

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Brunswick Conservation Commission is to serve the Brunswick community by advocating for conservation values and stewarding our ecologically rich natural communities and open spaces.

OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Commission serves the community of Brunswick by promoting land conservation to benefit Brunswick residents and visitors; fostering the conservation of open space, habitat and ecological values; advocating for the appropriate protection, development, or use of open spaces in town; providing educational outreach to residents on local and regional conservation and ecological issues; coordinating with town departments, committees, and local organizations in support of conservation efforts; and overseeing the management of Town-owned conservation lands and interests.

Primary Priorities for 2025:

1. Continue to assist in the conservation management, planning, and stewardship of Captain Fitzgerald Park and the newly donated adjacent land from Maine Gravel Services, including any roles assigned to the Commission in the final management plan. Continue this work also with Brunswick Landing conveyance properties, in particular the Western Sawtooth parcel; advocate for and assist with the completion of a wildlife survey for Western Sawtooth so that our management plan, accepted two years ago by Council, can be updated (if needed) and implemented.
2. Continue to work on targeted invasive species efforts for Fitzgerald Park, Furbish Preserve, and Western Sawtooth; support Town efforts to remediate invasives at additional locations, including those at 250th Anniversary Park.
3. Support Town efforts to develop and promote a town-wide pesticide ordinance by engaging and/or facilitating educational outreach and public discussion; work with Town staff, committees, and other local entities in support of improved watershed health.
4. Using an updated version of the Conservation Commission's 2014 Inventory for guidance, identify management and stewardship needs and priorities for Town-owned conservation properties that are not tied to the Parks and Recreation department or other official entities. Establish a regular review of these properties.
5. Review development applications and plans where a conservation component is proposed; make recommendations on such projects to the Planning Board.
6. Continue to develop an understanding of and advocacy for Mare Brook and its watershed as the work shifts from planning to implementation. Such work includes appropriate coordination and communication with other interested groups, including the Mare Brook Watershed Steering Committee.
7. Communicate and coordinate with other Town commissions and entities (e.g. Rivers and Coastal Waters, Marine Resources, Recreation, Town Council, etc.), and local affiliated conservation entities such as BTLT, Trout Unlimited, etc.
8. Improve outreach and community involvement through social media, the Conservation Commission page on the Town website, and other efforts.
9. Support Town-based climate action initiatives.
10. Continue working with Bowdoin College's Office of Sustainability and with Brunswick School District environmental groups via representation on the Commission and/or joint work opportunities.