

Town of Warren  
**Management Plan for Conservation Areas owned by Town of Warren**  
Dec 9, 2015  
Warren Conservation Committee

The lands along the riparian corridor of the Mad River are important assets of the Town. To protect and enhance the inherent values of these lands, the Town has adopted a Management Plan, which applies to all town owned lands and informs other landowners of recommended practice guidelines. The approach adopted by the Town is to let the river return to its natural state, where practical and possible. The capture and storage of water, sediment, and debris in natural floodplain features will reduce flood hazards and promote the ecological health of our rivers. At the same time, the town will encourage low impact recreational opportunities, enhance the natural riparian forests and provide wildlife habitats and corridors. Each individual parcel of Town land will have a specific Management Plan with specific attention to the site-specific needs and opportunities.

These lands are subject to Federal and State regulation regarding floodplain and floodways as well as FEMA conditions for some parcels. These conditions have been addressed in our Management Plans.

**Goals:**

**Protect water quality and river health**

*Ensure the water in the Mad River watershed will be cold, clean, and clear; safe to swim in; and will support a healthy diversity of native aquatic species.*

**Protect and restore floodplain forests and forested riparian buffers**

*Plant and protect native trees and other plants so they will dominate the floodplain forests and the riparian areas along the Mad River. The River's banks should be shaded and stabilized by a forested riparian area. Facilitate the regeneration of forests by tending trees and removing or limiting invasive plant species. Follow the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Riparian Buffer Guidance (2005) and attempt to restore or maintain an undisturbed 50-ft vegetated buffer as measured from the top of bank. The best practice is for riparian buffers to be managed as "undisturbed" areas, meaning the complete avoidance of earth-moving activities; the storage of materials; the removal of trees, shrubs, or groundcover; and mowing (VT DEC Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Protection Procedures, Draft 10/6/2014)*

**Allow the river channel to return to a balanced state**

*The Mad River will be allowed to flood its banks, and erode and deposit sediments along its channel over time, which may lead to a change in the location and appearance of the channel. Consideration can be given to current human structures with a goal of mitigating their impact. Reforestation of the riparian corridor will slow erosion impacts and impede channel realignment.*

**Promote public river access, low-impact recreational uses and community education**

*The public will be encouraged to use the river as a place to play, swim, fish, picnic, walk, exercise, seek solitude, and socialize. Specific sites can be developed for low impact use in order to provide a simple, quiet place for human enjoyment. Educational signage will be provided. Maintenance of river access and recreational areas will be defined for Town owned parcels.*

**Protect and enhance wildlife habitats for a diversity of species**

*The River corridor will contribute habitat for healthy populations of many wildlife species that live directly in and alongside the River, as well as for those who travel along the river corridor. Planting of trees and shrubs will enhance and low impact recreation will not heavily impact wildlife use.*

## **Riverside Conservation Area Plan**

- This parcel is a FEMA- buyout and thus the Town must abide management direction with this program.
- Allowed the stream channel to naturally migrate and adjust

### **Management Specifics**

#### **Planting**

- Support the 2015-Friends of the Mad River plan to replant the southern section nearest the river, which is in compliance with the FEMA recommendations
- Engage an organized volunteer team in the control of knotweed on the north-east and south-west part of the parcel

#### **Mowing**

- Mowing around all planting to support their growth
- Mowing of the grassy area in the northern section and maintaining simple paths to river
- Mowing is recommended once a month during the summer growing season. This will give the plantings time to establish and grow to sufficient heights, such that they will not be overtopped by knotweed.
- Dispose of the knotweed cutting in the Town designated knotweed disposal area.

#### **Education signage**

- Management Plan description
- Dog feces control
- Japanese Knotweed control
- Mad River Path educational materials
- Wildlife Corridor awareness

#### **Parking Area**

- Maintain the current parking lot and fences

#### **Map**

## **Wabanaki Conservation Area Plan**

- The parcel is Town owned land.
- Conform to Recommendation for planting in the Arrowwood Wildlife Corridor Study

## **Management Specifics**

### **Land Use Plan**

- Low impact recreation use of the mowed field
- Mad River path connection, riparian forest re-vegetation on minimum 50 ft.
- Future Rt 100 re-vegetative screening.

### **Planting**

- Plan to be developed in coordination with FMR and Mad River Path.
- Explore the possibility of extending the USFWS plantings to a strip along the river and on the southern side of the entrance road.

### **Mowing**

- Mowing the grassy area
- Maintaining the Mad River Path

### **Education signage**

- Management Plan description
- Dog feces control
- Japanese Knotweed control
- Mad River Path educational materials
- Wildlife Corridor awareness

### **Parking Area**

- Maintain the current parking lot and fence.

### **Map**

## **Quayle Bend Conservation Area Plan**

- This parcel is a FEMA- buyout and thus the Town must abide management direction with this program.
- *Allowed the stream channel to naturally migrate and adjust*
- Leave the existing entrance road with simple barriers to define parking.

## **Management Specifics**

### **Land Use Plan**

- Very low impact recreation
- Riparian forest re-vegetation
- Knotweed controls.

### **Planting**

- Removal of Invasive Species on the plot.
- Tree plantings are encouraged. FMR willing to support a program.

### **Mowing**

- Mowing to maintain simple path to river

### **Education signage**

- Management Plan description
- Dog feces control
- Japanese Knotweed control
- Wildlife Corridor awareness

### **Parking Area**

- Maintain the current entrance road.
- Limit vehicle access with appropriate restrictions (boulders)

## **Map**