



MASHPEE

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHAT NATURAL SYSTEMS ARE IN MASHPEE?

Want to learn more about natural systems? Turn the page!

Let us know what Natural Systems in Mashpee you feel should be included in the Comprehensive Plan.

What sort of resources are needed to get or maintain this Natural System? What can help?

Ways to respond:

- Return this form to the drop boxes at Town Hall or the Mashpee Public Library
- Take a picture of the form and email it to info@planmashpee.com
- Scan the QR Code to the left or go to www.planmashpee.com and submit a comment.

NATURAL SYSTEMS



What are examples of Natural Systems?

Examples:

- drinking water
- open water
- vernal pools
- ground water
- aquifers
- habitats
- wetlands



Photo: www.mashpeeema.gov

The Cape Cod Commission developed the systems approach to comprehensive planning through their Regional Policy Plan. Below is an excerpt from that Plan that helps to frame the discussion around Natural Systems and how they use the concept to structure the Regional Policy Plan.

Natural Systems (from the *Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan*)

To protect and restore the quality and function of the region's natural environment that provides the clean water and healthy ecosystems upon which life depends.

Water Resources Goal: To maintain a sustainable supply of high-quality untreated drinking water and protect, preserve, or restore the ecological integrity of Cape Cod's fresh and marine surface water resources. Objectives:

- Protect and preserve groundwater quality
- Protect, preserve, and restore freshwater resources
- Protect, preserve, and restore marine water resources
- Manage and treat stormwater to protect and preserve water quality
- Manage groundwater withdrawals and discharges to maintain hydrologic balance and protect surface and groundwater resources

Ocean Resources Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore the quality and natural values and functions of ocean resources. Objectives:

- Locate development away from sensitive resource areas and habitats
- Preserve and protect ocean habitat and the species that it supports
- Protect significant human use areas and vistas

Wetland Resources Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore the quality and natural values and functions of inland and coastal wetlands and their buffers. Objectives:

- Protect wetlands and their buffers from vegetation and grade changes
- Protect wetlands from changes in hydrology
- Protect wetlands from stormwater discharges
- Promote the restoration of degraded wetland resource areas

Wildlife and Plan Habitat Goal: To protect, preserve, or restore wildlife and plant habitat to maintain the region's natural diversity. Objectives:

- Maintain existing plant and wildlife populations and species diversity
- Restore degraded habitats through use of native plant communities
- Protect and preserve rare species habitat, vernal pools, 350-foot buffers to vernal pools
- Manage invasive species
- Promote best management practices to protect wildlife and plant habitat from the adverse impacts of development

Open Space Goal: To conserve, preserve, or enhance a network of open space that contributes to the region's natural and community resources and systems. Objectives:

- Protect and preserve natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- Maintain or increase the connectivity of open space
- Protect or provide open space appropriate to context

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comments