

Nottingham Conservation Commission Strategic Plan

2014-2017



Our Vision

The Nottingham Conservation Commission (NCC) envisions a community that works together to protect water quality, and other natural resources, for the benefit of Nottingham and its residents.

Our Mission

Mission Statement:

The mission of the NCC is to collaborate with local and regional boards and organizations to inventory, map, and protect Nottingham's natural resources and open space.

We achieve this through the following goals:

1. Improve efficiencies and communication to best serve our community
2. Identify, prioritize, and work to protect key conservation areas with unique values to people, plants, and wildlife
3. Implement and provide support to conservation sections for town Master Plan
4. Increase collaboration with Nottingham boards and community in order to best carry out and protect a shared vision for our town and its future
5. Expand education and outreach opportunities to connect all ages to Nottingham's natural resources and their benefits, resulting in increased conservation engagement of the community

Strategic Initiatives

To accomplish our vision and support these goals, the Nottingham Conservation Commission has identified and created objectives and an associated work plan to be carried out over the next three years. These goals and related initiatives meet immediate needs as well as set a long-term direction as we leverage the experience and expertise of our commission members, community, collaborating boards, organizations, and state and federal agencies.

Attachment A: Goals and Objectives 2014-2017

Goal 1: Improve efficiencies and communication to best serve our community.

- Objective 1.1: Define mission statement, role, and key activities of Conservation Commission
- Objective 1.2: Define and create position descriptions for members and positions
- Objective 1.3: Improve committee structure for meetings and communication
- Objective 1.4: Identify areas of need and create supportive volunteer and sub-committee opportunities

Goal 2: Identify, prioritize, and work to protect key conservation areas with unique values to people, plants, and wildlife.

- Objective 2.1: Work with residents and provide support needed to conserve land
- Objective 2.2: Inventory remaining and potential high conservation quality undeveloped land with attention to:
 - water quality protection
 - rare plant communities
 - wildlife habitat
 - open space
 - farmland
 - contiguous and unfragmented habitat
 - floodplain/erosion control
 - resilient habitat communities
- Objective 2.3: Identify, map, and publicly share potential parcels to connect to 4 Generals Greenway
- Objective 2.4: Update mapping and any necessary protection status for wetlands and vernal pools

Goal 3: Implement and provide support to conservation sections for Nottingham's current Master Plan.

- Objective 3.1: Review and identify conservation items on current Master Plan
- Objective 3.2: Gather appropriate research, data, expertise, and support suggested initiatives and offer recommendations
- Objective 3.3: Work with Nottingham residents and appropriate boards to implement any changes needed to further protect our natural resources and human health

Goal 4: Increase collaboration with Nottingham boards and community in order to best carry out a shared vision of conservation and resource protection for our town and its future.

- Objective 4.1: Hold public meetings with Board of Selectman and Planning Board to provide information and to support understanding of conservation easements and restrictions, benefits of conservation to preserving rural character, public health, the town operating budget, and other conservation related opportunities
- Objective 4.2: Provide any data, research, expertise, etc. that would assist decision-making that may impact town's natural resources and water quality

- Objective 4.3: Keep municipal services informed and apprised of changes in best management practices, along with workshop and continuing education/professional development opportunities related to protecting water quality and other natural resources

Goal 5: Expand education and outreach opportunities to connect people of all ages to Nottingham's natural resources and the benefits they provide, resulting in increased engagement by the community in conservation.

- Objective 5.1: Host more "walks and talks" on conservation properties, covering topics like wildlife tracking, bird identification, specialized and rare species habitats, and reading the landscape.
- Objective 5.2: Increase visibility to town, attendance at commission meetings, and volunteer opportunities through literature, brochures, posters, and PR
- Objective 5.3: Identify and prioritize future outreach opportunities including: regular website updates, social media, trail development, maps for public access to lands, and communication with neighboring towns
- Objective 5.4 Identify conservation lands total acreage and amount of positive impact to town budget these lands provide