

IV. Recommendations for Action

This report ends where it began: with the many different local, regional and state agencies that will be acting to implement its recommendations. Each of these entities has a key role to play in realizing the vision for a permanent network of protected open space in South County. In doing so, the players continue to execute their respective missions. In addition, the following recommendations promote new ways to protect greenspace and to encourage the formation of new partnerships between natural, cultural and recreational interests.

This section begins with an overview of well-established acquisition strategies for land protection and continues with specific recommendations to communities based on Randall Arendt's analysis of their local comprehensive land use plans, as well as techniques outlined in the *South County Design Manual*. It concludes with suggestions for many of the agencies, organizations and other groups working to protect natural, cultural and recreational resources in South County.

Before the recommendations are presented it is important to note here that the implementation of this regional greenspace protection strategy occurs under the rubric of state law dealing with greenway protection (The 'Rhode Island Greenways Act of 1995' (R.I.G.L. 42-125)) and local comprehensive land use planning (R.I.G.L. 45-22.2 *et seq.*). Moreover, implementation of this regional strategy represents the realization of statewide greenspace and greenway protection objectives. For instance, the recommendations



The complex landscapes of South County cannot be understood from a single perspective: successful conservation will likewise require coordinated efforts in planning, acquisition, and creative growth management.

below discuss how land protection efforts should focus on protection targets such as riparian corridors and other linkages between important resources to create a network of greenspace, joined by greenways, serving multiple purposes. In addition, this section explains how greenspace planning may occur through the land development process. These strategies are paramount to the realization of the Rhode Island State Guide Plan Element #155: *A Greener Path... Greens-*

pace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future – the State's principal guidance for greenspace and greenway protection. Furthermore, this South County Greenspace Project has made considerable progress in coordinating state agency greenway efforts, assisting local governments and private groups in greenway creation, and providing information to the public on the availability and usage of greenways in Rhode Island – the very goals of the Rhode Island Greenways Council. Therefore, it makes sense that this section on implementing the South County Greenspace Protection Strategy begins with land protection strategies derived from state guidance.

Acquisition Strategies

The recommendations described below for protecting land are not new. These acquisition techniques are adapted from the Rhode Island State Guide Plan Element #155: *A Greener Path... Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future*. This "Land Protection Toolbox – A Compendium of Acquisition and Regulatory Strategies useful in Preserving Greenspace and Assembling Greenways" (See Table I below) lists and describes techniques for greenspace protection that apply to most municipalities, agencies and organizations involved in land protection. It is included here as a reference. For more information on funding sources please refer to the grant guide provided in Appendix II.

Table I - Adapted from “THE LAND PROTECTION TOOLBOX - A Compendium of Acquisition and Regulatory Strategies Useful in Preserving Greenspace and Assembling Greenways”¹

1. Adapted from *Tools and Strategies: Preserving open Space: A Guide for New England*. Taubman Center, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and National Park Service. 1992.

Aquisition Strategies	
Technique	Description
Fee Simple Purchase & Variations	Acquisition of full title to land and all rights associates with land.
Fair Market Purchase	Open market or negotiated purchase of full title to land and all rights associated with its use.
Donation/Bargain Sale	Outright gift of full or partial interest in property, or sale of property at less than market cost.
Purchase With Sale or Leaseback Provision	Purchase of full title followed by sale of non-sensitive portion, or leaseback to original owner with restrictive provisions to control future use/ development.
Installment Sale	Allows buyer to pay for property over time
Land Exchange	Swapping of developable parcel for property with conservation value.
Option/Right of First Refusal	Owner agrees to offer designated entity first chance to purchase land before placing on market.
Public Condemnation/Eminent Domain	Taking of private land by governmental entity for legitimate public purpose upon payment of just compensation
Purchase of Development Rights	Right to development purchased while the landowner reserves the rights to exclusive occupancy and limited usage.
Conservation Easements	Partial interest in property purchased or donated to protect its natural or historic features.
Public Access Easement	Provides right for public to access parcel for specific uses.
Joint Use Easement	Combines multiple uses in one easement instrument (e.g., public access with utility corridor easement).
Permits & Licenses	For fee agreements that specify usage conditions for fixed period.
Lease	Legal arrangement for short or long term rental of property.
Management Agreements/ Plans	Agreement between landowner and agency for specific purpose.

Using Greenspace Planning and Creative Development to Preserve Land

Town governments play key roles, especially planning boards and planners, as the entities that can shape growth through management of the development process through local plans and regulations. The common thread that unites the below recommendations for local communities is the idea of using the Greenspace Planning Process not to stop development, but rather to

guide growth to create vibrant centers while preserving South County’s rural character. Land development by private interests is the primary agent of change that most towns face. Since many more areas have value as open space than can possibly be protected through outright purchase, a comprehensive network of open space – either locally or across the region – will only be realized through a collaboration of towns and developers. Changes to local zoning ordinances, such as Conservation Development,

will make this possible, but by themselves will not create better projects. Likewise, local comprehensive planning often lacks the detail and clarity of direction that helps individual landowners and site planners make good decisions when planning for development. The detailed inventory and resource priority maps created during the Greenspace Project are designed to fill this gap with specific, detailed information that allows Planning Boards, land owners, and developers to see ahead of time where the most important open space resources are in a town. As each property is considered for development, as most inevitably are, the Greenspace Plans provide a starting place for discussions about where development should be placed on a property in order to protect the resources enjoyed by all town residents.

As part of the Greenspace Project, **Randall Arendt** prepared an audit of each town’s comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance and development regulations, with respect to the comprehensive plan’s stated goals of preserving the visual qualities of the Town’s important natural features and scenic roadways, to preserve vegetated buffers between land uses, roads, streams, wetlands, etc., and to provide flexibility to encourage alternative land-use developments. These audits are designed to highlight the areas of local plans and regulations that can make it difficult to protect open space effectively both within individual sites, and as a community-wide network of open space. He prepared two memoranda for each community and made a presentation to the Planning Board in each town. The first document offers broader recom-

mentations (*please see below*) and the more “town-specific” second document (*available from the local planner*) details recommendations for each community. The **key recommendations** shared by multiple towns include:

- Adopt greenspace maps and other applicable recommendations into comprehensive land use plans.
- Develop a town-wide map of Potential Conservation Lands, comparing various levels of protection to degrees of resource value identified through the Greenspace Analysis.
- Update Comprehensive Plan with descriptions of necessary changes to zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations necessary to implement the Conservation Plan.
- Update the Subdivision Ordinance to include a “sketch plan,” Conceptual Master Plan, mandatory site visit, and required site analysis elements, as well as to describe a design process.
- Amend the Zoning Ordinance to incorporate “Growing Greener” mechanisms.
- If it exists in local ordinances, replace “cluster development,” with Conservation Development approach, so that new development will contribute substantially to the community’s overall conservation objectives, adding specific design standards for the quantity, quality, and configuration of subdivision open space that must be delineated, conserved, and related to the community-wide open space network.

- Provide incentives for projects that help accomplish town-wide open space goals.
- Encourage landowner stewardship. Nongovernmental groups, such as land trusts and watershed associations, best carry out such an effort.

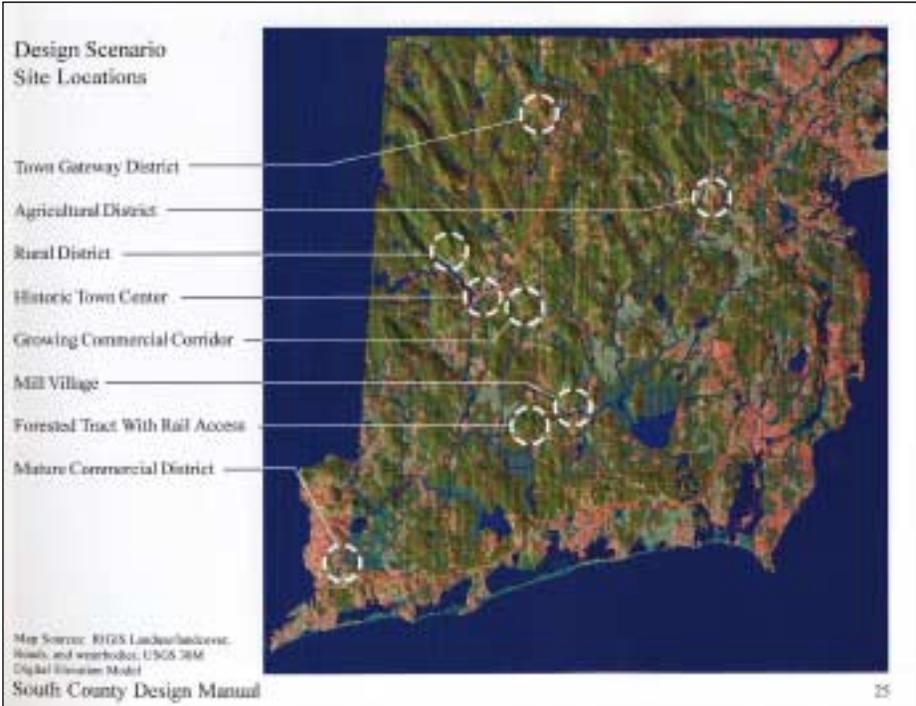
Creative Land Use Techniques: Recommendations of the South County Watersheds Technical Planning Assistance Project

In 2001, Dodson Associates completed a project for RIDEM’s Sustainable Watersheds Office that was designed to assemble tools and techniques for more sustainable planning, design and regulation in South County. Developed by a team of designers, planners, water resource specialists, and legal experts, the project produced a series of reports and manuals that were distributed to each of the towns, and which are available from DEM, and can be viewed at: www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/bpoladm/suswshed/sctpap.htm.

The project was designed to gather the best possible solutions from around the country and show how they could be applied locally. With the participation of an advisory committee of more than sixty town planners, elected officials, and citizens, the consultants prepared a suite of “Smart Growth” tools, including a set of Model Zoning Ordinances, Strategies to promote Farming and Forestry, a study of Transfer of Development Rights, and a Development Site Assessment Guide.

The centerpiece of the effort was the *South County Design Manual*, which demonstrates creative approaches to development and/or revitalization for eight demonstration sites in South County. As shown in the following images from the Manual, the development scenarios for each site were illustrated with aerial perspective drawings and photographs, designed to show how planning and design can work together to build more sustainable communities. In the first example, a typical **rural neighborhood** is shown before and after conventional development. The creative development scenario illustrates how the local greenspace maps could be used to help plan development of individual parcels. With coordinated planning for each property, the development process itself can help preserve permanent town-wide open space networks.

Similarly, significant cultural resources like **historic village centers** can be protected through the development process when towns adopt historic district overlay zones that combine flexible controls on use and density to promote revitalization, with standards for design that protect historic architecture and landscape character. The *South County Design Manual* outlines such planning and design techniques for a ‘Historic Town Center’ with supporting model language for a new zoning to protect village centers - ‘Planned Development District – Village and Neighborhood Sites’ – found in the **South County Technical Planning Assistance Project Model Land Use Ordinances** (page101).

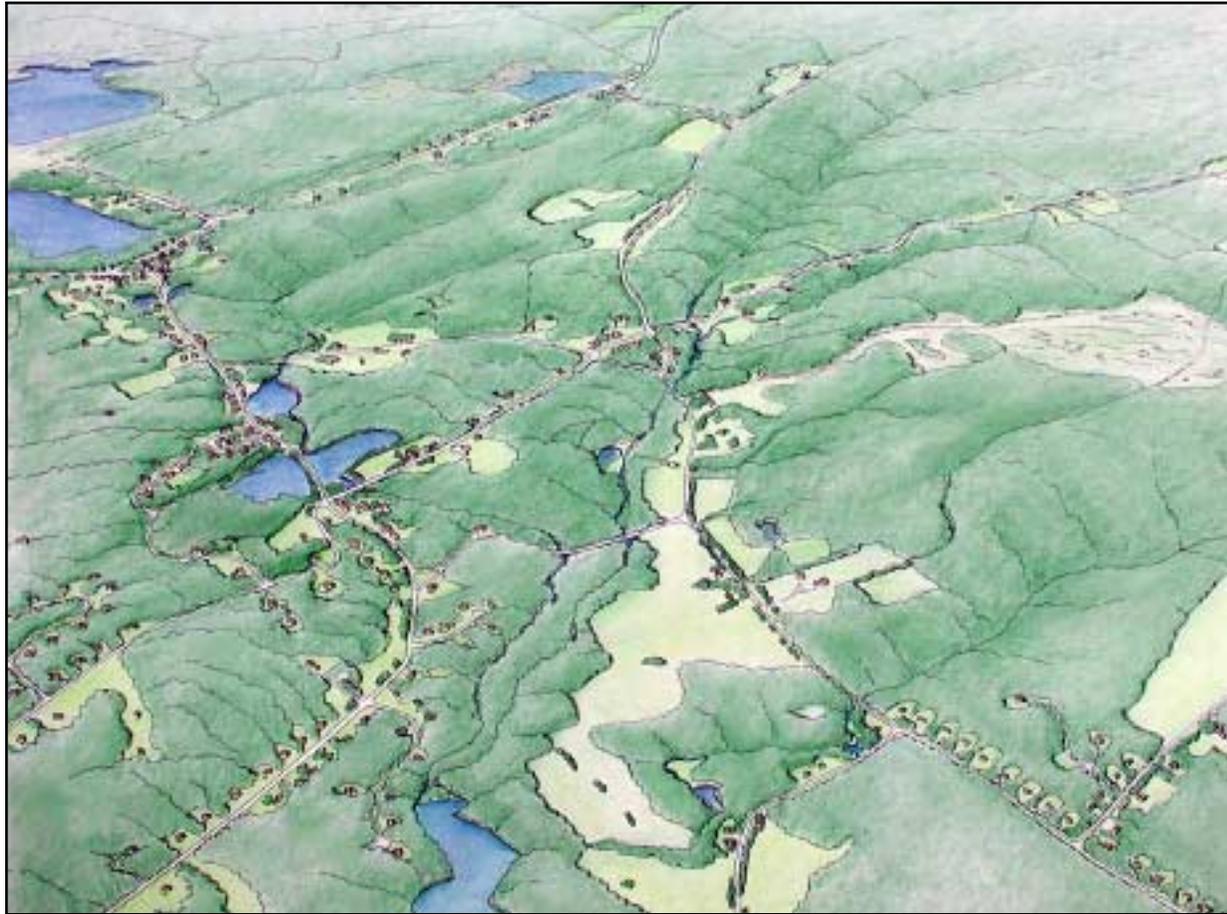


The South County Design Manual was built around eight different sites (top right) chosen to represent a wide range of landscape types and typical planning situations encountered by rural and suburban towns. Each of these hypothetical case studies takes an actual site and shows how it would most likely be developed in today’s market, following current zoning and other regulations. A more creative development alternative for each site was drawn up to demonstrate how the same or an even greater amount of development could be accommodated while preserving important resources.

The results graphically illustrate that growth doesn’t have to be detrimental to the character and livability of small towns. Indeed, with careful planning and creative regulation, investment in new development can be harnessed to rebuild downtowns, retrofit declining commercial strips, and create wonderful new neighborhoods surrounded by protected open space.



Many areas of South County identified by local Greenspace plans as important open space resources are also the easiest to develop for large-scale commercial uses. The Design Manual demonstrates how to develop a portion of such areas while allowing traditional open space uses to continue on most of the land.



The Rural Neighborhood site is made up of a mix of open meadows and large forested parcels (at right side of the drawing at left) together with a series of historic mill villages that line an old state highway (left side of the picture). Like many rural areas, there is no single dominant element that generates its rural character; rather, it results from a great variety of natural and historic cultural landscapes within a relatively small area. In this scenario, natural resources include streams, ponds and wetlands, and several large tracts of undeveloped woodland. Cultural resources include village centers, agricultural landscapes and historic mill sites.

These resources are linked together by several types of corridors: streams connect wetlands and waterbodies into an ecological system supporting diverse communities of plants and animals; rural roads link farmsteads and meadows into a continuous agricultural corridor; and old farm and logging roads make an informal network of recreational trails that link existing protected lands with village centers.

Current zoning for the area requires a two-acre minimum lot size, as seen in the recent frontage lots at the lower right and left. Historic lot sizes are either much larger, as seen in the farmstead at the lower left side of the page, or much smaller than two acres, as shown by the aerial view of one of the mill villages, where lot sizes are as small as 5,000 s.f.

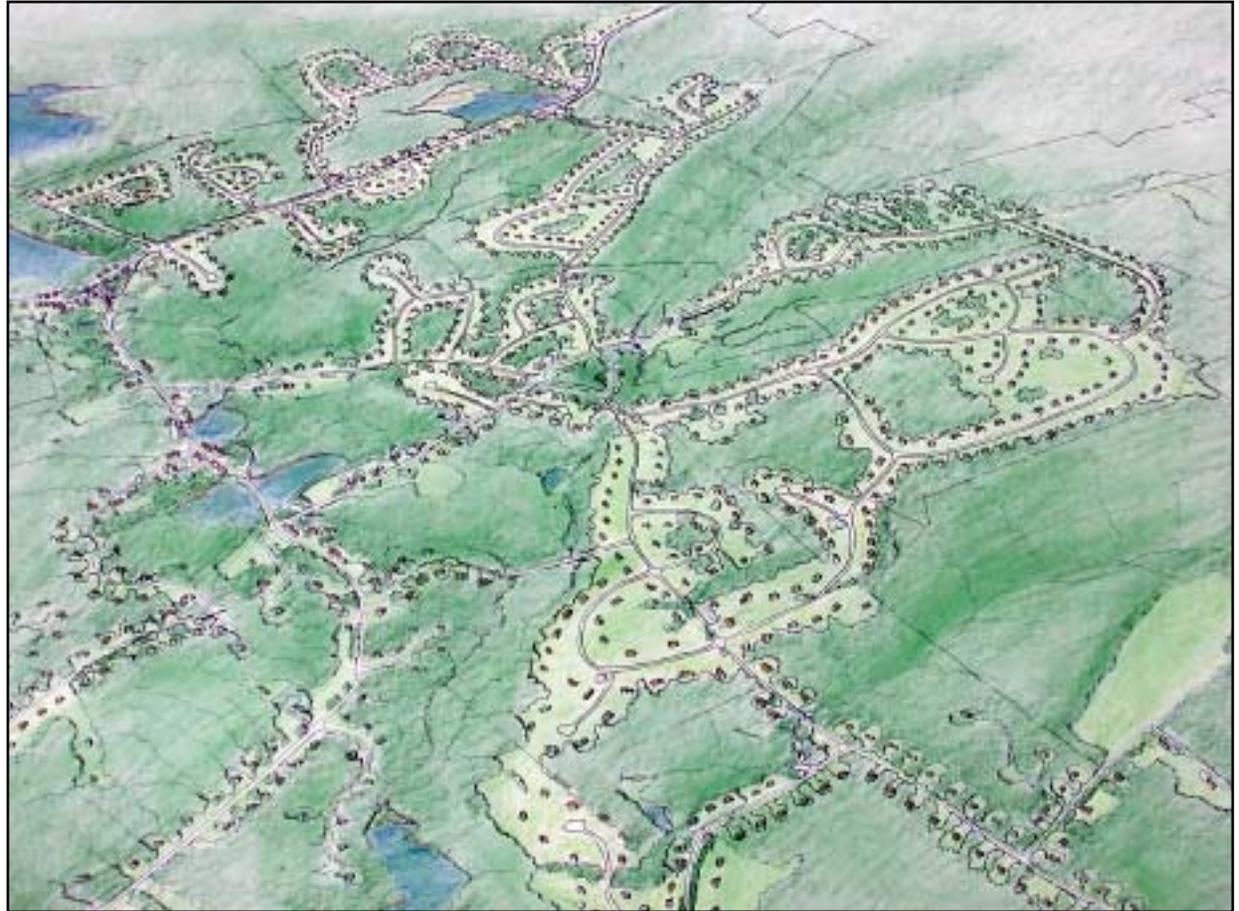
Like many rural areas, the diversity of uses and development densities has created a rich visual environment. Much of the land has remained open and in active management for timber harvesting or agriculture, and there is room for both wildlife and people.

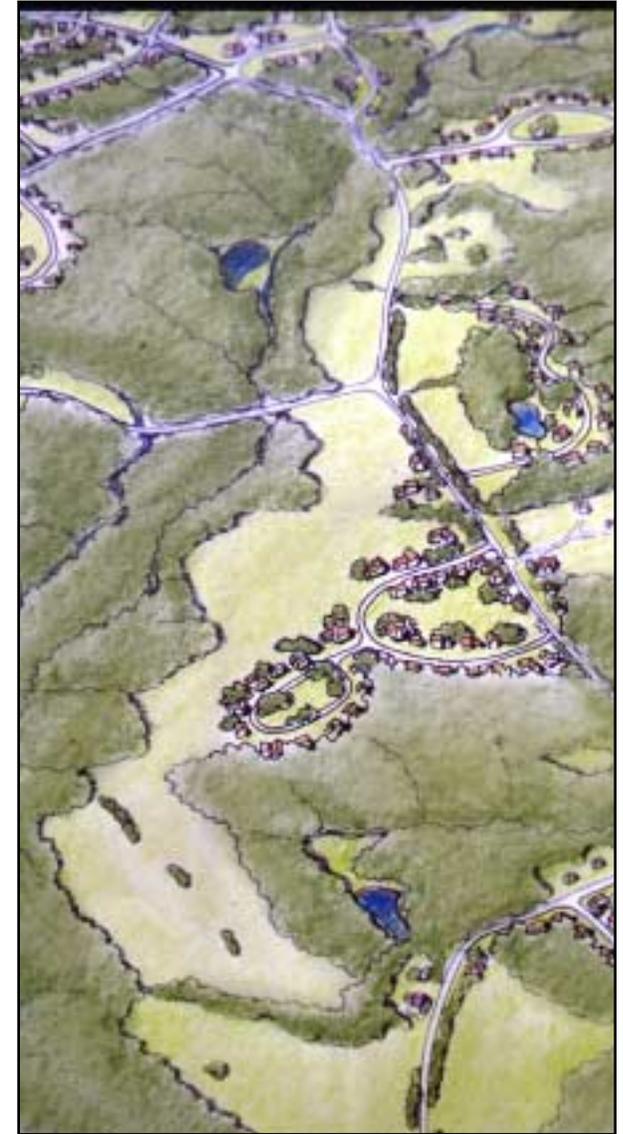


Under current zoning, in the **conventional scenario** most of this rural neighborhood would be developed at a density of two acres per unit. Areas with poor soils, steep slopes and difficult access have not been shown as developed: even so, this uncoordinated large-lot development pattern pollutes water bodies, fragments wildlife habitat, and destroys scenic vistas. Any hope of maintaining existing visual character or quality of life would be lost.

The rigid standards of conventional zoning make little sense in such a varied landscape, where suitability for construction varies widely from parcel to parcel. Relatively few large lots are available close to village centers, which ironically have the best infrastructure, road access, and services. It ends up being easier to subdivide the large farms in the countryside, in part because these have the room and free-draining soils necessary for individual septic systems. In order to make money at these densities, developers tend to favor construction of large single-family houses on cul-de-sacs (bottom right and left), which are more likely to produce a profit to offset high per-unit construction costs.

The result of this process is a virtual monoculture of suburban house lots, which fit in neither with the rural landscape in the countryside nor the traditional streetscape of the villages. This ends up destroying the character and sense of place of both environments. Just as problematic, this narrow range of products no longer meets the needs of many existing residents, and caters to an increasingly small segment of the larger marketplace, especially as the regional population continue to age and households shrink.





The **creative development scenario** uses the idea of “conservation development” to accommodate the number of units allowed by current zoning while preserving 50-75% of the land available for development on each parcel. What makes this possible are flexible zoning rules that keep the overall 2 acres/unit density while allowing smaller or narrower building lots. What makes it work is a design process that goes beyond the usual engineering to address the visual character of the proposed development and how it fits into its context. Most important, this design process starts with a detailed analysis of natural and cultural resources, and designs the development around the open space, rather than the opposite.

If each subdivision project follows this “conservation design” approach, then the development process itself gradually creates a permanent town-wide open space network. In addition, many towns and counties are beginning to provide guidance for these efforts with plans that identify key open space resources and suggest town-wide open space corridors. By following these plans, developer can avoid sensitive resources, contribute to town goals for open space, and enhance the value of building lots. Thus, while individual house lots may be smaller than two acres, each homeowner shares in the views, character, and recreational potential of the protected open space that surrounds his or her property.

Within each project, the design process takes advantage of the character of the site and its surroundings to create a more attractive and livable neighborhood, which may take the form of a rural hamlet, a shady road through the woods, or a quiet lane on the edge of an existing village -- in each case building *with* the character of the site rather than paving *over* it.



Settled in a dense band of structures lining Main Street, this **historic village** contains a remarkable collection of historic homes, commercial buildings, brick mills, and churches. Visually, this has created a delightful variety in size, shape and architectural styles, held together by the unifying theme of Main Street. Functionally, it is still a 19th century village, with home, school, church, commercial and government uses in close proximity. This creates an eminently walkable community, with a high degree of livability and a strong sense of place. Shops and businesses tend to be small and locally-owned, relying on personal service rather than cheap prices to attract customers. The scale of these businesses is ideal for the Main Street location, where they have the flexibility to fit into



existing storefronts (left), or reuse historic structures (below). Despite the attractions of village centers like this one, growth can be stifled by small lots, lack of parking, and aging infrastructure. What growth there is tends to occur around the edges of the village, where large lots are easier to develop. Open space surrounding the village is lost, together with the traditional character of a community surrounded by open space.

As a result, Main Streets in small towns can remain in suspended animation for years as the fields and forest that surround them are divided up for house lots. Meanwhile, commercial investment is siphoned off to other areas of the town, often on the highway strip outside of the village, or in new industrial parks near the interstate.



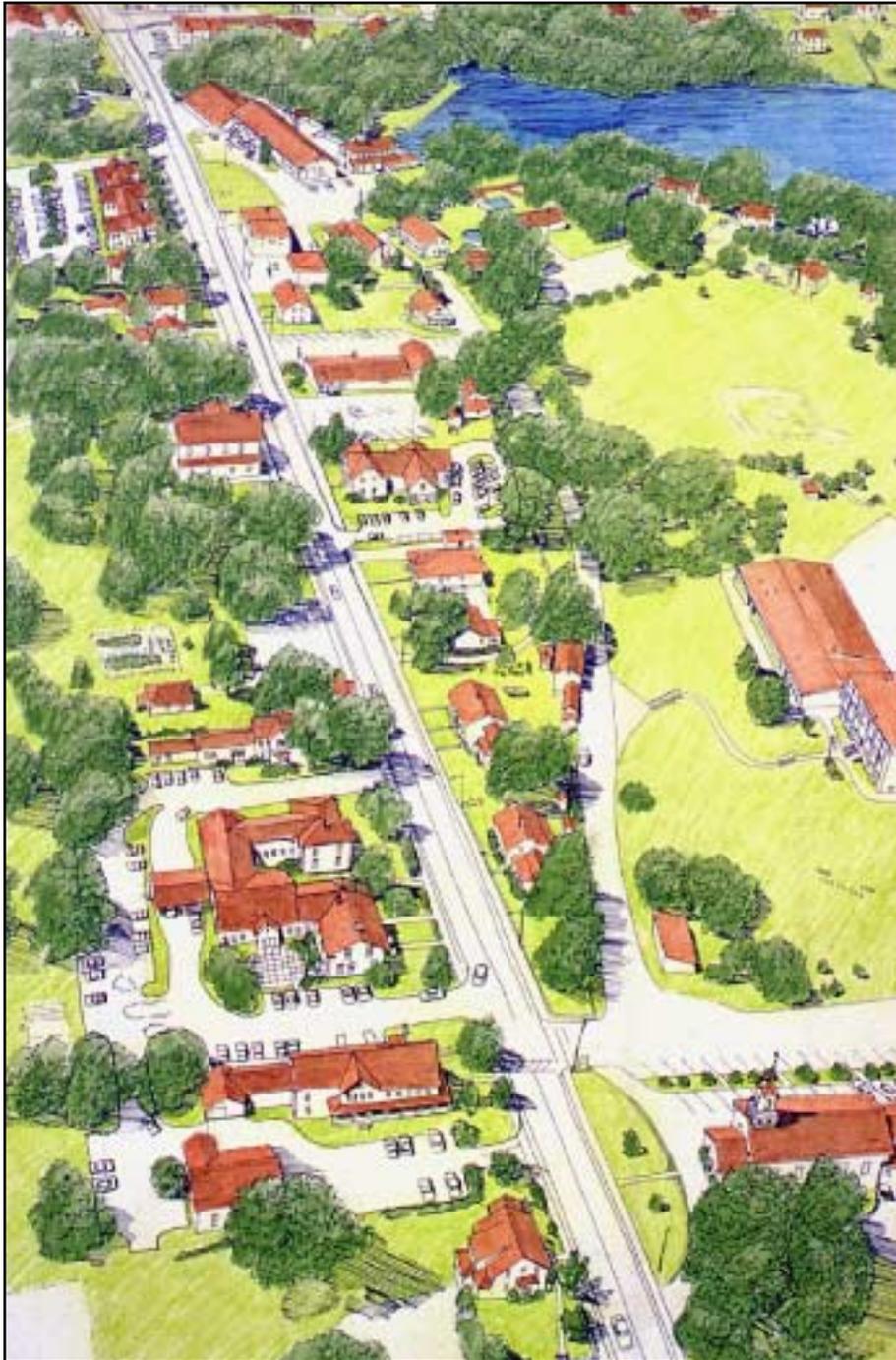
Many factors conspire to produce the **conventional scenario** illustrated at right. Zoning requirements for minimum lot size, frontage and setbacks make it hard to expand on existing lots. Requirements for off-street parking and limits on building coverage can make it even harder to build anything without tearing down existing structures and consolidating lots. Lacking a municipal wastewater system, any change of use can require expensive upgrades to individual systems. Some uses, like restaurants, may be driven out of the village if the lot is too small to install a suitable system.

While this has slowed development to some extent, it is only a matter of time before the rewards to developers outweigh the costs of wholesale replacement of existing buildings. It also means that new development is likely to be driven, not by local residents, but by corporations looking to expand franchise gas stations, mini-malls and fast food outlets. The result will be development that does not relate to the existing village in either scale or appearance, which tends to favor automobile access over pedestrians, and which virtually ensures the loss of much of the fine architecture that remains in the village.



These pressures also encourage businesses such as self storage units (below) that certainly contribute economically to the town, but offer little to the character and livability of Main Street. With low overhead and minimal needs for wastewater treatment, this can seem like a perfect choice for the small local business owner who can't get approval for a more traditional Main Street use.





In the **Creative Development Scenario**, the village is revitalized with new homes and businesses carefully designed to fit in with the historic character and pedestrian scale of the village. Rather than tearing down existing buildings, additions are placed to the rear in compatible architectural styles. Larger uses are accommodated by connecting existing buildings together. Meanwhile, careful planning provides the convenient vehicular access and ample parking demanded by growing businesses. At the same time, open space surrounding the village is protected through a combination of acquisition and carefully-planned development. Parks, playgrounds and overlooks are set aside to make the village more livable, and the town's Greenspace plans help to locate potential trail connections.

Shared curb-cuts between parcels reduce conflicts between cars and pedestrians and improve the appearance of the streetscape. Driveway connections cross lot lines, minimizing curb cuts and allowing customers to drive to adjacent businesses without pulling back onto Main Street. Placing drive-through windows at the rear of the buildings allows a function necessary for the success of many modern businesses, while keeping the streetside pedestrian-friendly.

Parking is distributed throughout the village in small lots at the side and rear of structures. This is convenient for customers, and helps to reduce the apparent amount of asphalt. Cooperative agreements between landowners provide for connections across lot lines. The alleys allow customers and service vehicles to travel between businesses without pulling back onto Main Street. Sharing of parking lots is also encouraged, with residents using lots at night that during the day serve neighboring businesses.

This comprehensive approach to providing for parking and vehicular access results in a much more efficient use of space, allowing Main Street to be renovated for the comfort of pedestrians. A "streetscape masterplan" provides for improvements to sidewalks, addition of benches and trash receptacles, and pedestrian-scale street lights that encourage people to walk between uses. Overhead wires are buried, and a comprehensive landscape maintenance plan provides for the care and replacement of street trees. This public investment inspires private investment in storefronts, sidewalk cafes and events that take advantage of a revitalized Main Street environment.



Recommendations for Groups Involved in Open Space Conservation in South County

As stated in previous sections, there are over a dozen organizations and agencies currently working on the protection (and, in some cases development) of South County's natural, cultural and recreational resources. The following list provides specific suggestions for these groups:

Local Land Trusts and the Washington County Land Trust Coalition (WCLTC)

- Continue to focus protection efforts on wellhead, aquifer protection, and the biodiversity resources outlined in this plan using state open space grant money.
- Pursue land protection projects with partners with cultural and recreational interests to build a meaningful network of greenspace (e.g. regional greenway) as laid forth in this plan.
- Contribute resources toward a regional land trust coordinator through the WCLTC that provides staff support to the region's land trusts.
- Increase land trust advocacy and education role by assisting local planning boards and departments with greenspace planning activities such as, identifying areas that should be protected for new development projects, GIS, maps and protection strategies.

- Coordinate development of interpretive trails with protection of scenic and historic landscape corridors.



Washington County Regional Planning Council

- Encourage communities to adopt conservation development and other creative land use techniques into local planning and zoning.
- Coordinate greenspace protection activities with the Washington County Land Trust Coalition.
- Create WCRPC Subcommittee to discuss the merit and feasibility of forming a regional cultural and historical preservation commission (e.g. Washington County Historic and Cultural Landscape Preservation Commission) to focus on, land use planning and development issues that impact community character; celebrating and protecting historic town and village centers and rural landscapes and the quality of life they provide; documenting cultural landscape

resources and conducting outreach to towns to create management plans for key resources areas.

- Assess the possibility of regional tax sharing to pursue regional strategies for economic development such as, clustering growth into areas with existing development and infrastructure.
- Lead an action team consisting but not limited to the South County Tourism Council, RI Rural Development Council, the chambers of commerce and RIEDC to develop tourism around South County's heritage, natural wealth and recreational opportunities.
- Coordinate combined implementation with Sustainable Economy Project.

Watershed Organizations

- Watershed organizations can play a key role in supporting greenspace protection by promoting the use of creative land use techniques to protect land while it is developed.
- Creating and implementing watershed actions that outline key watershed issues and actions, watershed organizations bring financial and technical assistance to the region to improve riparian access, water quality and recreational opportunities - all integral pieces to the protection and management of greenspace in South County. The four watershed organizations in South County – Narrow River Preservation Association, Salt Ponds Coalition, Saugatucket

River Heritage Corridor Coalition, Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association – could play a key role in implementing this greenspace protection strategy by including the following items in their watershed action plans, where applicable:

- Pursue money/projects with partners like NRCS and RIDEM through Farm Bill 2002 funds to protect riparian corridors, to improve access points to rivers and to restoration riparian habitats and riverbanks.
- Improve river access with planning and site development, building on the recent work of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association to evaluate existing and potential access points. (See APPENDIX II - ‘Public Small Craft and Fishing Access Points on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers.’ Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association. November 2001.)
- Identify existing protected areas suitable for access improvements, parking, and facilities development.

South County Tourism Council

- Tie marketing materials to resources identified in the Greenspace Project to promote South County as a destination for ecotourism, cultural tourism, and sustainable recreation for hikers, bikers, and boaters.
- Work with Washington County Regional Planning Council, RI Rural Development Council and others to foster sustainable growth of the region’s tourism economy.
- Create maps and interpretive materials

to help visitors find and enjoy these resources.

- Promote heritage tourism to state and local hospitality industry and economic development organizations.



The Nature Conservancy

- Continue support and capacity building of local, regional and statewide land trusts and coalitions.
- Continue to expand the current protected cores of the Queens River Watershed Borderland and Matunuck Hills preserves.
- Work with towns to incorporate flexible development controls to encourage private efforts to protect the Queen River system.

RI Audubon Society

- Continue educating the public about South County’s natural heritage.
- Pursue expansion and linkages of existing preserves in the Queens River watershed.

RI Historical and Heritage Preservation Commission

- Support regional cultural and historical preservation efforts.
- Digitize, update and map in RIGIS all RI historical and cultural inventories for the towns of Washington County.
- Provide municipalities with technical assistance to create and adopt historic and cultural preservation [overlay] zoning to help protect community character.

RI Department of Environmental Management

- Focus acquisitions in *Biodiversity Focus Areas* such as, the Western Forest, Pawcatuck River and South Coastal area with an emphasis on expanding state protected areas such as Carolina, Burlingame, Arcadia (See ‘Protecting Our Land Resources – A Land Acquisition and Protection Plan for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.’ RIDEM. May 1996. Pages 22 – 27.).
- Provide incentives to municipalities, land trusts and other organizations with additional points for open space and recreational grant applications that implement the South County Greenspace Project.
- Continue to coordinate with local land trusts and other partners to focus local protection efforts.
- Continue to support the Washington County Land Trust Coalition with GIS technical support and coordination with other agencies

and organizations.

- Acquire land that protects aquifers, riparian corridors and regional greenway networks.
- Improve river access with planning and site development, building on the recent work of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association to evaluate existing and potential access points. (See 'Public Small Craft and Fishing Access Points on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers.' Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association. November 2001.)
- Identify existing protected areas suitable for access improvements, parking, and facilities development.
- Work with USDA-NRCS and landowners to secure easements to protect the riparian buffer zone using Farm Bill 2002 funds.
- Utilize recreational grant program to promote the development of bikeways, hiking trails and water trails.
- Coordinate with RI Trails Advisory Committee to give priority consideration to trail and bikeway projects identified in this regional greenspace protection strategy.

RI Water Resources Board

- Purchase land or conservation easements around 14 potential wellheads in the Wood, Queens and Beaver Sub-basins.
- Continue statewide water use availability studies and modeling efforts including optimization modeling in the Pawcatuck Watershed.

- Continue to work with local suppliers through set-aside funds that are leveraged for watershed land acquisitions or water quality improvements.
- Develop water allocation program.



- Manage drought events and implement strategies to mitigate future droughts as the lead agency for the Drought Steering Committee.
- Update GIS information for the entire State including Washington County regarding water district boundaries, water lines in roads and pumping points.
- Promote education and outreach activities regarding the value of water, the availability of supply in relationship to demand, the cost to produce water and maintain reliable infrastructure, the effect of water use on the environment and the need to conserve the resource, especially during dry periods.
- Continue to administer the water supply planning process for the states' twenty-nine systems who's plans contain historical

and current data regarding source water, infrastructure, production data, volume of water withdraw, water use by category, water quality, supply and demand management.

- Manage the Feasibility of Supplemental Water Supply Study, which identifies additional water supplies and delivery systems in the amount of 50-million gallons per day for emergency purposes.

Statewide Planning

- Utilize the South County Greenspace Project's data and recommendations in defining regional resource protection goals and priorities in future updates of State Guide Plan elements, including the State Land Use Plan, and Greenspace and Greenways Plan.
- Cooperate with regional planning groups, state agencies, communities, and private interests to assess the means for developing a regional cultural heritage and land management plan for the Pawcatuck River Valley, which could be presented for adoption as a State Guide Plan element.
- Work with DEM to insure that appropriate digital data developed by the South County Greenspace Project is fully documented and incorporated into the RIGIS system for availability to others.
- Work with communities through the local comprehensive planning process to advance the integration of key recommendations of the South County Greenspace Project into local comprehensive plans, as appropriate,

for implementation via local land management ordinances.

RI Greenways Council

- Continue to support the development of regional trail systems, building off of existing North-South Trail, South County Bike Path, etc. (See State Guide Plan Element 155, Report Number 84, ‘A Greener Path... Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island’s Future.’ November 1994. Pages 7.1 – 7.6).
- Support the efforts of state agencies, local trail groups, and other local stakeholders for construction and maintenance of specific segments of hiking and biking trails presented in this report.
- Support and coordinate efforts to develop interpretive materials for natural and cultural resources along trails.
- Coordinate with efforts to develop unified signage and wayfinding materials.
- Coordinate with other partners to complete the South Kingstown Trail (Trustom -> Perryville – Great Swamp -> Rt. 138 Farms -> Eppley to Yawgoo Pond in Exeter.
- Cooperate with RIDEM, South Kingstown Land Trust, Audubon Society of RI on trail planning and construction to extend existing trail systems north and south of Worden Pond.

US Fish & Wildlife Service

- Expand and consolidate Refuge Complexes, including Pettaquamscutt (Chafee National Wildlife Refuge), Trustom Pond NWR, and Ninigret NWR (See U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. December 2000. Rhode Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment. USFWS. Hadley, MA.).
- Continue to coordinate with local partners to implement the *Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan* for the RI NWR Complex.

USDA Forest Service

- Support the Forest Legacy Program.



APPENDIX I

One Region, Many Players – An Overview of Project Partners

APPENDIX II

South County Greenspace Project Grant Guide

APPENDIX III

“Priorities for Improving Small Craft Access and Controlling Erosion on the Wood and Pawcatuck Rivers” Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association, November 2001. Richmond, Rhode Island.

