Wilton Conservation Plan

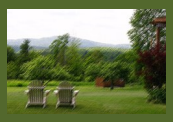
Executive Summary

Print Date:
February 5, 2016

Carnival Hill

In 2015, members of the Wilton Conservation Commission worked with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission to complete an update of the town's Conservation Plan. Although many of the town's values related to natural resource protection and conservation remain enduring and constant, the update provided the town an opportunity to inventory and evaluate conservation conditions and efforts. All of the conserved lands or tracts in current use were inventoried and mapped to provide town residents an updated and complete picture of conservation in Wilton today and needs moving forward. The update also provided the Conservation Commission the opportunity to fine-tune conservation goals, included below, in response to current trends and conditions.

Conservation Plan Goals

1. 

   Preserve the visual character of Wilton by protecting its natural, historic, scenic and agricultural resources.

2.

   Promote the conservation, protection and sound management of the Town's natural resources.

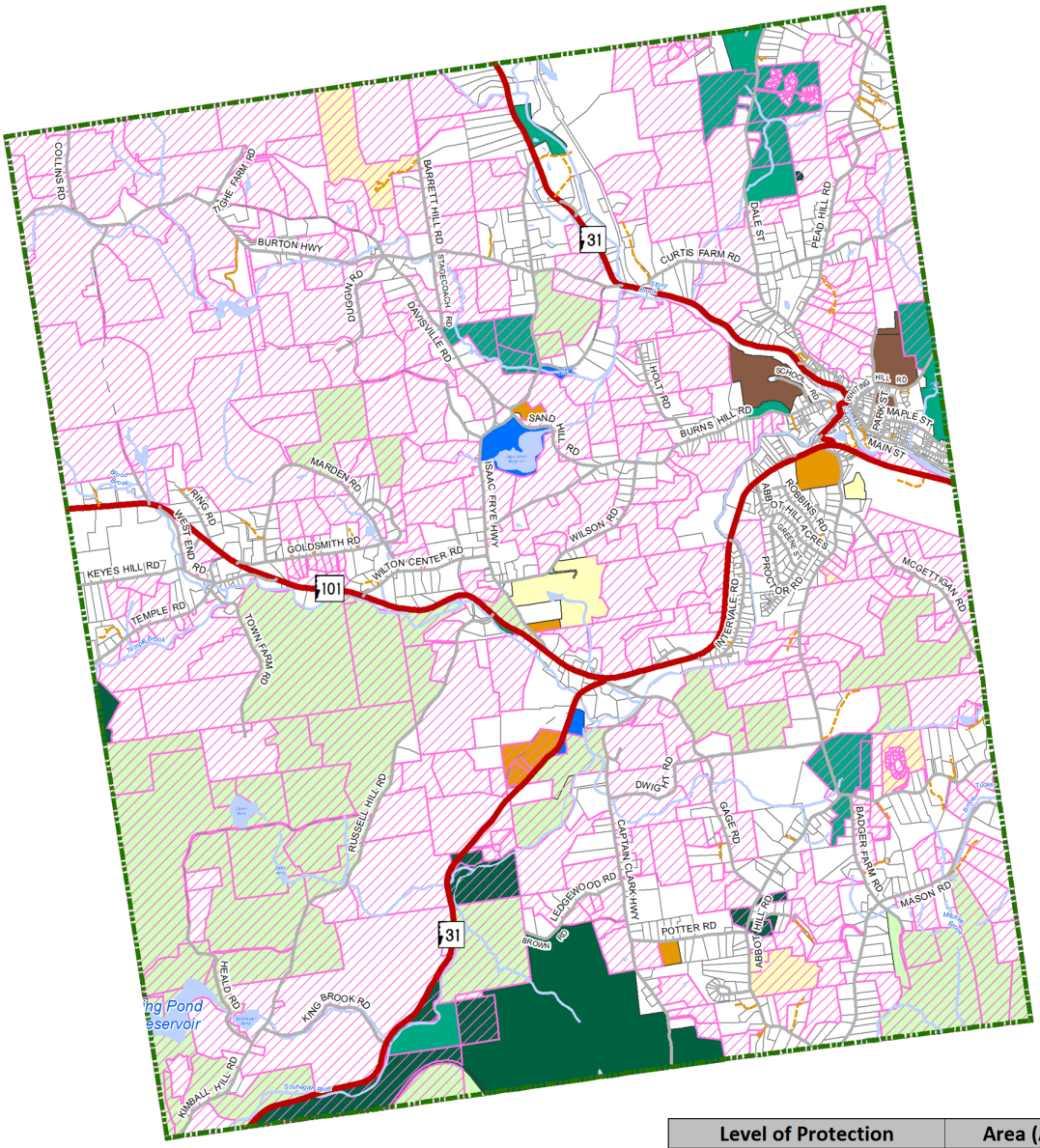
3.

   Provide a broad range of recreational activities for all ages and user groups.

4.

   Protect and preserve Wilton's historical resources.

Current Use and Conserved Lands



More than one-fifth of Wilton's total land area is permanently conserved, while nearly 70 percent of land tract acreage falls under current use. Current use is a land use classification that reduces a property tax burden on landowners who leave all or part of their lands as agricultural or open space. Current use does not offer permanent land protection.

Conservation and public lands compiled by NRPC as reviewed by Town of Wilton. Land in Current Use based on a parcel listing provided by the Town of Wilton.

- Waterbody
- Stream/River
- State Route
- Local Road
- Private Road
- Class VI

Level of Protection	Area (Acres)	Percentage of Total Land
All Permanent Conservation Land Categories	3,682.3	22.4%
All Unofficial Conservation Land Categories	345.7	2.1%
Water Supply Land	64.1	0.4%
Developed Public Land	145.6	0.9%
Unprotected Land	12,209.6	74.2%
Total Land	**16,447.3**	**100.0%**

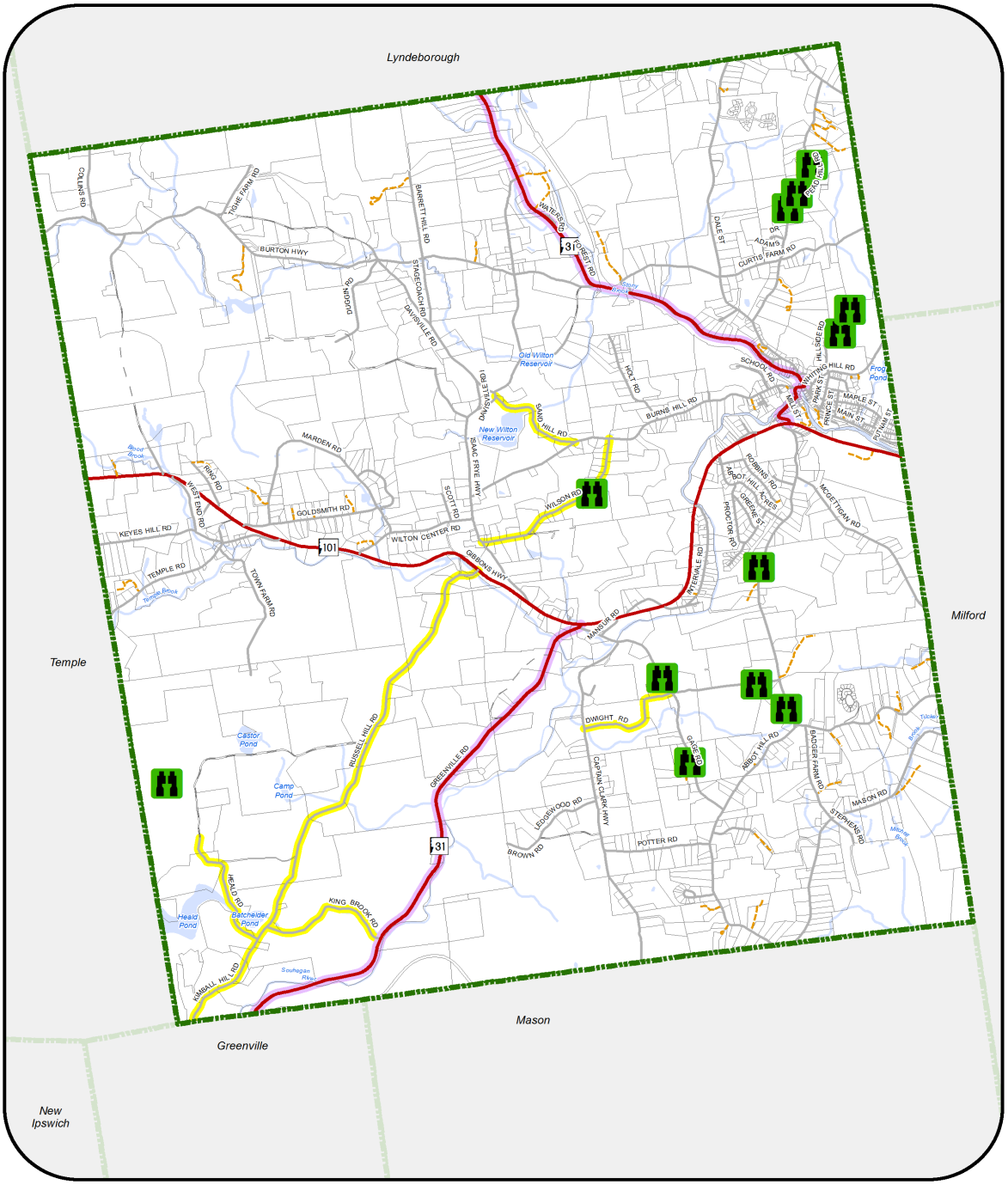
Land in Current Use*	11,493.9*	69.9%*

** Current use total acres and percent of total land are based on total parcel acreage and do not consider smaller areas of each parcel that may not be in current use. As such, these calculations may be over-estimates of land in current use.*

Current use status is distinct from the level of protection listed above.

- Land in Current Use
- Permanent Conservation Land, State or Federally-Managed Legal Protections
- Permanent Conservation Land, Legal Protections Managed by Municipality
- Permanent Conservation Land, Privately-Managed
- Unofficial Conservation Land, Municipally-Owned or Managed
- Unofficial Conservation Land, Privately-Owned or Managed
- Water Supply Land
- Developed Public Land

Locally Designated Scenic Roads and Vistas



Scenic road designation protects the scenic qualities of the road that may be viewed as a nuisance or an obstruction by an engineer or road agent. At present, there are 5 designated scenic roads in Wilton; Kimball Hill Road, Heald Road, King Brook Road, Wilson Road and Sand Road.

Locally Designated Scenic Viewpoint

Locally Designated Scenic Road

State Designated Scenic Road

Parcel

Waterbody

Stream/River

Priority Resources and Recommendations

1 Local Land Use Controls

Zoning is the major avenue available to Wilton for protecting its natural resources. Zoning is a low-cost, effective mechanism for protecting a dispersed resource such as a wetland or a floodplain.

2 Federal and State Regulations

It is important that the Town's governing bodies, boards and citizens be aware of federal and state regulations in order to utilize them to their fullest extent and ensure compliance.

3 Acquisition

Acquisition is the most effective mechanism available for insuring the long-term protection of valuable natural resources.

4 Education

Refers to the need to educate residents regarding their impacts on the natural environment as well as continued outreach to build support for conservation efforts at Town Meeting.

5 Organizational Involvement

A strong need exists in Wilton for increased communication between various boards involved in Town government and policy formation.

Additional Resources and Links

Grants and Funding for Land Conservation
http://clca.forestsociety.org/pdf/funding-sources.pdf

NH DES (Dept. of Environmental Services)
NH DES Wetlands Bureau
http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/index.htm

NH DES Fact Sheets
http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wet/index.htm

Wildlife Resources
Wildlife Action Plan
http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html

NH Natural Heritage Bureau
NH Natural Heritage Bureau
http://www.nhdfl.org

NH OEP (Office of Energy and Planning)
NH OEP Main Page
http://www.nh.gov/oep/index.htm

Open Space Preservation Resource Library
http://www.nh.gov/oep/resource-library/agriculture/index.htm#open_space

Mapping Links
NH GRANIT
http://www.granit.unh.edu/

Conservation Links
Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society)
http://www.forestsociety.org/

Research
Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) by Municipality
http://www.nhacc.org/files/UCT2011.xls

Legal Links
Conservation Commissions RSA 36-A
http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/NHTOC/NHTOC-III-36-A.htm

Scenic Roads Designation RSA 231:157; RSA 231:158
http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XX/231/231-158.htm

Search NH RSA's
http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/indexes/search.html

Natural Resource Events Listings
http://www.forestsociety.org/thingstodo/