

NATURAL RESOURCES

For the Town of Salisbury

Salisbury’s predominantly rural 25,344 acres are blessed with an abundance of natural resources. The eastern slopes and foothills of Mt. Kearsarge border the western side of Town, and several hills, including Raccoon, Searles, Lovering, Bean, and Sawyer Hills characterize the terrain. The Blackwater River flows north to south through a broad, undeveloped floodplain; and several ponds and hundreds of wetlands are scattered across the landscape.

Salisbury’s extensive, unbroken tracts of forestland and undeveloped fields support diverse native plants and wildlife. These are the features that residents identify as important and key reasons for choosing to live here.

Currently, there are 5,103 acres of land under conservation easements and approximately 18,212 acres of land in current use (2016).

Conservation of the natural resources and rural heritage of Salisbury are important goals of this Master Plan and Natural Resources Chapter. The Natural Resources Chapter of the 2017 Master Plan includes data for various types of waterbodies, geologic resources, land resources, and ecological resources. A set of maps depicting the natural features in Salisbury is also included.

The Plan formulates a list of Objectives and Recommendations to help guide the Town toward maintaining the environmental and human-health benefits that derive from the “rural character” most residents desire.

CHAPTER VISION

To preserve quality of life and the rural character of the Town by conserving open space, protecting important natural resources, habitat, and wildlife corridors, and enhancing natural recreational resources.

COMMUNITY SURVEY AND VISIONING SESSION RESULTS

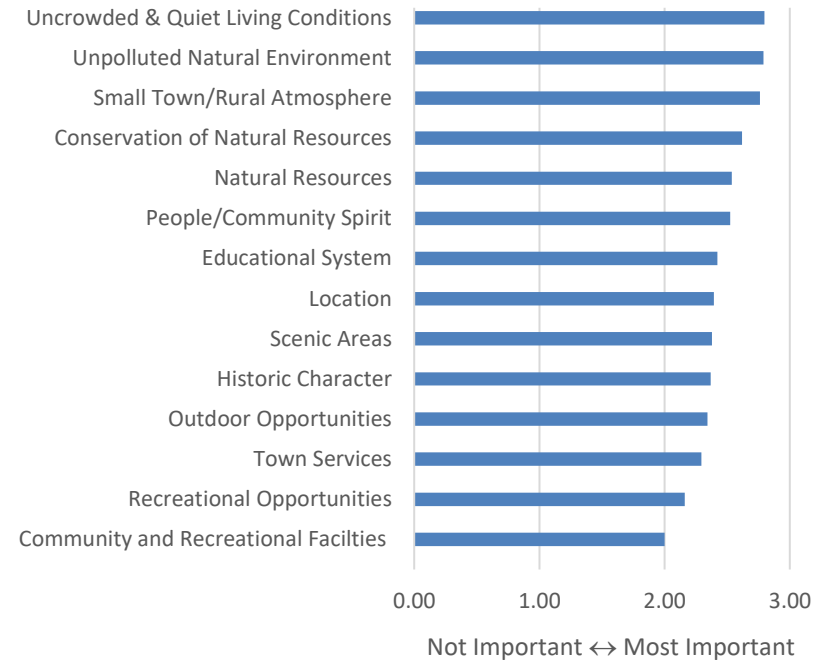
In 2016, the Planning Board conducted a Master Plan Community Survey that includes a range of topics covered in the Master Plan, including Natural Resources. In total, 90 surveys were collected and demonstrated resident’s appreciation for the Town’s natural features and rural atmosphere. Answers to the questions pertaining to natural resources issues are summarized below.

The Community Survey yielded favorable results supporting the preservation of natural resources. Responses show that the Town’s rivers, streams, forests, ponds, and open space are the most important natural resources to residents. It was strongly felt that the Blackwater River and the surrounding floodplain area should be preserved and permanently protected.

Additionally, respondents supported the idea of creating a multi-use trail system within Salisbury, as many residents stated they already use the Town’s resources for various recreational uses, including hiking, nature observation, snow shoeing, fishing, canoeing and boating.

Community Survey Question 3:

Please rank the importance of the following items in making Salisbury a desirable place to live?



Community Survey Question 13:

Do you support the acquisition of lands for conservation purposes?

Q. 13	Total	Percent
Yes	49	72.1%
No	9	13.2%
No Opinion	10	14.7%
Total	68	100.0%

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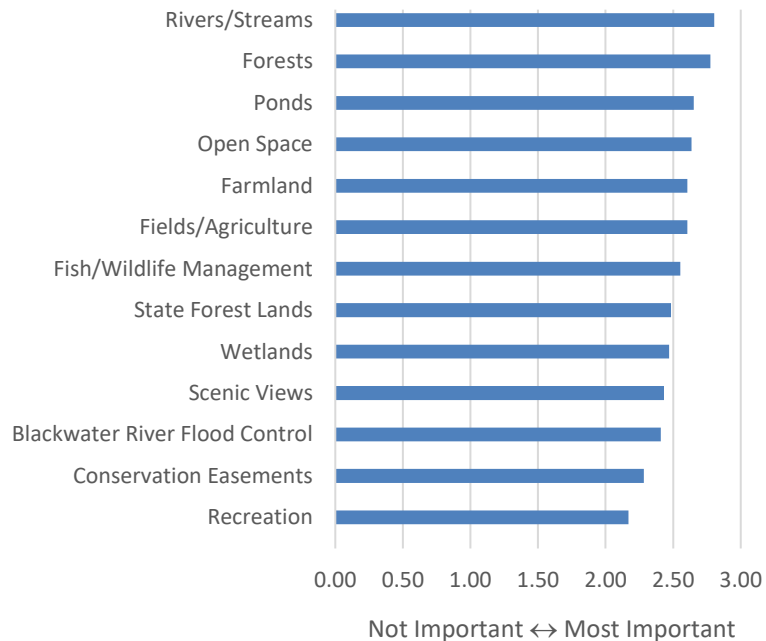
Community Survey Question 14:

Do you support the 50% land use change tax that is allocated to the Conservation Commission for land purchases?

Q.14	Total	Percent
Yes	33	48.5%
No	18	26.5%
No Opinion	17	25.0%
Total	68	100.0%

Community Survey Question 15:

Please rank the following in order of importance to you.



Community Survey Question 16:

If the Town could purchase one area for permanent protection against development, what or where should it be and why?

The majority of responses were in favor of protecting the Blackwater River and the surrounding flood control area. Other responses included the bog area along Bog Road, Rabbit Road Forest, and the area along Center Rangeway. Roughly 20% stated that they had no opinion or did not want to choose one specific area.

Community Survey Question 17:

In what ways do you enjoy Salisbury's recreational opportunities? Please check all that apply:

Q.17	Total	Percent
Hiking	53	79.1%
Nature Observation	49	73.1%
Snow Shoeing	37	55.2%
Fishing	31	46.3%
Canoeing/Boating	26	38.8%
Mountain Biking	20	29.9%
Snowmobiling	20	29.9%
Cross-country Skiing	20	29.9%
Hunting	19	28.4%
Swimming	13	19.4%
Maplewood Recreational Area	13	19.4%
Horseback Riding	9	13.4%
Personal Watercraft	3	4.5%

Community Survey Question 18:

Would you support the creation of a trail system in Salisbury for recreational uses such as snowmobiling, horseback riding, mountain biking, walking, etc.?

Q.18	Total	Percent
Yes	58	85.3%
No	9	13.2%
No Opinion	1	1.5%
Total	68	100.0%

INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A mapped inventory of many of Salisbury’s natural features was performed as part of this Master Plan Chapter in order to allow the Planning Board to identify and manage the Town’s varied natural resources. A majority of the resource information was gathered from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHF&G).

WATER RESOURCES

The **Water Resources Map** shows hydrographic features, including aquifers, wetlands, watershed boundaries, public water supplies and well locations.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Town of Salisbury has no public water or sewer system. All Salisbury residents are served by private wells drawing water from the bedrock, overburden glacial till, and stratified drift aquifers. The N.H. Department of Environmental Services has tracked the locations and number of well permits issued since 1984. Since that time, the greatest number of wells has been situated along Hensmith Road (25), NH 127 (20) and New Road (19).

SALISBURY VISIONING SESSION

Attendees at the Salisbury Visioning Session in March 2016 demonstrated their strong appreciation for the Town’s natural resources and the contribution it provides to the Town’s rural character and atmosphere. It was unanimously agreed upon that the high percentage of protected land was one of the most appreciated resources, with many in favor of acquiring additional conservations land. It was suggested that the Conservation Commission take a more proactive role towards stewardship in the future.

The many Class VI roads present in Salisbury were highly valued by attendees. It was mentioned that they are used for various recreational activities, and those present were not in favor of large scale development along the roads, only private residences. Many were in favor of the development of a trail/Class VI road map that would be available to residents to show the locations of these trails in Town and state which trails allow public access.

PONDS

The several ponds located in Salisbury are valued not only for aesthetic reasons, but also for the diversity of wildlife habitat they provide. These ponds include Tucker Pond, Stirrup Iron Pond, Wilder Pond, Greenough Pond and Marsh, Duck Pond and Shaw Mill Pond.

The largest pond in Salisbury, Tucker Pond, covers 56.6 acres. It is listed on the N.H. Official List of Public Waters and therefore falls

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under the protection of the State's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA). Tucker Pond serves as a tributary to Knight Brook, which flows into Boscawen.

RIVERS

The Blackwater River runs through Salisbury as a 5th order stream and comes under the protection of the State's CSPA. Stream classification is a process that looks at where the stream lies in relation to other streams in the watershed. The higher the stream order number, the more streams that feed into that stream, thus the larger the impact that stream can have on the watershed.

In the northern part of Salisbury, the Blackwater River is naturally impounded and forms "the Bay"- a riverine system consisting of approximately 75 acres of open, slow-moving water and associated wetlands. South of the Bay, the Blackwater meanders through the western part of Town and crosses the Webster Town line. In the southwest part of Town, the Blackwater River forms part of the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Blackwater Dam and Reservoir system. In the ACOE area, the land surrounding the river is federally owned and used for flood control purposes. As such, it cannot be developed and serves as a large unfragmented tract of conservation land. The expansive area flood-control land and its proximity to other large tracts of undeveloped land make this area an important water resource with significant wildlife habitat value.

BROOKS

Salisbury is located within two watersheds, the Blackwater River and the Merrimack River. Streams in the eastern side of Town, such as Punch Brook and Stirrup Iron Brook, generally flow southeastward to the Merrimack River. Streams in the western part of Town generally flow south to the Blackwater River. Many of Salisbury's brooks were the former sites of mills, and remnants of stone dams and retaining walls remain in some areas.

VOLUNTEER RIVERS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (VRAP)

New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services (NH ES) established the Volunteer Rivers Assessment Program (VRAP) in 1998 to raise awareness of the importance of surface-water quality throughout the state, and to recruit volunteers to monitor the quality of the state's rivers, important for drinking water, wildlife habitat, flood control, and tourism.

Data collected by VRAP volunteers contributed directly to New Hampshire's obligations under the federal Clean Water Act. Measurements taken by volunteers are included in reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

VRAP volunteer testing throughout the state is valued at about \$70,000 each year.

Since 2009, Salisbury VRAP volunteers have joined a team in Webster to sample and test the Blackwater River water from April through September. A kit of test equipment (on loan from the NHDES) is shared with the Webster team.

Water-quality measurements repeated over time create a picture of the fluctuating conditions of the Blackwater. The testing equipment will pick up any degradation of water quality that would help to determine steps to be taken to remedy the situation.

There's no cost to the Town or the volunteers for the training, supplies, testing equipment, and professional support. Volunteers who are interested in protecting local environment and maintaining wildlife habitat are always needed and more information on joining the VRAP team is available at the Town offices.

HYDRIC SOILS

Due to Salisbury's high position in the watershed, the complicated pattern of hills and valleys, and the relatively thin glacial soils overlying nearly impermeable glacial till, a relatively large area of Salisbury has poor drainage. Hydric soils of the Whitman, Greenwood, Ossipee, Moosilauke, Chocorua, Walpole, Pillsbury and Ridgebury Series, comprise approximately 15 percent of the soils in Salisbury.

AQUIFERS

An Aquifer is an underground geological formation composed of sand, soil, gravel, or porous rock through which groundwater moves and is capable of supplying significant quantities of groundwater to wells and springs. These aquifers are often an important source of water for public water supply, agriculture, and industry. The demand for groundwater from the bedrock aquifer is continuously increasing as new sources of surface water decrease and the cost of surface-water treatment increases. Aquifers can occur at various depths.

There are three major types of aquifers used for water supply:

- Stratified drifts are aquifers made up of sand and gravel materials. This aquifer is a prime source of water for municipalities or other large-volume users.
- Till aquifers are a mixture of clay, silt, and gravel materials that yield small volumes of water which may be adequate for small-scale users, such as private homes.
- Bedrock aquifers are wells drilled into bedrock. When a well is drilled into these rocks, the bore hole intercepts numerous fractures, allowing water to seep into the well. If a well hits an extensive fracture system, the water yields may be high. On the

average, these aquifers yield smaller volumes of groundwater than wells located within stratified drift.

The principal aquifer in Salisbury, a stratified drift aquifer of moderate to high transmissivity, lies along the course of the Blackwater River from the edge of Andover near Route 4, extending through Salisbury and on into the Town of Webster. This provides the Town with a valuable resource that should be protected for future use.

WETLANDS

Salisbury has a considerable acreage of high-value wetlands. The same factors that produce the Town's hydric soils contribute to the formation of wetland ecosystems. In addition, the presence of an active beaver population creates the conditions for continually evolving wetlands.

Wetlands perform many critical ecosystem services that help sustain life- support systems. Wetlands can:

Buffer against floods by slowing and storing floodwaters;

Clean water moving through by removing sediment and contaminants;

Recharge groundwater;

Provide critical spawning grounds for amphibians and fish;

Provide wildlife habitat; and

Provide aesthetic, recreational and educational opportunities.

The Salisbury Conservation Commission is working to develop an extensive natural resources inventory (NRI). This will provide a valuable reference for future planning and conservation decisions.

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The largest contiguous area of wetlands occurs along the Blackwater River. These largely riverine wetlands are predominantly floodplain-forested (broad-leaved deciduous) and scrub-shrub (broad-leaved deciduous) wetlands. South of Scribners Corner, there are emergent wetlands (marshes) associated with the Blackwater River. As part of the Blackwater riverine system, these wetlands play a critical role in attenuating floodwaters, removing sediment and contaminants, nutrient cycling, providing wildlife habitat, and providing opportunities for education and recreation.

Other sizable wetlands include:

- Greenough Pond;
- Wetlands along Bog Road;
- Wetlands associated with Shaws Mills Pond and Strirrup Iron Brook;
- Wetlands associated with Punch Brook;
- Wetlands running the northern end of Rte. 4 near the Andover Town line;
- Wetlands along New Road; and
- A peatland on Hensmith Rd. More info, including photos.

All of these wetlands perform important ecological functions.

VERNAL POOLS

Salisbury contains many vernal pools, which are small, isolated wetlands found in depressions in the landscape. Although varying in shape, size and location, all vernal pools fill with water in the spring from snow melt, groundwater, and precipitation. They are usually separate from other wetlands, although many pools are located in floodplains and other low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and other waterbodies. The duration of a pool's flood cycle depends on its size, depth, water source, and condition of surrounding upland, but most pools dry out by late summer.

Because most pools are isolated and temporarily flooded, they do not support fish, which prey on the eggs and larvae of many amphibians and invertebrates. Wood frogs and "mole" salamanders, which include spotted, blue-spotted, Jefferson's, and marbled salamanders, require vernal pools for breeding habitat. Others species, such as spring peepers, tree frogs, American toads, green frogs, and Eastern newts, will also lay their eggs in vernal pools, but these species do not require them. Certain invertebrates, such as fairy shrimp and fingernail clams, also require these temporary wetlands for breeding and egg-laying. Vernal pools are especially important habitats for Blanding's and spotted turtles, which rely on them for protein-rich food in early spring, and take refuge in them during overland travels among adjacent wetlands and waterbodies.

Because vernal pool amphibians live in the uplands surrounding the pool, conservation of these species requires maintaining a relatively undisturbed forested habitat around each pool. In addition, because amphibians and turtles travel extensively among wetlands, it is essential to provide travel corridors among pools and wetlands in a given area.

POTENTIAL THREATS TO WATER RESOURCES

The need to identify and mitigate potential threats to water resources is very important. The Blackwater River provides part of the public water supply for the City of Concord. This primarily undeveloped River offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities: fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and swimming. The Blackwater provides outstanding habitat for many native wildlife species, and supports diverse plant communities.

Threats to water supplies arise from many different potential contaminant sources. Each pollutant threat may affect water at a different stage of its movement from water vapor in the atmosphere to liquid groundwater. Simply put, water is not static or stays in a single place; it collects in the atmosphere and may be released to the ground as rain or fog after which it is either absorbed into the ground, collected by plants or begins to move across the ground surface until it is collected into a water body.

Ultimately, water flowing across the surface becomes absorbed into underground aquifers or flows into rivers, streams and ponds where, if not impounded for a local purpose, will continue downstream, eventually winding up in the ocean. Rainwater which reaches underground aquifer catchment areas may be pumped to the surface by public or private wells for use as a public water supply resource. Surface water may also be converted back to water vapor either by evaporation or released from plants through transpiration. In this way, through these “evapotranspiration” processes, groundwater returns to the atmosphere.

Water in the atmosphere or collected on the earth’s surface has many opportunities to pick up pollutants which could dramatically affect its quality. Mercury and other air-borne pollutants emitted into the atmosphere by coal-fired power plants may affect water vapor collected in clouds and be widely scattered; fertilizer runoff from agricultural fields and shoreline landscapes can run into nearby streams; fecal material released from nonfunctional septic systems and gasoline or other chemicals spilled from commercial and industrial sites can leach into aquifer recharge and filtration areas and eventually reach and contaminate ground water.

Thus, there is an essential need to identify, analyze, monitor and appropriately control potential point and non-point water pollution sources throughout the Town of Salisbury. Part of this identification

POTENTIAL AQUIFER PROTECTION MEASURES

The Land Use Chapter contains recommendations related to the protection of the Town’s Aquifer areas. The key recommendations are as follows:

- Require performance standards within the aquifer areas for commercial activities such as vehicle service and repair shops, junkyards, or other activities that produce liquid waste.
- Identify minimum Water Systems Protection Areas (WSPAs) for domestic wells (75 foot radius) and public water supplies (150 foot radius), and require performance standards within the WSPAs, such as regulating proposed land use activities, drainage to be sloped away, minimum 50 feet distance from roads, driveways or parking, and approved wastewater piping. In addition, provide maintenance, testing and inspection requirements.
- When the opportunity arises, obtain new permanently protected conservation land over the aquifer using the Conservation Fund or non-profit conservation assistance.

and control process is currently being carried out by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), the agency presently responsible for monitoring all public water supplies. There are, however, no regulations that monitor private water wells or the quality of private well water. Thus, this chapter was developed in part to provide guidance so the Town may have an accurate record of where local water resources are located, how

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these resources may be threatened, and what actions and programs should be put into place which will remove or mitigate the perceived sources of pollution.

POINT-SOURCE POLLUTION

The Town of Salisbury has no municipal water supply or delivery system. Thus, all potable water comes from on-site bedrock or overburden (dug) wells. There is also no municipal sewer system so all homes and businesses must be serviced by on-site sanitary disposal systems. The most common method of heating structures in the Town is via heating systems fueled by No.2 heating oil, which is stored on site in either Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs) or Underground Storage Tanks (USTs).

Based on the above information it becomes apparent that all homes and businesses in the Town use and rely on water resources. Proper management of businesses that use or generate waste products other than normal septic waste, such as petroleum related compounds, gasoline, paint, dyes, bleaches, as well as other hazardous waste components, must be monitored and carefully regulated to protect the underlying water resources. Point sources of groundwater and surface water pollution vary greatly. Contamination can result from specific point sources, such as ASTs, USTs, floor drains, dry wells, direct ground deposition, burying wastes, and septic systems.

One way to deal with potential point sources of contamination is via monitoring of surface and/or groundwater for potential impacts. NHDES requires an Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for anyone discharging anything other than normal household waste to an on-site sanitary disposal system. The NHDES also regulates floor drains. Floor drains in areas where regulated contaminants are stored must discharge to a tight tank. Floor drains in such sensitive areas are not allowed to discharge to

the on-site septic system, dry well, or ground surface. Non-residential ASTs and USTs may also be regulated, depending on the size, contents, and use of the tanks.

The use of the existing regulatory base and expansion on this base to fit the community needs is a cost-effective way to deal with some point sources of pollution. Locations potentially hazardous to groundwater include junkyards, auto-body shops, above-ground storage tanks, and gravel pits.

NON-POINT-SOURCE POLLUTION

Another threat to Salisbury's waterways is non-point source (NPS) pollution, also known as polluted runoff. Non-point source pollution (NPS) is pollution that cannot be traced back to any specific source; it is the accumulated pollution resulting from everyday activities. Its effects are magnified by impervious surfaces, such as roofs and paved surfaces. Water cannot infiltrate these surfaces, causing more water to run off over the land. As water washes over the land, it picks up oil, pesticides, fertilizers, sediment, and other pollutants that have been placed into the environment by everyday activities. The runoff water flows into storm drains or directly into water bodies, carrying the pollutants that have been deposited. As little as a ten percent impervious surface on a lot can begin to negatively affect a waterway. Thus, the more intensively used a piece of land is, the more nearby waterways are negatively affected by polluted runoff.

Establishing protection from non-point source pollution is difficult in a rural, largely undeveloped Town such as Salisbury. Public education can help landowners understand the impacts of their landscaping, gardening and other practices on water resources, including their own drinking water supplies. Limiting the amount of salt on roadways offers another effective way to reduce NPS

LAND AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

The *Conservation Lands Map, Soils Map, and Steep Slopes and Scenic Vistas Map* depict the conservation lands, public and quasi-public lands, and scenic vistas noted here in this section.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

New Hampshire has an active agricultural and silvacultural history that has slowly declined as development spreads to the more rural areas of the state. Critical agricultural assets such as dairy farms, meat product farms, hay crops, livestock breeders, orchards, produce farms, maple sugar houses, and open fields still help support agrarian livelihoods. Through venues like community farmer's markets, roadside farm stands, pick-your-own produce, and bulk sale to chain suppliers, locally produced food and goods are available for residents and consumers to purchase.

Salisbury currently supports only one full-scale family farm. Many families still plant vegetable gardens, raise a few chickens for eggs or meat, and/or raise beef, pork, and lamb for the family table.

But with increased fuel costs, mounting concerns about food safety, and increased participation in "buy-local" campaigns, opportunities abound in this still-rural community for residents to plant more home and market gardens, develop CSAs and pick-your-own operations, organize a Salisbury farmers' market, or raise a few animals for market. Because these activities help sustain ecological services and maintain the rural character most Salisbury residents cherish, Town officials should promote them vigorously and include agricultural and horticultural values when drafting ordinances and reviewing development plans.

PROTECTING SALISBURY'S VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES:

CURRENT USE, THE LAND USE CHANGE TAX, AND THE SALISBURY CONSERVATION FUND

New Hampshire citizens have always cherished the clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, flood protection, outdoor recreational spaces, and scenic views that undeveloped land provides.

The state's Current Use law helps protect undeveloped land by providing property-tax incentives to landowners who agree not to develop the protected properties. Current use lands are assigned a value based on the income-producing capability of the land in its *current* use, rather than its *market* value as real estate.

THE LAND USE CHANGE TAX AND THE CONSERVATION FUND

When land leaves its current-use designation to be developed for homes or businesses, the land is assessed a land use change tax (LUCT) of 10% of the market value of the land to reimburse taxpayers for the loss of natural benefits and for the money the Town didn't collect while the property stayed in current use.

State law also allows Towns to establish a Conservation Fund separate from the general fund, and to contribute to the fund in many ways. Many communities commit all or a portion of the LUCT revenues to their Conservation Fund, a painless way to help it grow.

Salisbury currently allocates 50% of the LUCT revenues to the Town Conservation Fund. The law requires a vote of the Town to change the percentage of the LUCT to the Conservation Fund.

Funds for the conservation fund can also come from Town appropriations, grants, and gifts from private individuals.

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PRIME FARMLAND SOILS

Prime farmland soils are described nationally as land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and are also available for these uses. In New Hampshire, prime farmland soils are:

- Soils that have an aquic¹ or udic moisture regime and sufficient available water capacity within a depth of 40 inches to produce the commonly grown cultivated crops adapted to New Hampshire in 7 or more years out of 10;
- Soils that are in the frigid or mesic temperature regime;
- Soils that have a pH between 4.5 and 8.4 in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches;
- Soils that have either no water table or have a water table maintained at a sufficient depth during the cropping season to allow cultivated crops common to New Hampshire to be grown;
- Soils that have a saturation extract less than 4 mmhoc/cm and the exchangeable sodium percentage is less than 15 in all horizons within a depth of 40 inches;
- Soils that are not frequently flooded during the growing season (less than a 50 percent chance in any year or the soil floods less than 50 years out of 100.);

- The product of the erodibility factor times the percent slope is less than 2.0 and the product of soil erodibility and the climate factor does not exceed 60;
- Soils that have a permeability rate of at least 0.06 inches per hour in the upper 20 inches; and
- Soils that have less than 10 percent of the upper 6 inches consisting of, rock fragments larger than 3 inches in diameter.

FOREST RESOURCES

Historically and today, trees predominate in the New Hampshire landscape. More than 84 percent of New Hampshire's and nearly 88 percent of Salisbury's land base is forested.

Because forests provide the scenic backdrop to everyday life and the economic activity forests support is widely distributed, many residents take our forests for granted without fully appreciating their importance to our economy and our quality of life.

The annual contribution of forest-based manufacturing and forest-related tourism and recreation to the New Hampshire economy is more than \$2.6 billion². This forest economy supports about 20,000 jobs statewide. In fact, the state Division of Forest and Lands reports that each 1,000 acres of forestland in New Hampshire supports 2.0 forest-based manufacturing jobs and 2.3 forest-related tourism and recreation jobs. In Salisbury, there is one operating commercial sawmill and several small part-time sawmills in operation.

¹ Aquic defined as saturate with water long enough to cause oxygen depletion. Udic defined as humid or subhumid climate. Source: <http://passel.unl.edu/pages/informationmodule.php?idinformationmodule=1130447033&topicorder=11&maxto=13>

² Source: <http://www.dred.state.nh.us/divisions/forestandlands/bureaus/director/index.htm>

The growing importance of renewable biomass fuels and long-rotation forestry as “carbon sinks” will likely increase the economic value of New Hampshire forests in the near future.

Although we can quantify the direct economic value of forest products such as lumber, biomass fuels for, firewood, Christmas trees and wreaths, maple syrup, and the jobs they provide, the large tracts of unfragmented forestland best-suited to commercial harvesting also provide numerous ecosystem services, which include air and water purification, flood protection, aquifer and groundwater recharge, natural air conditioning, wildlife habitat, and numerous opportunities for recreation and spiritual recharge.

A number of factors determine the type of tree cover that occurs throughout Salisbury’s abundant forested land areas. Chief among them is soil type. As it has done with respect to identifying agricultural soils, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed an interpretation-based forestry soil type classification map for the entire state of New Hampshire. A description of each group class, as defined by NRCS, follows:

FOREST SOILS TYPE 1A

Approximately 15 percent of Salisbury’s soils are Type 1A Forest Soils. These soils favor shade-tolerant hardwoods, such as *American beech (Fagus grandifolia)* and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). These soils comprise loamy soil types on 3 to 15 percent slopes of the Becket, Dixfield, Henniker, Marlow, Ondawa, Podunk, Skerry and Sunapee series.

FOREST SOILS TYPE 1B

Approximately 60 percent of Salisbury’s soils are Type 1B Forest Soils. These soils favor tolerant hardwoods, such as *American beech (Fagus grandifolia)*. These soils comprise a wide variety of

CONSERVING VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

As Salisbury grows and expands, there is a need to preserve certain natural values that protect public health and well-being such as clean air, soil, and water; flood protection; fish and wildlife habitat; and opportunities for public recreation.

Whenever land is developed for homes and businesses, some of those natural benefits are lost.

Occasionally, Towns choose to use their conservation funds to buy and own land outright, usually to prevent development of land with important natural resources. This is generally done in conjunction with fundraising initiatives and government or non-profit grants.

More often, Towns use conservation fund money to reimburse landowners for restricting development on their land, or to help pay the legal and transactional costs of setting up and maintaining a conservation easement.

A conservation easement is a legal contract in which a landowner still owns the property but places (usually) permanent restrictions on the kinds of activities that can take place there. An easement confers a number of tax benefits to the landowner

Conservation easements typically allow land-based business enterprises such as agriculture, forestry, and horticulture, as well as hunting, fishing, and public recreation that doesn’t involve new construction or major modifications of the environment.

Conservation easements are typically overseen by a third-party steward, such as the Town or a nonprofit organization that monitors the land to ensure the conditions of the easement are being honored.

CAN THE TOWN FORCE ME TO SELL MY LAND OR DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS TO MY LAND?

No. Only titled landowners or their estates can choose to sell, donate, or place an easement on their land.

If you’re interested in learning more about conservation easements, ask at the Town Office.

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sandy and loamy soil types on 3 to 15 percent slopes, too numerous to mention here.

FOREST SOILS TYPE 1C

Approximately 5 percent of Salisbury's soils are Type 1C Forest Soils. These soils are highly responsive to softwood production with limited hardwood competition, especially white pine (*Pinus strobus*). These soils comprise outwash sands and gravels on 3 to 15 percent slopes of the Becket, Dixfield, Henniker, Marlow, Ondawa, Podunk, Skerry and Sunapee series

TOWN FORESTS

Salisbury has no Town Forests at present. However, included in the objectives for the Town's Natural Resources Chapter is the goal of developing one or more Town Forests within the next 10 years, either by outright purchase or purchase of development rights or conservation easements.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Currently, the Conservation Commission reviews all applications submitted to the State of New Hampshire to conduct logging in Salisbury. Occasional inspections of these operations by the Conservation Commission have resulted in identification of minor issues that were quickly resolved by the logger in charge of the operation.

TREE FARMS

Much of the land designated as Current Use functions as Tree Farms. These areas provide not only renewable timber harvests, but also wildlife habitat and watershed protection that are vital to the Town's ecosystem. Many of these privately-owned lands remain available for public recreational uses, such as hiking, riding, and snowmobiling. Due to the many benefits, the establishment and proper management of Tree Farms should be encouraged in the future.

GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

SURFICIAL AND BEDROCK GEOLOGY

Surficial geology across Salisbury is dominated by glacial features, including drumlins, contoured bedrock hills, kame terraces, and broad expanses of glacial till. A few locations have been identified as sources of sand and gravel in commercial quantities, and have been mostly exploited at this time. The single exception to the dominantly glacial terrain is in the Blackwater River valley, where fluvial deposits predominate. Surficial, unconsolidated deposits are generally thin throughout Salisbury, with the depth to bedrock generally shallow.

Bedrock outcrops are common across Salisbury, and the bedrock geology has been mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey. The **Bedrock Geology Map** depicts the bedrock geology of Salisbury. Following approximately along the path of US 4, bedrock beneath the Town is divided into two major types. The two types of rock are separated by an ancient fault, which presents little seismic danger in this era. To the east of Route 4 are Silurian age metasediments of the Rangely, Perry Mountain, and Smalls Falls Formations. These rocks range from schists to gneisses, and are very strongly banded. To the west of Route 4, are Devonian age slightly metamorphosed intrusive rocks of the Kinsman Granodiorite and the Spaulding Tonalite. These rocks are derived from the granitic intrusions that give our State its nickname.

With the exception of a small former copper mine located on the eastern flank of Mount Kearsarge, there are no known deposits of economic minerals of note.

HILLS AND MOUNTAINS

Five major hills are found in Salisbury. These hills, mostly named for prominent settlers, are Sawyer, Bean, Lovering, Searles and Racoon Hills. The tops of these hills are approximately 1,000 ft above sea

level. The dominant feature of the landscape in Salisbury is Mount Kearsarge, which is located along the western edge of Town. Although the top of the mountain is in Warner and Wilmot, the eastern slopes of the mountain comprise the highest land in Salisbury, over 1,700 ft. above sea level.

STEEP SLOPES AND SCENIC VISTAS

The commonly exposed bedrock of Salisbury often occurs in small ledges and other outcrops. Many of these slopes are excessive, and are unsuitable for development, and also restrict access to other lands.

Being situated on relatively high ground between the Blackwater and Merrimack River valleys, much of Salisbury affords scenic vistas of the surrounding region. Salisbury is located to the east of Mt. Kearsarge, and many locations in the western part of the Town afford views of this monadnock. Certain locations in the eastern part of the Town have good views across the Merrimack River Valley.

EXCAVATION MATERIALS

Based on review of NRCS soil data for Salisbury, Salisbury's surficial deposits include materials that represent potential sources of economic quantities of sand and/or gravel. The following soil types are probable sources of sand; Adams Loamy sand, Adams-Lyman Complexes, Champlain Loamy Sand, Champlain-Woodstock Complexes, Colton Loamy Fine Sand and variants, Croghan Fine Sandy Loam, Hermon Fine Sandy Loam and variants, Monadnock Gravelly Fine Sandy Loam, and variants, Ondawa and Podunk Fine Sandy Loams (these soils are frequently flooded), Skerry Fine Sandy Loam and variants, and Sunday fine Sandy Loam (these soils are occasionally flooded).

The following soil types are probable sources of gravel: Colton Loamy Fine Sand and variants, Hermon Fine Sandy Loam, Loamy

Sand and variants and Skerry Fine Sandy Loam and variants. The preceding lists omit certain soils that are listed as probable sand or gravel sources, but are also listed as hydric soils, and would be unlikely sites for quarrying operations.

It is also notable that many of the sandy soils are also classified as "farmlands of local importance" by NRCS. Where such soils occur on relatively flat slopes, the benefits of restricting quarrying in order to preserve farmland should be considered during the quarry permitting process.

A small number of sand or gravel quarries are located in Salisbury. These include quarries located on Bay Road (Merkes), Plains Road, (Wunderlich), and a recently permitted gravel quarry on Bog Road (Reil). Older, former quarries were located on West Salisbury Road and New Road.

More detail related to the Town's excavation areas and regulations can be found in the Land Use Chapter on page 9.6. Furthermore, the Land Use Chapter recommends that both the Zoning Ordinance and the Site Plan Review Regulations include provisions to ensure that the Town's road system is preserved, that abutters and nearby residents are not inordinately disturbed by the excavation activities, and that the properties are restored quickly and effectively as each portion of the excavation is complete.

WILDLIFE

Salisbury's extensive natural landscape supports hundreds of species of native wildlife, all of which require certain types of habitats and features to survive. Over the past few decades, New Hampshire has been the fastest-growing state in the northeast, and has lost an average of 20,000 acres of forests, farms, and wetlands to roads in each of the past 20 years to housing developments, strip malls, and other human uses. Remaining habitats become

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increasingly fragmented and impacted by such extensive conversion, and lose their capacity to provide the many services they once did, including clean air, clean water, forest products, and habitat for wildlife.

Although Salisbury still has large areas of natural landscape there are opportunities for the Town to actively pursue land conservation and preservation through easements or outright acquisitions. A completed Natural Resource Inventory can help to prioritize parcels for protection. The following sections describe the values of various habitat types for native wildlife:

AGRICULTURE AND OTHER OPEN LANDS

- Grasslands and other open lands support many wildlife species.
- Grassland habitat and associated species have declined throughout the Northeast, including New Hampshire.
- Agricultural soils are critically important for growing crops.
- Local land-based economy, locally grown food, energy conservation, and wildlife habitat protection are reasons to conserve agricultural lands.

DEER YARDS

- Deer need mature stands of softwood to survive the winter.
- In the southern half of the state, deer yards have shrunk in size and are more scattered.
- Softwood stands provide critical winter habitat for many species of birds and mammals.

FLOODPLAINS

- Floodplains store water during heavy flooding; trees and shrubs stabilize the bank from erosion.

- Deep, rich soils support diverse plants, which provide food and shelter for many wildlife species.
- Nut- and fruit-producing trees and shrubs are essential food sources for deer, bear, and many species of birds.
- Rich food sources in spring and fall make floodplains extremely important for migratory birds.
- Very little floodplain forest habitat remains in New Hampshire, as most floodplains were converted to agriculture by the early settlers, and much of this land subsequently has been developed.
- The Silver maple forest along the Blackwater River is typical of undisturbed floodplains, and has been identified by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau as a rare forest type.

HABITAT FOR THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES, AND SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

- Salisbury has a few documented species listed as endangered or of Conservation Concern, including osprey, Blanding's turtle, wood turtle, although there are likely several more plants and animals that are uncommon or rare.
- The greatest threats to wildlife, rare or common, are loss and degradation of habitats and fragmentation of the landscape. Some species and habitats are rare and unique, not only within the Town, but also within the state and the Northeast. These include silver maple floodplain forest; rocky, south-facing slopes; unfragmented blocks of undeveloped land; vernal pools; wetlands; bogs and caves.

SHORELINES

- Undeveloped shorelines of rivers, lakes, and ponds are rare and vulnerable to development.
- Natural vegetation protects the shoreline from erosion, helps maintain water quality, and provides important wildlife habitat.
- Species that require large bodies of open water (loons, osprey, eagle, etc) need a large area of undisturbed habitat around their nest sites.

UNFRAGMENTED BLOCKS OF HABITAT

Large blocks of habitat can accommodate natural disturbance regimes, which result in landscapes that have “patchiness,” with uneven-aged forest stands, openings caused by tree-fall, etc.

Natural disturbance factors include fire, wind, ice storms, hurricanes, insect outbreaks and other pathogens, and beavers. Fire is uncommon in the Northeast, except for in areas with deep sandy soils, such as the Ossipee Pine Barrens and along the Merrimack River, which historically supported pine barrens. Beavers are the most consistent disturbance factor, and before being nearly extirpated from the state during the 1700s, greatly influenced the landscape by flooding hundreds of acres. Although beavers have made a remarkable recovery, their activities are limited, and there are no massive beaver dams and ponds to support large heron colonies and many other species.

Large forest blocks are important to forest interior birds, such as wood thrush, ovenbird, and many other songbirds. Species that evolved in large forested landscapes lack defensive mechanisms for nest parasites, such as the brown-headed cowbird, and the excessive predator activity associated with small forest patches that have a high edge-to-interior ratio. Most predators concentrate along edges, such as a field/forest interface, but will explore the

interior of a forest patch, often for long distances. Forest interior birds attempting to nest in a small block of habitat face a much higher chance of predation and parasitism than those nesting in large, unfragmented blocks.

TRAVEL CORRIDORS/CONNECTIVITY

Wildlife need to travel across the landscape to find food, shelter, and mates, and to disperse among populations. Birds are fairly unrestricted in their ability to disperse, but mammals, reptiles, and amphibians are very susceptible to mortality when trying to cross roads, housing developments, and other inhospitable areas. Small, slow moving species, such as turtles, snakes, salamanders, and frogs, are extremely vulnerable to road mortality. Wide-ranging species, such as moose, bear, and bobcats, also tend to cross roads frequently and sometimes unsuccessfully.

Turtles, for example, need to travel from the streams or wetlands where they hibernate, to vernal pools where they feed in early spring. Females then must find a nest site, and may travel more than a mile away from their normal range. During overland travel, these species are vulnerable to road mortality, being found and kept as pets, and predation.

It is essential for such species to have travel corridors between the different habitats they need throughout the year.

WETLANDS

About one third of all native wildlife species require wetland or aquatic habitat for all or part of their life cycle.

STREAMS

- Vulnerable to degradation, with few regulations for crossings, etc
- Important for water quality downstream

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- Support many species, including trout, salamanders, invertebrates
- Need enough buffer to maintain input of organic nutrients, keep shaded, and prevent erosion and runoff

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

Invasive-alien aquatic plant species known to occur in Salisbury are limited to purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*.

Alien-invasive terrestrial plant species known to occur in Salisbury include Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*; Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*; autumn olive, *Elaeagnus umbellata*; Japanese barberry, *Berberis thunbergii*; and multiflora rose, *Rosa multiflora*.

The 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan Update mapped wildlife habitat areas in Salisbury, with much of the western area of Town included in the State's highest ranked habitat for conservation. The areas can be found on the **Wildlife Action Plan 2015 Map**, and more information on the Wildlife Action Plan can be found at wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap.html.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

Some of the most important natural resource concerns facing Salisbury involve the need to fully identify existing natural resources, develop and put into action appropriate management plans to use or conserve those resources, and also to educate the public about those resources. Many of the goals associated with this Chapter aim at meeting these concerns.

CONTAMINATION OF WATER RESOURCES

There is an overall concern in the central New Hampshire region for maintaining high water quality throughout the area; this concern includes private wells. A goal of this Chapter is to identify present

and potential sources of pollution that may affect any surface and groundwater resource in Town. Though point pollution sources are easier to identify and mitigate, the desire to identify and alleviate non-point pollution source is also an important goal. Practical steps, such as implementing local water-testing programs, continuing hazardous waste days and "roadside" trash clean-up days, are all tactics that help to decrease potential pollution of water resources.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste is defined to be any household hazardous materials that are no longer wanted, needed, or wished to be disposed of. These materials are typically flammable, corrosive, explosive, or toxic, and become a hazard when disposed of improperly, causing a threat to the environment or human health. Examples of typical household hazardous waste includes paints, solvents, drain openers, oven cleaners, polishes, waxes, pesticides, cleaning agents, and automotive products to name a few.

Household Hazardous Waste collection events benefit a community by allowing residents to drop off their hazardous wastes limiting the likelihood of improper storage or disposal. These community events can be hosted annually or semi-annually, and are often a joint effort with neighboring communities. Funding for a collection event can come from a variety of services, including the State HHW Grant Program administered through the NH Department of Environmental Services. For additional information, please refer to the [NHDES Household Hazardous Waste Program website](#).

LOSS OF UNDEVELOPED LANDS (“OPEN SPACE”)

As discussed elsewhere in this Chapter, Salisbury’s existing open spaces serve a number of important roles. First and foremost, they provide essential ecosystem services that protect and sustain human and environmental health. They also provide critical wildlife habitat, provide opportunities for many forms of public recreation, and preserve the Town’s rural character.

With this in mind, a goal of this Chapter could be to identify the Town’s most valuable natural resources and develop a plan that will conserve them for future generations.

CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES

REGULATORY CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES

Many techniques can help the Town conserve natural resources. Regulatory protection measures include modifications to the Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations, and Site Plan Regulations.

NON-REGULATORY CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES

Volunteer, non-regulatory efforts to conserve land are recognizable and are often more appreciated than regulatory requirements. They work hand in hand with regulatory methods to serve the community’s conservation interests.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A conservation easement is a permanent, legally binding agreement ensuring that certain uses will never be allowed on that property. Conservation easements typically prevent development uses, such as construction, subdivision and mining, while permitting and promoting uses such as agriculture, horticulture, forestry, wildlife habitat, scenic views, recreation, watershed protection and education. A conservation easement typically exists between a willing landowner and a qualified government or non-government steward, who assumes responsibility for ensuring that the provisions

of the easement are followed. Each easement is tailored to the interests of the landowner, the steward and the unique characteristics of the property. Land affected by a conservation easement can be sold or deeded by the original owner and subsequent owners, but the easement is binding on all future owners.

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

Management agreements primarily focus on a particular feature of open space administration. Such agreements can be custom-tailored to any specific situation, such as the following:

RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR TRAILS

The Town may protect open spaces along a recreational trail corridor through the use of this type of management agreement. The right-of-way could be arranged and exist as a legal agreement between the Town or nonprofit organization and the owner(s) of the land where the trail is located.

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Local private and public management plans that strive to protect open spaces associated with the natural movement and migration of wildlife is another practical use for management agreements. Typically, a management agreement for the protection or administration of a recognized wildlife corridor seeks to regulate how land in that corridor is used.

BUFFERS BETWEEN USES

Written agreements that relate to the establishment and maintenance of buffer areas between incompatible land uses can be used to ensure that activities related to development and growth do not have a negative impact on the ecosystem services, rural character, and scenic qualities valued by residents.

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POTENTIAL REGULATORY CHANGES

The Land Use Chapter includes a number of suggestions for regulatory changes to protect agricultural lands and modify the Open Space Development Ordinance.

AGRICULTURAL LAND PROTECTION MEASURES

Viable agricultural lands can be lost due to poorly planned residential development, and this loss could adversely impact the existing rural character of Salisbury, which residents in the Community Survey overwhelmingly found to be of the highest importance. A possible method to protect agricultural lands is to establish an Agricultural Overlay Zone whose purpose is to direct residential development away from prime agricultural soils and viable agricultural operations.

The intent is to preserve the development potential of private property while preserving un-fragmented fields and orchards, allowing for continued agricultural use, and helping to preserve the community's rural character.

Prime or significant agricultural lands can be identified through the existing USGS Soils map for Merrimack County. Existing agricultural fields, orchards, and significant fallow open fields can be identified using available aerial mapping and local knowledge. A one-time Agricultural Committee could be set up to review this information, identify important agricultural properties, and specify the relevant importance of each agricultural property.

The Agricultural Commission, in cooperation with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Board of Selectmen, would develop an Agricultural Overlay zoning map and regulations. A consultant, such as the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, could assist the Town in the preparation of the Agricultural District Map and Regulations.

The purpose of the Agricultural Overlay Zone would be to direct new residential development away from the identified significant agricultural assets of the Town. For example, a major subdivision of three or more lots within the Agricultural Overlay District might only be approved as an Open Space Development, protecting most of the prime agricultural land as open space. For minor subdivisions of two lots, or the construction of a home on an existing lot, the Agricultural Overlay Zone would act to require homes to be constructed outside of the prime agricultural fields or orchards, wherever feasible. A possible incentive to preserve the prime agricultural areas would allow the new homes to be constructed on smaller lots, possibly lots as small as one-acre with 150' of road frontage, if said areas were permanently preserved through an agricultural easement. Smaller lots might require a portion of the required DES septic tank receiving layer, as well as the required DES well head protective radius, to be located within the preserved agricultural areas.

AMENDMENTS TO THE OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

As described in the Land Use Chapter, a number of potential changes to the Open Space Development Ordinance have been developed to help encourage its use:

- Eliminate the yield plan as it often increases the cost of designing the subdivision.
- Allow development density in proximity to roadways. One unit would be allowable per two (2) acres of developable land consistent with the existing density of zones outside the Village Center Overlay District. It is understandable that the residents would be concerned about large scale subdivisions occurring that would change the character of the community by taking advantage of difficult to access buildable backland. One option

might be to allow one (1) unit per two (2) acres of buildable land within 1,000 feet of an existing road. In the Subdivision Regulations, 1,000 feet is the maximum length of a dead-end road or cul-de-sac in Salisbury. Development density beyond the 1,000 foot depth could be assigned at a lesser development density such as 1 unit per 20 acres. This would go to great lengths to assuage community concerns and would still convey value to the landowners.

- Make Open Space Development Subdivisions mandatory for Major Subdivisions in the Agricultural District.
- Modify the 150-foot landscape buffer along existing roads to a smaller 75-foot buffer. Conventional subdivisions, existing residents, or currently vacant lots on the same street do not have this requirement.
- Allow common private driveways for more than two dwelling units. Three (3) to eight (8) units could be allowed on a common driveway if the design standards for the driveway allowed for appropriate access by emergency and service vehicles, and limit the length of the common driveway to less than 1,000 feet.
- Require Open Space Development Subdivisions for any major subdivisions (3 or more new lots) in the following areas:
 - a. Between the Blackwater River Flood Control Reservoir and Mt. Kearsarge Forest Park.
 - b. In the Northeast quadrant of the Town.
 - c. In the Southeast quadrant of the Town.
 - d. Along the Blackwater River north of the Flood Control Reservoir.

e. In the Agricultural District.

As an option, large-lot subdivision could be allowed where a new lot would require a minimum lot size between 20 to 120 acres.

SUMMARY

Salisbury has a number of natural resources: many large, unbroken tracts of meadow and forestland that support numerous species of wildlife and native plants; the Blackwater River with largely undeveloped shorelands; thousands of acres of undisturbed wetlands; several ponds; and the eastern side of Mount Kearsarge, features that residents both appreciate and are determined to protect.

The Master Plan, based upon opinions expressed by the members of the Conservation Commission, as well as the community as a whole, includes several key objectives with respect to Salisbury's natural resources:

- To protect valuable natural resources and the essential ecosystem services they provide.
- To preserve quality of life and the rural character of the Town by conserving open space, protecting important natural resources and preserving scenic vistas.
- To educate Town officials and the citizens of Salisbury about natural resources.
- To preserve the valuable wildlife habitat currently abundant in the Town.
- To preserve and enhance natural recreational resources.

That Salisbury still has these natural resources available for preservation in the early 21st century is a tremendous opportunity.

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Salisbury still has the opportunity to enact the changes necessary to avoid the over-development fate of other New Hampshire Towns, but it must act soon.

CHAPTER RECOMMENDATIONS & OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1

To protect valuable natural resources and the essential ecosystem services they provide. Natural resources include water, agricultural/horticultural, forest, wildlife, and geologic resources. Ecosystem services are functions of natural resources that include air and water purification, aquifer recharge, flood protection, carbon sequestration, wildlife habitat, organic waste and nutrient recycling, noise abatement, pollination of native plants and agricultural/horticultural crops, and space for recreation, as well as useful products, such as food and forage crops, lumber, biomass and fuelwood, and the jobs they support.

- Update current zoning regulations to incorporate best management practices related to future “high-risk” commercial activities that produce liquid waste.
- Develop agricultural land protection measures that seek to preserve un-fragmented fields and orchards, this allowing for continued agricultural uses.
- Evaluate the feasibility of establishing an Agricultural Commission to advise the Town on agricultural matters and provide associated resources to residents and business owners.
- Propose a Town ordinance to restrict large, commercial groundwater withdrawals within the Town.
- Develop and maintain a list of Tree Farms/managed forests, reviewing current use forms and forest management plans as a starting point.
- Educate residents about various federal and state cost-sharing programs that provide financial support and technical

assistance to landowners interested in improving wildlife habitat or implementing environmental practices.

- Educate citizens about the community value of “working landscapes,” lands that simultaneously conserve natural resources and produce current or future income for their owners.
- Help coordinate an annual community-wide roadside clean-up.
- Establish a volunteer program to seed and mulch open and exposed soils within the Town’s rights-of-way along roads to prevent erosion and invasive species.
- Educate residents about safe and effective alternatives to toxic household products.
- Establish annual household hazardous waste collection days at the Town transfer station or a regional collection site to keep such wastes out of the Town’s municipal waste stream. Alternatively, coordinate with surrounding Towns to set up a Household Hazardous Waste collection day.
- Educate citizens and encourage environmentally friendly landscaping practices, including use of native plant materials on new and existing sites.

OBJECTIVE 2

To preserve quality of life and the rural character of the Town by conserving open space, protecting important natural resources, and preserving scenic vistas. Protections would include limiting or mitigating lights and noise.

- Educate Town officials and the general public about the value of water resources, wildlife habitat, agricultural/horticultural land and open space in general.

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- Provide recommendations about natural resources to the Planning Board for consideration during subdivision and site plan review.
- Promote local land-based businesses by supporting commercial farming and horticulture, forestry, and other resource-based enterprises that help preserve ecosystem services that benefit all residents.
- Educate landowners on the merits of sustainable, “working” forests. Include information about best management practices, current use, and conservation easements.
- Continue to educate landowners about the benefits of well-crafted conservation easements.
- Educate current landowners and prospective developers about the benefits of landscaping with native plants, as well as the harmful effects of invasive/exotic plant species.
- Educate landowners about backyard burning laws to avoid burning toxic materials.
- Establish a volunteer program to seed and mulch open and exposed soils within the Town’s rights-of-way along roads to prevent soil erosion and encroachment of invasive species.
- Include provisions for the retention of rural character in the Subdivision Regulations.
- Promote collaboration between the Conservation Commission and other Town boards/organizations (e.g., the Salisbury Historical Society), to identify important natural resources that may have both historical and ecological value.

OBJECTIVE 3

To educate Town officials and the citizens of Salisbury about natural resources.

- Establish criteria for identifying and selecting potential conservation lands for acquisition.
- Acquire important land or easements on important land within the Town through the Land Conservation Investment program (LCIP) or similar programs.
- Educate landowners on the merits of sustainably managed forests and other “working landscapes.”
- Raise awareness of invasive/exotic plant species and measures citizens can take to prevent their spread.
- Hold educational workshops on topics involving Salisbury’s natural resources. Topics could include wildlife habitats, native plants, forest management, invasive/exotic species, and ecological landscaping.

OBJECTIVE 4

To preserve the valuable wildlife habitat currently abundant in the Town.

- Inventory the wildlife habitats in the Town.
- Examine ways the Town can conserve sensitive areas in which significant animal and plant species exist, such as wetlands, ponds, etc.
- Apply for grants to help fund acquisitions of land and conservation easements.

OBJECTIVE 5

To preserve and enhance natural recreational resources.

- Obtain public access to the Blackwater River and other waterbodies.
- Coordinate a meeting of the owners of conservation easements to develop a plan for public use of these lands.
- Promote knowledge of trails and encourage responsible use of the Class VI road hiking trails in Town.
- Host an ongoing series of talks and nature walks for children and adults that raise public awareness of the community value of natural resources and their protection.