

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT ACTION TASKS

Priorities: Immediate (I)=within 1 year; Short-Term (ST)=1-3 years; Mid-Term(MT)=3-5 years; Long-Term(LT)=5-10 years

NOTE: Priorities may have two time frames and they may start in the shorter time frame, but take longer to complete.

#	Goal Actions	Primary Entity	Subentity(ies)	Evaluation Metrics	Priority	Status
G1-2	Encourage young families and schoolchildren to use/enjoy our outdoor resources.	Bike/Walk Committee	School Department, Recreation, Conservation Commission , Commission on Disabilities	Change in numbers of young families/school children using outdoor resources.	I	Trail maps are left at the Library, Reach out to child care center in the areas Conservation Administrator collaborating with HS Environmental Science Students
G1-6	Increase awareness among residents about the value of natural resources through learning programming.	Planning & Conservation Department	Conservation Commission , School Department	Types of outreach. Number of people reached. Programs supported as a result of increased awareness.	ST	Written Outreach: monthly newsletter, Preserving Your Land pamphlets mailed (2) and handed out (1). Individual mailings will go out this month. Webinar/Workshops: Appalachian Mountain Club 7/6/22 gave talk on conservation efforts around the New England Trail, News Announcement for Preserving Your Land webinar series by MassWoods.
G1-7	Restore and protect the floodplain storage capacity of Buttery Brook as a component for redevelopment of South Hadley Falls.	Planning & Conservation Department	Conservation Commission	Date of restoration. Date of permanent protection. Number of square feet flooded and amount of property damage annually.	LT	Projects permitted within Buttery Brook Riverfront Area are carefully reviewed when they come before the Commission. MVP FY23 Grant application has been approved for design & permitting of Titus Pond Conservation Area improvements
G1-13	Use the park adjacent to the Library to highlight South Hadley's historical, cultural and natural resources.	Library	Historical Commission, Cultural Council, Conservation Commission , Redevelopment Authority, HG&E	Number of people using park.	MT	Public art would need to be freestanding, not adhered to walls. Initial conversation with Library Director about public art at the Library was very positive.
G1-16	Engage an affordable housing developer to build new housing.	Planning & Conservation Department	Administration, Housing Authority, Redevelopment Authority	Date developer(s) engaged. Number of affordable units developed.	MT	
G1-17	Create a planning process that identifies the sub-areas in South Hadley (neighborhoods).	Planning & Conservation Department		Date process developed. Description of sub-areas identified.	I/ST	
G1-18	Develop sub-area plans that identify strategies for preserving desirable characteristics and neighborhood enhancement needs.	Planning & Conservation Department		Date plans approved.	ST	
G1-19	Create a plan for locating outdoor gathering spaces and seating, and advocate for public outdoor seating/areas as a priority in all new business and housing projects. Develop and maintain a master map of all outdoor seating and gathering areas.	Planning & Conservation Department	Bike/Walk Committee, Commission on Disabilities, Conservation Commission , Department of Public Works, Planning Board	Number of gathering/seating areas created. Distribution of areas throughout town.	ST/MT	"Community Seating" is adding new benches or other seating mechanism in community spaces throughout town. We are current seeking funding for outdoor seating at Leaping Well Nature Trail. Other possibilities include Black Stevens & the Arboretum.
G1-20	Assess and map undersized (non-conforming) and undeveloped lots to understand where they are located and the adjacencies to other land uses.	Planning & Conservation Department		Number of lots mapped.	I	
G1-21	Support traffic calming measures in permitting for new projects and municipal roadway improvements.	Police Department	Planning & Conservation Department , Department of Public Works	Number and types of traffic calming devices.	ST	
G1-26	Identify and encourage conditions that attract and support Black, Indigenous, and People of Color population.	Selectboard	Administration, All entities	Process for identifying issues concerning BIPOC population and for monitoring the experience of Town services across all demographics. Process for identifying challenges and addressing them. Change in Town demographics. Change in diversity of people participating in civic life.	ST/MT	Conservation Commission updated their Social Justice Statement May 2022. Conservation Administrator has attended webinars focusing on diversity and inclusion in community open spaces. Signs to be posted at trailhead kiosks stating the areas are open to all people.
G1-31	Foster Town engagement with college/university personnel and consultants to provide special expertise.	Administration	Other entities as appropriate	Number of personnel used. Type and effectiveness of services provided.	ST, MT, LT	Collaboration with MHC Public Art Course led to installation of mural at Buttery Brook Park.

G2-2	Develop and implement a forest management program on Town-owned forest lands.	Conservation Commission		Date program approved. Effects of implementation on forests.	MT	Long term plan to look at managing town forest to support climate change resiliency. Water District II Forest Cutting Plan completed in 2021-2022.
G2-3	Develop internships with area colleges to assist the Commission in stewardship activities, including trail maintenance, and conduct ecological inventories of conservation areas.	Planning & Conservation Department	Conservation Commission	Number of interns. Tasks completed. Number of miles of trails maintained. Number of inventories completed. Number of students involved.	MT/LT	MHC (Mount Holyoke Circle K International Club and the Mount Holyoke Outing Club) assisted with re-blazing the Robert Frost Trail and will be "adopting" part of the trail, which runs through South Hadley. The town has a working relationship with the Appalachian Mtn Club & Kestrel Land Trust
G2-4	Expand funding for land conservation through regional partnerships to tap into new resources.	Planning & Conservation Department		Amount of new funding received.	MT/LT	Ongoing: current project is the Lauizer APR.
G2-5	Work toward protection of parcels identified as priority for protection in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.	Planning & Conservation Department		Identified amount. Change in number of acres protected relative to optimum amount.	LT	Ongoing within department - residents call when they are interested in conservation/preservation and we provide them informational material.
G2-6	Increase land protection in the Bachelor Brook watershed, including the Mount Holyoke Range.	Planning & Conservation Department	Water District #2	Change in number of acres protected.	LT	Ongoing within department. South Hadley has representation on the Friends of the Mount Holyoke Range. Acquisition of Range View Meadow brought positive attention to the BB greenway.
G2-7	Inventory/map parcels vulnerable to development in the Mount Holyoke Range.	Planning & Conservation Department		Date inventory and map complete. Uses and users of inventory and map.	ST	Estimated completion date: 12/1/2022
G2-8	Permanently protect land in Zone 2 for aquifer recharge to public water supplies.	Planning & Conservation Department	Water District #2	Change in number of acres permanently protected.	ST	Planning.
G2-9	Restore Titus and Black Stevens Ponds (including Newton Smith Brook).	Planning & Conservation Department		Date restoration plan developed. Timeline of restoration actions. Date restoration completed.	LT	Titus Pond in progress, starting with MVP FY22 Action Grant: Queensville Pond Removability Study & Buttery Brook Watershed Enhancements. Monitoring equipment installed 6/2022. MVP FY23 Grant application has been approved for design & permitting of Titus Pond Conservation Area improvements.
G2-10	Seek/support opportunities to pair land use conservation with culture/arts/historic preservation and other uses.	Planning & Conservation Department	Conservation Commission, Cultural Council, Historical Commission	Number of opportunities developed. Change in uses.	MT	SH Cultural Council awarded \$1,000 to the department to support the temporary street mural "Buttery Brook Under Our Feet" on Main Street 6/2022. MHC public arts students produced a public mural "Off the Beaten Path" that was installed in Buttery Brook Park 5/2022
G2-11	Identify and inventory existing Connecticut River viewsheds.	Planning & Conservation Department		Number of viewsheds identified.	ST	Estimated completion date: 7/1/2023
G2-13	Work with other Town entities to create and implement a plan to maintain viewsheds that currently exist.	Planning & Conservation Department	Department of Public Works, Historical Commission, Tree Committee and Tree Warden	Date plan approved. Number of views maintained.	MT	
G2-20	Examine how agriculture may be encouraged via incentives/regulations.	Planning & Conservation Department		Date incentives/ regulations identified. Date incentives/ regulations established. Number of acres under cultivation. Amount and variety of agricultural items sold.	ST	Update 7/2023: department staff has been part of a working group to discuss farmland protection in our region and exploring regulations such as Agricultural Zoning Districts. Final findings yet to be released.
G2-21	Research options for conserving open space and agricultural parcels without access to CPA funds.	Planning & Conservation Department		Date options identified. Date of adoption/ approval of options. Number of parcels protected.	ST	The Town has recently expended funds for the acquisition of 315 Amherst Road and the Lauizer Farm APR. We will continue to stay up-to-date with funding opportunities but at this time are not actively pursuing any grants that would require a match from the town.
G2-25	Coordinate resources for protection against wildfire, given climate change such as physical improvements as well as public education.	Fire Districts #1 and #2	Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works, Planning Board, Police Department, Tree Warden	Date of inventory of current policies re: management of forest lands, resource sharing, regional coordination, emergency protocols. Date new policies adopted. Impact of new policies.	ST/MT	

G3-3	Develop an urban forestry plan for public shade trees, including a management plan to improve the health of existing shade trees and a plan to increase the urban forest canopy.	Planning & Conservation Department	Department of Public Works, Tree Committee, Tree Warden	Date plan developed. Date plan adopted. Number of trees planted. Change in health for each tree.	ST/MT	
G3-5	Develop program with South Hadley High School to have a youth member on the Conservation Commission.	Conservation Commission		Date of policy adoption. Date youth member appointed.	ST	Will contact the School Committee for starting advice, as they currently have a student representative.
G3-6	Incorporate floodplain management in design and planning of redevelopment projects.	Redevelopment Authority	Planning & Conservation Department , Planning Board	Change in site plan and/or special permit review criteria. Number, type, and location of projects affected. Change in number of acres flooded. Change in amount of damage created by flooding.	ST/MT	
G3-7	Develop set of best practices for addressing climate change through project permitting.	Planning & Conservation Department		Date of best practices report. Date best practices adopted. Number, type, and location of projects affected. Number of acres of wetlands and wetland buffers affected.	ST	
G3-9	Support an investigation to re-delineate the District 2 Water Supply recharge area.	FD #1 and #2	Board of Water Commissioners, Conservation Commission , Planning Board	Date investigation completed. Date action plan adopted.	ST	
G3-16	Measure baseline climate data (carbon, number of trees, solar, etc.) and track these markers.	Planning & Conservation Department		Date of baseline measurement. Change in markers at set times (i.e. annual, biannual, seasonal).	ST/MT	
G3-24	Work with boards and committees to produce videos to welcome new members and give them a brief overview of responsibilities.	SHCTV	All boards and committees	Number of videos. Number of boards and committees participating. Feedback from viewers.	ST	Internal.
G3-25	Encourage people of diverse backgrounds to run for boards and/or apply for committees to ensure broad representation of all residents in government functions.	All boards		Number of candidates identified. Number of candidates elected. Change in demographics of candidates.	ST/MT	
G4-1	Create working groups of staff and committee and board members to meet regularly around common priorities to identify and work together toward shared objectives.	All boards, committees, and departments	Administration, Selectboard	Date working group created. Number of shared priorities identified. Number of group actions being pursued. Number of actions completed.	ST	
G4-2	Conduct an annual joint meeting with other committees to share priorities.	Conservation Commission		Date meeting held. Number of entities participating. Resulting actions.	I	Will be held this fall - November 4, 2022.
G4-4	Improve inter-departmental communications within the municipality and to the public.	Administration	All departments	Number and types of communications. Feedback from residents and business owners.	ST/MT	
G4-5	Provide professional development for all departments and committees as appropriate to improve skills in website content development and presentation.	Administration	All departments	Date provided. Number of participants.	ST/MT	
G4-8	Create a central resource directory on the Town website for all listing and linking to all current plans, reports and key data.	Administration	All boards, committees, and departments	Date resource created. Relevance of information provided. Use of information.	ST/MT	

G4-13	Prior to Town Meeting, review proposed bylaws as to legality, consistency with other bylaws, and alignment with the goals of this Master Plan Update and make recommendations for action (recommend or not recommend) to the Selectboard and Town Meeting.	Bylaw Review	All other boards and committees	Date(s) bylaws reviewed. Number of committees and/or proposers consulted. Recommendations made. Votes by Town Meeting.	ST/MT	New Tree Replacement Performance standards are currently under review by Town Counsel.
G4-14	Increase awareness among residents and knowledge about what a wetland is and when work needs a permit.	Conservation Commission	Planning & Conservation Department	Number of applications. Number of approvals. Number of violations.	ST	Yearly mailings to targeted areas.
G4-15	Increase the public's willingness to seek guidance from the Conservation Commission before doing work.	Conservation Commission	Planning & Conservation Department	Number of inquiries.	ST/MT	Yearly mailings to targeted areas.
G4-16	Increase use of media and the Town website to promote and showcase good projects with outcomes in support of the values of the Wetlands Protection Act and the goals of this Master Plan Update.	Conservation Commission	Planning & Conservation Department	Number of articles. Types of media. Distribution of coverage. Number of projects shown.	ST/LT	Titus Pond & Buttery Brook improvements: https://www.southhadley.org/1096/Climate-Resiliency
G4-22	Post articles in area newspapers, Town's website and social media.	All boards and committees		Number of articles posted. Number of responses or other feedback.	ST/MT	Monthly Newsletter
G4-27	Work with boards, committees and departments to identify baseline data for impact evaluation and standard metrics, as appropriate.	Master Plan Implementation Committee	All boards, committees, and departments	Date baseline data identified. Schedule for collection of baseline data. Date(s) data collected.	MT	
G4-28	Work with boards, committees, and departments to monitor progress towards goals using metrics recommended in this Master Plan Update, as appropriate.	Master Plan Implementation Committee	All boards, committees, and departments	Identify schedule and process for monitoring. Feedback from boards etc. as to usefulness. Dates of progress updates to Selectboard, Planning Board, and Town Meeting.	MT/LT	
G4-29	Work with Town Administrator, Planning Board and Selectboard to determine whether there are additional reporting mechanisms that should be put in place, for example to flag an urgent issue.	Master Plan Implementation Committee	Administration, Planning Board, Selectboard, All Departments	Date additional reporting mechanisms identified. Number of users. Feedback on effectiveness.	ST/MT	