

Lower Androscoggin River Community Comprehensive Plan Excerpts

Lisbon 2011

Natural Resources

Pg. 17 - Overview

Wildlife should be considered a natural resource similar to surface waters or forest land. Although there are many types of habitat important to our numerous species, there are four which are considered critical. They include wetlands, riparian areas (shorelands of ponds, rivers and streams), major watercourses, deer wintering areas, large undeveloped blocks of land, as well as other unique and/or critical habitats. Generally, loss of this habitat will not have an immediate negative impact on wildlife populations; however, the cumulative loss will reduce the capacity of an area to maintain and sustain viable wildlife population.

The Natural Areas Program which compiles information on Maine's rare, endangered or otherwise significant species has stated that, *Strophitus undulatus*, a fresh water mussel, is found in the Androscoggin River. There is also a Bald Eagle nesting site along the Androscoggin River.

Wetlands, of any size, are important natural resources. They store large volumes of water thereby reducing flooding and later release excess water to aid in flow maintenance. They also serve as recharge areas for ground water and are vital habitats for various plants, animals and fish.

The Androscoggin River is the most significant surface water resource within Lisbon. With the improved water quality of the Androscoggin, the potential for recreational uses of both the water and shorelines has increased.

Pg. 18 - Policy

Maintain wetland values. Recognize the multi-use values of the Androscoggin River and support state efforts to improve or enhance its water quality. Maintain the quality of all surface waters located within its boundaries.

Pg. 42 - Shared River Corridor

Changing conditions and attitudes stimulated a comprehensive approach to water resource management in the Androscoggin River basin. Improved water quality has renewed opportunities for fisheries and recreational uses; an expanding environmental consciousness has provoked interests in protecting natural values. The river should be viewed not only as an industrial asset, but as a natural resource asset and focal point for downtown/village development and redevelopment.

Because the Androscoggin River is a shared resource of significant importance, the communities at the southern end of its drainage should work toward joint efforts to achieve its full values.

Sabattus River

The Sabattus River flows from Sabattus Lake in Sabattus and joins the Androscoggin River between Lisbon Center and Lisbon Falls. Historically the River has had one of the lower water quality classifications. Dams along the River help maintain flows and water levels. The town of Lisbon and Sabattus need to work together to improve water quality and the recreational values.

Pg 119 Natural Resource Findings

With the improved water quality of the Androscoggin, the potential for recreational uses of both the water and shorelines has increased.

Auburn 2011

Pg 12 & 13

A.3 ANDROSCOGGIN AND LITTLE ANDROSCOGGIN RIVERS

Goal A.3: Protect the water quality and shoreline of Auburn's rivers to preserve the environmental and economic value of these areas.

ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER

The water quality of the Androscoggin River is not as good as it should be. Its water quality is affected by activities within in the City, within municipalities upstream, and by industries such as NextEra Energy Resources and paper mills. Auburn should continue to work with surrounding communities on efforts to improve the quality of the river.

Objective A.3.1:

The state's water quality classification for the river should be increased from a Class C to a Class B by 2012.

Strategies to achieve this objective:

Strategy A.3.1.a (Also Strategy A.3.2.a):

Support the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in its efforts to improve water quality throughout the Androscoggin River Corridor.

Strategy A.3.1.b (Also Strategy A.3.2.b):

Work with the Androscoggin Land Trust and other conservation organizations to purchase land and/or conservation easements along critical portions of the Androscoggin River.

Strategy A.3.1.c (Also Strategy A.3.2.d):

Support and assist organizations such as the Androscoggin River Alliance, the Androscoggin Land Trust, Maine Rivers, and the Atlantic Salmon Federation in their efforts to improve the Androscoggin River and restore fish populations.

Strategy A.3.1.d:

Continue funding efforts to eliminate the remaining Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

Strategy A.3.1.e:

Collaborate with major industries and landowners to develop land/trail management plans to protect the river and establish adjacent recreational areas to enhance public access.

Strategy A.3.1.f:

Continue to limit additional development in the undeveloped portions of the watershed (including most of areas along North River Road and Riverside Drive) by designating these areas Agricultural/Rural in the Future Land Use Plan.

LITTLE ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER

Water quality concerns along the Little Androscoggin River include potential threats from surrounding urban and industrial land uses. Protections around the river include Shoreland Zoning and Resource Protection Zoning. Auburn should continue to work on efforts to improve the quality of the river.

Objective A.3.2:

The state's water quality classification for the river should be increased from a Class C to a Class B by 2012 to protect the natural and scenic quality of the Little Androscoggin River shoreline.

Topsham 2019

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Having a stronger connection to the rivers is both a quality-of-life and economic opportunity for the Town and should be the focus of conversations to make this goal a reality.

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The return of millions of river herring to Merrymeeting Bay and improvement of water quality on the Androscoggin River are fantastic successes; we shouldn't stop there. In the Recovery of Maine's Coastal Fisheries John Lichter notes "Maine's people and communities would benefit from additional ecological recovery. Our economy depends largely on a clean, natural environment that allows both tourism and the extraction of natural resources such as commercial fisheries."

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Water Quality

The health of the rivers and Merrymeeting Bay and the protection of drinking water resources are top priorities for residents. Pollution prevention strategies and ongoing water quality monitoring should be prioritized, with a focus on preservation of higher quality systems and aquifers.

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The tidal portion of the Androscoggin offers the most extensive fisheries in Topsham. This provides significant recreational and economic opportunities. Coastal fisheries in the Androscoggin include American eels, sea-run brook trout, shad, blue back herring, alewives, northern pike, and striped bass. Atlantic salmon have been identified entering the fish ladder at the Brunswick Hydro Dam Fish Ladder in the past, but in very small numbers.

Brunswick 2006

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Brunswick's Natural Resources: The Town has a wide range of natural resources: large areas of unfragmented forest that provide habitat for the full array of indigenous species; open fields that provide habitat for threatened species; freshwater wetlands and vernal pools that provide habitat for amphibians; the Androscoggin river and its tributaries that are regaining their recreation value due to continually improving water quality and fisheries; aquifers that provide drinking water to a large portion of the population; and coastal waters that provide recreational opportunities and the sustainable harvest of marine species.

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Action 4: Prepare a concept plan for the Androscoggin River Corridor for recreational purposes.

Pg 42

Action 5: Support the concept of the north end of Brunswick's downtown as a recreational "hub" along the Androscoggin corridor, including the bike/path walkway to Cook's Corner, the canoe/kayak portage area, the swinging bridge, the waterfront park, the fish way, the boat launch site on Water Street, and the rowing club.

Durham 2018

Pg 11

To protect identified rare and endangered species and habitats from degradation.

Pg 45

Andro impaired by historic pollution and ongoing discharges from upstream communities

Pg 46

To protect significant surface water resources from pollution both point and non-point source, and improve water quality where needed.

Pg. 50

To coordinate with local groups, neighboring communities and regional and state resource agencies to protect shared critical natural resources.

Pg 61.

Maintain public access to the Androscoggin River, Runaround Pond and Chandler Brook areas for boating, fishing and swimming and to work with nearby property owners to address concerns.

Lewiston 2017

Pg. 83

Though the river is still a popular destination for anglers of river fish, it remains an underutilized recreational resource.

Pg. 89

Protecting riparian habitats protects water quality, maintains habitat connections, and safeguards important economic resources including recreational and commercial fisheries.