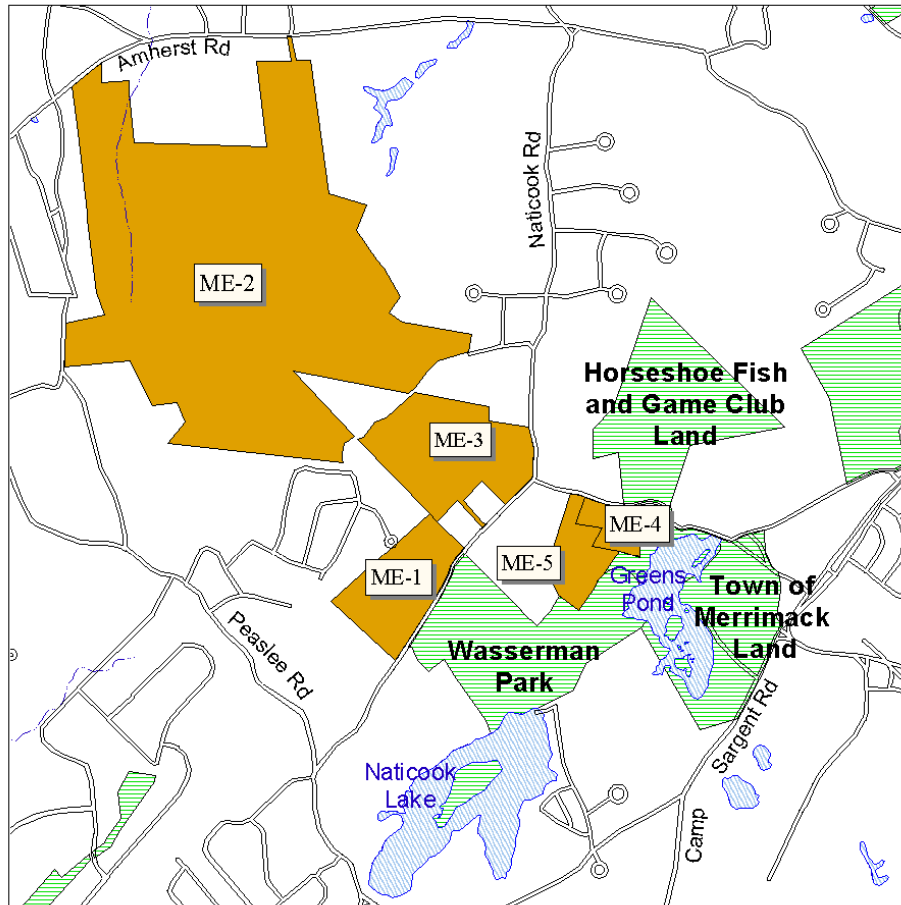
Recharge area above Greens Pond



Gilmore Hill Forest



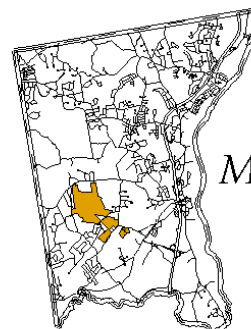
## Local Conservation Priorities in Merrimack



Existing  
Conservation Lands

Identified Local  
Priority Resources

*Not to Scale*



*Merrimack*



## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

Merrimack has experienced extraordinary growth over the past forty years and this is only expected to continue. All of these parcels have the potential to be subdivided for housing. Preliminary plans have been developed for subdivisions on parcels ME-1 and ME-3.

## LEVERAGE

The Merrimack Village District (MVD) has expressed a great deal of interest in ME-4 and ME-5 for water supply protection. The Merrimack Conservation Commission (MCC) has proposed that ME-3 be purchased for the Town by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as mitigation for the destruction of wetlands which will occur as a result of the remediation of the New Hampshire Plating site. The viability of assistance from the EPA is questionable at this time. The MCC and MVD have limited funds available that could be used to contribute to the land purchase.

## LOCAL SUPPORT



Greens Pond Flowing to Naticook Lake

The MCC suspects that many, if not all of the land owners in the vicinity would not oppose town ownership of the lots in question. Many residents of Merrimack have voiced concerns about the rapid growth of the Town and the decrease of open/green space. The MVD is extremely concerned about the gradual elimination of aquifer recharge areas and the potential for ground-water contamination that accompanies increased development. In addition, the MVD has stated that the ground-water supplies of the Town will not support the projected population under “full build out.”

## PARTNERSHIPS

As stated, the MVD has a vested interest in protecting lands that are located within and adjacent to the well head production area of Wells 1, 2, and 3. It should be noted that these are Merrimack’s most productive wells. The Parks and Recreation Commission would likely have an interest in ME-1 across Naticook Road from Wasserman Park.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

The public would have access to all of these lands. Specifically, ME-1 could be an extension of the Wasserman Park Conservation land. Hiking trails could be developed which would extend across Naticook Road, loop around the property and return to Wasserman Park. Parcels ME-4 and ME-5 would be accessible from the northeastern part of Wasserman Park Conservation land as well as from Greens



Pond Road. Hiking trails could link Wasserman Park to the Gillmore-Hill Conservation land on the north side of Greens Pond Road. Parcels ME-3 and ME-2 would be accessible from Naticook Road. ME-2 can also be accessed from MCC Conservation land that borders the lot on the south.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Lots would have a limited amount of hiking trails developed. Much of the land would be left in a natural state for wildlife and aquifer recharge protection; however, some of the land could be used for more active outdoor recreational activities related to municipal park uses. The MCC could manage some of the land as it presently does with other conservation parcels in town. The MVD would possibly manage Lots ME-4 and ME-5. The Parks and Recreation Commission would manage any land developed for municipal park uses.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION



Wasserman Park on Naticook Lake

It is unlikely that the current owners of these parcels will do anything other than grant limited conservation easements or donate a portion of these parcels to the Town as part of their Master Plan for Cluster Development. Accordingly, acquisition of these lots by purchase may make the most sense.

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Souhegan River/Town Center** – This group of parcels is located in the proposed town center area. The parcels border the Souhegan and Merrimack Rivers and connect other town-owned properties. The purchase of Tax/Map 5D-13 would be the key to opening a large segment of walking trail along the Merrimack River by enacting an existing easement that requires ownership of abutting lands. Another parcel is located at the river junction with trail easements being worked on by regional groups for both rivers.



**Groundwater Resource Protection** - The single parcel of land is located between Route 3 and the Merrimack River and abutting lands owned by MVD that contains town wells Nos. 4 and 5. It is upgradient from the wells and development of this site could adversely affect the wells by decreasing available recharge and by contributing to ground-water contamination.

**Merrimack River Access** - This single parcel is another key link of town recreational lands along the Merrimack River. It is an excellent location for river access and a boat launch. It would protect substantial river frontage from development. The parcel is the site of Thornton's Ferry, one of the original historic river crossings in town, although no trace remains.

**Merrimack River Frontage** - A group of long and narrow parcels that are located between the railroad and the river. These three parcels form a nearly continuous strip along the river and would add to the recreational resources of the Town.

#530D-13

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



## TOWN of MILFORD

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## HAYWARD FARM

### MILFORD'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

This floodplain farm will add a significant portion to the proposed Souhegan Trail and conservation holdings throughout the river corridor.

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
MI-1	7-10	122.00	Was also picked as the top regional priority

### RESOURCE TYPES

The property is currently being farmed and contains prime agricultural soils. Archaeological research by the Sargent Museum in Manchester revealed that this was a burial ground for native Americans. Tucker Brook flows through the site and empties into the Souhegan River. Wetlands and associated uplands are scattered throughout the property.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

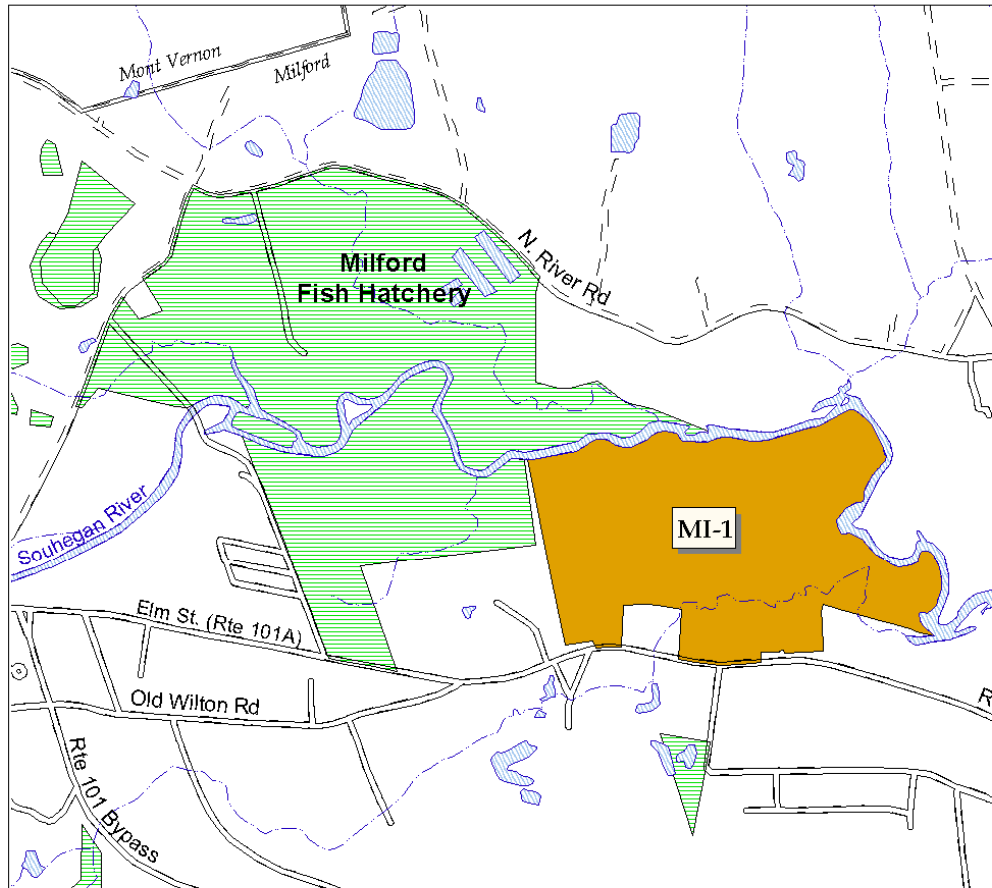
Habitat has changed as bottomland farms have given way to development. Grassland birds, barn swallows, brown thrashers, and field sparrows are on the decline with the loss of fields. Hayward farm abuts the Milford Fish Hatchery with 163 acres of old hayfields and only one parcel of land lays between the Fish Hatchery and town owned conservation lands to the north. The Conservation Commission hopes to acquire that parcel in the future. Hayward farm will add a significant section to the proposed Souhegan River Trail. Ultimately, the Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards want the Trail to run along the banks of the river from Wilton to Merrimack.





Tucker Brook on Hayward Farm



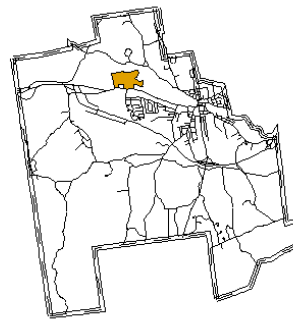
## Local Conservation Priorities in Milford



 Existing Conservation  
Lands

 Identified Local  
Priority Resources

*Not to Scale*



*Milford*



Early spring on Hayward Farm

## **IMMINENCE OF THREAT**

The property is the last large piece of undeveloped farmland along Route 101A from Nashua to Milford and has been proposed as the site of a golf course since 1989. The owner wants to keep the tract open and is seriously considering selling to a golf development consortium.

## **LEVERAGE**

The owner is willing to sell outright. Until the funds become available through the Land and Community Heritage Program, funds will be actively sought through the Trust for Public Lands or the American Farmland Trust.

## **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The Milford Conservation Commission is committed to the project and will solicit support as needed. The Town of Milford has a good track record for supporting environmental issues and recreation access along the Souhegan River. Milford has initiated a Well Head Protection Program and has written a Health Ordinance for Well Head Protection Areas and all surface waters. The Souhegan Watershed Association is very active in all aspects of the river.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

The Milford Conservation Commission, Souhegan Watershed Association, Hillsborough County Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and scout troops have all pledged their support for in-kind services.



## PUBLIC ACCESS

The property has road access on Route 101A and could be used as an active/passive park. The approximately 3,000 feet of shoreline provides opportunities for picnicking, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Farm abuts conservation lands and is close to others so a strong argument could be made for public ownership.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The sale of lots along Route 101 could possibly fund the cost of the remaining development rights or an agricultural easement. Farmers in the area have expressed their desire to farm the property.

## ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

**Souhegan River Trail** – This trail will cross the river several times from Wilton to Merrimack. The Conservation Commission is pursuing trail easements on Map 25 Lots 28, 31 and Map 21 Lots 22,23.

**Mayflower Hill Town Forest** – The purchase of four lots with approximately 56 acres would connect the Town Forest with downtown Milford and protected land in Amherst.

**Greenway** - Conservation easements are being sought to connect Osgood Pond to Tucker Brook Town Forest and the Hitchiner Town Forest through the Brox and Beaver Brook land.

**Hitchiner Town Forest Expansion** – Fee simple purchase or conservation easement on the old cart road to connect the Town Forest to the top of Burns Hill.

#530D-14



Souhegan Watershed Association members with NH Rivers Advisory Committee

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of MONT VERNON**

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## **MONT VERNON GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM**

### **MONT VERNON'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY**

The proposed trail system would connect existing protected lands and establish new trails to connect to existing trails that meander throughout Mont Vernon. There are 29 parcels involved in the trail system. The Mont Vernon Conservation Commission will seek recreation easements on all properties.

### **RESOURCE TYPE**

The trails will follow streams, cross meadows, and pass through forestlands.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES**

Trails and maps for recreational use were identified as a high priority at the Community Profile. There are many trails throughout Mont Vernon but they are all scattered and not interconnected. The Town is promoting tourism using its historical past, scenic views and natural resources. The trails will be maintained for horseback riding, hiking and cross-country skiing.

### **IMMINENCE OF THREAT**

The Conservation Commission would like to purchase recreation easements for the trails. It is hoped that the success of the Purgatory Brook Trail will prompt owners to deed or set aside the identified areas prior to development.

### **LEVERAGE**

Until the funds become available through the Land and Community Heritage Program, funds will be sought through trail grants.

### **LOCAL SUPPORT**

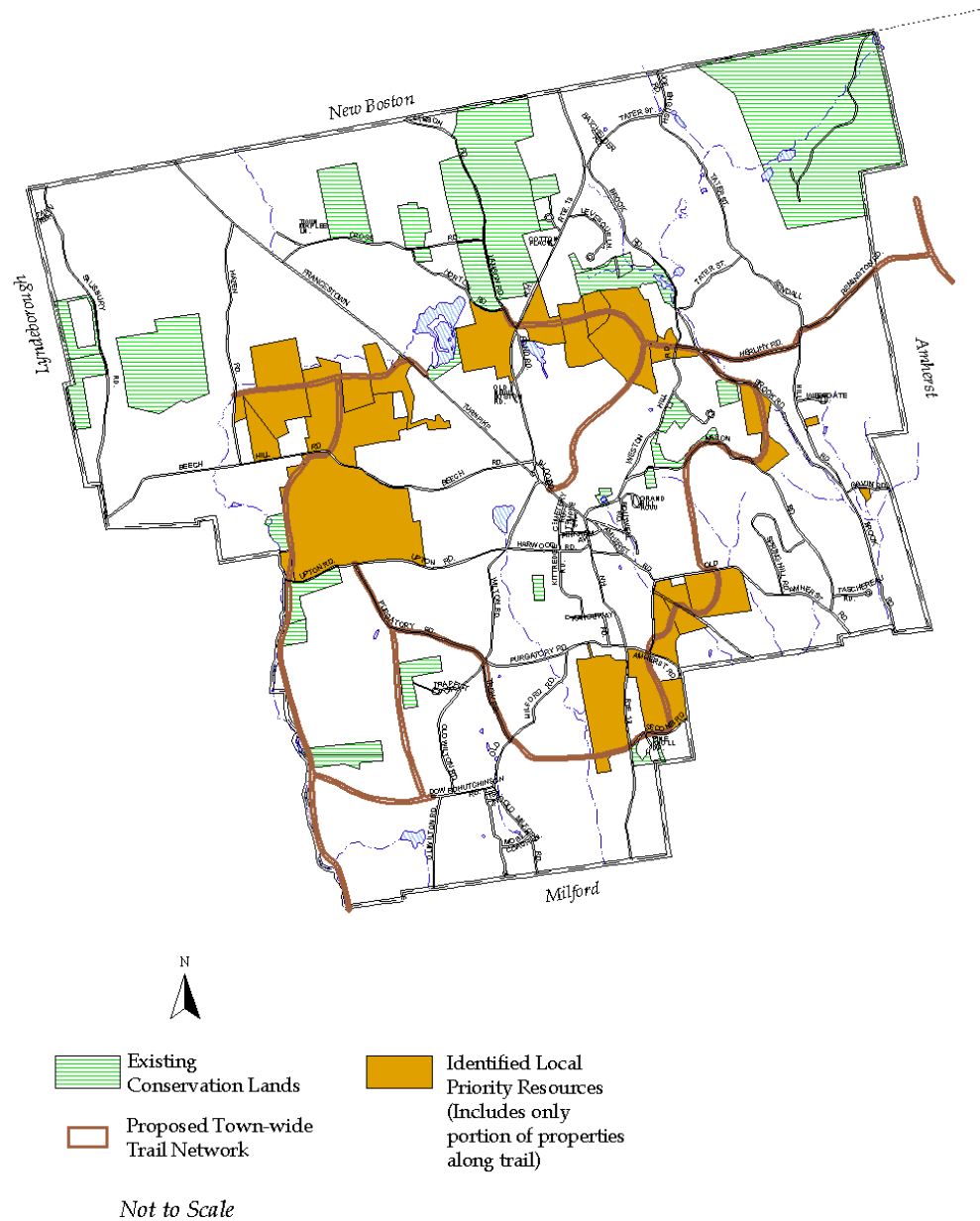
After the Community Profile a Trails Committee was formed and they are currently updating the existing trails map. The Town is very enthusiastic about their trails and plans are being made for getting the information to everyone in town and establishing signage for the trails.



Mont Vernon Village



## Local Conservation Priorities in Mont Vernon





## **PARTNERSHIPS**

There are no partnerships at this time; however, the Conservation Commission will solicit support from the Souhegan Valley Land Trust.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

The trail is designed in loops of varying length and difficulty and is accessible from many areas in Town. All trails will be open to the public and access will be shown on the new map to be posted on the trails and hand guides available to the public.

## **STEWARDSHIP/PRESERVATION**

The Mont Vernon Conservation Commission and the Trails Committee will assume all stewardship duties involved in maintaining a recreation easement. All trails will be maintained by community volunteers including: scout troops, the Trails Committee, and citizens who enjoy horseback riding, cross country skiing, and walking.



Rural landscape in Mont Vernon

#530D-15

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



## CITY of NASHUA

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## SOUTHWEST QUADRANT NASHUA'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY

The three parcels are immediately west of Yudicky Farm and form the largest contiguous area still in agricultural use in Nashua's southwest quadrant.

### SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES

Parcel ID	Map/Lot	Acres	Comments
NA-1	D-23	71.84	Still in agricultural use, abuts City-owned land
NA-2	D-336	54.30	Still in agricultural use, abuts City-owned land
NA-3	D-337	12.00	Still in agricultural use, abuts City-owned land

### RESOURCE TYPE

This project focuses on the protection of undeveloped forests, fields, wetlands, and wildlife habitat.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES

The parcels contribute to the still largely rural nature of Nashua's southwest corner. They are contiguous to city-owned land at Yudicky Farm, and land recently acquired by the City to the north and east of that parkland.



Wetland in the southwest quadrant

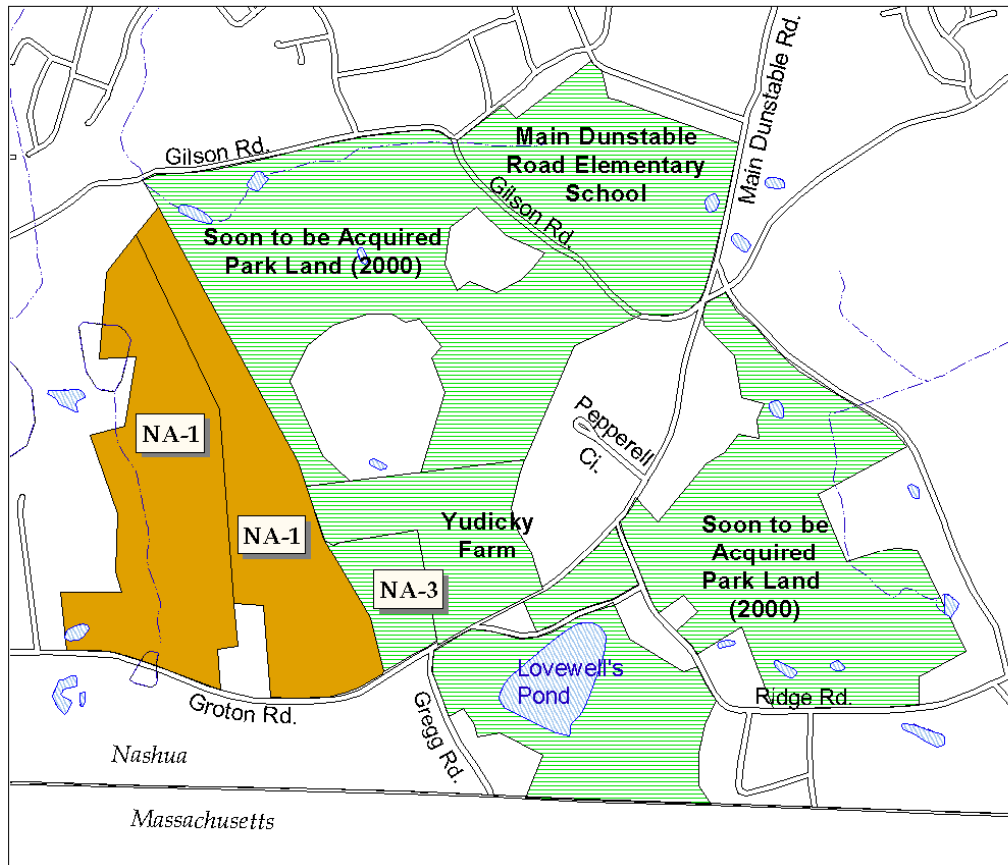
### IMMINENCE OF THREAT


The supply of land available for housing development in Nashua is dwindling rapidly. The recent purchase/acquisition by the City of 292 acres of land north of Yudicky Farm and in the vicinity of Lovewell's Pond further reduced the land available for future housing development, though it preserved valuable land for recreation and conservation. This recently acquired land was once part of the 1980's anticipated "Hall's Corner" Planned Residential Development.


Development is likely to intensify on the few remaining large contiguous parcels in the City. The three parcels identified comprise the largest remaining developable land in the southwest quadrant, and, if current rates of development continue, they are likely to be developed within 5-10 years if not otherwise protected.



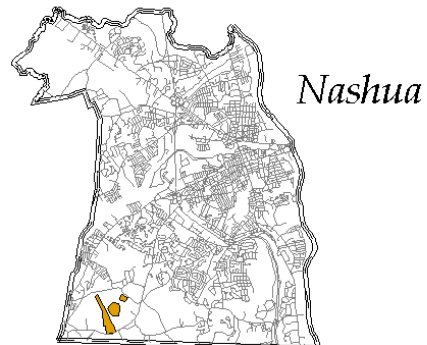
## Local Conservation Priorities in Nashua



 Existing  
Conservation Lands

 Identified Local  
Priority Resources

*Not to Scale*





## LEVERAGE

Although no steps have been taken to date to pursue acquisition of this property, the parcels are in current use, and the City will have the option to purchase them under the right of first refusal if, and when, they are taken out of current use.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

City officials and the public are aware of the costs of servicing residential development, and of the need for additional open space and recreation sites. Public support increases the prospects for acquisition of these parcels, along with the fact that the parcels are contiguous to City owned lands.



## PARTNERSHIPS

The parcels are in current use and no other environmental or state agency has taken an active interest.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Complete access from Yudicky Farm for passive recreational activities.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Nashua Department of Parks and Recreation would most likely have stewardship responsibilities.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

An outright purchase is most likely since these parcels will probably be used for a municipal park.

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Land North of Greeley Park** – There are very few open parcels remaining in Nashua that are suitable for active recreation development, land that is relatively flat and large enough for several rectangular sport fields. This land is not only suitable for sports fields, but also river access, trails along the river and preservation of floodplain forest. This is also listed as a Merrimack River Corridor Regional Priority.

**Walking Trails on the Merrimack River** - A recent survey indicated that the number one recreational pursuit of Nashua residents is walking and hiking, and providing such trails along the Merrimack River will afford citizens access to the River and its scenic amenities.

**The “Intervale” Floodplain Forest** – The “Intervale” is located between the Nashua River and one of its coves, north of the eastern end of Mine Falls Park. Virtually the entire area is within the 100-year floodplain of the Nashua River. The intervale is one of the best examples of a floodplain forest remaining in Nashua. The lower, eastern end contains a wide diversity of vegetation and is an ideal wildlife habitat for many species. It is a prime resting and feeding area for songbirds during the spring and fall.

#530D-16

# LOCAL PRIORITIES



**TOWN of PELHAM**

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## **SPAR AND SPINDLE GIRL SCOUT CAMP**

### **PELHAM'S TOP LOCAL PRIORITY**

The Girl Scout camp encompasses one quarter of the watershed around Little Island Pond. Like other ponds in southern New Hampshire its water quality is stressed by development, especially along Route 38.

### **SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES**

<b>Parcel ID</b>	<b>Map/ Lot</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Comments</b>
PE-1	008-017	200.00	One of Pelham's largest open space areas, links with Windham's South West conservation lands, and established wildlife corridor

### **RESOURCE TYPES**

The property has frontage on a pond, wetlands, open space, and part is designated as a tree farm.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTIES**

The camp was created in the 1920's and has operated as a camp since that time. The campers use a portion of the shoreline for recreational activities. The remaining shoreline frontage is in undeveloped, pristine condition. The portion owned by the Girl Scout Council covers approximately one quarter of the land surrounding the pond. The remaining land is designated as a tree farm and was recently forested. Because of its size, proximity to wetlands, and the presence of the pond, this parcel is an important area for wildlife. The property is a link in the greenway corridor connecting with Pelham Fish and Game, an established wildlife corridor for moose and deer. The camp is adjacent to other open land parcels. The property is adjacent to a golf course, agricultural land, and a large parcel of town forest is nearby.

### **IMMINENCE OF THREAT**

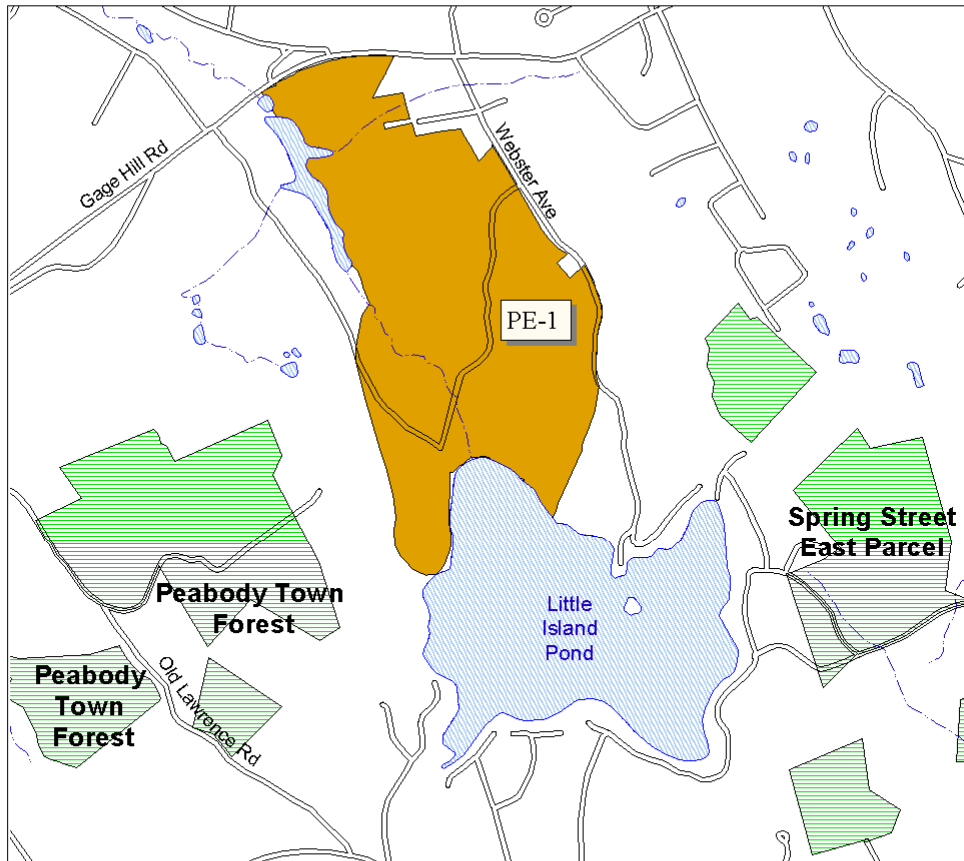
Although the Girl Scout Council has indicated their desire to retain this camp in Pelham, they have been actively selling other camps in the surrounding towns. Recently they have sold off two parcels of land in Pelham to developers. The development of this parcel would significantly alter the Town of Pelham, adding at least 100 homes to the Town under current subdivision and zoning regulations. The parcel is vulnerable to both residential and commercial development due to its size and location on Route 38. The area along Route 38 is consistently being proposed as a commercial zone.


### **LEVERAGE**


It is the understanding of the Pelham Conservation Commission that the Council wants to continue the popular camp and would be willing to think about development rights.



## Local Conservation Priorities in Pelham



 Existing  
Conservation Lands

 Identified Local  
Priority Resources

*Not to Scale*



*Pelham*



## LOCAL SUPPORT

This parcel was voted the Town's top priority at an open meeting. Many generations have participated in the summer camp and continue to visit the area. The Pelham Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee have pledged their full support and will seek all avenues available to help fund the project.

## PARTNERSHIPS

There are no established partnerships at this time.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

There is already direct access off of Route 38 and an established set of trails throughout the parcel since it has been a camp for approximately 70 years. There is a dock and beach that would accommodate visitors coming by boat. Specific areas and times will have to be worked out if the camp remains in operation.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Pelham Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee would serve as stewards with the possible help of the Girl Scout Council.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The acquisition technique best suited for this parcel is the purchase of development rights. This would reduce the pressure to raise funds by selling off land and allow the camp to continue to operate.

## ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

**Parcel I** - This 130-acre property consists of farmland, wetland, forest and a large house and barn built in the 1880's. The parcel abuts the Pelham Fish and Game Club land. Together the properties form a contiguous open space of approximately 200 acres. This farm is vulnerable to development because of its frontage along Route 38 and the possibility of re-zoning for commercial development. This is the last farm of its size in Pelham currently intact. The property is a link in an established wildlife corridor that connects to the "Southwest Lands" in Windham.

**Parcel II** - This 80-acre farm consists mostly of open fields. The small farmhouse the owner lives in is simple but impeccably maintained. The stone walls that surround the property were built by her ancestors and show meticulous craftsmanship. One field is still farmed and the remaining fields are hayed and are well maintained. The parcels would be appropriate for walking, biking and cross country skiing. The land is in proximity to Muldoon Park. The owner has farmed the land all of her life but is elderly and supports herself by selling off portions for development.

**Parcel III** - This 39-acre parcel is located on the southern end of Pelham. The parcel has a good diversity of environments including forest, wet areas and an open field. Two threatened species of plants have been identified on the property; birdfoot violet and swamp azalea. The property is in the proximity of the Dunlop Wetland and abuts other open land. The landowner is very committed to preserving the land and has tried in the past to work with conservation groups; however, the land is the owner's only asset and outright donation is not realistic.



**Parcel IV** - This parcel consists of mostly forestland and is located near the Musquash Conservation District in the Gumpas Pond area of Pelham. The Gumpas Pond area is an important regional corridor because of its low density of development and proximity to the 400-acre Musquash Conservation District. This parcel abuts protected land held by the New England Forestry Foundation. Although this parcel is currently landlocked, efforts have been made in the past to develop this parcel. The land is highly developable with a significant potential for a large number of lots. Lack of appropriate access to support a large subdivision has been the main impediment but as adjacent lands are developed, this condition could easily change.

#530D-17

# CULTURAL/HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- ◆ TOWN OF AMHERST
- ◆ TOWN OF HOLLIS
- ◆ TOWN OF LYNDEBOROUGH





## AMHERST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH STEEPLE RESTORATION AMHERST'S LOCAL PRIORITY (CULTURAL/HISTORIC)

The 228-year-old Amherst Congregational Church is located in the center of the Village on Map 17, Lot 71. Rehabilitation of the meeting house was completed in the fall of 1999. The next phase of this project is to complete structural repairs and restoration of the steeple.

### RESOURCE TYPE

The steeple of the Amherst Congregational Church is one of three extant early eighteenth century steeples copied from the design of the Old South Meeting House in Boston, and is the oldest remaining steeple in New Hampshire. It is the most significant character-defining feature of this important cultural resource.

### HISTORY

When the citizens of the Town of Amherst voted in 1771 to construct a new meeting house, they decided to construct a building and steeple commensurate with the new status of the Town as the county seat of Hillsborough County. The splendid design of the steeple and the height, the tallest in New Hampshire, impressed all who traveled near Amherst. The inside of the steeple is filled with hand-penciled mementos and memorials of events occurring centuries past. Also significant is the ownership of the steeple. When the Town sold the building to the Congregational Church Society in 1832, it retained ownership of the clock, bell, and steeple. This relationship remains today and is the only example of this ownership relationship in New Hampshire.

### IMMINENCE OF THREAT

Eighteenth century New England church steeples are a significant and threatened category of cultural resources. Due to their method of construction, and the cost and specialized nature of repairs, they are frequently removed altogether once structural deterioration has occurred due to deferred maintenance. The Congregational Church steeple suffers from a number of structural problems, which if left untreated, could result in structural failure and loss of historic integrity. These include: failure of principal timber frame structural elements; deterioration of the base, belfry, lantern, and spire; and open joints admitting water to the interior which accelerates the cycle of deterioration.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Several groups are actively involved with the restoration of the Congregational Church steeple. Their roles and responsibilities are:

- **Town of Amherst** – The Board of Selectmen authored and presented a warrant article to cover a portion of the cost of the restoration of the steeple.
- **Historic District Commission** – Works with the Building Committee to review contract documents and insure that the historical integrity of the structure is maintained.
- **Bean Foundation** – Contributed \$15,000 toward construction costs.

### LOCAL SUPPORT

The Congregational Church membership formed a Building and Campaign Committee to raise funds for restoration. Funds raised by the congregation have been used for completion of architectural studies, and will be used in all remaining phases of the project. The warrant article presented by the Board of



Selectmen was approved at the last Town Meeting. Over 200 members of the community who are not members of the church have donated funds to the Capital Campaign Fund for the Restoration of the Meeting House. Donations to the Christmas 1999 "Memory Tree" are earmarked for this fund.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

While the steeple itself is not a publicly accessible space, it is a landmark feature of Amherst Village. Its loss would constitute a severe impact to the visual and historic integrity of the entire historic district. The Congregational Church building is a fully accessible space and is available for civic and public functions.

## **PRESERVATION METHOD**

Restoration of the steeple will be completed with in-kind replacement of deteriorated historic materials. Construction methods will be consistent with current best practices. All construction documents have been reviewed and approved by the Amherst Historic District Commission. Items with historical significance such as pieces of original trim and materials containing historic graffiti will be retained and placed on public display inside the building. Construction documents have been completed, and an architect has been retained to supervise construction.

## **ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT**

The total cost of the steeple restoration project has been estimated at \$212,740, and will include the following:

- Remove, repair, and replace the spire and belfry
- Remove and replace the 8 belfry posts with native white oak
- Replace the lightning arresting system
- Replace finial
- Re-roof top of the first stage
- Repair clapboards, trim, and exterior wood elements
- Repair domed belfry roof
- Repair the lantern, lantern roof, and spire
- Painting
- Repair clock faces
- North window repair

#530D-18



## LAWRENCE BARN

### HOLLIS' TOP PRIORITY (CULTURAL/HISTORIC)

The Lawrence Barn was originally constructed on the Lawrence property at 163 Depot Road, Hollis, NH Map 14/Lot 6. This parcel has now been subdivided into three lots. The barn stood on Map 14/Lot 6-2 until it was dismantled in November of 1999.



Lawrence Barn, Spring 1999

### RESOURCE TYPE

The Lawrence Barn is an early double English-style barn with additions, one of perhaps a half-dozen still remaining in New England.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The Lawrence Barn is significant for a number of reasons, the first being its age, and the relative scarcity of extant barns of this type. Research suggests that Josiah Blood, who located to Hollis in 1738 before the incorporation of the Town, or his son Josiah, built the first of the English-style barns at this Depot Road location. Both Josiahs served in the Revolution and this early barn, based on the visual evidence of its construction techniques and materials, appears to have been constructed ca. 1780. It was built using a medieval technique for timber framing called the "scribe rule", and its construction required a high level of craft skill and knowledge. In addition, the roof system displays a unique framing detail, i.e., the braced purlin which may be a signature feature designed by the original joiner.

The second frame is another English barn built onto the first English barn. Physical evidence dates this structure to about 1810. This frame is also hewn but incorporates a simpler joining methodology known as "square rule" framing, although similarities in the roof framing system indicate the barns may have been constructed by the same builder. When this second barn was completed, the resulting structure would have been a double English barn. The third phase of construction occurred early in the 20th century and resulted in a building 100 feet long by 30 feet wide. Two timber frame bays were added to



the eastern end of the original English barn. Again, the principal frame timbers were hand hewn but the layout and construction methods had evolved to a still simpler method derived from the "square rule".

This barn is significant in that it reflects not only the evolution of the building technology but also the changing nature of farming operations. The fact that this building is no longer being used for farming and dairying as it had been for 200 years is indicative of the pressures resulting from changes in land use and the economic viability of farming in Hollis and New Hampshire.

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

In 1999, the landowner subdivided the property and contracted to sell two lots to a developer for a housing development. The barn stood on one of these two lots. Although the landowner was aware that the barn was old, he did not realize the significance and rarity of the building until it was brought to his attention by Heritage Commission members and others in the preservation field. Because the land had been sold, the barn needed to be removed from the lot or it would be demolished. Although the developer granted a two-month extension of the demolition deadline, efforts by the owners and the Heritage Commission to find a suitable new owner and home for the building within this short time period were unsuccessful. As a result, the Hollis Board of Selectmen offered \$20,000 from the Town's contingency funds to finance the cost of dismantling the barn, and gave the Heritage Commission two years to raise the necessary funds, and develop a plan for the adaptive re-use of the structure within the Town. If, at the end of two years, the Heritage Commission is unable to accomplish this task, the Town will dispose of the building.



Lawrence Barn, November 1999 during dismantling

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Hollis Heritage Commission is committed to preserving this piece of Hollis history since this barn so well represents the connection to Hollis' agrarian roots and farming culture – a connection that is rapidly being erased by the pressures of growth and changes in land use. In developing the program for the barn, input will be solicited from all facets of the community including; the Recreation Commission, Historical Society, Hollis Social Library, representatives from the schools, the Board of Selectman, other town boards, and private organizations. As this information is being gathered and community needs are



being assessed, the Heritage Commission will attempt to educate the community as to the desirability and value of historic preservation.

## LOCAL SUPPORT

The Hollis Heritage Commission (HHC) was established by town meeting vote in March of 1999, members were appointed in May of 1999, but no funding was allocated. The HHC immediately began to raise funds to cover costs of dismantling and storage, and to secure the help of volunteers to prepare the barn for disassembly. The initial fundraising has covered costs, to date. The HHC is initiating a fund-raising to support implementation of the plan to reconstruct the barn.

The Heritage Commission is exploring the feasibility of re-erecting the Lawrence Barn on Town property for use as a community heritage and education center. The barn could provide meeting space for town groups, areas for museum artifact display, storage space for Town records and archives. The building could also serve as an educational tool for informing the public about the evolution of timber framing techniques and farming technology, as well as providing space for rental to other individuals and groups. The Heritage Commission will attempt to fund this project from private donations, and partnerships and grants with others at the local, state and/or national level.

## PUBLIC ACCESS

Under the community center concept, the public would have access to this building for meetings and events as required and allowed by the Town. As an educational and museum facility, public and private groups would be allowed during normal operating hours. The Town Board of Selectmen will decide who will oversee the use and maintenance of the building.

## METHOD OF PRESERVATION

The barn frame will need to be repaired using preservation techniques that will not compromise the integrity of the hand hewn frame. The company that dismantled the barn would be the company of choice to accomplish this task. Preservation Timber Framing, Inc. has prepared and submitted a full documentation package for the barn. Each of the three barn frames is delineated on a master drawing of the barn, and every framing member from each of the three barns has been tagged and recorded. A full graphic record has been completed for the dismantling process and will be included as part of the permanent archive of the building. The drawings and photographs will be integral to the reconstruction of the barn.

## ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT

The documentation package includes estimated costs for repairs needed for reconstruction of the barn. These repairs are delineated according to the three distinct portions of the barn. Repair estimates made at this time reflect traditional timber frame repairs to the structural components of each barn frame using like materials and methods suitable for the period in which each frame was constructed.

18th Century scribe rule frame, 4 bays 5 bents:	\$25,000.00
19th Century square rule frame, 3 bays, 3 bents:	\$20,000.00
20th Century square rule frame, 2 bays, 2 bents:	\$21,000.00
Overall Cost of Structural Repairs:	\$66,000.00

It should be noted that this figure is only a fraction of the cost of building a structure of this type from all new timber. Estimates for repairing the barn frame and re-erecting it on a new site, including a basement



or crawl space, a first floor deck, exterior and interior finishes, kitchen, handicapped accessible bathrooms, heating, plumbing, septic, water, electrical and security systems are estimated at a minimum of \$300,000. This does not include in-kind donations of volunteer time to help with construction; nor does it include the purchase of land.

## **WORCESTER MILL POND HISTORIC SITE**

### **HOLLIS PRIORITY (CULTURAL/HISTORIC) #2**

The site of the Worcester Brothers' Mill, and the existing Worcester Mill Pond and Dam (DES #119.03, Rocky Pond Dam), are located on Rocky Pond Road in Hollis, NH Map 22/Lot 31.

### **HISTORY**



Historic photograph of the Worcester Mill

The first mill on this site, on Rocky Pond Brook, built in 1847 by Luke Hale, had one overshot wheel that powered one up-and-down saw. Mr. Hale, being resourceful and inventive, made many improvements to the mill including blasting a wheel pit into solid rock and adding a 20' diameter overshot wheel and installing the first circular saw in Hollis. Subsequent owners kept the mill in operation until 1890 when it was destroyed by fire. The Worcester Brothers rebuilt the mill after this fire and another that destroyed the mill in 1913. The Worcester Brothers' Mill had by then incorporated steam power. On March 2, 1916 the mill building was destroyed in an explosion and was never rebuilt; however, the remains of the mill still rest on the property; and the dam, although in disrepair, holds back the waters of the mill pond.



The business of coopering and mills was a strong component of the industry of Hollis up until this last century. The Worcester Brothers' Mill, located in what is now a relatively undeveloped part of the Town, once was a hub of activity, employing as many as 75 workers. This mill industry has all but disappeared from Town now, but in recognition of its importance in town history, descendants of the Worcester Brothers, Martha Rogers and Nancy Bliden, donated the 11.5-acre parcel containing the mill site and the mill pond to the Town of Hollis, in December 1999.

## IMMINENCE OF THREAT

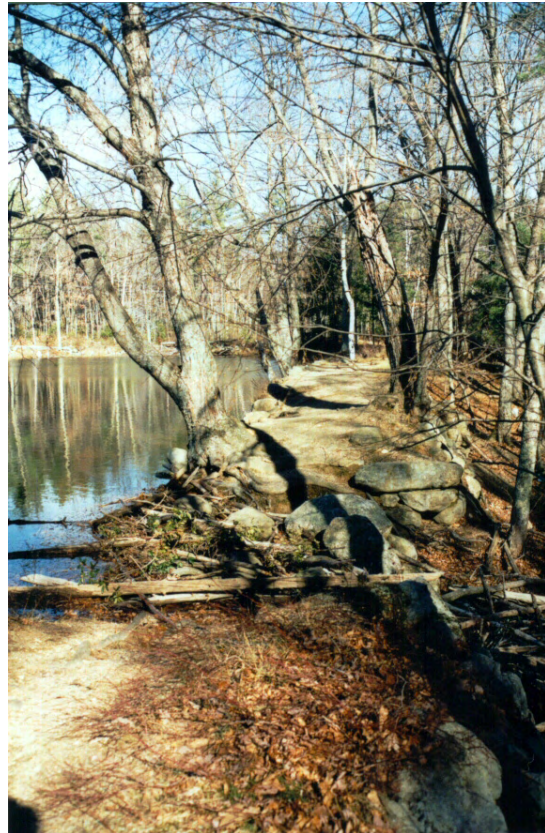
Because this parcel of land has been given to the Town, the site is not at risk. However, the dam, which has not been maintained, is at risk. It is overgrown with trees and roots, the embankments have eroded, the sluiceway has broken down, water flow is uncontrolled, and the dam itself leaks. The State of New Hampshire, Department of Environmental Services (DES) monitors the safety of dams, and conducted an inspection on May 22, 1997. A letter, dated June 30, 1997, outlines the results of their inspection and notes the following:

- Trees on the upstream and downstream faces of the dam and from within 5' on the downside face;
- Beaver debris in and below the spillway;
- Uneven/unlevel crest;
- Sections of the downstream stone face that are not stabilized;
- Crest of the dam is lacking in good vegetative cover;
- Spillway section needs repair; and
- No operations and maintenance plan in the file.

The DES letter also recommends the following:

- Remove the trees from the upstream and downstream faces of the dam and from within 5' of the downstream face;
- Remove beaver debris from within and below the spillway;
- Level/regrade the crest to a uniform elevation;
- Stabilize all sections of the downstream stone face, where appropriate;
- Place erosion resistant material on the crest of the dam; and
- Prepare and submit to the DES a written operational procedure plan.

Because this is a Class "AA" dam, and there is no serious danger downstream if the dam should fail, DES does not have jurisdiction to require repairs; however, they strongly recommend that these deficiencies be addressed to insure the continuing safe operation of the dam, and urge voluntary regular monitoring and maintenance of the site.



View of Sluiceway



## **PARTNERSHIPS**

At the present time, the Hollis Conservation Commission maintains stewardship of this property. The HCC has approached the Hollis Heritage Commission to explore establishment of a dual stewardship role. The HCC would hold the land and the HHC would be responsible for the mill site and the dam. Since this mill site is significant in terms of its historical context, and because the Heritage Commission has as its mission the "preservation and protection" of cultural and historic resources, evaluation of the dam structure would be completed by a qualified historic structures expert. A historic structures assessment will be completed to identify proper procedures for repair and restoration of the dam. The estimated cost for this evaluation would be \$2,500.

## **METHOD OF PRESERVATION**

Based on the recommendations in the historic structures assessment report, a plan for the repair and preservation of the dam will be established. Because this information is not available at this time it is impossible to estimate the cost of the completed project; however, a minimum of \$15,000 is anticipated. The mill site itself, is also a candidate for preservation and/or restoration which could range from simply maintaining the site as it is and identifying it with an historical marker, to reconstructing a working steam mill.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

At the present time, the public does have access to the site and this will continue. Also, in cooperation with the HCC, an Eagle Scout project has been undertaken to mount a plaque and install a kiosk on the property with information about this historic site.

## **REVEREND DANIEL EMERSON MONUMENT**

### **HOLLIS PRIORITY (CULTURAL/HISTORIC) #3**

The monument marking the grave of Reverend Daniel Emerson is located in the Church Yard burial ground behind the Congregational Church on Monument Square, Hollis, NH, Map 52/Lot 54.

## **HISTORY**

In 1739, the General Court of Massachusetts chartered the Parish of West Dunstable (now Hollis). A parish was an ecclesiastical division of a township, (Dunstable, Mass.) vested with the power, (by the taxation of its inhabitants) and charged with the duty of building a meeting house, and maintaining a "learned and orthodox minister." At a meeting of the inhabitants of West Dunstable on January 17, 1742, it was unanimously voted to choose "Mr. Daniel Emerson for their Gospel Minister to take the Pastoral care of the Flock of Christ in said Place." Mr. Emerson (the first minister of Hollis) was ordained April 20, 1743, and he continued a faithful, venerated and popular minister of that society till November 27, 1793, a period of more than fifty years, without a change, or "wish to change his place.

## **IMMINENCE OF THREAT**

The Emerson monument, called a ledger, rests horizontally on the ground mounted on a base that extends about four inches above grade. Exposure to the elements has caused the stone to crack completely across its face in two places. Additionally, two areas of the stone face have broken off and are



Reverend Emerson Monument

lost; other pieces are loose and lying nearby. The stone has been repaired at some point and traces of the mortar used to repair it are visible. However, each year, the stone deteriorates further. Because Rev. Daniel Emerson was the first minister of Hollis, and because he served for so many years and was held in such high esteem, the Hollis Heritage Commission feels this monument is worthy of conservation.

## **PARTNERSHIPS/PRESERVATION**

The HHC proposes to initiate a conservation effort with regard to the Emerson monument. Likely partners include the Hollis Cemetery Trustees, the Congregational Church of Hollis, the Hollis Historical Society, and members of the community. The HCC has contacted a firm with extensive background in conservation and preservation. Their estimated cost to complete an assessment and prepare a short conservation plan would be approximately \$800-\$1000. If it is feasible to do conservation work on the stone, their firm has the expertise to do so.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

As directed by the Hollis Cemetery Trustees, the old Church Yard burial ground is accessible to the public during the hours from dawn to dusk.

#530D-19



## TEMPLE ROAD BRIDGE

### LYNDEBOROUGH'S TOP PRIORITY (CULTURAL/HISTORIC)

Temple Road Bridge is a one lane, dry masonry, double, stone-arch bridge spanning Stony Brook. It is the oldest known double stone-arch bridge in the area. The bridge is located on Old Temple Road, a moderately traveled town road.

### RESOURCE TYPE

This portion of Stony Brook flows through an area of mixed uses. Stony Brook is lined with wetlands and sand deposits. There is one older residence on the west side of the brook near the bridge. A rarely used railroad track dating from 1876 runs above the east bank, and crosses Old Temple Road West just east of the bridge. The brook cuts through step forested hills, making for a very small floodplain in this area.

The western bridge is seventeen feet wide from one edge of the road to the other, and is roughly fifty feet in length along the road. The arch is approximately twenty-three feet in length. This bridge crosses the primary path of Stony Brook. The eastern arch spans a diversionary channel, through which overflow is channeled when the brook floods. A low stone wing wall aids this process across an area of land immediately north of the arch. The surface of the eastern bridge is sixteen feet wide and thirty-five feet in length along the road, while the arch measures sixteen feet in length. Including a raised section of road between the two arches, the driving surface of the Old Temple Road Bridge is about 200 feet long in total.



Temple Road Stone Arch Bridge

### HISTORY

The double stone arches that make up the Old Temple Road Bridge are excellent examples of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century bridge construction. Old Temple Road was constructed in the late eighteenth century as a road between Temple and Peterborough. It was connected to Cram Road, which brought through traffic to the Lyndeborough meeting house. The existing double stone-arch



bridge may be the original bridge at this location, but due to imprecise town records, this fact cannot be confirmed. It is known that the bridge was in existence by 1821, when records show that the Town made repairs.

## **IMMINENCE OF THREAT**

With increased development in the area, the eastern arch of the bridge is presently in danger of collapsing under an increased traffic load. Some of the stones in the arches have shifted and settled, leaving the bridge unable to carry loads of greater than three tons. Plans are being made by the Town and state officials to replace the arches with a modern, two-lane bridge. Of the potential plans for the new bridge, some include constructing the new bridge to the north of the existing stone arch bridges and keeping them intact without traffic. Other plans include constructing the new bridge alongside the old, thereby threatening the integrity of the old bridge if it is retained. The only way to avoid this scenario is to build the new bridge across a one half-acre area of wetlands a few hundred feet north of the current bridge. This would necessitate the creation of new wetlands in another area nearby. The cost factor for this project threatens its potential for approval. The future of the existing Old Temple Road Bridge has not yet been determined, but currently there are no plans to repair it if the bridge remains intact.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

Town officials as well as the Lyndeborough Conservation Commission and Historical Society will make it a priority that the stone arch bridges be left intact when a new bridge over Stony Brook is constructed. According to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, the Old Temple Road Bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

## **LOCAL SUPPORT**

One abutter is believed to support efforts to preserve the bridge, but no abutters have been contacted formally. From informal discussions, townspeople appear to support the retention of the arches when the new bridge is to be built, possibly as the centerpiece to a new picnic area or park. The Lyndeborough Board of Selectmen has not taken an official position, but informal discussions with individual selectmen indicate that the board wishes to keep the arches intact when a new bridge is built.

## **PUBLIC ACCESS**

The bridges are less than two tenths of a mile west of Route 31 on Old Temple Road West. They are owned by the Town of Lyndeborough.

## **METHOD OF PRESERVATION**

To ensure that this double stone arch bridge remains intact, a new bridge must be built several hundred feet north of the existing bridges, and the current bridges must be inspected and structurally stabilized.

#530D-20