



THREATS ADDRESSED

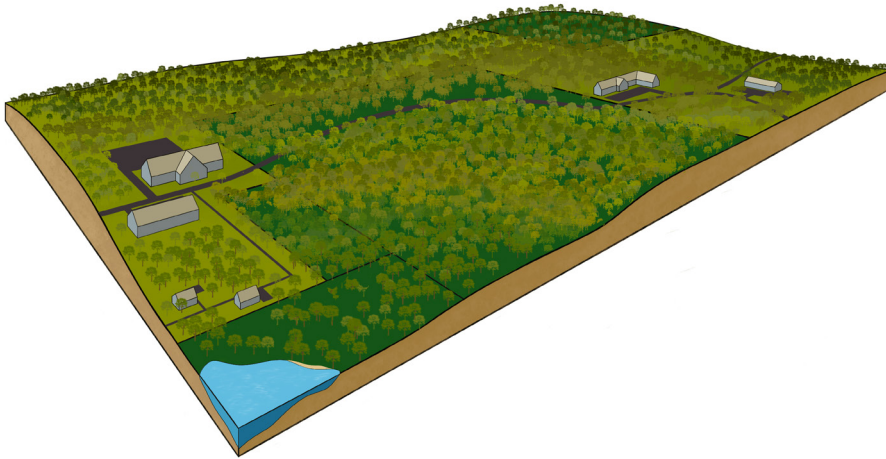
- Excess Nutrients
- Pollutant Inputs
- Algal Blooms
- Erosion
- Invasive/Nuisance Species

STRATEGY GOALS

- Protect
- Manage
- Rehabilitate

STRATEGY CO-BENEFITS

- Habitat Improve
- Aesthetics Improve
- Recreation Improve



- Permittable in Massachusetts**
Town meeting votes may be required for securing funding. List of potential permits available [here](#).
- Implemented on Cape Cod**
See examples of pond projects implemented on Cape Cod [here](#).
- Listed in 208 Plan Technologies Matrix**
Learn more about the nutrient management strategies in the Tech Matrix [here](#).
- Can be Performed at Homeowner Scale**
A homeowner could place a permanent Conservation Restriction on their land
- Nature-based Solution**

DURATION OF BENEFITS

- Less than one month
- One season or year
- Multiple seasons or years

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Monthly
- Annually
- Infrequent

DESCRIPTION

Land protection involves a Town, land trust or private entity purchasing, donating or putting a restriction on land in order to limit or prevent development at that site to maintain open space and preserve the functions of the existing natural resources. Along with land protection, stewardship of protected land is important to maintain or restore natural habitats and resource functions. Land protection protects pond health and the land surrounding ponds through the permanent protection of land along the pond shore or within the pond watershed. Land protection also functions to prevent negative impacts of land use practices detrimental to pond health.

ADVANTAGES

- Land protection provides multiple benefits including wildlife and plant habitat protection, stormwater management, water filtration, nutrient uptake, and recreational benefits
- Land donation can provide a tax benefit to the private property owner
- Land protection prevents development within sensitive pond resource areas
- Benefits town-wide and regional land conservation efforts

CONSTRAINTS

- Fee simple acquisition of pond shore properties is expensive
- Need available land and landowners willing to place private land into conservation and forego development rights
- Legacy impacts and pollutants may reduce impact of land protection on water quality; therefore, land protection should be done in conjunction with other strategies where ponds are degraded



IMPLEMENTATION

POTENTIAL ACTORS



Towns: A town may protect land around ponds through purchase or transfer to Conservation Commission



Pond Groups: May support land protection around ponds



Private Landowners: May protect private lands around ponds or support land protection



Land Trusts: May protect lands around ponds through purchase or Conservation Restriction

SITING REQUIREMENTS

- All ponds

INFORMATION NEEDS

- Land survey
- Natural resources / baseline inventory
- Property appraisal

IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts' undertook its [Priority Ponds Project](#) to provide local land trusts and municipalities with practical information regarding the current status and conservation values associated with the remaining undeveloped land surrounding Cape Cod's freshwater ponds and to support conservation of these lands.



The [Harwich Conservation Trust's Priority Ponds Project](#) provides landowners with land conservation options that help protect pond water quality and wildlife habitat. Building on that project, HCT purchased the 85-acre Six Ponds Great Woods property and launched the [Six Ponds Resource Management Initiative](#).

RESOURCES

- The Massachusetts' Department of Conservation and Recreation's [Lakes and Ponds Program](#) provides related resources.
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COST ESTIMATE

Variable

Variable depending on size and value of land

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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Assessment: Property appraisal, natural resource/baseline inventory

Implementation: Acquisition costs vary with size and value of land

Maintenance: Monitoring and stewardship costs vary with size and condition of land

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POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- Community Preservation Act
- Capital Budget
- Grants
- Private Funding

Additional information regarding potential funding sources is available [here](#).