

SOUTH HADLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission Recommended Action - status as of 5/1/2013	Chapter-Goal	Goal or Land Use Objective	Priority Action	Timeframe				
				Immediate	Near Term (1-3 years)	Mid Term (3-6 years)	Long Term (6-10 yrs)	Ongoing
Research and map the current status of ownership and conservation restrictions of parcels within the Mount Holyoke Range. Ongoing	CHR-1	1-2-2			✓			✓
Document the watersheds, stream geomorphology, habitat conditions, and existing buffers of the Town's small streams, notably Elmer Brook, Stony Brook, Bachelor Brook, and Buttery Brook. Need Additional Help	NR-1	1-1-1		✓				✓
Using available data collected from the water quality and other monitoring stations document the quality and condition of the Connecticut River and tributary streams in the South Hadley area. Need Additional Help	NR-1	1-1-2		✓				✓
Identify key areas for preservation and priority conservation funding. Expect Open Space to address this	NR-2	2-1-2			✓	✓		
Use conservation investments and partnerships to further protect land in the Mount Holyoke Range.	NR-2	2-2-1		✓				✓
Encourage property owners to permanently protect the land they own on the Mount Holyoke Range. Ongoing	NR-2	2-2-2			✓			
As a priority action item in this Plan, document and map the ownership status of lands along the Connecticut River. Ongoing	NR-2	2-4-1	✓			✓	✓	
Document the location, extent and quality of the Northern Floodplain Forest along the Connecticut River, including its wildlife habitat and natural community functions and values. Need Additional Help	NR-2	2-4-3			✓			✓
Adopt shoreline stabilization measures into a Town policy or bylaw to protect the Connecticut River shoreline. Completed	NR-2	2-4-6	✓	✓				✓
Ensure that any new access points to the Connecticut River protect river water quality, rare species habitat, and shoreline vegetation. Completed	NR-2	2-4-7		✓				✓
Develop a watershed study to determine whether additional stream setbacks and buffer provisions are needed to protect property from flooding and erosion hazards caused by development within the riparian zone. Need Additional Help	NR-3	3-2-1		✓				
Identify, evaluate and map potential wildlife corridors, including regional and local connections to core habitat areas, vernal pools, and water resources. Expect Open Space to address this	NR-3	3-3-1			✓	✓		
Evaluate opportunities and locations that could be used to facilitate wildlife crossings and connect habitat areas within the Town.	NR-3	3-3-2			✓			
Identify critical resource areas encompassing streams, ponds, vernal pools, floodplain, wetlands and other water bodies for conservation and preservation. Expect Open Space to address this	NR-3	3-3-3				✓		
Fully evaluate and document the wildlife habitat values and natural communities in South Hadley, possibly using the Shortnose Sturgeon, Bald Eagle and Barn Owl as "indicator" species for planning purposes. Need Additional Help	NR-3	3-3-4					✓	

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Document the condition of the Town's small streams and watersheds. Need Additional Help	NR-3	3-3-5					✓	
Develop community involvement to address small stream and watershed concerns.	NR-3	3-3-6			✓			
In the course of updating local bylaws and regulations, ensure that any revisions consider and incorporate appropriate best practices for such environmental protections as stream buffers or shoreline setbacks. Done	NR-3	3-3-7		✓				✓
Create new opportunities for community education and engagement (such as, new stream and watershed signage, stream team clean-up efforts, and "Keeping Track"). Plan to work with MHC Intern on this	NR-5	5-2-5			✓			
Provide accurate information to property owners that support conservation goals and individual and community educational initiatives. Ongoing	OSR-3	3-1-3			✓			
Provide staffing support for the Agricultural Commission. Currently there is no Agricultural Commission	OSR-3	3-2-1		✓				✓
Research and map the current status of easements, state ownership, and private ownership of parcels within the Mount Holyoke Range. Ongoing	OSR-4	4-1-1		✓				✓
Identify parcels that lie within the Ultimate Acquisition Boundary outlined by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Plan to start before end of fiscal year, also Open Space to be involved	OSR-4	4-1-2		✓				✓
Identify environmentally sensitive parcels of land that may be vulnerable (i.e. are not permanently protected) to development activity that lie within the Mount Holyoke Range. Expect Open Space to address this	OSR-4	4-2-1		✓				✓
Initiate activities to permanently protect parcels which are environmentally sensitive and vulnerable to development.	OSR-4	4-2-2			✓	✓		
Continue efforts and partnerships to permanently protect lands in the Mount Holyoke Range. Ongoing	OSR-4	4-2-3			✓			
Explore designation of the Mount Holyoke Range as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.	OSR-4	4-2-4		✓				✓
Develop meaningful and effective information delivery methods (such as the town's website and community access television) to ensure that town residents and visitors are aware of and can easily find and use the town's network of parks, trails, and publicly accessible open lands. Plan to work with MHC Intern on this	OSR-7	7-1-2						