

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

Create and Protect Open Space:

1. Create an Agricultural Commission to aid local farmers in continuing to work the land. Working farms are open space and a valuable part of the Town's rural character.
2. Encourage conservation easement donations or sales to private land conservation organizations, from large landowners.
3. Develop an Open Space plan to encourage the above and to obtain state, federal and private funding for preservation.
4. Focus growth in areas of Town where services already exist, i.e. water, sewer and roads.
5. Create an open space residential bylaw as a vehicle to properly develop new housing and increase open space in North Brookfield.

Improve Main Street/Downtown Area:

1. Create mixed-use zones, i.e., residential/retail zoning for village. Example: retail shop with apartments above.
2. Create an economic development strategy to attract new commercial use to the downtown area.
3. Coordinate with East Brookfield to implement bylaws that allow pedestrian and bicycle usage of the railroad right of way.
4. Implement bylaws to encourage traditional and historical village architectural styles. Implement historical building preservation bylaws.
5. Develop a viable strategy for the reuse of the former Aztec Property
6. Create a more pedestrian friendly downtown through increased sidewalks and proper signage.

Protect Ponds, Rivers & Wetlands:

1. Expand the current State protection of ponds and wetlands, e.g., expand buffer zones and exclude building in buffer zones. Include protection of brooks and other wetlands that feed the primary rivers and ponds in order to protect water quality and wildlife.
2. Implement bylaws for the prevention of residential/commercial storm run-off into vernal pools, wetlands, ponds, rivers, streams or onto roads; mandate usage of storm basins for new development.
3. Implement bylaws on the taking of upland soils near wetlands, ponds, rivers and brooks.
4. Work with state and East Brookfield governments to implement bylaws on boat propeller cleaning and inspections for invasive plants.
5. Focus protection on the following areas:
 - a. Five Mile River Basin,
 - b. Uplands surrounding Lake Lashaway and Brook's Pond
 - c. Lands with wildlife populations and large unbroken forest area

The above vision represents the Master Plan Committee's first attempt at articulating community goals. It is anticipated that these goals will be modified and amended as the master planning process unfolds.