Town of Grantham, New Hampshire
Critical Conservation Lands Index

Table of Contents

Executive Summary V

1 Introduction 1-1
- 1.1 Background 1-2
- 1.2 Purpose and Need 1-3
- 1.3 Methodology 1-4
  - 1.3.1 Co-occurrence mapping 1-6

2 Water Resources 2-1
- 2.1 Watersheds 2-1
- 2.2 Surface Waters 2-2
  - 2.2.1 Lakes and Ponds 2-3
    - 2.2.1.1 Eastman Pond 2-3
  - 2.2.2 Riverways and Riparian Corridors 2-4
  - 2.2.3 Wetlands 2-7
  - 2.2.4 Vernal Pools 2-8
- 2.3 Aquifers 2-10
- 2.4 Floodplains 2-11
- 2.5 Summary of Recommendations 2-11

3 Soil Resources and Steep Slopes 3-1
- 3.1 Agricultural Soils 3-2
- 3.2 Productive Forest Soils 3-3
- 3.3 Hydric Soils 3-4
- 3.4 Wildlife Habitat Potential of Soils 3-4
- 3.5 Steep Slopes and Ridgelines 3-5
- 3.6 Summary of Recommendations 3-6

4 Conserved Lands, Public Lands, and Other Recreational Opportunities 4-1
- 4.1 Conserved Parcels 4-1
  - 4.1.1 Grantham Town Forest and Sherwood Forest 4-1
  - 4.1.2 Reney Memorial Forest 4-2
  - 4.1.3 Howard Forest 4-3
  - 4.1.4 Eastman Forest 4-3
  - 4.1.5 Enfield Wildlife Management Area 4-3
- 4.2 Town Owned Properties Used for Recreation 4-4
- 4.3 Other Recreational Opportunities 4-4
  - 4.3.1 Recreational Trail System 4-4
- 4.4 Summary of Recommendations 4-5

5 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat 5-1
5.1 Species of Greatest Conservation Concern.....5-1
5.2 Rare Threatened and Endangered Species And Natural Communities 5-3
5.3 Fisheries 5-5
5.3.1 Eastern Brook Trout.....5-5
5.4 Wildlife Habitat.....5-6
5.4.1 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat (NHWAP) 5-9
5.4.2 Natural Services Network 5-10
5.4.3 Co-occurrence Analysis 5-11
5.4.3.1 Water Resources Co-occurrence.....5-11
5.4.3.2 Field and Forest Co-occurrence 5-13
5.4.3.3 Wildlife Habitat Co-occurrence.....5-14
5.4.3.4 Conservation Focus Area Co-incident Analysis 5-16
5.4.4 Connectivity.....5-17
5.5 Summary of Recommendations 5-19

6. Economic Benefits of Preserving Natural Areas 6-1
6.1 Quality of Life.....6-1
6.2 Property Taxes and Property Values.....6-2
6.3 Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.....6-2
6.3.1 Fishing and Hunting.....6-2
6.3.2 Wildlife Watching.....6-3
6.3.3 Surface Waters 6-3
6.4 Forestry and Agriculture 6-3
6.5 Ecosystem Services.....6-3
6.5.1 Drinking Water 6-4
6.6 Children and the Environment 6-4
6.7 Summary of Recommendations 6-5

7. Threats to Grantham's Natural Resources 7-1
7.1 Development and Sprawl.....7-1
7.2 Roads and Highways.....7-3
7.2.1 Unpaved Vs. Paved Roads.....7-4
7.3 Stream Habitat and Continuity.....7-6
7.3.1 Dams 7-6
7.3.2 Culverts and Bridges.....7-9
7.4 Exotic and Invasive Species.....7-11
7.5 Recreation.....7-15
7.6 Non-point Source Pollution.....7-16
7.6.1 Lawn Care.....7-17
7.7 Corbin Park 7-18
7.7.1 *Sus scrofa,* The Wild Boar 7-19
7.8 Summary of Recommendations 7-20

Appendices

Appendix A: Maps
Appendix B: New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Field Data on Eastern Brook Trout Occurrence in Grantham
Appendix C: Delphi Voting Results
Appendix D: List of Acronyms

List of Tables

Table 1-1 Natural Resource Data Layers Included in Co-occurrence Analysis 1-7

Table 2-1 Named Ponds and Lakes in Grantham 2-3
Table 2-2 Named Streams in Grantham.....2-5
Table 2-3 Vernal Pool Indicator Species 2-9

Table 4-1 Town-owned Properties Maintained for Recreational Activities 4-3

Table 5-1 Species of Greatest Conservation Concern in Grantham, NH 5-2
Table 5-2 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Natural Communities Reported in Grantham, NH 5-4
Table 5-3 Total Acreage, Acreage in Conservation, and Percentage in Conservation of Habitat Types in Grantham Predicted by the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan.....5-7
Table 5-4 Total Acreage, Acreage in Conservation, and Percentage in Conservation of High-Ranked Habitat in Grantham 5-10
Table 5-5 Natural Services Network in Grantham.....5-10
Table 5-6 Water Resources Co-occurrence Delphi Voting Scores.....5-13
Table 5-7 Field and Forest Co-occurrence Delphi Voting Scores 5-14
Table 5-8 Wildlife Habitat Co-occurrence Delphi Voting Scores 5-15

Table 6-1 Participation in Recreational Hunting and Fishing Activities and Total Expenditures of Each Activity in New Hampshire.....6-2
Table 6-2 Participation in Wildlife Watching Activities and Total Expenditures in New Hampshire 6-3

Table 7-1 Dams in Grantham.....7-8
Table 7-2 New Hampshire Prohibited Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species List 7-12
Table 7-3 New Hampshire Prohibited Aquatic Invasive Plant Species List 7-13
Table 7-4 New Hampshire Prohibited Invasive Insect Species List 7-14
Table 7-5 Proposed New Hampshire Restricted Species (Watch Species) 7-14
Table 7-6 Habitat types in Grantham potentially threatened by invasive species 7-15
Table 7-7 Habitat types in Grantham potentially threatened by non-point source pollution.....7-16

List of Figures

Figure 1-1 Grantham, NH Base Map .....Appendix A
Figure 1-2 Co-occurrence Map Structure 1-5
Figure 1-3 Polygon Feature Conversion to Grid 1-6
Figure 1-4 Co-occurrence Map Stages 1-8

Figure 2-1 Sub Watersheds 2-1
Figure 2-2 Water Resources .....Appendix A
Figure 2-3 The Strahler Stream Ordering System 2-6

Figure 3-1 Prime Agricultural Soils .....Appendix A
Figure 3-2 Important Forest Soils .....Appendix A
Figure 3-3 Hydric Soils .....Appendix A
Figure 3-4 Soils with Good to Fair Wildlife Habitat Potential .....Appendix A
Figure 3-5 Steep Slopes .....Appendix A

Figure 4-1 Conserved Lands and Recreational Opportunities .....Appendix A

Figure 5-1 Habitat Land Cover .....Appendix A
Figure 5-2 Wildlife Habitat .....Appendix A
Figure 5-3 Ecoregions of New Hampshire 5-9
Figure 5-4 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat (NHWAP) .....Appendix A
Figure 5-5 Natural Services Network .....Appendix A
Figure 5-6 Water Resources Co-occurrence Analysis .....Appendix A
Figure 5-7 Conservation Focus Areas for the
Water Resources Co-occurrence Analysis 5-11
Figure 5-8 Field and Forest Co-occurrence Analysis .....Appendix A
Figure 5-9 Conservation Focus Areas for the
Field and Forest Co-occurrence Analysis 5-13
Figure 5-10 Wildlife Habitat Co-occurrence Analysis .....Appendix A
Figure 5-11 Conservation Focus Areas for the
Wildlife Habitat Co-occurrence Analysis 5-14
Figure 5-12 Conservation Focus Area Co-incident Analysis 5-16
Figure 5-13 Potential Travel Corridors for Bobcat 5-18

Figure 7-1 Stream Crossings and Dam Locations in Grantham 7-9
Figure 7-2 Unfragmented Lands .....Appendix A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

By commissioning a Critical Conservation Lands Index, The Grantham Conservation Commission and the Town of Grantham, NH have taken a fundamental step toward protecting their natural resources. The preservation and conservation of Grantham's natural resources is vital to the future of the Town's cultural, economic, and community structure. This Critical Conservation Lands Index serves as an inventory of the natural resources in Grantham and provides a basis for land conservation planning.

This project consists of two main components:

- The written report provides a descriptive inventory of the natural resources within Grantham and makes recommendations on how the Town may protect its most valuable natural assets. Themes include water resources, soils and steep slopes, conserved and town-owned recreational lands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, the economic benefits of conservation, and the threats to natural resources that Grantham must address. The report includes maps depicting where the natural resources fall within Grantham's borders.
- The natural resource co-occurrence models analyze the available natural resource data to determine where the Town should focus conservation efforts. In short, the results of the co-occurrence suggest the Town should focus its efforts on the lands north of the Grantham Town Forest/Sherwood Forest, the Bog Brook Wetland Complex, and the largely forested and undeveloped portion of Town south and west of Dunbar Hill Road.

With the acquisition of this report, it now falls to the Grantham Conservation Commission to put the Critical Conservation Lands Index to work;

- This report should be presented to the Town planning board, selectmen, local land trusts and other conservation groups. Copies should be provided to the Town Hall, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, and the Dunbar Free Library.
- Educate the public so that they may support the Conservation Commission in its efforts. Display maps in the Town Hall—especially during town meetings—and in the local library. Publicize the Critical Conservation Lands Index in the local newspaper or town newsletter. Distribute a flyer conveying the importance of the project and summarizing the findings to local landowners to encourage stewardship.
- Develop a Conservation Plan detailing conservation priorities and resource protection goals. Incorporate this plan into the next Master Plan update.
- Evaluate zoning and subdivision regulations and make revisions that will provide smarter land use decisions.