

SECTION 9: FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

* Important Note: Successful implementation and completion of any or all of these strategies is contingent upon sufficient availability of funding and staffing levels in the appropriate department, board or commission assumed to be responsible for each individual strategy. Likewise, projected timeframes may need to change depending upon the availability of funding and staffing. A graphic depiction of the Town's Five-Year Action Plan can be seen on the Action Plan Map (Map 6) that follows the matrix below.

Goal 1: Maintain North Brookfield's Rural Character

Objective	Year	Responsible Party
1. Minimize development impacts by implementing appropriate zoning controls and strategies.	Ongoing	Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Bylaw Review Com.
a. Create and Open Space Residential Bylaw with smaller lot size and open space provisions that must be approved by the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.	3-4	Bylaw Review Committee
b. Create incentives for developers who voluntarily create any of the following: open land, recreation areas and wildlife connecting corridors as part of their development plans. These incentives could include density bonuses, the waiving of fees or a speedier permitting process. Working with developers and engineers early on in the process will ease tension and get the best results.	1	Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals
c. Update Zoning Bylaws Table of Uses with a look at by right uses and the impacts they have on the areas zoned to allow them.	2-4	Bylaw Review Committee
d. Create new Open Space zoning.	3-4	Bylaw Review Comm.
2. Preserve the scenic resources for future generations by facilitating the placement of conservation easements and purchasing land outright.	Ongoing	Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Open Space Com.
a. Establish land purchase priorities and create map.	1	Open Space Committee
b. Develop a working relationship with a local land trust.	1-2	Open Space Committee
c. Notify land owners in these areas of tax incentives, potential for conservation easement purchases, etc.; and introduce landowners to the land trust.	2-3	Planning Board, Open Space Committee
d. Work Toward establishing a relationship between the landowners and act as a liaison between them and the land trust.		Open Space Committee
e. Investigate and promote the adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) bylaw within the town in order to raise funds.	1	Open Space Committee, Historic Committee, Selectmen
f. Determine available funding tools, i.e., grants, Town fees/taxes, Town credits for the purchase/preservation of open space.	2-3	Planning Board, Finance Committee
g. Work with Selectmen, Finance and Conservation committees, and the Planning Board in determining appropriate funding tools.	2	Open Space Committee
h. Have Town establish a grant-writing program; apply for grants.	1-2	Planning Board, Selectmen
i. Approach Selectmen to set up a special open space account for donations, grants, tax-surcharges, (if any) to be used to purchase open space.	3-4	Open Space Committee
3. Ensure the future prosperity of local farms	Ongoing	Agriculture Com.
a. Create a Right-to-Farm Bylaw to reinforce North Brookfield's commitment to agriculture and the residents who rely on it for their livelihood.	2-3	Agriculture Commission, Master Plan Implementation Committee
b. Form an Agricultural Commission to work with local farmers and regional.	1	Master Plan Implementation Committee

4 Encourage appropriate development siting, design and landscaping to further enhance the existing character of North Brookfield.		
a. Create a manual for developers, surveyor and engineers to guide them to better planning. This should be readily available at the Town Clerk's office and included with the Zoning Bylaw booklet. Clearly express what you are looking for developers and their engineers to produce. Encourage developers of all kinds to be innovative and create better developments. Make certain that all criteria and specifications are coordinated between the Planning Board, Board of Health and the Conservation Commission.	4	Planning Board, Board of Health, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Inspector
b. Create an up-to -date Open Space map of North Brookfield showing all existing open land including wetlands and uplands to use as a guide by planners (Planning Board, Conservation Commission) and developers to facilitate the planning process by engineers and developers for the creation of open space land, recreation areas, and wildlife corridors connecting to adjacent wetlands and uplands. (Note this is not a zoning map).	3	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Highway Department, Open Space Committee

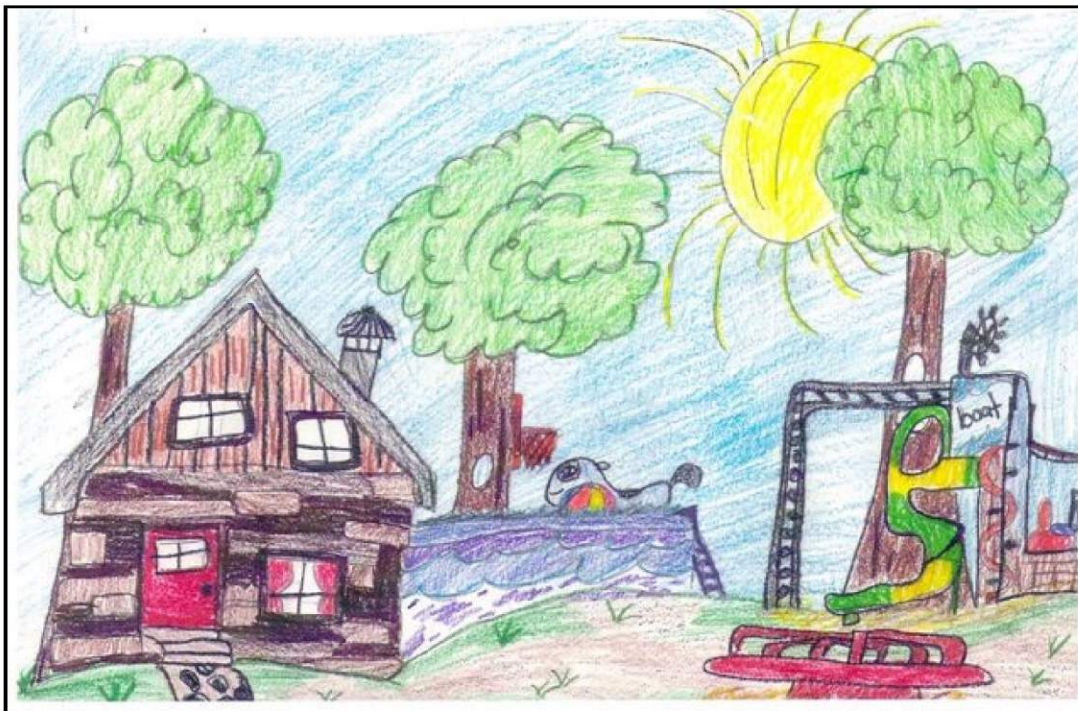


What the Kids Say: "The Kids in North Brookfield have some ideas about making things change in our Town."

Goal 2: Preserve and Enhance North Brookfield's Water Resources

Objective	Year	Responsible Party
1. Protect the municipal water supply.	Ongoing	Water Dept., Conservation Com., Board of Health
a. Identify potential point and non-point water pollution sources.	3	Conservation Com., Board of Health, Water Dept., Highway Dept.
b. Mitigate potential pollution through regulatory measures, land preservation and zoning.	4	Conservation Com., Board of Health, Highway Dept., Water Dept.
c. Appoint a Conservation Agent, paid by the Town, to inspect sites at proposed predevelopment stage, and when mitigation measures are in place, and issue certificate or letter of compliance to begin. Agent to inspect the site at random during construction for compliance. Agent to make recommendations on mitigating measures for Conservation Commission as each site is different.	2	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission
2. Identify additional/alternate sources for municipal water supply.	2	Water Dept., Conservation Com.,
a. Determine the viability of the suspected aquifer, identified by the State, located beneath the Five Mile River.	2	Water Dept., Conservation Com.,
b. Explore possibility of purchasing excess water from neighboring towns.	3-4	Selectmen, Water Dept.
3. Protect and improve the quality of surface waters.	Ongoing	Conservation Com., Highway Dept.
a. Develop a Stormwater Management Policy and Bylaw to address the potential pollution issues associated with uncontrolled stormwater runoff.	1-2	Bylaw Review Com., Highway Dept., Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Com.
b. Purchase or preserve open watershed lands with water tributaries into Doane Pond, Horse Pond, Brooks Pond and Lake Lashaway via grants, the Town raising funds or tax credits.	Ongoing	Conservation Com., Water Dept.
i. Determine likely areas and landowners to incorporate into overall open space land purchase/preservation priority list.	1	Master Plan Com., Water Dept.
ii. Determine other available funding tools, i.e. grants, Town fees/taxes, Town credits for the purchase preservation of open space.	Ongoing	Master Plan Com., Conservation Com., Finance Com., Water Dept.
c. Coordinate and support private lake association efforts in protecting pond/lake water quality.	Ongoing	Water Dept., Conservation Com., Master Plan Com., Board of Health
i. Assist in investigating and prioritization of non-point source pollution in the pond/lake watersheds.		
ii. Assist in the evaluation and implementation of management strategies to manage nuisance vegetation.		
iii. Assist in outreach and education for watershed residents.		
d. Have Town establish a grant-writing program; apply for grants.	1-2	Planning Board, Selectmen
e. Approach Selectmen to set up a special open space account for donations, grants, tax surcharges to be used to purchase open space.	3-4	Open Space Committee

4. Protect important wetland areas.	Ongoing	Conservation Com.
a. Write a presentation for wetlands protection.	4	Conservation Com., Bylaw Review Com.
b. Assemble a wetlands protection bylaw.	4	Conservation Com., Bylaw Review Com.
c. Educate public and hold hearings on wetlands protection.	4	Conservation Com., Bylaw Review Com.
d. Develop a Stormwater Management Policy and Bylaw to address the potential pollution issues associated with uncontrolled stormwater runoff.	1-2	Bylaw Review Com., Highway Dept., Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Com.
5. Protect ground water resources.		
a. Identify potential point and non-point water pollution sources.	3	Highway Dept., Water Dept., Conservation Com., Board of Health
b. Develop a Stormwater Management Policy and Bylaw to address the potential pollution issues associated with uncontrolled stormwater runoff.	1-2	Bylaw Review Com., Highway Dept., Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Com.
c. Appoint a Conservation Agent, paid by the Town, to inspect sites at proposed predevelopment stage, and when mitigation measures are in place, and issue certificate or letter of compliance to begin. Agent to inspect the site at random during construction for compliance. Agent to make recommendations on mitigating measures for Conservation Commission as each site is different.	2	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission

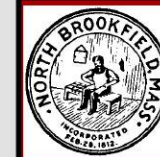


Goal 3: Enhance the Community's Knowledge About Open Space in North Brookfield.

Objective	Year	Responsible Party
1. Create an informational packet, including a map, about North Brookfield's open spaces, to introduce new residents and visitors to the Town's resources.	1-3	Open Space Com.
a. Create an up-to –date Open Space map of North Brookfield showing all existing open land including wetlands and uplands that identifies recreation areas, and wildlife corridors connecting to adjacent wetlands and uplands and other notable places.	1	Planning Board, Conservation Com., Open Space Com.
b. Use the Open Space map to evaluate useable and interesting resources and gather further information on these resources to encourage and aid in future use.	1-2	Open Space Com., Playground Com.
c. Create an Open Space presentation board for use at community functions.	1-2	Open Space Com., Planning Board
d. Assemble this information into a flyer/pamphlet/packet.	2-3	Open Space Com., Playground Com.
2. Compile a collection of educational materials to be made available to teachers, at various levels, that can be incorporated into a variety of different curriculums (i.e. science, history etc.).	Ongoing	Open Space Com., School Com.
a. Identify curriculum areas that can be enhanced with North Brookfield specific materials.	3-4	School Com., Open Space Com.
b. Develop age and curriculum appropriate lesson plans that stress the importance of open space and historic places in North Brookfield.	3-5	School Com., Open Space Com.
c. Continue to update and refine the curriculum as needed.	Ongoing	School Com., Open Space Com.
3. Create a website or a page on the Town website dedicated to open space in North Brookfield.	1-3	Technology Com., Open Space Com., Planning Board
a. Assemble information on open space and recreation into digital format and place on the internet to allow citizens and other interested parties the ability to access it as needed.	1-3	Technology Com., Open Space Com., Planning Board
4. Explore opportunities for ecotourism in North Brookfield.	Ongoing	Open Space Com., Selectmen
a. Identify natural areas and activities of potential interest that may draw people from outside of North Brookfield and the Region (i.e. bird watching, canoeing etc.).	2-3	Selectmen, Conservation Com., Open Space Com., Planning Board
b. Determine available funding tools for creating/marketing ecotourism opportunities in North Brookfield.	2-3	Finance Com., Open Space Com.,
c. Investigate access to privately held lands to allow for use as part of the Town's ecotourism plan including as a connection between parcels of interest.	3-5	Selectmen, Open Space Com.
d. Seek funding through Town appropriated funds, grants, and donations for developing boat launches along rivers that abut existing Town owned land or seek easements for access/launch sites from private land owners.	4-5	Finance Com., Open Space Com.

Goal 4: Provide North Brookfield with Varied and Well Maintained Recreational Opportunities and Facilities

Objective	Year	Responsible Party
1. Maintain existing facilities, with improvements where necessary.	Ongoing	Playground Com.
a. Develop a Town survey to determine improvement needs.	2-3	Playground Com., Open Space Com.
b. Incorporate these determined needs in the Town budget for capital improvements.	3-4	Capital Improvement Com., Playground Com.
c. Obtain Town budget and/or grants to fund improvements.	Ongoing	Capital Improvement Com., Finance Com.
2. Construct new Facilities as needed.	Ongoing	Playground Com., Open Space Com.
a. Develop a Town survey to determine new facility needs.	2-3	Playground Com., Open Space Com.
b. Incorporate these determined needs in the Town budget for capital improvements.	3-4	Capital Improvement Com., Playground Com.
c. Obtain Town budget and/or grants to fund improvements.	Ongoing	Capital Improvement Com., Finance Com.
3. Expand opportunities for passive outdoor recreation (hiking, fishing, canoeing, etc.).	Ongoing	Playground Com., Open Space Com.
a. Determine likely areas for new passive recreation and trails via Town survey.	2-3	Playground Com., Open Space Com.
b. Determine the feasibility of creating a Multi-Use Path on the site of the old railroad bed.	1	Selectmen, Playground Com., Open Space Com.
c. Identify underused, existing trails and paths that could support multiple uses (i.e. hiking, biking etc.).	2-3	Playground Com., Open Space Com.
d. Explore the creation of boat launching areas and water-based recreation on the Five Mile River, including easements/roads to access the area(s) and provide parking as needed.	4-5	Open Space Com., Playground Com., Selectmen
e. Seek funding through Town appropriated funds, grants, and donations for developing hiking and biking trails along existing Town roads, outside of traffic lanes, on shoulders, within the road right of way or purchase easements from private land owners who have frontage along side roads.	3-5	Finance Com., Open Space Com., Conservation Com.
f. Seek funding through Town appropriated funds, grants, and donations for developing boat launches along rivers that abut existing Town owned land or seek easements for access/launch sites from private land owners.	5	Finance Com., Open Space Com., Conservation Com.
4. Existing or planned facilities and opportunities should accommodate all age groups and user groups within the community.	Ongoing	ADA Coordinator
a. Identify existing facilities that do not currently meet accessibility standards through Town survey.	2-3	ADA Coordinator, Playground Com., Open Space Com.
b. Incorporate these determined needs in the Town budget for capital improvements.	3-4	Capital Improvement Com., ADA Coordinator
c. Obtain Town budget and/or grants to fund improvements.	Ongoing	Finance Com., Capital Improvement Com.



Town of North Brookfield Open Space Plan Action Plan

Legend

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| Water Bodies | Town Boundary |
| Streams | Interstate |
| NHESP Certified Vernal Pools | U.S. Route |
| NHESP Potential Vernal Pools:
NOT equivalent to Certified Vernal Pools | State Route |
| Wetlands | Local |
| NHESP Estimated Habitats for Rare Wildlife | Chapter Lands |
| NHESP BioMap Core Habitat | |
| NHESP BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape | |
| Open Space Lands | Municipal |
| State | Private |
| | CR |
| | APR |
- Feet
0 700 1,400 2,800 4,200 5,600



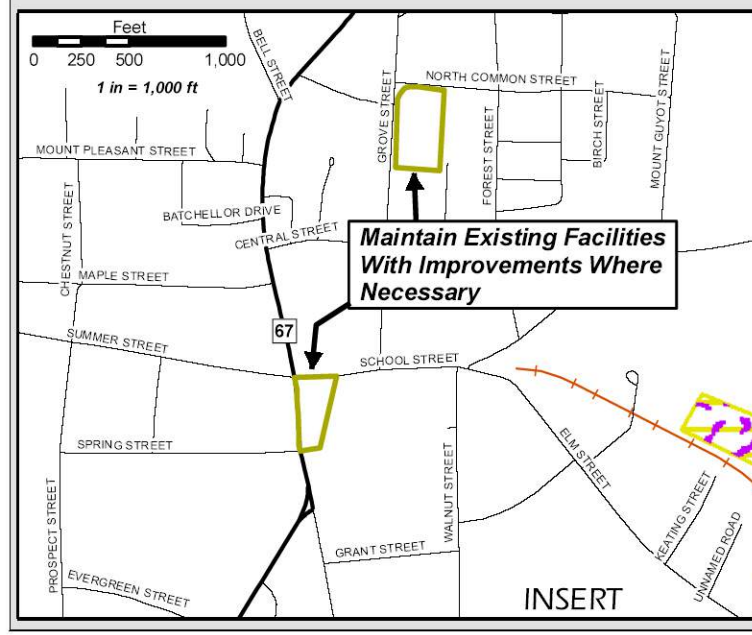
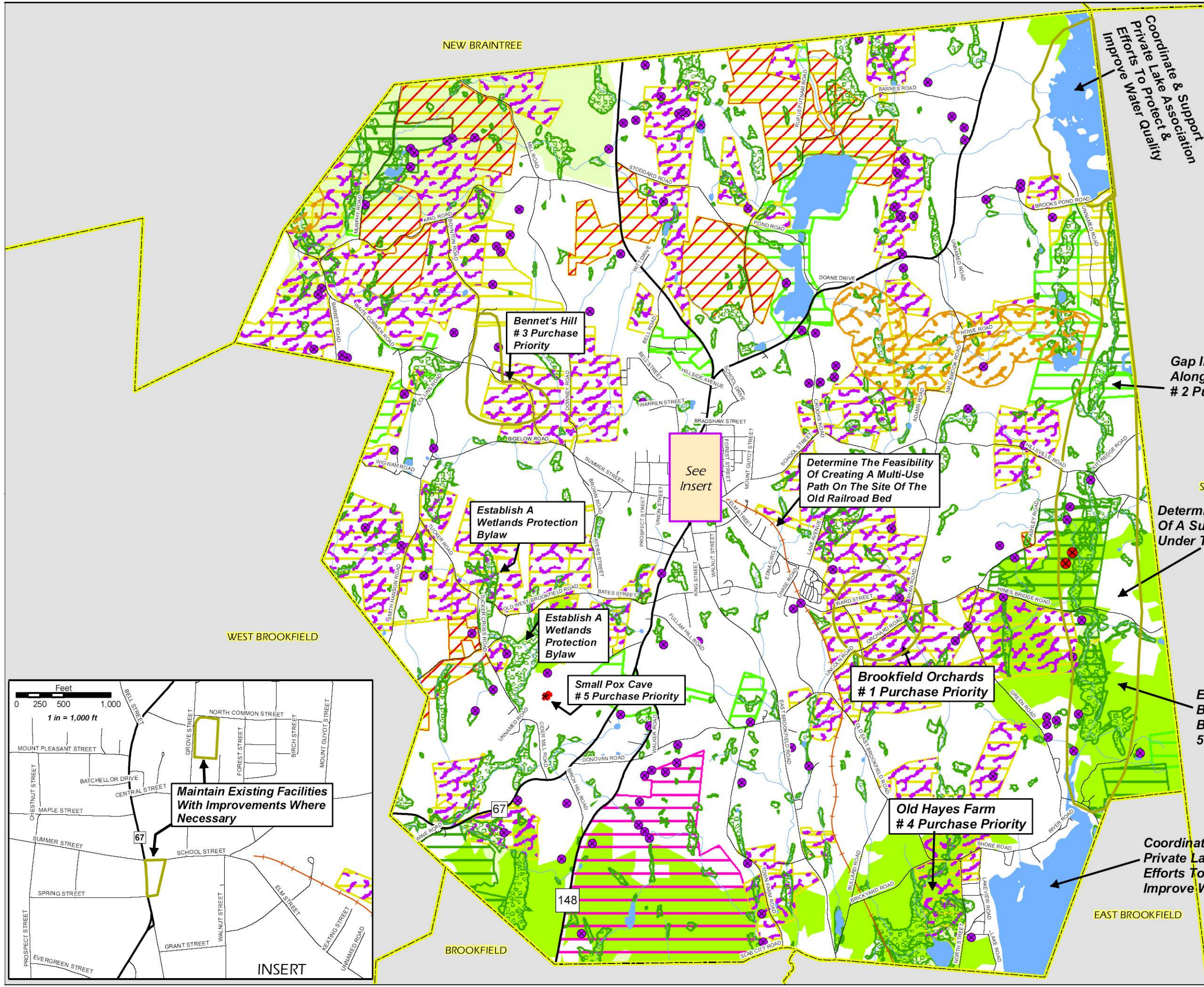
Source: Data provided the Town of North Brookfield, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), by Mass-Highway and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/MassGIS (EOEA/MassGIS).

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution interpreting positional accuracy.

Produced by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
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Printed July 26 2007 MDF
North Brookfield Open Space Plan 2007
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Gap In Protection
Along 5 Mile River
2 Purchase Priority

Determine The Viability
Of A Suspected Aquifer
Under The 5 Mile River

Explorer The Creation Of
Boat Launches & Water
Based Recreation On The
5 Mile River

Coordinate & Support
Private Lake Association
Efforts To Protect &
Improve Water Quality

Bennet's Hill
3 Purchase
Priority

Determine The Feasibility
Of Creating A Multi-Use
Path On The Site Of The
Old Railroad Bed

Establish A
Wetlands Protection
Bylaw

Establish A
Wetlands
Protection
Bylaw

Small Pox Cave
5 Purchase Priority

Brookfield Orchards
1 Purchase Priority

Old Hayes Farm
4 Purchase Priority

See
Insert