

**TOWN OF LINCOLN**  
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**SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN – JANUARY 2010**

The seven year action plan is an outline of specific actions to be achieved by the townspeople, the Conservation Commission and all involved Town boards. Although serving as a checklist for the Conservation Commission, the action plan acquaints all Town boards and residents with the goals of the Commission. By necessity, the phased plan becomes less definitive as it progresses.

**Goal: Preserve Lincoln's agricultural, recreational and natural resource values.**

- **Protect existing conservation land and open space from conversion to development.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Distribute Open Space Map to boards & organizations.	ConCom	Completed - 2007
Place conservation restrictions on deeded conservation land to grantee other than owner.	Conservation land owner	Ongoing All new acquisitions
Identify a co-holder for all new conservation restrictions.	Restriction holder	Ongoing
Maintain compliance with bylaws and regulations.	Land-use boards	Ongoing
Create new bylaws or regulations as appropriate.	Land-use boards	If necessary
Secure deed restrictions to protect buffer zone.	ConCom	Ongoing

- **Protect lands of conservation and recreation interest including: private farms, Chapter 61 lands, view corridors, buffers and scenic vistas, high-value water resources and/or natural communities, outstanding natural features and appropriate fields for recreation.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Distribute OSRP to boards & organizations.	ConCom	Completed - 2007
Review existing criteria for evaluating land of conservation or recreation interest.	All boards & organizations	Ongoing
Determine priorities for land with multiple interests.	All Boards	2009-2015
Procure funding through CPA or other funds.	ConCom	Ongoing
Maintain open communication among conservation organizations and continuously explore funding, land acquisition or conservation/development opportunities.	ConCom, LLCT, RLF, BOS	Ongoing
Provide incentives to farmers on private property to place conservation or agricultural preservation restrictions on non-protected agricultural land.	ConCom, AgCom, LLCT	Ongoing

- **Explore opportunities for maintaining and expanding agriculture in Lincoln.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Form Agricultural Commission.	BOS	Completed - 2007
Determine suitability for converting fallow fields on existing conservation land into agricultural production.	ConCom, AgCom	Completed – 2009
Find ways to support new farmers who wish to lease new or existing conservation land.	ConCom, AgCom	Ongoing
Explore opportunities for securing affordable house on	BOS, HousingCom	Ongoing

or near leased fields on existing conservation land.		
Continue agricultural leasing program.	ConCom	Ongoing
Town meeting adoption of a right-to-farm bylaw.	Town Meeting	2010

**Goal: Promote active stewardship of existing agriculture and conservation land.**

- **Maintain Property Baseline Inventory and Monitoring Program.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Dedicate funds and staff to maintain program.	LLCT, ConCom	Annually
Acquire legal records for new conservation acquisitions.	LLCT, ConCom, Volunteers	Ongoing
Acquire legal records for existing & new trail easements.	LLCT, ConCom, Volunteers	Ongoing
Add to and build Conservation Land Database.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Prepare Baseline Inventory Reports for new acquisitions.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Conduct biological inventories on all baseline properties.	LLCT, ConCom, Volunteers	Ongoing
Monitor all conservation properties annually.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Resolve encroachment incidents when found.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Establish landowner CR contact program.	LLCT, ConCom	Completed - 2007
Evaluate effectiveness of stewardship program.	LLCT, ConCom	Completed - 2009
Establish policies and processes for violations of CR's and conservation land.	LLCT, ConCom	Completed - 2008

- **Encourage best land management practices including: farming practices compatible with natural resource & recreation values, ecologically sound woodlot management, scientifically sound management of existing open farm ponds.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Review/revise existing field and forest mgmt. plans.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Establish general management plans for specific topics like farm ponds, hemlock stands, and deer/deer ticks.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Create individual property management plans.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Collect and disseminate current scientific research on sound management for all types of conservation land.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Establish policies controlling the use of chemicals on Town Land.	ConCom	2010
Use monitoring program data to inform mgmt. decisions.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Monitor compliance with Ag. leases annually.	ConComm	Ongoing
Use recreation field maintenance practices compatible with resource protection goals.	Rec.	Ongoing

- **Acquire funds and resources for long-term land stewardship.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Find outside grant opportunities for gaining resources.	LLCT, ConCom, RLF	Ongoing
Institute a stewardship fee for newly acquired CR's.	LLCT, ConCom, RLF	Ongoing
Set up an independent stewardship fund.	LLCT, ConCom, RLF	Ongoing

**Goal: Maximize recreational opportunities on recreational and conservation land**

- **Encourage multiple and diverse uses on recreation and conservation land.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Create regulations to limit activities that dominate use.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Identify, then provide, opportunities for universal access	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing

to recreational lands and facilities.		
Maintain trails suitable for multiple rec. opportunities.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Preserve the natural atmosphere for people using trails.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing

- **Evaluate maintenance needs and expansion opportunities of road side path and trail network.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Acquire trail easements that improve the connectivity.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Include trail maintenance needs in monitoring reports.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing
Respond to citizen critiques of roadside path needs.	DPW, ConCom	Ongoing
Identify unprotected existing trails and corridors for connections.	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing

- **Provide new facilities and maintain current facilities to meet evolving community needs.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Evaluate effectiveness, condition and use of facilities.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Identify need/desire for new recreation facilities and/or activities.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Explore plans for new facilities.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing

**Goal: Foster a sense of coordination, education and outreach regionally and locally.**

- **Coordinate with boards and organizations to promote current goals.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Educate boards about open space and recreation action items they are responsible for.	OSP committee	Completed - 2007
Identify individuals within the boards to spearhead efforts to tackle action items.	Respective Boards	2007/2008 Ongoing
Continue OSP committee to oversee initial coordination process.	OSP committee	Completed - 2007

- **Partner with adjacent town, state, and non-profit organizations to promote conservation and recreation goals.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Identify area organizations with similar goals.	LLCT, ConComm, Rec.	Ongoing
Identify individual contacts and allies.	LLCT, ConComm, Rec.	Ongoing
Participate in area outreach activities that collaborate with identified organizations.	LLCT, ConComm, Rec.	Ongoing

- **Foster a long-term stewardship ethic among all property owners in Town including: water conservation measures, ecological landscaping practices, and energy and resource conservation.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Develop strict conservation guidelines for all public buildings including schools, town hall, and public works.	Selectmen, ConCom, Citizens, DPW	Ongoing
Increase education of the public on stewardship topics.	Water Dept., ConCom, Utility companies, DPW	Ongoing

Endeavor to become a leading community for conservation innovation and coordination.	Selectmen, ConCom	Ongoing
Investigate state, national and global initiatives to participate in like dark skies and green cities initiatives.	LLCT, ConCom, Selectmen	Ongoing
Prepare outreach to new residents about Lincoln's ethics.	ConCom	Ongoing

- **Provide outreach to encourage more organized and individualized recreation.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Sponsor public activities year-round.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Create enough outings to cater to all age groups.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Sponsor multi-media presentations.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Use the internet for networking opportunities.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Sponsor events to engage individuals, like town wide scavenger hunts.	LLCT, ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing

- **Continue to develop and retain professional and highly competent staff.**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Provide competitive pay and benefits.	ConCom, Rec.	Ongoing
Continue to update job descriptions with added responsibility.	ConCom	Ongoing
Continue to provide a supportive working environment.	ConCom	Ongoing