



Selection Criteria and Checklist for Conservation Acquisitions

Land Owner(s)	
Map and Lot numbers	
Acreage	
Adjacent road(s)	

Additional discussion of these criteria is contained in the Conservation Plan for Amherst, New Hampshire (January 2019).

I. Protection of Irreplaceable Natural Resources

To qualify for selection a property must meet one of the following criteria:

_____ **Wildlife Habitat**

The property contains or supports significant wildlife habitat¹, or protects Threatened, Endangered, or species of Special Concern², or exemplary natural plant communities.

_____ **Water Resources**

The property overlies highly transmissive aquifers or contains important aquifer recharge areas, significant natural surface waters (lakes, ponds, major streams and rivers), or other lands important to the protection of our water resources (including both water quantity and quality).

¹ Defined as areas categorized in the NH Wildlife Action Plan as Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire, Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region, or Supporting Landscapes. Map available at: <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/wap/amherst&x11scoring.pdf>.

² For more information, see <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/angered-list.html> and https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datacheck/signin.aspx.

- _____ Land Connectivity
The property expands or adds to other conserved land (public or private) or serves as a “beachhead” for obtaining larger conservation parcels in the future.

II. Contribution to Amherst’s Rural Aesthetic

The following additional desirable features support the potential purchase of an identified property.

- _____ Recreational and Educational Value
The property is suitable for non-motorized recreational trails or contains significant natural or historical features with educational value.
- _____ Working Lands
The property is in active agricultural or forest management use or protects large un-fragmented blocks of forest which could be managed.
- _____ Geographic Diversity
The property is located in an area of town that lacks current conservation areas reasonably available to residents.
- _____ Other
The property protects the town's rural character and natural resources in other ways (describe).

III. Vulnerability

To be considered for purchase the property must not be currently conserved and must be under threat of development, as indicated by one or more of the following qualities:

- _____ The property has a significant percentage of developable land (areas that are not steep slopes, wetlands, or within a floodplain).
- _____ The property has convenient access to existing roads.
- _____ The property has in the past been proposed for development or is in an area where significant development has occurred or is proposed.
- _____ The property is the subject of current interest for potential sale for development.

IV. Disqualification

The property will not be acquired if any of the following is true.

- _____ The property is too small or isolated from other current or potential conservation properties to provide meaningful conservation value.
- _____ The property is likely to be contaminated with hazardous materials and cleanup is not feasible.
- _____ There is reason to believe that the land/easement would be unusually difficult to manage or to have proper stewardship of the land.
- _____ The landowner insists on provisions that limit reasonable public access to the land.
- _____ The landowner insists on other provisions that unacceptably diminish the property's primary conservation or public values or the town's ability to enforce an easement and or manage the land.
- _____ Other disqualifying issues exist (identify) _____.

Completed by _____

Date _____