

# Town of Brentwood Open Space Chapter

to the  
Brentwood Planning Board

*Prepared for the Brentwood Planning Board  
by the Rockingham Planning Commission*

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## Section 1 Introduction

### **A. Purpose Statement**

The purpose of the Brentwood Open Space Chapter was to identify critical resources, and agricultural, open and undeveloped land in Brentwood, and to select and prioritize those lands that should be excluded from residential, commercial and industrial growth. In doing so, the Town will sustain the ecosystem services provided by its resource base and maintain the rural character envisioned in the Brentwood's Natural Resources Inventory and Master Plan.

This report will serve as a guide for future open space planning and land protection in the town. The products developed during the planning process identify where protection is deemed most appropriate, and identify where and how to implement various modes of protection.

This report can be used by the town and various boards and commissions for the following purposes:

- Amendments to zoning districts and ordinances, and other land use regulations
- Long range planning activities (natural resource protection, growth and development, transportation)
- Capital Improvement Plan and municipal budget development
- Review of Open Space Preservation subdivision applications
- Supplemental information to grant applications
- Outreach and education of property owners and the public

### **B. What is Open Space?**

For the purpose of this report, open space is defined as any lands that remain in a natural and undeveloped condition that contribute ecological, scenic or recreational value. The definition of open space may be expanded to include working lands (forests, agriculture, field corners, fence rows and abandoned pastures) and managed green space such as golf ranges, parks, and recreation areas. The terms 'natural environment' and 'natural resources' are used to broadly describe Brentwood's air, water, and land resources including, but not limited to, the town's scenery, air quality, aquifers, streams, soils, plants and animals. These features form an integrated natural network or "green infrastructure" in which the town's built environment and its key cultural and historic resources are embedded. This matrix provides the ecosystem services required to sustain a vibrant and healthy community.

### **C. Benefits of Preserving Open Space**

Open space preservation serves multiple goals within a community. The benefits of preserving open space include:

- Attract investment by residents and businesses seeking high quality of life
- Revitalize town and village centers
- Support of resource based tourism economy
- Prevent flooding and flood related damage
- Protect farms and agricultural lands
- Promote sustainable development patterns
- Protect environmental resources (water, aquifers, air, forests)

- Provide recreational and educational opportunities

Studies from across the nation have demonstrated that farmland open space preservation can provide more revenue to a community than is incurred in expenditures, resulting in a net fiscal benefit. In many instances, the costs associated with support of residential and commercial development often exceed the costs to support farmland and open space. Tax benefits are maximized when a conservation easement is placed on land already enrolled in current use. A study conducted by the Trust for Public Land (*Managing Growth: The Impact of Conservation and Development on Property Taxes in New Hampshire, 2005*) concluded that towns that have the most permanently protected land have slightly lower tax bills on average. It is likely that land conservation alone is responsible for these tax benefits. However, land conservation is a tool that: helps maintain the rural character of a community; creates more centralized, dense development patterns; creates more efficient municipal service areas; and provides multiple environmental and aesthetic benefits. The resulting landscape is a direct result and reflection of the community's support of open space preservation.

***Managing Growth :***

***The Impact of Conservation and Development on Property Taxes in New Hampshire***

*(Trust for Public Land, 2005)*

TPL found that in the short term, land protection, by fully or partially exempting land from taxation, often reduces the tax base and results in a tax increase for a finite period. In the long term, contrary to the common perception that development will bring lower taxes, property tax bills are generally higher in more developed towns than in rural, less developed towns. Further, findings also indicate that tax bills are not higher in the towns that have the most permanently protected land regardless of the method and ownership used to conserve the land.

The study suggests that patterns of growth have an effect on both the livability and affordability of a town. Land conservation can be used as a tool in both protecting resources that contribute to quality of life (from drinking water protection to scenic beauty and recreation), as well as to help guide the path and location of municipal growth to those areas that are most appropriate and that are most cost-effective for towns to service.

In general, it is true that land increases in value when it is developed —thereby adding taxable value to the town's tax base. However, development usually requires town services—thereby increasing the budget. The tax bill on the typical house is, on average, higher in towns where:

- There are more residents, and/or
- There are more buildings.

***In the long term,*** contrary to the common perception that development will bring lower taxes, property tax bills are generally higher in more developed towns than in rural towns, and towns with more development have higher tax bills.

#### ***D. Local Support for Open Space Preservation***

##### *Funding and Regulatory*

The citizens of Brentwood have continuously voiced a strong vision to maintain Brentwood's rural character, maintain the open space and forested areas for public use and enjoyment, protect historic resources, and preserve natural resources. In addition, the citizens of Brentwood have voted consistently at various Town meetings to protect these lands and resources.

The Town currently has a total of 2,922 acres of conservation lands that have varying types of protections. The Town of Brentwood has 10,863 acres of land. This means that approximately 27% of the land in the Town is protected in some way from future development.

##### *Land Use Change Tax*

In the past, Brentwood had dedicated fifty percent (50%) of the remainder of the total Land Use Change Tax collected each year, toward land conservation efforts. Since the passage of the open space bond and the subsequent land and easement purchases this policy has changed. Now the land use change tax is returned to the general fund each year and a balance of \$75,000 is maintained for land conservation activities.

##### *Master Plan*

Brentwood's Natural Resource Inventory (2007) and Master Plan specifically support the town's vision described above by encouraging: the establishment of conservation areas; the protection of open space and natural resources (ponds, wetlands, woodlands, prime agricultural land and unique and fragile areas); protection of rural residential character; and protection of historic resources.

##### *Brentwood Open Space Committee*

The Brentwood Open Space Committee was formed in 2003 to advise the Brentwood Conservation Commission on the best and most prudent ways to preserve natural spaces in Brentwood. The Committee's mission is to initiate, support and maintain the rural character of the town while balancing the financial and environmental wishes of the townspeople. The reasons for this goal are to preserve the character of our community, protect our water supply, and maintain our existing wildlife habitat.

The primary purpose of the Brentwood Open Space Committee is to provide information to the residents of Brentwood about the benefits of preserving natural spaces. The Committee identifies and prioritizes land in Brentwood for possible protection, it acts as an advisor to landowners who are considering maintaining their land as open space and works with landowners who wish to transfer their development rights as part of a conservation easement or sell their land in order to permanently protect it. These functions and responsibilities have now been assumed by the Brentwood Conservation Commission whose open space protection efforts include working to raise funds by both proposing bond initiatives for the town budget and by writing grant proposals in an effort to receive funds from public or private third parties.

## Section 2 Open Space Planning

*Note: It is extremely important to recognize that landowners whose land falls within the green infrastructure or identified as an open space protection area are free to dispose of their land as they choose, consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Inclusion of land within the green infrastructure or identified as an open space protection area is NOT an indication that the Town of Brentwood has any legal interest in the land or has any intention of taking the land for a public purpose.*

### **Step 1: Identification of High Value Natural Resources**

**Process.** Step 1 in the open space planning process was the identification of high value natural resources that will be used to define open space lands within the town. The natural resources were grouped into four broad categories (shown in green highlight) based on their resource function or type.

**TABLE1. Description of Natural Resources Evaluated for Open Space Protection**

<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Soil Types</i>	
Important Forest Soils	<i>Groups 1A and 1B that support diverse high-quality hardwood species</i>
Agricultural Soils	<i>Includes prime soils, and soils of statewide and local importance</i>
<i>Open Space Continuity</i>	
Unfragmented Areas 50 acres or greater	<i>Lands of any type including forest, agricultural land, wetlands and surface waters</i>
Unfragmented Areas 100 acres or greater	
Unfragmented Areas 500 acres or greater	
NH Wildlife Action Plan highest ranked habitats	<i>Habitat types of exemplary quality and rare habits in the region or statewide</i>
<i>Water Quality</i>	
Stratified Drift Aquifer	<i>Drinking water source areas</i>
Special Flood Hazard Zones	<i>As identified on FEMA maps; areas subject to inundation and erosion</i>
Wetlands, perennial streams, lakes, ponds (including a 250' buffer from them)	<i>Surface water resources important for maintaining water quality</i>
Prime wetlands plus 100' buffer	<i>High value wetlands and habitats</i>
<i>Views/Quality of Life</i>	
Scenic Views/Ridgelines & Hilltops	<i>Quality of life, aesthetics and land value</i>
Forested (general)	<i>All forested areas; timber resource and unfragmented lands</i>
Forested (Hemlock/Pine)	<i>Two specific forest types prevalent in certain</i>

The Town of Brentwood is fortunate to have an abundance of all of these natural resources. As identified in the Natural Resources inventory completed in 2009 areas of town exhibit each of these resources in substantial quantities.

Important farmland soils exist throughout Town with substantial farming activity having been found on North Road, Middle Road and South Road. This resource is one of the most stressed statewide due in large measure to residential conversion. Brentwood has experienced the loss of historic farms to residential development several times in the past few decades and preservation of the remaining farms and agriculturally significant lands is a priority for the Town.

Water resources and water quality are priority areas for the community and preservation of these resources were given great importance by the community profile process undertaken by the Town in 2003. The town has several rivers and streams of significance including a large stretch of the Exeter River. In addition the Town is fortunate to have some of the highest yield aquifers in Rockingham County. Those found in the Industrial Commercial zone along Pine Road have been evaluated by The US Geologic Survey (USGS, 1991) as being some of the highest yield aquifers in southeastern NH.

Unfragmented lands are some of the most valuable natural resources remaining in Rockingham County. As explained in the Brentwood Natural Resources Inventory these lands:

- Provide essential forest interior habitat for species such as some songbirds that need to be distanced from human activity, pets, and the forest edge in order to survive;
- Provide habitat for mammals that have large home ranges and prefer to avoid human contact, such as bobcat, otter, and moose;
- Enable owners of large parcels of forestland to conduct timber harvests that are economically viable;
- Minimize conflicts that can arise when managed forests and farms are surrounded and interspersed with development;
- Offer opportunities for remote recreation, including hunting, hiking and snowmobiling, where landowners allow.

There are few tracts of land remaining in Brentwood that are unfragmented and in excess of five hundred acres in size but efforts to protect these would have a significant positive impact on the natural environment of Town. Unfragmented lands of either fifty or one hundred acres in size still exist in Brentwood but their numbers are limited and are of the highest priority for future protection. These privately owned parcels are mostly found in the interior areas of town, north of Middle Road and east of Crawley Falls Road.

## **Step 2: Definition of the Green Infrastructure**

Step 2 in the open space planning process involves defining the “Green Infrastructure” meaning the contiguous resource network and natural areas across town. The green infrastructure is the area that, if protected from development or degradation, should ensure that the services provided by the natural environment to Brentwood’s residents could be sustained. These natural services include:

- Maintaining the quality of groundwater and surface water;
- Protecting the health of rivers and streams;
- Improving air quality;
- Providing sufficient habitat for plants and animals;
- Providing an opportunity for outdoor recreation for residents at a reasonable distance from their homes;
- Creating a pleasant and scenic environment in which to live;
- Preserving existing trails networks: and
- Preserving interconnected green spaces that allow for trails connecting the various parts of town and allowing for the movement of wildlife.

**Process.** To develop *Green Infrastructure* the general guidelines include selecting priority areas that include the resources describes in the section above that incorporate the following:

- Include areas of exceptionally high resource value for a particular category
- Include areas where multiple resource values occur in the same place
- Give added consideration to lands near existing conservation lands
- Give added consideration to lands that allow residents reasonable access to open space
- Avoid areas slated for industrial or commercial development, unless they contain exceptionally high quality resources
- Include at least 25 percent of the Town’s land area to ensure the sustainability of natural processes

### **Step 3: Determine areas of Priority Protection Areas**

Step 3 in the open space planning process, is to find the areas of land in Town with the priority resource detailed above. Where a number of these priority resources overlap the benefits of future protection is increased.

When looking at a map of the town these areas become obvious. The Exeter River Corridor is a high priority area with many large unfragmented parcels, agricultural and forested resources present. This river corridor is home to some of the most significant land preservation activity in our region of the state. For over twenty years, land specialists have been working with land owners to preserve substantial acreages located on both sides of the Exeter River. Efforts should continue to protect as much land along the Exeter River as possible to insure its natural integrity into the future.

The area of town ringed by Deer Hill Road North Road, Prescott Road and Middle Road has several large parcels of undeveloped lands, encompasses a large portion of the Dudley Brook watershed and has significant agricultural soils as well.



In the south west section of Town between Crawley Falls Road and Lake Road there is a large area of undeveloped lots with high value forested resources, proximity to co-occurring wildlife habitats (as detailed in the Brentwood Natural Resources Inventory) and groundwater resources identified by USGS aquifer studies.

Two other areas in town have high value for future open space preservation. The first is located in the area of town surrounded by Prescott Road, North Road, Scrabble Road and Lyford Lane. This area has a few large, unfragmented parcels that are directly abutting already preserved lands. Their protection could expand the wildlife benefits already existing with the protected lands present. In addition these lands have agricultural soils and forested resources of high value. The second area is found north of North Road and encompasses some large lots with significant stream networks and forested resources. A significant amount of this land is owned by Rockingham County but future protection would result in substantial benefits to the natural environment.

A natural extension of open space preservation is the creation or revitalization of trails networks on conserved lands. Efforts to connect existing or new trails to abutting conserved land, neighborhoods and secondary roads can improve the quality of life and health for residents while preserving rural character. Protection of existing trails and new trail creation should be more actively pursued by the community.

### Section 3 Conservation and Protection Strategies

#### A. Land Conservation and Protection Strategies

Land conservation and protection strategies include land ownership, voluntary and regulatory and management actions that serve to preserve the green infrastructure by protecting open space and natural resources. These strategies and their associated benefits are listed below.

<b>Protection Strategy</b>	<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Land Acquisition	Purchase of land at fair market value or as a bargain sale where the difference between fair market value and sale price becomes a tax-deductible donation; Public access, leverage for securing funding	High
Purchase of Easements/ Development Rights	Growth management tool; retain development density and tax base if rights transferred to growth areas	High
Regulatory Protection	Preservation of public resources and their functions and values to the community; federal, state and local implementation	Low/No
Land Use Regulations	Adoption of an incentive based Conservation Subdivision ordinance can provide large tracts of open space lands as part of development approval	Low/No

Voluntary Protection/Easements	Voluntary conservation easements involving donation of development rights; Private stewardship and management; public access permitted in some cases	Low/No
Land and Resource Management	Fosters public participation and stewardship	Low/No
Transfer of Development Rights	Voluntary transfer of development rights from designated open space areas to designated growth areas that allow greater development density	Low/No

## Section 4 Financial Planning for Land Conservation

### A. Existing Conditions

Currently, Brentwood has 1,350 housing units (from NHOEP Housing Unit Survey, 2012) and 6,946 acres of buildable land (from 2009 Buildout Analysis). Given the population growth trends from 1990 to 2010 Brentwood is likely to experience more growth than previously anticipated. Land consumption will likely increase proportionately in response to population growth.

#### *Brentwood Population Statistics, 1990 to 2010*

1990 Census	2000 Census	2012
2590	3197	4486

### B. Buildout and Growth Projections

For the purposes of budgeting and assigning land protection strategies, the time horizon of this plan is indefinite: it looks forward to the day when opportunities for both “land preservation” and “build out” in Brentwood have been maximized. In reality, given the pace of development in southern New Hampshire, it appears that “build out” is roughly 10 to 40 years in the future. This indefinite timeframe has limited use in computing the total cost of implementing open space preservation for two reasons:

- 1) there is wide variability within the estimated range for when build out may occur; and
- 2) the predicted rate of inflation, much less fluctuations in real estate values even 10 years into the future, is highly speculative.

### C. Previous Funding for Land Protection

Historically the town has succeeded in leveraging its own resources with federal, state and private dollars. The Open Space Plan assumes that funding rates can be sustained, at least in the

near term. Brentwood voters authorized \$2,000,000 through a bond measure in 2003 to be applied to land acquisition and conservation. These funds have been utilized to purchase land and conservation easements over the last nine years. The Town should continue to apply for matching grant funds to support land acquisition and protection, including the NH wetlands mitigation fund, water and watershed grants, habitat protection grants, and federal transportation funding.

It is important to recognize that open space preservation can serve multiple community objectives, and funding is often specific to certain needs, from planning and community process, to land acquisition and development, to maintenance of infrastructure. For example, purchasing an open space corridor could serve to provide stormwater retention, improve water quality, provide aquifer recharge, provide recreational opportunities, and establish bicycle and pedestrian connections within the community. Furthermore, funds for purchasing the open space corridor could be shared among several departments and other sources within the capital budget.

#### ***D. Adaptive Approach to Land Protection***

Alternatively, the Open Space Plan recommends the town should take an adaptive approach to financial planning, recognizing that the recommendations of this plan represent a “best guess” as to what needs to be done in the near term to execute open space preservation as recommended in this report. However, since the ability to predict land values is beyond the near term is very limited, the Open Space Plan recommends reviewing the open space financial plan on an annual basis, in conjunction with the annual budget and Capital Improvement Plan process, as well as the availability of outside funding sources.

In the foreseeable future, the Open Space Plan assumed an equal level of funding for open space protection. Since, as discussed above, it is not possible to predict how much time is left before the town is essentially built out, the question of how much funding to dedicate on an annual basis is largely a question of risk. The risk is that the point of build out will be reached before the open space protection acquisitions are complete. At too low a level of annual funding, the town may not be able to preserve the parcels recommended for protection in this report, because they will be developed before the town has raised sufficient funds to protect them. At too high a level of annual funding, taxpayers may feel they simply cannot afford to support open space acquisition, even though they support the concept of open space protection. Current funding levels should allow continued open space planning and preservation.

#### ***E. Future Funding Strategy for Land Protection***

The challenge when evaluating options is to strike a balance between what improves the community in the long term, what taxpayers can afford, and what other interests need to be served. An option to address the funding dilemma is to follow the adaptive financial management approach discussed above. The Towns current level of maintaining \$75,000 for use in open space planning and protection seems appropriate. The community has approximately 2900 acres of land in various forms of protection. This represents 27% of the total acres (10,863) existing in Town. Although not a statistic easily corroborated, it is likely that Brentwood has one of the highest percentages of protected lands in Rockingham County.

#### **F. Future Growth Projections**

The Brentwood Planning Board engaged the Rockingham Planning Commission to complete a residential build out analysis in 2009. The results of this analysis were that under present zoning conditions the number of housing units in Town could double before the town was completely built out. Although this scenario is unlikely because zoning standards are fluid and can be changed over time, the buildout exercise demonstrated that open space preservation is an important element in guiding the future land use trends for the town.

The following map displays the current parcel based protected land areas in Brentwood and the spreadsheet details the owner, tax map number, protective measure and parcel size of each of these protected areas.







## Section 5 Recommendations

The Brentwood Open Space Plan recommends the following to implement open space preservation in the town:

1. The green infrastructure identified in this report should be adopted as part of the town's "blueprint" for open space preservation.
2. The Town should consider continued outreach efforts to the property owners of land located in the green infrastructure areas discussed in this plan to encourage continued preservation of open space areas.
3. The town should continue to work expeditiously and cooperatively with owners of developed parcels and those parcels proposed for development within the recommended green infrastructure to ensure that open space is preserved or managed to the extent possible.
4. The town should re-examine the recommendations of this report at no more than three year intervals, and review the open space financing plan annually as part of the Capital Improvement Plan process.
5. The town's Capital Improvement Plan should include an annual open space investment consistent with land conservation priorities and other capital needs.
6. The Planning Board should consider existing open spaces in proximity to new development proposals when the possibility exists to build upon existing open areas.
7. The open space planning efforts that have taken place in Town have protected more than 27% of the total acres town-wide. This plan recommends continuing preservation efforts in order to offset future growth.
8. Planning for trails should be considered in Planning Board submittals and considered when pursuing easements and land acquisitions.



## Appendix A Grant Sources

### LIST OF GRANT FOR LAND CONSERVATION and OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS

**Tip:** If you are uncertain of the funding program to fit your need, contact the Center for Land Conservation at the Society of NH Forests at (603) 224-9945 or [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org) or [www.clca.forestsociety.org](http://www.clca.forestsociety.org) or.

#### **Grant Program: NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)**

**Brief explanation:** Funds to acquire conservation land, historic buildings, sites

- **Name of grantor agency:** NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
- **Key contact person(s):** Deborah Turcott, Executive Director
- **Amount of funding available:** \$Varies according to Legislative allocations
- **Key criteria for applications:** Significant natural resource area; significant historic buildings and sites
- **Funding cycle and deadlines:** undetermined
- **Website address:** [www.lchip.org](http://www.lchip.org)

#### **Grant Program: Land and Water Conservation Fund**

**Brief explanation:** Municipalities can apply for assistance for local parks and recreation programs.

- **Name of grantor agency:** Division of Parks and Recreation, NH DRED
- **Key contact person(s):** Shari Colby, Community Outreach Specialist
- **Amount of funding available:** \$20,000 per project; 50/50 match
- **Key criteria for applications:** Outdoor recreation proposals; see Project Evaluation criteria
- **Funding cycle and deadlines:** Late January
- **Website address:** <http://www.nhparks.state.nh.us/community-programs/land-and-water-conservation-fund/>

#### **Grant Program: Farm and Ranchland Protection Program**

**Brief explanation:** Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranchland in agricultural uses. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement.

- **Name of grantor agency:** US Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **Key contact person(s):** Jody Walker, Assistant State Conservationist
- **Amount of funding available:** Varies based on Congressional appropriation
- **Key criteria for applications:** See website below
- **Funding cycle and deadlines:** Open; on-going acceptance
- **Website address:** <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>

## **Grant Program: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**

Brief explanation: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides funding on a competitive basis to projects that sustain, restore and enhance the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats through our *Keystone Initiative Grants* and other *Special Grant Programs*.

- Name of grantor agency: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Key contact person(s): Mike Slattery
- Amount of funding available: Keystone \$50 to \$300k; special – varies
- Key criteria for applications: Specific to program
- Funding cycle and deadlines: June and November; Pre-proposal-April 1<sup>st</sup>; Full June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Website address: <http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>

## **Grant Program: Forest Legacy Program**

Brief explanation: The Forest Legacy Program is a partnership between states and the USDA Forest Service to identify and help conserve environmentally important forests from conversion to nonforest uses. The main tool used for protecting these important forests is conservation easements. The Federal government may fund up to 75% of program costs, with at least 25% coming from private, state or local sources

- Name of grantor agency: Division of Forest and Lands, NH DRED
- Key contact person(s): Susan Francher, Forester
- Amount of funding available: Varies annually; based on national competition
- Key criteria for applications: Project identified in a Forest Legacy Area (FLA) and meet continuation of traditional forest uses including forest
- Funding cycle and deadlines: July 15<sup>th</sup> annually
- Website address: <http://na.fs.fed.us/legacy/index.shtm>

## **Grant Program: Transportation Enhancement (TE)**

Brief explanation: The intent of the TE program is to afford an opportunity to develop “livable communities” by selecting projects that preserve the historic culture of the transportation system and/or enhance the operation of the system for its users. Projects with a water quality component associated with transportation facilities are eligible. 80/20 funding.

- Name of grantor agency: Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance, NH DOT
- Key contact person(s): Thomas Jameson, PM, (603) 271-3462
- Amount of funding available: \$3.8 M for TE
- Key criteria for applications: TE: encourage non-motorized transportation, pedestrian
- Funding cycle and deadlines: Summer of odd years and submit to the RPC; TE Advisory Committee recommends projects
- Website address: <http://www.nh.gov/dot/municipalhighways/tecmaq/details.htm>

### **Grant Program: Grassland Reserve Program**

Brief explanation: The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property. The program helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland, pastureland, shrubland and certain other lands.

- Name of grantor agency: US Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Key contact person(s): Jody Walker, Assistant State Conservationist
- Amount of funding available: Varies based on Congressional appropriation
- Key criteria for applications: See website below
- Funding cycle and deadlines: Open; on-going acceptance
- Website address: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

### **Grant Program: Water Supply Land Protection Grant Program**

Brief explanation: Also known as the Source Water Protection Program, NH DES can make 25 percent matching grants to municipal water suppliers for the purchase of land or conservation easements critical to their water quality. These water supply lands must be currently unprotected and within the wellhead protection area for a groundwater source or within the source water protection area and within five miles of the intake of a surface water source. These match sources can include donated land or easements that are also within the source water protection area, public funds, transaction expenses, or private funds. Also, there is a low interest loan fund available from DES that may be used to finance the match.

- Name of grantor agency: NH DES
- Key contact person(s): Holly Green
- Amount of funding available: Uncertain, but DES is soliciting applications; 25/75
- Key criteria for applications: Unprotected water supply land
- Funding cycle and deadlines: November
- Website address:  
[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land\\_acqui/ws\\_landgrant.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land_acqui/ws_landgrant.htm)

***For special purpose land conservation projects, the following may be of interest:***

#### **Ecologically Important Land**

- Sweet Water Trust <http://www.sweetwatertrust.org/>
- Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire provides funds for NH Fish and Game projects. Contact: Chuck Miner at (603) 271-3511 <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/foundation>.
- Endangered Species Fund is a federal fund available to states for the conservation of T & E species. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/ESA/sec6.html>
- The Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund establishes a matching grants program to fund projects that promote the conservation of these birds. <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/index.shtm>

#### **Wetlands, Waterfowl, Fisheries Habitat**

- The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Administered through the federal

Fish and Wildlife Service. Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Coordinator Andrew Milliken at [andrew\\_milliken@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_milliken@fws.gov). <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/index.shtm> and <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/USstandgrants.html>

- NH Fish and Game Department has a Small Grants Program to help landowners with a minimum of 25 acres restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. For more information, contact the Wildlife Division at (603) 271-2461, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife.htm>  
For the Fisheries Habitat Conservation Program contact John Magee  
Fish Habitat Biologist [john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov)
- The Moose Plate program: <http://www.mooseplate.com/overview.html>
- Wetlands mitigation funds. Funds which permitting authorities (NH Dept. of Environmental Services, US Army Corps of Engineers) may require developers to provide for land conservation as mitigation for loss of wetland values resulting from proposed development. Contact municipal planning officials or the developer for details about specific projects.
- NH Department of Environmental Services established the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund to compensate for loss of wetlands. Contact: Lori Sommer at (603) 271-4059 or [lori.sommer@des.nh.gov](mailto:lori.sommer@des.nh.gov)  
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wet/documents/wb-17.pdf>
- Ducks Unlimited. <http://www.ducks.org/> State contact: Ed Robinson, NH Fish & Game Department, (603) 271-2462.
- Trout Unlimited Contact: Elizabeth Maclin, Vice President for Eastern Conservation Programs: [emaclin@tu.org](mailto:emaclin@tu.org). For local projects involving a component of stream habitat restoration or improvement, there is the Embrace-A-Stream grant program that is available through state councils and local chapters of TU. The TU council or chapter must be the applicant for the funds. For more information about the EAS program go to:  
<http://www.tu.org/site/c.kkLRJ7MSkTH/b.3198137/k.9DD6/EmbraceAStream.htm>
- Watershed Action Grants. The Conservation Fund, Contact: Nancy Bell, Vermont Representative <http://www.conservationfund.org/>

## **PARKS**

### **Grant Program: Recreational Trail Program (RTP)**

Brief explanation: RTP funds may be used for maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities, trail linkages, and acquisition of easements or property for trails.

Name of grantor agency: Bureau of Trails, NH DRED

Key contact person(s): Chris Gamache, Program Coordinator

Amount of funding available: \$25,000 maximum;

Key criteria for applications: 80/20 match

Funding cycle and deadlines: January

Website address: <http://www.nhtrails.org/grants-and-programs/recreational-trails-program/>  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails>

**Grant Program: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

Brief explanation: LWCF funds may be used for acquisition, development and restoration of existing or proposed parks.

Name of grantor agency: Division of Parks, NH DRED

Key contact person(s): Shari Colby, Outreach Coordinator

Amount of funding available: \$20,000 cap per project

Key criteria for applications: Applications must be submitted by a municipality, school district, county or state agency / department for government owned property. 50/50 match required.

Funding cycle and deadlines: January

Website address: <http://www.nhstateparks.org/community-programs/land-and-water-conservation-fund/grant-round-information-and-application-packet/>

**Other Grant Sources****Farm Bill**

For information on the 2008 Farm Bill, visit <http://www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008/>

**Piscataqua Regional Estuaries Program (Coastal CTAP)**

This program is of interest to the I-93 CTAP Towns of Candia, Chester Danville, Deerfield, Brentwood and Raymond as they are located in the Coastal Zone watershed area. See: <http://www.nhep.unh.edu/programs/community-assistance.htm>

**Moose Plate Grants**

The state's Moose Plate program provides funding for cultural heritage, conservation and environmental programs. For details, see: <http://www.mooseplate.com/grants.html>.

*Source: Grant Resources Guide: Grant Opportunities for CTAP Communities (prepared for the Rockingham Planning Commission by TF Moran, Inc. 2010)*