

LCHIP

Land & Community Heritage
Investment Program



LCHIP GUIDANCE DOCUMENT CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

Conservation Priorities: Multiple Conservation Priorities may be selected. The Conservation Priorities should be supported by the description of conservation attributes and significance provided, and if applicable, relevant resource-specific maps. One or more Conservation Priorities listed may not be applicable to a particular project. It is rare that more than 4 Conservation Priorities are appropriately assigned to an individual project. The descriptions below, although not exhaustive, describe the types of resources found in each category.

Agriculture

Protects important agricultural soils as identified by the Natural Resource Conservation Service classification system; protects active farmland or land well-suited for long-term production of agricultural products based on parcel size, access, slope, aspect, water for irrigation, microclimate, or other factors; located in proximity to other farms, markets, or other agricultural infrastructure that support the farm's viability; agriculture plan in place or will be required; farmer and/or worker housing on site.

Drinking Water Protection

Protects New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES)-designated [High-Priority Water Supply Lands](#), eligible for the Source Water Protection Grant Program, which includes Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA), Hydrologic Areas of Concern (HAC), and High-Yield Stratified Drift Aquifers classified as GA2.

Ecological Values

Protects important wildlife habitat, exemplary natural communities, rare or endangered species; creates a contiguous block of conservation land greater than 500 acres; protection of the property will assist in sustaining natural ecological functions and/or resilience at a meaningful level; protects land containing or abutting a great pond, high-quality or headwater stream, river, wetlands, or floodplain; scores above average for climate resiliency.

Working Forests

Protects productive forest soils classified as Group 1 A-C; protects land well-suited for long-term production of forest products based on parcel size, access, slope, species composition, age classes, microclimate, etc.; expands an existing working forest; contains infrastructure such as woods roads that will aid in harvesting.

Historic / Cultural

Protects a highly significant historic resource, cultural asset, or natural feature that is a defining representation of local heritage as identified in a community's Master Plan, other municipal planning document, or the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

Recreation / Education

Expands or establish public outdoor recreation areas, improves public access to trails (foot, snowmobile, or other) or surface waters for recreation; builds connectivity and accessibility between existing areas or creates transportation corridors connecting community destinations; supports diverse uses and users; protects "green space" for underserved populations or near public schools or community centers; provides opportunities for meaningful interpretation and educational opportunities.

Scenic / Aesthetic

Preserves a scenic or iconic view from designated scenic byways or state highways, iconic landscapes illustrative of local or state heritage, "green space" in town or city centers, or land that uniquely defines a community.

Other

Protects important resource values not intuitively included above.