**2. Critical Natural Resources**

In addition to surface and ground water resources there are other natural resources that are important to the character and well being of Poland. These resources need to be conserved so their values are maintained now and in the future.

**Town Goal:**

***Protect the Town’s other critical natural resources, (including, without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas).***

| POLICIES | ACTION STRATEGIES | RESPONSIBILITY | STATUS |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Permit development or other activities only upon soils which are suited for such activity.  2. Protect wetlands from filling or encroachment so that their benefits and values are maintained.  3. Prohibit inappropriate development within floodplains.  4. Assure that development and other activities upon steeper slopes (20%) are undertaken in such a manner as to minimize municipal costs and environmental degradation.  5. Maintain wildlife resources through habitat preservation and/or enhancement.  6. Maintain a sport fishery.  7. Protect unique natural areas.  8. Maintain significant scenic qualities. | Strictly administer and enforce provisions in the CLUC relating to soil suitability.  Amend the CLUC by placing all State-identified, moderate to high value 10-acre wetlands in a Resource Protection District and low and non rated in the Limited Residential District.  Include provisions in the CLUC to discourage or prohibit filling and other activities that would degrade or destroy wetlands. Designate the CEO with responsibility for administration.  Amend the CLUC to require applicants to obtain permits required under the Natural Resource Protection Act prior to the issuance of any local permit.  Review and update as necessary Floodplain Management standards.  Continue strict administration of the Town’s Floodplain Management Standards.  Amend the CLUC to add provisions, requiring that on slopes in excess of 20%, developers and subsequent owners retain trees and other natural vegetation to stabilize hillsides, reduce erosion, siltation and nutrient run-off.  Seek assistance from the Beginning with Habitat Program to develop ordinance standards.  Inform applicants for development approvals and building permits laws and rules that regulate vernal pools.  Amend the CLUC to require buffers that conserve riparian areas.  Seek conservation easements to protect important wildlife habitats.  Request the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to conduct/update inventory of streams with brook trout habitat.  Adopt stream crossing practices (culvert type, installation, maintenance) which do not impede fish passage.  Seek updated information from the Natural Areas Program.  Recommend amendments to the CLUC aimed at protecting important natural areas.  Amend the CLUC to authorize the Planning Board to require modifications of subdivisions development to protect scenic vistas. | Planning Board/CEO  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  CEO  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Planning Board & CEO  Planning Board  Conservation Commission  Conservation Commission  Planning Board & Road Commissioner  CEO  Planning Board  Planning Board  Town Meeting | Ongoing  Complete  Complete  Complete  Ongoing  Ongoing  Complete  Complete  Ongoing  Complete  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing  Complete  Complete |
|  | COMPLETED PRIOR PLAN STRATEGIES |  |  |
| 2. Protect wetlands from filling or encroachment so that their benefits and values are maintained. | Amend the CLUC by placing all State-identified, moderate to high value 10-acre wetlands in a Resource Protection District and low and non rated in the Limited Residential District.  Include provisions in the CLUC to discourage or prohibit filling and other activities that would degrade or destroy wetlands. Designate the CEO with responsibility for administration.  Amend the CLUC to require applicants to obtain permits required under the Natural Resource Protection Act prior to the issuance of any local permit. | Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting  Planning Board  Town Meeting | Complete  Complete  Complete |
| 4. Assure that development and other activities upon steeper slopes (20%) are undertaken in such a manner as to minimize municipal costs and environmental degradation. | Amend the CLUC to add provisions, requiring that on slopes in excess of 20%, developers and subsequent owners retain trees and other natural vegetation to stabilize hillsides, reduce erosion, siltation and nutrient run-off. | Planning Board  Town Meeting | Complete |
| 5. Maintain wildlife resources through habitat preservation and/or enhancement. | Seek assistance from the Beginning with Habitat Program to develop ordinance standards.  Amend the CLUC to require buffers that conserve riparian areas. | Planning Board  Planning Board | Complete  Complete |
| 7. Protect unique natural areas. | Recommend amendments to the CLUC aimed at protecting important natural areas. | Planning Board | Complete |
| 8. Maintain significant scenic qualities. | Amend the CLUC to authorize the Planning Board to require modifications of subdivisions development to protect scenic vistas. | Planning Board  Town Meeting | Complete |