

## Water Resources Goals

1. Maintain or enhance the integrity and functions of Chester's surface waters and wetlands.
2. Protect the quality and quantity of groundwater for Chester residents.
3. **To encourage flood resilient communities.**

## Water Resources Policies

1. Continuous areas of undisturbed vegetation along rivers and streams should be encouraged, thereby protecting shorelines, wildlife habitat and scenic quality.
2. New development adjacent to streams or rivers must be designed to cause minimal damage to the stream environment. Any such development should be planned so that surface waters do not become silted, contaminated or otherwise degraded.
3. Natural vegetated buffer strips between development and surface waters should be maintained.
4. Any storing or transporting of chemicals or other hazardous material should be done in such a manner so as to have no adverse effects on streams or other sources of water.
5. The use of road salts and other chemicals adjacent to sensitive areas such as wetlands, stream crossings, and steep slopes should be minimized.
6. Any alterations to ponds and wetlands must be in compliance with local zoning and all State and Federal laws.
7. Restrict development within the aquifer protection districts in order to protect the public drinking water.
8. **Adopt Chester's All Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP), as most recently approved under 44 C.F.R. 201.6, to serve as the flood resilience element for Chester's Town Plan, including the flood resilience related strategies identified in the AHMP.**

## Water Resources Recommendations

1. Review zoning regulations to protect rivers and streams, ponds and wetlands not already protected under state law.
2. Include high elevation streams and buffer areas in a plan for open space conservation.
3. Consider conducting an inventory of class B wetlands and/or vernal pools.

## Wildlife Resources

### Wildlife Habitat and Travel Corridors

Chester's landscape includes a variety of natural resources such as rivers, streams, forests and wetlands that provide habitat for numerous wildlife and aquatic species. Chester residents value watching wildlife in their backyards, hunting, fishing, as well as supporting efforts to preserve open spaces and riparian areas for both recreational uses and preserving wildlife habitat. The abundance and diversity of wildlife provide both economic and recreational opportunities for residents. In addition, lands that are left undeveloped to provide for wildlife habitat also contribute to the rural character of the Region.