



November CY18

# Amherst Conservation Commission

## FY25 Strategic Plan

Photo: Jared Hardner, Amherst NH

# Key Points

- ACC follows a *Conservation Plan* that guides its activities per RSA 36-A
- ACC manages >2800 acres (13% of Amherst)
- ACC's funding sources are Town Budget, Conservation Fund (LUCT revenue + forestry revenue) and donations

# Mission and Strategies

The Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC) protects and manages the town's biodiversity and natural resources and promotes the public use of natural open space for low-impact outdoor recreation that is consistent with conservation.

The ACC's strategies for pursuing its mission are to:

- Influence zoning, planning and zoning adjustments
- Acquire property and development rights where appropriate for conservation
- Manage town forests
- Manage town grasslands
- Control invasive species on ACC-managed lands
- Promote low-impact outdoor recreation
- Educate and engage citizens

# Strategy 1. Influence Zoning and Planning

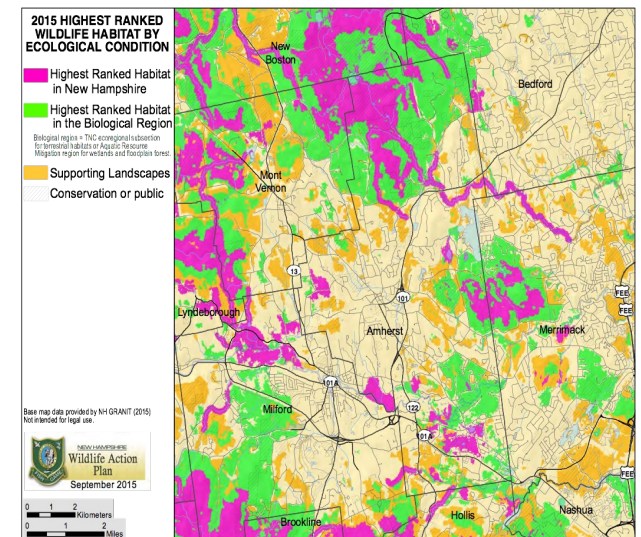
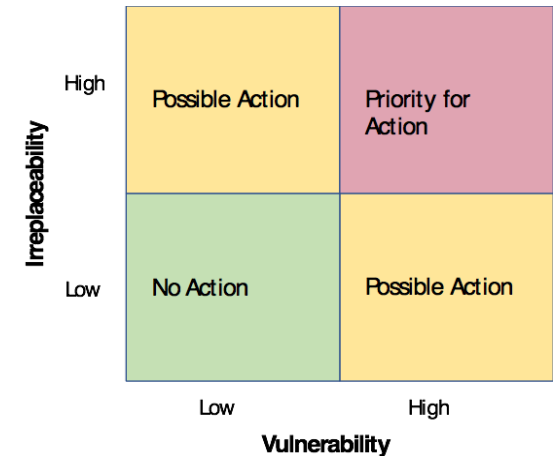
- Provide input on Zoning Ordinance
- Master Plan development
- Advise Planning Board on Conditional Use Permit applications for projects impacting wetlands and water resources
- Review permit applications to NHDES for impacts to wetlands under Section 404 of Clean Water Act
- **No financial impact**





## Strategy 2. Acquisitions

- Acquire properties or development rights for the purpose of conserving priority lands in town
- Recently acquired 178-acre Curran parcel and expect to acquire 60-acre Clearview property in collaboration with Amherst Land Trust
- Funded by Open Space Warrant Article (\$6M) and Conservation Fund
- ACC may explore another Open Space Warrant Article to continue this successful work



## Strategy 3. Manage Conserved Forests

- ACC manages its conserved forests. These include 11 areas, totaling 1744 acres
- Management has 3 objectives:
  - a) forest health and biodiversity conservation
  - b) public recreation
  - c) revenue generation
- Follows Amherst Forest Management Plan
- GIS-based inventory of forest resources
- **Funded by Conservation Fund**



## Strategy 4. Manage Grasslands

- ACC serves as the manager of various grasslands. These include 14 areas, totaling 250 acres
- Management includes periodic mowing and invasive species control
- **Funded by Conservation Fund**





## Strategy 5. Control Invasive Plant Species

- Direct control of invasives on ACC-managed lands
- Strategic collaboration with DPW on other town property
- Guided by new policy on herbicides use
- Encourage private landowners to control invasives
- Funded by Conservation Fund and Town Budget





## Strategy 6. Low-impact Outdoor Recreation

- ACC promotes outdoor recreation on the lands it manages, including 45 miles of multi-use trails
- Funded by Town Budget, volunteer labor and gifts



## Strategy 7. Education & Outreach

- Town-wide Cleanup Day
- Abundant opportunities, but need volunteer to develop and lead
- **Funded by Town Budget**



# Funding Sources Summary

## Town Budget

- Trails & infrastructure
- Invasives management
- Professional development
- Education & outreach
- Administrative support

## Conservation Fund

- Land management
- Property Acquisitions

## Town Budget Request FY 2025

		<b>2024</b>		<b>2025</b>
		<b>Budget</b>		<b>Budget</b>
10-1115	<b>Wages</b>	1,800		2,000
20-1220	<b>Social Security</b>	110		120
20-1225	<b>Medicare</b>	30		30
20-1294	<b>Educat &amp; Training/Prof Dev</b>	750		500
40-2483	<b>Land Management</b>	3,000		-
40-2486	<b>Water Crossing Repair &amp; Maint</b>	1,500		2,000
40-2487	<b>Invasives Mitigation</b>	2,500		4,000
40-2488	<b>Signage</b>	-		1,500
50-2560	<b>Dues &amp; Subscriptions</b>	1,000		1,000
50-2564	<b>Educational Outreach</b>	1,500		1,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12,190</b>		<b>12,650</b>