

**TOWN OF BURKE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Mission: Work to maintain the rural character of Burke by conserving and enhancing natural and cultural resources, and open spaces within our community.**

**Goals:**

**I. Community Information – Burke’s permanent and seasonal residents understand and have access to information on the important conservation values and conservations issues in the town.**

- Identify and explain the value of Burke’s important natural resource areas to the public and other town officials
- Schedule events and host speakers on specific topics, such as land use, land protection, energy conservation, and important resource values found in the town
- Provide access to information on the important conservation values and issues of the town, including through publication of maps, newsletters, brochures, and updated town website

**II. Community Engagement—Burke’s permanent and seasonal residents actively participate in Conservation Commission sponsored community projects and programs.**

- Maintain the Darling Park Nature Trail
- Involve community members in habitat restoration projects, such as riparian buffer plantings, invasive plant removal, and river cleanups
- Schedule events and host speakers on specific topics, such as land use and land protection, important resource values found in the town

**III. Habitat Conservation and Management – Burke’s most important natural areas are identified and conserved, providing important habitats for native fish and wildlife, are not threatened by invasive species or inappropriate development and function as part of a natural system.**

- Identify Burke’s significant natural areas and work with other organizations to protect and restore them through management agreements, conservation easements, and purchase

- Manage invasive species where they threaten the functioning of important native systems
- Solicit government agency assistance and private partners to actively restore important natural resource areas
- Involve community members in habitat restoration projects, such as riparian buffer plantings, invasive removal, river cleanups
- Schedule events and host speakers on specific topics, such as energy conservation, land protection, and the resource values that make Burke special

**IV. Policies and Issues - Support and when appropriate, promulgate policy positions on issues of importance to the conservation and enhancement of Burke's natural resources and open spaces**

- Contribute insights to Burke's Natural Resource Plan (within the Town Plan)
- Project (development) Review – Serve as a resource to the Town's Development Review Board regarding the potential impacts of land development to natural resources
  - Provide input to the DRB, as requested, regarding potential impacts to wetlands, contiguous forest, key wildlife species, and other natural resource-related issues
- Offer policy positions as requested by other Town boards or in response to anticipated natural resource issues