



Pathways for People and Nature



*An Initiative of the Newmarket Conservation Commission
and the Department of Planning and Community Development*

Our Goals

- **Protect Water Resources.** To protect our drinking water supplies, restore and maintain the natural shoreline along the Lamprey and Piscassic Rivers, and protect freshwater wetlands and salt marsh that provide many benefits to our community.
- **Maintain Habitat Corridors.** To protect critical natural habitats and places to maintain connectivity across the landscape for animals on land and in the water.
- **Create Trail Networks.** To create trail connectivity across town and between our neighboring communities to ensure safe recreating and commuting for pedestrians and cyclists.

Our Strategies to Build on Existing Partnerships and Conservation Efforts

Protect and Connect Priority Lands

- **Build on Newmarket's wealth of conservation lands.** Newmarket's extensive network of conserved lands protect farms, wetlands, forests, fields, wildlife habitats, drinking water, shorelands, and trails. These conservation areas and parks are managed by municipal, state, private, and nonprofit partners, including the Town of Newmarket, NH Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, Southeast Land Trust, and NH Audubon and include lands conserved through the subdivision open space process.
- **Identify high priority conservation opportunities.** The 2021 NH Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan provides guidance on where to focus conservation efforts to best protect clean drinking water, aquatic and upland habitats, connectivity for fish and wildlife, flood storage, farmland, and more.
- **Look for willing landowners.** The existing open spaces and the new coastal plan guide us in prioritizing our conservation efforts. We will look to interested landowners and conservation partners to enhance the protection of these critical areas.

Restore Waterways

- **Improve places where roads and streams cross.** Some culverts and bridges are getting old or are too small to allow water, sediment, and organic materials to easily flow downstream. Poor stream crossings can lead to flooding and road hazards and prevent the movement of fish, turtles, and other wildlife. Building on the success of the Lubberland Creek culvert upgrade on Bay Road and working with our Town Engineer, Public Works, and conservation partners, we seek to improve stream crossings and restore aquatic connectivity where needed throughout Newmarket.
- **Enhance Newmarket's waterfront.** We are evaluating ways to improve the Newmarket riverfront for people, restore a living shoreline to prevent further erosion, and restore the health of Moonlight Brook as it flows into the Lamprey River at Schanda Park in collaboration with the Riverfront Advisory Committee, UNH, our Town Engineer and Environmental Services Director.

Create Trail Networks

- **Create safe routes for hiking and biking.** Trails offer opportunities for recreation, nature observation, commuting, rejuvenation, and scenic enjoyment. Newmarket and neighboring communities host a variety of trails on conserved lands. As our local roads become busier and potentially less safe for pedestrians and cyclists, we seek to connect trails across town and beyond to offer safe passage for all.

We believe these goals and efforts will enrich our community, foster a healthy ecology, and advance a more economically sustainable Newmarket.

For more information contact Bart McDonough, Director of Planning and Community Development at bmcdonough@newmarketnh.gov or Ellen Snyder, Chair, Newmarket Conservation Commission at ellensnyder1@gmail.com



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NEW HAMPSHIRE