

Status

This list of strategic goals was derived by the Master Plan Committee (MPC) from input from the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), and from relevant goals found in the Master Plans of other municipalities. They were reviewed by the Planning Board on January 10, 2024.

Note that these goals are not a complete or finished set. They are assembled to help guide the team that is writing the draft Conservation of Natural Resources Plan element. The team may develop additional goals and may choose to modify the wording of these goals as their work progresses.

The Conservation of Natural Resources Plan element will be written by the Environmental Commission. The first draft is due before May 20, 2024, and will be posted here when it has been released by the writing team.

Comments and suggestions for the element-writing team should be emailed to planning@penningtonboro.org.

8. Conservation of Natural Resources Plan Element

This Plan Element addresses the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including energy, open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, rivers, and other waters, endangered or threatened species wildlife and other resources. This Element helps to understand the environmental features in the Borough and how they relate to zoning and other policies. This Element references three documents that cover the topics of conservation of natural resources; the Environmental Resources Inventory owned by the Environmental Commission, the Community Forestry Management Plan owned by the Shade Tree Committee and the proposed Community Energy Plan to be developed by the Environmental Commission. Each will have its own website with a link from this Element.

Natural Resources Conservation Plan Goals

8.1. Coordinate development to preserve and enhance natural resources and guide growth away from natural resources into areas with existing infrastructure. Keep contiguous natural lands to minimize habitat fragmentation and maximize the benefits of preservation. Preserve and enhance existing visual resources such as scenic corridors, tree-lined streets, and woodlands.

8.2. Protect water quality for drinking, recreation, irrigation, and natural habitat. Limit disturbance of environmentally sensitive lands such as steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, critical habitat, and unique environmental features.

8.3. Foster stewardship and management of already preserved lands and natural resources. Manage nuisance and invasive species to protect native ecosystems and biodiversity. Replace non-native plantings and protect and restore natural vegetation when feasible.

8.4. Ensure the viability and sustainability of Pennington's forests and shade trees for the economic, aesthetic and environmental benefits provided to Borough residents. Goals of the Community Forest Management Plan are to

- a. Sustain the health and vigor of Pennington's trees in order to preserve the intrinsic local character.
- b. Provide a continuous public education and tree awareness program in the Borough.
- c. Maintain public safety by reducing hazardous trees and conflicts.
- d. Maintain a computer database to help manage the Borough's trees.
- e. Zero net loss of existing tree canopy.
- f. Support training for Pennington Shade Tree Committee members and Borough
- g. employees.
- h. Establish a Borough tree nursery.

Pennington will reference its Environmental Resources Inventory (ERI) and the Community Forest Management Plan in the Conservation of Natural Resources element. It may also include reference to a Community Energy Plan under consideration by the Environmental Commission.