

Required Element 5: A statement of policies on the preservation of rare and irreplaceable NATURAL AREAS, scenic and historic features and resources.

Identification of potential Natural and fragile areas (per 24 V.S.A. § [4302 \(c\)\(5\)\(A\)](#)):

- Land along CT River
- Maidstone Hill – caves
- Maidstone Cave at Stoneham Mountain
- West Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA)
- Maidstone Bends
- Loon Island on Maidstone Lake

Identification of Water Resources (per 24 V.S.A. § [4302 \(c\)\(5\)\(B\)](#))

- Maidstone Lake
- West Mountain Pond
- Dutton Pond
- Steven's Pond
- Paul Stream
- Cutler Mill Brook.

Identification of Scenic Views (per 24 V.S.A. § [4302 \(c\)\(5\)\(C\)](#)):

- Maidstone Hill
- Bear Hill
- Stoneham Mountain

Identification of Historic and Archaeological Sites (per 24 V.S.A. § [4302 \(c\)\(5\)\(D\)](#)):

- Maidstone State Park, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001
- Browns Mill – large mill complex in the early 1900's on the site of a mid 1800's mill
- Beattie Farms – 600 acre farm in Maidstone
- Bullthroat Dam/Camp – Boom Anchor – Connecticut Valley Lumber logging camp.
- Budweiser's Field – remains of a twentieth century logging camp

Forest lands, forest blocks and habitat connectors

Maps presented showing (1) Protected Areas in Maidstone, (2) Maidstone, and surrounding towns, contain highest priority Habitat Connectors and (3) Maidstone, and surrounding towns, contain high and highest value Wildlife Habitat Blocks

Review of Previous & Current (2016) Town Plans

- Planning Goals
 - To provide sufficient space in appropriate locations for forests and agriculture ... (1973).
 - To protect soil, forests, water, and other natural resources (1973).
 - To enable the mitigation of the burden of property taxes on agricultural, forest and other open lands (1973).
 - To protect and preserve open space and to provide a sound economic basis for its maintenance as open space ... (1973).
 - Maintain the scale, the traditions, and the rural character of Maidstone. Preserve those qualities which make Maidstone an attractive community in which to live, work, and raise a family (1993, 2007, 2016).
 - Maintain the agricultural lands which are essential to the overall objective of preserving open space, scenic qualities, and rural flavor (1993, 2007, 2016).
 - Preserve the unique natural areas and ecosystems that make up Maidstone's diverse and scenic landscape (1993, 2007, 2016).
 - ... habitats that provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, berry-picking, hiking, and so on need to be carefully monitored and protected (2007, 2016, 1993 with different wording).
 - Protect the Town's water resources (2007, 2016).
 - Protect the forest lands and agricultural lands (2007, 2016).
- Land use maps – little change over 50 years

2023 Survey Questions and Results

- In particular question #14, showing strong support for the long-term goals to:
 - Protect agricultural lands
 - Protect forest lands
 - Protect lakes, ponds, rivers, & streams
 - Protect wildlife habitats
 - Protect wetlands
 - Protect rights of landowners
- Question #15, showing strong support to protect the Town from: (Did I cover or skip this one?)
 - Pollution of lakes, streams, and water supplies
 - Disappearance of natural and open areas
 - Disappearance of agricultural lands
 - Disappearance of forest lands
 - Disappearance of wildlife habitats

- Increasing presence of non-native invasive species

Recommendations

As in the current Town Plan (2016), for Natural Areas, the Town should:

1. Obtain educational materials about the values of natural areas and make them available to all [on the Town website?].
2. Protect and preserve the significant natural areas within Maidstone.

And for Shoreland Areas, to maintain, improve and protect water quality, the Town should:

3. Review and/or adopt erosion control standards.
4. Continue to work with the Maidstone Lake Association on lake issues.
5. Review and possibly revise the current Zoning Bylaws to protect water quality and the quiet lifestyle.

Also, possibly consider that:

6. The Town should continue to support efforts for the reclassification of Maidstone lake from B(2) to A(1). (Maidstone Lake Association, “Answers to some frequently asked questions about the Town of Maidstone’s petition to reclassify Maidstone Lake, August 25, 2021,” citing the May 3, 2021, and July 12, 2021 Maidstone Selectboard meetings).
7. The Town should investigate methods for the mitigation of the burden of property taxes on agricultural, forest and other open lands. (1973 Municipal Town Plan)
8. The Town should protect the forest lands and agricultural lands within the Town (2007 & 2016 Town Plan)
 - Encourage management of forestlands so as to maintain and improve forest blocks and habitat connectors. (State planning goal)
 - Protect Forest lands (Survey question 14).
 - Protect wildlife habitats. (Survey question 14)
 - Protect soil, forests, water, and other natural resources. (1973 Municipal Town Plan).
9. The Town should protect the Town’s water resources (2007 & 2016 Town Plans)
 - Encourage measures so that the quality and quantity of the Town’s surface waters will be protected, maintained, and restored. (Regional planning goal).
 - Protect lakes, ponds, rivers, & streams (Survey question 14)
 - Protect soil, forests, water, and other natural resources. (1973 Municipal Town Plan).
10. The Town should encourage measures so that the quality and quantity of existing and potential groundwater resources will be protected and improved (Regional planning goal).
11. The Town should protect wetlands. (Regional planning goal, Survey question 14).
12. Native biodiversity of the Town should be maintained, and restored when appropriate (Regional planning goal).
13. Recreational opportunities on public lands should be maintained and encouraged on private lands only when landowners are willing to allow public access to their lands. Those habitats that provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, berry-picking, hiking, and so on need to be carefully monitored and protected. (2007 & 2016 Town Plans)
 - Consider private, public and community interests in matters affecting local recreation and open space (Regional planning goal).
 - Protect rights of landowners (Survey question 14).