

*This Plan is dedicated to longtime Open Space Committee Chair Martha Hoar, in memory of her late husband Sam Hoar, both of whom championed environmental protection in the Town of Essex.*

“I dream an inescapable dream  
in which I take away from the country  
the bridges and roads, the fences, the strung wires,  
ourselves, all we have built and dug and hollowed out,  
our flocks and herds, our droves of machines.

I restore then the wide-branching trees.  
I see growing over the land and shading it  
the great trunks and crowns of the first forest.  
I am aware of the rattling of their branches,  
the lichened channels of their bark, the saps  
of the ground flowing upward to their darkness.  
Like the after image of a light that only by not  
looking can be seen, I glimpse the country as it was.  
all its beings belong wholly to it. They flourish  
in dying as in being born. It is the life of its deaths.

I must end, always, by replacing  
our beginning there, ourselves and our blades,  
the flowing in of history, putting back what I took away,  
trying always with the same pain of foreknowledge  
to build all that we have built, but destroy nothing.”

~excerpted from *The Dream*, by Wendell Berry

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Section 1. Plan Summary	1
Section 2. Introduction	2
Section 3. Community Setting	5
Section 4. Environmental Inventory and Analysis	18
Section 5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	46
Section 6. Community Vision	67
Section 7. Analysis of Needs	71
Section 8. Goals and Objectives	75
Section 9. Five-Year Action Plan	77
Section 10. Public Comments	82
Section 11. References	83
Maps	
Map A. Regional Context	
Map 1. Zoning and Absolute Development Constraints	
Map B. Community Development Plan	
Map 2. Geology and Soils	
Map 3. Unique Features	
Map 4. Water Resources	
Map C. Natural Resources Priority Sites	
Map 5. Open Space	
Map 6. Action Plan	

## Appendices

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