

Environment and Natural Resources

Background

In a study done some years ago for the Visitors Bureau it was found that people came to Lake Placid for vacations and it was the beauty of the area that attracted them. The same can be said for the residents. Clean air, clean water and spectacular views typify our region and Lake Placid. In study after study, it becomes apparent that our environment and natural resources are what we are all about.

In 1967 rules were established by ordinance for the protection of Mirror Lake both above and below the water. An assessment of open space within the community was done in the 1970's which identified sensitive view sheds and areas to be protected for visitors and residents alike.



The Lake Placid Shore Owners Association has for years employed Lake Stewards to patrol and discourage boaters from introducing pollutants and invasives into the municipal reservoir. The Lake Placid Beautification group plants and enhances the beauty of our

community year round. The Mirror Lake Watershed Association patrols the lakes and byways to identify and mitigate the spread of invasive species and control the introduction of pollutants into the waterways. Our municipal government bodies and countless volunteer organizations work to keep our beautiful home as clean and lovely as possible but every day brings a new challenge be it development, a new bug or plant not seen before in our area.

Vision for Environment & Natural Resources

The community will become more environmentally responsible through increased awareness and education and enforcement in order to preserve and protect for generations what it is we have to offer.

Goals, Objectives and Implementation Measures

Goal #1: Strike and maintain an optimal balance between protecting and preserving the natural environment, to include ground, water and air, and improving economic vitality and quality of life in the community.

Objective 1: Keep the air (including light, smell/odor, particulates and noise) as clean as possible.

Implementation Measures

- To require by code that any of the above be as unobtrusive as possible and only as much as is needed for function and safety. It would apply to all commercial, residential and public/common property.
- For any new development, public or private, a set of rules and regulations for light that would consider focus/direction, brightness, color, on/off times. Reference “Dark Sky Initiative”
- Move to bring existing developments into compliance with current rules and regulations. Seek self/voluntary compliance, provide incentives, e.g. reimbursement of costs, tax abatement, recognition, etc.
- Establish a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) in accordance with NYS General Municipal Law. This council should act with public and private agencies as an advisor and resource on environmental issues.

Objective 2: Encourage the protection of existing trees, the removal of diseased trees, and replanting to enhance landscaping and erosion mitigation.

Implementation Measures

- With the newly established *Environmental Committee*, provide landscaping rules for replanting of trees, shrubs and plants.
- Establish a tree preservation ordinance which requires permits or inspections of trees of a certain size or type before removal or trimming.
- Provide for a heritage tree consideration. This might be done with the collaboration of a Historical Preservation group.

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- Find a way to work with private property owners allowing removal of diseased trees to prevent further spread.

Objective 3: Identify and eradicate Invasive Species.

Implementation Measures

- Work with existing environmental organizations, schools, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), municipal bodies and volunteers to increase education and awareness of invasive species. Money should be allocated by municipal budgeting to provide a fund for these initiatives.
- Secure public or private funding to remediate infestations of invasive species.
- Secure funding to hire stewards to monitor lakes.

Objective 4: Continue to improve and enforce the existing watershed management plan.

Implementation Measures

- Monitor new development.
- Conduct annual inspections of septic systems.
- Work with state and municipal authorities to mitigate salt, sand and oil, runoff into watershed.

Objective 5: Partner with Land and Water protection organizations and government entities effectively.

Implementation Measures

- Encourage interaction among preservation and conservation organizations to identify land that would protect a sensitive site such as view shed, watershed, or open space.
- Use these agencies to identify avenues for funding and incentives to help landowners achieve the best use of their land.

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Objective 6: Inventory of best usage for local lakes and waterways to be done by existing volunteer groups such as Lake Placid Shore Owners' Association, Mirror Lake Watershed Association, Ausable River Association, Mill Pond Dam Neighborhood, and other interested parties.

Implementation Measures

- Research on how much is too much in terms of buildings, percentage of lot use, marinas, etc.
- Prohibition of further building of marinas. Tighter definition of what constitutes a marina.
- Oversight of use of herbicides and pesticides on shorelines and significant fines imposed by Code Office for any infractions.
- To develop ways to utilize expertise of local citizens with special knowledge of all of the above issues.
- Encourage local elected boards, appointed boards and municipal employees to engage the above mentioned Associations and volunteers in decision making and resolution of questions regarding the preservation and protection of the environment.
- Coordinate activities and initiatives through the newly created Conservation Advisory Council (see Goal 1)

Goal #2: Establish a community fund to further the aims and objectives of the goals alluded to in this document

- Provide money to hire consultants.
- Provide funds for matching grants.
- Help pay for stewards to monitor lakes.

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- Hire professionals to remediate infestations of invasive species.
- Impose fines for non-compliance of any aspects of codified rules . Fines should be significant and determined by the consequences of the infraction.The cumulative impact of building and development on shore land must be taken into consideration.

