

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal #1: Maintain the ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems and protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater drinking water supplies.

Objective 1-1: Improve water quality in the Congamond Lakes by reducing nonpoint source pollution.

Objective 1-2: Continue to reduce invasive aquatic weed populations in the Congamond Lakes.

Objective 1-3: Improve local regulations to ensure the protection of drinking water supplies, quality and quantity.

Objective 1-4: Protect aquatic habitat by restoring stream continuity through improved culvert replacement projects.

Goal #2: Permanently protect important open space and ensure conservation areas are appropriately managed for flora and fauna habitat integrity and resiliency.

Objective 2-1: Identify and protect important unprotected parcels of open space for protection including securing funding for fee simple land acquisition and/or purchase of Conservation Restrictions.

Objective 2-2: Promote innovative forms of Low Impact Development (LID) appropriate to Southwick's rural character

Objective 2-3: Maintenance protocols are established and implemented for all protected open space including conservation land and recreational facilities.

Goal #3: Preserve working farms and forests in support of an agricultural way of life in Southwick.

Objective 3-1: Ensure the viability of agriculture as a way of life in Southwick.

Objective 3-2: Ensure the protection of important agricultural farmland.

Objective 3-3: Assist private woodland owners in developing and implementing forest stewardship plans and management practices.

Goal #4: Improve and expand recreational and environmental education opportunities for people of all ages while preserving Southwick's scenic, cultural and historic character.

Objective 4-1: Continue summer recreation program(s) for community.

Objective 4-2: Implement trail system in Goose Pond area.

Objective 4-3: Properly manage existing recreational facilities and control non-authorized uses.

Objective 4-4: Increase community awareness of conservation areas for public use and outdoor education opportunities.

SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

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Objective	Responsible Party	Action Item	Potential Funding Sources
Goal #1 Maintain the ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems and protect the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater drinking water supplies.			
Objective 1-1: Improve water quality in the Congamond Lakes by reducing nonpoint source pollution	Board of Health, Conservation Commission, DPW; Citizens Restoring Congamond; Lake Management Committee	<p>Continue to expand sanitary sewer to North Pond watershed and other identified areas of town.</p> <p>Continue public outreach program about water quality best management practices.</p> <p>Continue coordination between all lake oversight entities for monitoring, restoration, and recreational improvements including Cyanobacteria monitoring.</p> <p>Work with MA DFWELE to have local fishing and boating access fees remain in Southwick to fund lake management and enforcement.</p>	Connecticut River Stormwater Committee (through PVPC)
Objective 1-2: Continue to reduce invasive aquatic weed populations in the Congamond Lakes	Conservation Commission, Lake Management Committee, DPW, Citizens Restoring Congamond; Canal Restoration Committee	<p>Continue to implement an aggressive aquatic weed monitoring and control program.</p> <p>Conduct sediment removal analysis for Great Brook, Canal Brook, South Pond near South Boat Ramp in conjunction with South Ramp reconstruction project, and cove opposite North Ramp.</p>	See attached list of grant programs for invasive species control (Appendices)
Objective 1-3: Improve local regulations to ensure the protection of drinking water supplies	Board of Health, Planning Board, Water Commission, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission	<p>Update aquifer protection bylaw to meet current DEP standards.</p> <p>Sponsor annual household hazardous waste collection day or participate in a regional collection day.</p> <p>Strengthen private well regulations to ensure consistency with municipal water conservation goals.</p>	

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Objective 1-4: Protect aquatic habitat by restoring stream continuity through improved culvert replacement projects.	DPW, Conservation Commission	Support design and construction of priority culvert replacements at: North Loomis Street at Shurtleff Brook Granville Road, Kline Road Fred Jackson Road at Shurtleff Brook.	
Goal #2 Permanently protect important open space and ensure conservation areas are appropriately managed for flora and fauna habitat integrity and resiliency.			
Objective 2-1: Identify and protect important unprotected parcels of open space for protection including secure funding sources for open space protection.	Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee, Planning Board, Open Space Planning Committee	Utilize Community Preservation Act Funds for land acquisition. Work with property owners to permanently protect land through fee acquisition and/or conservation restrictions Work with local land trusts to secure funding and negotiate land conservation arrangements. Record CRs for Jered Estates, Laurel Ridge, Whispering Pines, and Patriots Woods.	CPA Funds MA DAR LAND Grants EEA Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants (not offered in FY13)
Objective 2-2: Promote innovative forms of LID appropriate to Southwick's rural character	Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission	Revise Flexible Residential Development Bylaw to include: 1) process for ensuring CRs are established before subdivision approval is granted; 2) guidelines for the type(s) of land, size and configuration that CRs should be placed on; 3) eliminate the "farmer" option for land protection. Improve communication with homeowner associations to establish CRs and record legally. Encourage conventional developers to set aside 10% of land as open space, at a minimum.	DLTA (from PVPC) LTA (from PVPC)

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		Encourage communication across all land use boards so that innovative techniques are consistently supported and approved.	
Objective 2-3: Maintenance protocols are established for all protected open space including conservation land and recreational facilities	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee	Develop protocols for annual CR monitoring. Work with owners (public and private) of conservation areas to develop and implement management plans suitable for site specific habitat and species.	
Goal #3 Preserve working farms and forests in support of an agricultural way of life in Southwick.			
Objective 3-1: Ensure the viability of agriculture as a way of life in Southwick	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee	Promote Agricultural Preservation Restrictions Encourage the use of Chapter 61A for active farming operations. Implement a 'Buy Local' farm products program and perform public outreach. Promote Farmer's Market	MA DAR APR Program
Objective 3-2: Ensure the protection of important agricultural farmland	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee	Promote the use of APR for farmland preservation.	MA DAR APR Program

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Objective 3-3: Assist private woodland owners in developing and implementing forest stewardship plans and management practices.	Conservation Commission, Open Space Planning Committee	Host workshops on conservation easements, estate planning, APR, and Chapter 61 programs Promote private timber sales	
Goal #4 Improve and expand recreational and environmental education opportunities for people of all ages while preserving Southwick's scenic, cultural and historic character.			
Objective 4-1: Continue summer recreation program for community.	Park and Recreation Commission	Seek funding and implement programs	
Objective 4-2: Implement trail system in Goose Pond area.	Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Open Space Planning Committee	Design trail system and seek construction-Audubon is currently creating a Recreation Plan for Goose Pond. Design canoe and kayak launch areas that do not disturb habitat.	MA DCR Trails Grant EEA PARC Grant
Objective 4-3: Properly manage existing recreational facilities and control non-authorized uses.	Park and Recreation Commission	Adopt Article 97 warrant at Town Meeting for Prifti Park to protect as parkland. Improve and expand amenities at Prifti Park including ADA playscape and woodchips, basketball court, light for flag pole, and parking. Improve/expand parking at Swamp Park. Establish Rail Trail parking and access on Miller Road or other suitable location as identified.	EEA PARC Grant

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		<p>Support on-going renovation and ADA upgrades at New Town Beach including funding for horseshoe pits, barbecue stands, picnic tables/seating, ADA all-terrain wheelchair (2 or more), bacci ball court.</p> <p>Remove moguls that attract dirt bikes and snow mobiles on Miller Road area.</p> <p>Build a sheltered area for organized groups such as Boy Scouts to camp at town-owned land.</p>	
Objective 4-4: Increase community awareness of conservation areas for public use and outdoor education opportunities.	Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Open Space Planning Committee	<p>Promote the use of Old Town Beach for passive recreation.</p> <p>Develop park and conservation land brochure with map and regulations for distribution to the public.</p>	