

SECTION IX: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

(See Map 13: Action Plan)

Goal A: Maintain high quality drinking waters both now and in the future for the residents of Townsend.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Protect private wells from contamination and drawdown	a. Investigate Planning Board rules for hydrologic study when subdivisions are constructed to prevent inadvertent drawdown of surrounding wells.	Planning Board		Operating budget	2013
2. Evaluate and improve septic systems and the approval process	a. Develop template plan for residents to manage their septic systems	Board of Health Nashoba BOH	DEP	Grant, Operating budget	ongoing
	b. Ensure “Your Septic System” brochure is distributed to all residents	Board of Health Nashoba BOH		Operating budget	ongoing
	c. Investigate other septic system alternatives that are more environmentally friendly	Board of Health	Nashoba BOH	Operating budget	2013
3. Develop water conservation and water ban bylaw	a. Have bylaw presented at Town Meeting	Water Dept.	DEP	Operating budget	2012
4. Investigate instituting low salt areas in critical water supply areas	a. Research procedure and discuss with State Highway Dept. regarding Rt. 119	Water Dept., Highway Dept., Selectmen	DEP, MADOT	Operating budget	2012-13
5. Educate residents on the water cycle and how they get their drinking water	a. Develop brochure for residents and put info on town website, cable access channel and distribute in schools.	Water Dept., Conservation Commission NMRSD	DEP	Operating budget	2013-14
6. Acquire parcels within public water supply Zones I and II that become available	a. Continue contributing to Conservation Land Fund by increasing public awareness of importance of land protection	Conservation Commission, Water Dept.		Town meeting appropriation	Ongoing
	b. Apply for grants to purchase parcels	Water Dept., Land Use Dept.	DEP	LAND grant	Ongoing

Goal B: Ensure the quality, vibrancy, and continued usage of the Squannacook River and its tributaries.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Improve public access to Squannacook River for fishing, canoeing, picnicking	a. Investigate need for a boat ramp at Harbor Pond	Cemetery and Parks, Recreation Commission	DCR, Public Access Board of MADFW	Grant, Operating budget	2013
	b. Improve canoe maneuverability on Squannacook River	Conservation Commission	MADFW, NHESP, EOEEA	Grant, operating budget	2012-13
2. Improve beach areas for swimming	a. Investigate VFW Pond viability	Recreation Comm., Conservation Com.	DCR, MADFW	Operating budget	2013-14
	b. Publicize State swimming and picnic areas	Recreation Commission, MIS Dept.	DCR	Operating budget	2012
3. Protect land abutting Squannacook River	a. Continue contributions to Conservation Land Fund at Town Meetings to fund strategic land parcel purchase	Conservation Commission	MADFW, DCR, Squanna-Tissit Trout Unlimited	Town meeting appropriation	Ongoing
	b. Secure interests in land as well as conservation and agriculture restrictions, or development rights.	Conservation Commission	MADFW, DCR, USDA	Conservation land fund	Ongoing
4. Protect Squannacook from excessive road salt and sand	See Goal A-4	Highway Dept. ConCom	NRWA DFW	Operating budget	Ongoing
5. Reduce/Prevent contaminated stormwater from entering waterways.	a. Review Planning Board and Conservation Commission regulations to ensure Low Impact Development techniques are evaluated by developers when planning for subdivisions.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Land Use Dept.	DEP	Operating budget	2012-13
6. Keep Rivers clear of trash and debris	a. Encourage and develop stream clean-up teams	Conservation Commission	NRWA	Operating budget,	Ongoing

				volunteers	
7. Assist the Nashua River Watershed Association in accomplishing the goals and priorities set by <i>The 2020 Plan</i>	a. Continue collaboration and membership with the NRWA, including forestry, stormwater, land protection and conservation issues	Conservation Commission	NRWA	Volunteers, operating budget (dues)	Ongoing

Goal C: Protect and maintain the quality of all surface water in Townsend, including wetlands.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Remove and/or reduce invasive species from waters of Townsend	a. Inventory surface areas with noxious species.	Conservation Commission	DEP, Lakes and Ponds Program	Senior tax work off, Operating budget	2012-2015
	b. Investigate grant opportunities to assist in removal of invasive species, especially from the Harbor Pond.	Conservation Commission, Land Use Dept.	DEP, Lakes and Pond Program	Possible grant	2013-2016
2. Remove/repair stormwater outfalls that could potentially contaminate our surface waters.	a. Inventory and map stormwater structures town wide and fix any problems that arise	Land Use Dept., Highway Dept.	DEP	Operating budget, possible intern	2012-2014
	b. Investigate grant opportunities to fund improvements to outfalls leading directly to surface waters.	Land Use Dept	DEP	Operating budget	2012-2014
	c. Contact State Highway Dept to improve stormwater runoff along Route 119.	Conservation Com., Highway Dept.	District 3 Highway Dept.	Operating budget	ongoing
3. Ensure developers evaluate Low Impact Development (LID) techniques when designing subdivisions to reduce stormwater impacts.	a. Review Planning Board regulations to include LID evaluation early in design process for subdivisions.	Land Use Dept., Planning Board		Operating budget	2012-14

Goal D: Retain the natural character and natural heritage of Townsend.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Develop three “village areas” in the three historic districts.	a. Investigate ways to allow more parking in the districts.	Historic District Comm, Selectmen, Land Use Dept., Historical Society	Mass Historical Commission (MHC)	Operating budget	2012-2016
	b. Investigate grants for access, kiosk, redevelopment of historic areas	Historical Society		Operating budget	2014
2. Develop replanting and maintenance plan for the Town Common to preserve its character.	a. Develop plan and evaluate town properties and Town road ROWs for areas needing replacement trees.	Cemetery & Parks, HDC, Tree Warden Historical Society	MHC	Operating budget	2012-14

Goal D continued: Retain the natural character and natural heritage of Townsend.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
3. Bury utility lines in town with an eye to Historic Districts.	a. Investigate feasibility and scope of this project.	HDC, Selectmen, Historical Society	MHC, SPNEA	Operating budget	2013-2015
4. Protect vernal pools as important wildlife habitats.	a. Certify all pools located on public property and on private property with permission.	Conservation Commission, Friends of Willard Brook	NHESP	Volunteers, possible intern	Ongoing
	b. Purchase strategic parcels containing potential and certified vernal pools or consider Conservation restrictions, Agricultural restrictions, interest in land, easements, purchase of development rights	Conservation Commission, Selectmen	MADFW, NHESP	Conservation Land Fund, appropriation at town meeting	Ongoing
5. Protect and maintain agricultural lands.	a. Continue contributions to Conservation Land Fund at Annual Town Meeting so money is available when right of first refusal is submitted for Chapter 61 lands.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen	DCR, MADFW	Town meeting appropriation	Ongoing

	b. Form an Agricultural Commission and consider a farmer's market.	Selectmen	USDA, NRWA	Volunteers	2013
	c. Use acquisition of interests in land, conservation restrictions, agricultural restrictions, easements, purchase of development rights as ways to preserve land.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen, Town Properties Committee	DEP, MADFW, USDA	Conservation Land Fund	Ongoing
6. Ensure pride of place	a. Encourage formation of "pretty committee" to beautify areas around town. (Possible senior tax work off program activity)	Selectmen, Board of Assessors	Townsend Business Association	Senior Tax work program, volunteers	2013

Goal E: Provide increased access to state and town owned lands deemed to hold a conservation or recreation value.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Increase public access to Harbor Pond.	a. Work with the volunteer stewards to increase signage, access and awareness	Conservation Commission	DCR, MADFW	Possible grant	2016
2. Publicize trails and parking for open space and recreation facilities.	a. Use website for public to print trail maps and open space and recreation areas.	Conservation Commission, MIS, Cemetery & Parks, Recreation Comm.	DCR, MADFW	Operating budget	Ongoing
3. Maintain existing access points.	a. Ensure areas are clear and debris free	Citizen volunteers, Cemetery & Parks, Conservation Com.	DCR, MADFW	Volunteers	Ongoing

Goal F: Develop and maintain active recreation facilities and acquire and maintain conservation lands.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Develop volunteer coordinator position for maintenance of recreation and conservation lands.	a. Consult Selectmen to see if this position could be paid or volunteer.	Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Recreation Comm.		Operating budget, volunteers	2016
	b. Investigate organizing a Friends Group to assist.	ConCom, Recreation Commission		Volunteers	2013
OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
2. Improve safe walking and biking around town.	a. Encourage state to install sidewalks on Rt. 119 from the high school to the center.	Selectmen, Highway Dept.	Mass Highway	Grant, state highway funds	2012-2015
	b. Encourage development of MBTA rail for a trail at no cost to the town.	Selectmen, Squannacook Greenways, Inc.	DCR	No cost	2012-2019
	c. Ensure impact on wildlife, wetlands and private property is evaluated before rail trail can be constructed.	Selectmen, Conservation Commission	MADFW	Operating budget	2012-2019
3. Evaluate town properties for recreation suitability opportunities, including a recreation center.	a. Investigate existing facilities for upgrade or refurbishing	Recreation Commission		Operating budget	2012-2014
	b. Investigate alternative location for soccer league in order to protect endangered species at current location	Soccer Association, Recreation Comm., Conservation Commission	NHESP	Operating budget, possible grant to develop	2016-2018
4. Develop recreation facilities for all ages of residents.	a. Top 5 requested facilities from survey:	Recreation Comm.,		Possible grants to	2013-2018

	1. Bike trails, 2. Conservation areas, 3. Environmental Education, 4. Children's Play areas, 5. Boating/Canoeing.	Selectmen, Town Properties, Cemetery & Parks		construct	
	b. Encourage developers to include land for recreation or construct recreation facilities in subdivisions.	Planning Board, Recreation Comm.		Operating budget	Ongoing
	c. Update conservation lands and recreation facilities to comply with ADA	Building Comm., Recreation Comm., Conservation Commission, Cemetery & Parks		Possible grants, operating budget	2014-2018
5. Pursue unknown owner parcels to add to protected parcels	a. Develop list of unknown owner properties and pursue acquisition if appropriate	Town Properties Committee, Assessors, Tax Collector, ConCom		Operating budget	Ongoing

Goal G: Establish a linked system of open space/recreation available to town residents.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Protect wildlife corridors and encourage linking of habitat areas.	a. Encourage and work with MADFW to purchase strategic parcels.	Conservation Commission	MADFW	Operating budget	Ongoing
	b. Continue contributions to Conservation Land Fund at Annual Town Meetings	Conservation Commission, Selectmen		Town meeting appropriation	Ongoing
	c. Purchase strategic parcel(s) to protect Old Meetinghouse Park from fragmentation and development.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen	LAND Grants from EOEEA	Conservation Land Fund, Grants	2012-13
	d. Purchase strategic parcel(s) to protect lands connecting State property with town property.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen	LAND Grants from EOEEA	Conservation Land Fund, Grants	Ongoing

	e. Use acquisition of interests in land, conservation and agricultural restrictions, easements, purchase of development rights as ways to preserve land.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen	MADFW, DEP	Conservation Land Fund	Ongoing
2. Link municipal buildings and properties via trails.	a. Encourage trail creation between senior housing and senior center/library complex. This could be a good site for State listed “Heart Healthy Trail”	Conservation Commission, Selectmen, Council on Aging, Future Citizen Committee	DCR, Trailwrights	volunteers	2014-15
	b. Link trail systems together by purchasing strategic parcels to create easier access.	Conservation Commission		Conservation Land Fund, Grants	Ongoing
	c. Use acquisition of interests in land, conservation and agricultural restrictions, easements, purchase of development rights as ways to preserve land.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen		Conservation Land Fund	Ongoing
3. Link State and Town trail systems together.	a. Purchase strategic parcels to create links.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen	DCR, MADFW, Land Trust	Conservation Land Fund	Ongoing
	b. Use acquisition of interests in land, conservation and agricultural restrictions, easements, purchase of development rights as ways to preserve land.	Conservation Commission, Selectmen		Conservation Land Fund	Ongoing
	c. Investigate regional trails that could be linked to Townsend trails such as Squannacook Rail Trail	Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Squannacook Greenways, Inc.	Groton, Ashby, Pepperell, Lunenburg, Mason, Shirley	Possible grants	2016-2018

Goal H: Improve the school/town relationship with regard to recreational facility usage and maintenance.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Develop school/town committee to address field usage issues.	a. Have Selectmen approach School Committee or Superintendent	Selectmen, NMRSD, Recreation Commission		NO COST	Ongoing
	b. Investigate how other towns collaborate with schools on recreation facility usage	Recreation Commission	Neighboring towns	Operating budget	2013

Goal I: Provide information to the public regarding recreation facilities and open space.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Develop map of public parking areas for access to the Squannacook River.	a. Create map from MassGIS access locations and local knowledge and put on website in a printable format.	Land Use Dept., Conservation Commission	MassGIS	Operating budget	2012
2. Educate the community about the importance of protecting wildlife.	a. Develop brochure for inclusion on website.	Conservation Commission, Land Use Dept	NHESP	Operating budget	2014
3. Develop page on town website devoted to open space and recreation.	a. Develop map of recreation locations, list the appropriate uses and communicate on town's website in a printable format.	Land Use Dept., Recreation Commission		Operating budget	2012-13
	b. Develop map of open spaces in town including trails and points of access and put on website in a printable format.	Land Use Dept., Conservation Commission	MassGIS, DCR, MADFW	Operating budget	2012-13
4. Ensure transparency for projects involving development of town owned facilities and properties.	a. Keep website updated and encourage use by residents.	Selectmen, Land Use Boards		Operating budget	Ongoing

Goal J: Generate revenue from recreation facilities and open space to offset loss of tax monies.

OBJECTIVE #	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	POSSIBLE PARTNERS	FUNDING SOURCE	TIME FRAME
1. Develop timber harvest plans for town properties.	a. Investigate appointing town forester to manage logging of town properties.	Conservation Commission, Town Properties Committee, Selectmen, Cemetery and Parks		Operating budget, Conservation Land Fund	2015
2. Reevaluate sale of unusable town properties.	a. Research properties and titles of town owned land with no value to the town to be sold.	Town Properties Committee, Selectmen, Tax Collector		Operating budget	2013-2016
3. Adopt Community Preservation Act to support open space, recreation, affordable housing and historic assets	a. Consider third attempt at Town Meeting to pass Community Preservation Act to support the goals of this plan.	Finance Committee, Selectmen, Land Use Boards		Operating budget, volunteers	2012-2014
4. Investigate need for benefactors for development of recreation facilities.	a. Publicize articles in local newspaper regarding need for funds.	Recreation Commission, Selectmen		Operating budget	2012-2014
5. Investigate grants to develop and repair recreation facilities.	a. Hire grant writer with salary built into the grants.	Selectmen, Recreation Commission	DCR	Operating budget	2012-2015