

## Natural and Water Resources

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**State Goal for Natural Resources: To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas, and unique natural areas.**

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Policies:	Strategies:	Implementing/Timeframe:
1. To conserve critical natural resources in the community	1.1: Ensure that land use ordinances are consistent with applicable state law regarding critical natural resources	
	1.2: Designate critical natural resources as Critical Resource Areas in the Future Land Use Plan.	
	1.3: Through local land use ordinances, require subdivision or non-residential property developers to look for and identify critical natural resources that may be on site and to take appropriate measures to protect those resources, including but not limited to, modification of the proposed site design, construction timing, and/or extent of excavation.	
	1.4: Through local land use ordinances, require the planning board (or other designated review authority) to include as part of the review process, consideration of pertinent BwH maps and information regarding critical natural resources.	

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<p>2. To coordinate with neighboring communities and regional and state resource agencies to protect shared critical natural resources</p>	<p>2.1: Initiate and/or participate in interlocal and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources.</p> <p>2.2: Pursue public/private partnerships to protect critical and important natural resources such as through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers</p> <p>2.3: Distribute or make available information to those living in or near critical or important natural resources about current use tax programs and applicable local, state, or federal regulations.</p>	
<p>3. To protect current and potential drinking water sources</p>	<p>3.1: Adopt or amend local land use ordinances as applicable to incorporate stormwater runoff performance standards consistent with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Maine Stormwater Management Law and Maine Stormwater regulations (Title 38 M.R.S.A. §420-D and 06-096 CMR 500 and 502).</li> <li>o Maine Department of Environmental Protection's allocations for allowable levels of phosphorus in lake/pond watersheds.</li> </ul>	

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Policies:	Strategies:	Implementing/Timeframe:
4. To protect significant surface water resources from pollution and improve water quality where needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program</li> </ul> <p>4.1: Consider amending local land use ordinances, as applicable, to incorporate low impact development standards.</p> <p>4.2: Where applicable, develop an urban impaired stream watershed management or mitigation plan that will promote continued development or redevelopment without further stream degradation.</p>	
5. To protect water resources in growth areas while promoting more intensive development in those areas	<p>5.1: Maintain, enact or amend public wellhead and aquifer recharge area protection mechanisms, as necessary.</p> <p>5.2: Encourage landowners to protect water quality. Provide local contact information at the municipal office for water quality best management practices from resources such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, Maine Forest</p>	

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Policies:	Strategies:	Implementing/Timeframe:
	Service, and/or Small Woodlot Association of Maine.	
6. To minimize pollution discharges through the upgrade of existing public sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities	6.1: Adopt water quality protection practices and standards for construction and maintenance of public and private roads and public properties and require their implementation by contractors, owners, and community officials and employees.	
7. To cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect water resources.	7.1: Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality. 7.2: Provide educational materials at appropriate locations regarding aquatic invasive species.	
8. Maintain extensive and diverse wildlife resources and habitat for ecosystem vitality. Prevent destruction or degradation of rare plants and significant natural communities.	8.1 Promote landowner awareness and action by developing or obtaining and distributing information about the need to protect Essential, Significant, and other wildlife habitats, wetlands, and unusual natural features. 8.2 Strengthen regulatory protection by adding deer yards and other unique wildlife resources to the list of resources to be protected in	IC and Town Office, 2014  Amendments to Land Use Standards, 2015, an assessment of current habitat and critical species to be

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Policies:	Strategies:	Implementing/Timeframe:
	subdivision and site plan review after requesting current information from Beginning with Habitat database. Require applicants to request review from the Natural Areas Program when in area of known unusual communities or rare plants.	initiated in fall of 2013 and preformed minimally on a biennial basis
	8.3 Revise the shoreland zoning ordinance or adopt other land use provisions as needed to include all areas within 75 feet of all perennial streams and to ensure adequate protection for kettle hole bogs.	Amendments to Shoreland Zoning, 2015
	8.4 Establish a Critical Resource Conservation District, encompassing all areas of known critical resource assets.	Land Use Plan (Chapter 14)
9. Maintain an interconnected system of undeveloped lands which sustains rural resource and recreation values	9.1 Prepare an open space plan including criteria for public land acquisition to provide direction and establish priorities for conserving an interconnected system of open space areas.	Conservation Committee, begin in 2017
	9.2 Establish and fund an Open Space Acquisition Reserve Account to leverage grants and private donations for the purchase of fee title, easements, or development rights of key parcels of land identified in the open space plan.	Town meeting, upon completion of Open Space Plan
10. Protect the integrity and natural functions of valuable wetlands	10.1 Aggressively enforce existing regulations and determine whether additional protection is needed for wetlands and their buffers through	CEO, ongoing

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Policies:	Strategies:	Implementing/Timeframe:
	regulation, voluntary landowner actions or initiative by nonprofit organizations.	
	10.2 Monitor the disturbance of forested wetlands, particularly those adjacent to water bodies and wetlands and not included in shoreland zoning, and request IF&W to evaluate those which have not yet been evaluated to determine their need for protection.	CEO and volunteers, beginning 2014
11. Maintain the flood storage capacity of floodplains and eligibility for federal insurance	11.1 Continue to enforce the Town's floodplain ordinance and determine whether the shoreland zone should extend beyond 250 feet in areas where floodplain boundaries are greater.	CEO, ongoing
12. Assure that scenic views, historic landscapes, tree lines roads, and rural character are protected	12.1 Amend land use ordinances to: A. adjust setbacks for new structures in rural areas B. limit tree cutting within new development to enhance rural character by the maintenance of existing forested buffers. C. Encourage development designs which maximize the preservation of views and rural features, i.e. stonewalls; and which limit outdoor lighting. D. regulate the size, lighting, number, color, and height of signs, especially in rural areas.	Regulatory changes, 2015



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Policies:	Strategies:	Implementing/Timeframe:
	E. Regulate the visual impact of communication towers	
	12.2 Discourage the expansion of street lights in rural areas except where safety necessitates	Town meeting to consider policy, 2015
	12.3 Educate landowners about the availability of the Open Space Tax law	Literature at town office, 2014
13. Recognize gravel as a valuable economic resource and permit extraction while preventing adverse impacts	13.1 Include the Belgrade Esker/Delta Complex in districts where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses which threaten groundwater are excluded or controlled through performance standards</li> <li>• Residential development is allowed but not encouraged, at least until extraction is complete in the vicinity</li> </ul>	Land Use Plan, 2015
	13.2 Encourage redevelopment of pits for other uses	Planning Board, ongoing
14. Coordinate resource protection with neighboring towns	14.1 Initiate and/or participate in interlocal and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important natural resources	Selectboard, IC, 2014
15. The Belgrade Lakes will continue to be known throughout Maine and the nation for their outstanding	15.1 Establish the conservation committee that was recommended in the 1998 comprehensive plan	Selectboard authorized by 2014
	15.2 Inventory town roads to determine which segments have the greatest impact on water	Conservation committee, 2014

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	<b>Strategies:</b>	<b>Implementing/Timeframe:</b>
<p>water quality and scenic beauty.</p>	<p>quality and develop and implement a remediation program</p>	
	<p>15.3 continue to train town road crews in DEP standards for erosion and sedimentation control and apply to all town owned road and facilities projects</p>	<p>Selectboard, town manager, ongoing</p>
	<p>15.4 Continue commitment to clean storm drains in the Belgrade lakes village</p>	<p>Public Works, ongoing</p>
	<p>15.5 Ensure continued strong levels of protection to control phosphorus from all sources of new development and other land use disturbances. Include implementation of the ordinances existing phosphorus, storm water, and soil erosion control standards by utilizing the boards existing authority to hire technical reviews of these submissions to ensure they are complete and met the requirements of the ordinance, paid for by the developer.</p>	<p>Retain DEP's phosphorus control methods and erosion and sedimentation standards in land use ordinances, including roads, individual new homes (with flexibility for existing small lots), and significant earth moving disturbances. Require code enforcement inspection at critical time(s) to ascertain compliance.</p>
	<p>15.6 Actively support the lake associations, land trust, and private initiatives aimed at protecting and improving lake water quality and educating the public about appropriate techniques. Continue to annually support the BRCA Conservation Corps.</p>	<p>Selectboard, Conservation Committee, ongoing</p>
	<p>15.7 Actively pursue the development of Watershed District in order to receive increased conservation funding.</p>	<p>Conservation Committee, Long-term</p>



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<p>16 Belgrade will continue to have a high quality ground water resource of ample quantity for public and private drinking supplies</p>	<p>15.8 Request Lake associations to provide information for distribution at the town office, promoting boater awareness of sensitive wildlife populations and habitats on the lakes.</p>	<p>Town office, 2014</p>
	<p>16.1 Track contamination sites and encourage citizens to share the results of problematic water quality test results with the Town.</p>	<p>Designate the code enforcement officer as a contact and resource, and establish a procedure for dealing with problems. 2015</p>
	<p>16.2 Use, and update as possible, existing data from DEP and DHS and the Town's plumbing inspector regarding identified contaminated sites and sites which have old underground tanks when reviewing development proposals to determine whether available ground water is already contaminated or likely to become so.</p>	<p>Planning Board, Ongoing</p>
	<p>16.3 Strengthen standards to protect private and public drinking water supplies from contamination from petroleum and hazardous substances. Requiring proposed petroleum storage facilities and businesses using or generating hazardous substances to provide documentation of compliance with State laws and regulations governing drinking water protection.</p>	<p>Add to commercial development performance standards, 2015</p>
	<p>16.4 Consider whether a protective district is needed for the school's water supply.</p>	<p>Selectboard, 2016</p>

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17. Cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect water resources	17.1 Continue to engage local officials in other watershed towns in making lake protection plans, regulations, and activities consistent	Selectboard, planning board engage in regular multi-town meetings through Maine Lakes resource Center beginning 2014

## Committee Determined Goals and Policies:

### Goals, Policies, and Strategies from Previous Plan:

These are to be discussed to determine if they were accomplished. If not, are they still relevant today?