

## HCC Conservation Areas Plan

Definition of Conservation Area; place that provides one or more of the following:

- Wildlife habitat
- Recreation potential/opportunities
- Ecosystem/natural community health
- Natural aesthetic value
- Conservation area connectivity

Types of Conservation Areas

- Town lands
- State lands
- Easements
- Traditional open space
- Deeded open space
- ROWs

Identifying Conservation Areas (CR1)

- Already IDed high priority areas based on Beginning with Habitat, local knowledge, etc.
- Identified deeded open space from subdivision plats
- Need to update our “list” of conservation areas based on changes to shoreland zoning, remapping of wildlife habitats by state agencies
- Keep up to date with changes in land ownership, new development plans, etc.

Plan Elements

- Location of area (map, legal boundary)
- Ownership
- Property value & economic costs/benefits of proposed management
- Management responsibility
- Goal of the area plan relative to conservation within Hampden
- Description of the area’s conservation value(s) and the goal(s) – what’s there? What condition is it in? Threats to conservation value. Reference any surveys that have been completed. Past use of the land, traditional recreation. Hazardous materials present.
- Known protection of area or different parts of the area? Zoning.
- Strategy to achieve goal and maintain conservation effectiveness
- Input (public comments, other town officials, landowners)
- Potential partnerships (other conservation groups, neighboring towns), neighboring conservation opportunities, and funding opportunities. Tax relief/benefits and programs
- Beneficiaries (segments of the public, wildlife)
- Outreach strategies specific to area
- Limitations (access, site potential, zoning and regulations, archaeological sites, easement constraints, known dangers to public)

- Public access

#### High Priority Conservation Areas

- Rank lands based on (a) immediate conservation opportunities, (b) imminent threats, (c) conservation value, (d) proximity to other conservation areas/opportunities, (e) accessibility/usability
  1. Landmark Heritage Trust area by Hammond Pond – already an easement but unsure what management plans may have been agreed upon
  2. “Town forest” off Hwy 202/Cold Brook Rd.
  3. Souadabscook stream corridor
  4. Wetland “hub” by Canaan/Kennebec junction

1 = lowest, 4 = highest

	Opportunities	Threats	Values	Proximity	Usability	TOTAL
Hammond Pond	3	1	4	4	1	13
Town Forest	4	3	1	1	4	13
Souadabscook	2	2	2	2	2	10
Canaan Mdw	1	4	3	3	3	14

Work with Hammond Pond, Town Forest, and Canaan Meadow simultaneously because they will have very different issues