

# Section 6:

## *Landowner Goals and Objectives*

### **Section 6.1: Landowner Goals**

Now it is time to identify what your goal is for your wetland property. A goal is your vision of what you would like your wetland to be — an end target towards which you direct specific activities. This is why a ten-year plan period is recommended. This period provides enough time to carry out activities and allow them to become established and functional.

### **Section 6: Landowner Goals and Objectives**

#### **6.1 Landowner Goals**

*Our goal is to protect the wetland and adjacent upland area and to maintain and enhance its .....  
natural functions, while improving the overall efficiency of our farm operation.....*

### **Section 6.2: General Objectives**

With a clear goal and a completed inventory of your wetland and adjacent *upland* property, now consider what objectives you can set to work towards your goals. This plan is designed for a ten-year period. Keeping that in mind, indicate the priority you place on any, or all, of the general objectives outlined under the “Wetland Values” heading. If you have other objectives, list them in the space provided. After you have indicated the relative priority for each objective, rank them in order of their importance to you. There is also a column for additional comments.

Wetland conservation initiatives should be in harmony with the activities on the rest of your property. Consider the long-term and short-term effects of your actions on wildlife, vegetation and water. You may require assistance from experienced biologists, technicians or other specialists when choosing management activities for your property. These experts can help identify opportunities for your wetland, as well as make you aware of any problem or sensitive areas. In addition, several excellent references are available through the Ontario Federation of Agriculture or your local OMAFA, OMNR, and conservation authority offices. Recommended publications are *Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management* and *Farm Forestry and Habitat Management*, both part of The Best Management Practices series. Additional reference material is listed in Section 8 of this publication.

## 6.2 General Objectives

Wetland Values	Priority			Rank	Comments
	Low	Medium	High		
Wetland Protection			x	2	• we value the unique area and its diversity of wildlife
Recreation		x		4	• experience outdoor pursuits
Water Quality			x	1	• clean water for ourselves and for cattle
Wildlife Habitat			x	3	• enjoy viewing the wildlife and educating our children
Wetland Products		x		5	• fuel wood for new wood furnace
Income	x			6	• sell some firewood and possible bed and breakfast enterprise
Investment		x		7	• well functioning wetland helps to enhance our farm operation and maintain property value

## Section 6.3: Details About Objectives

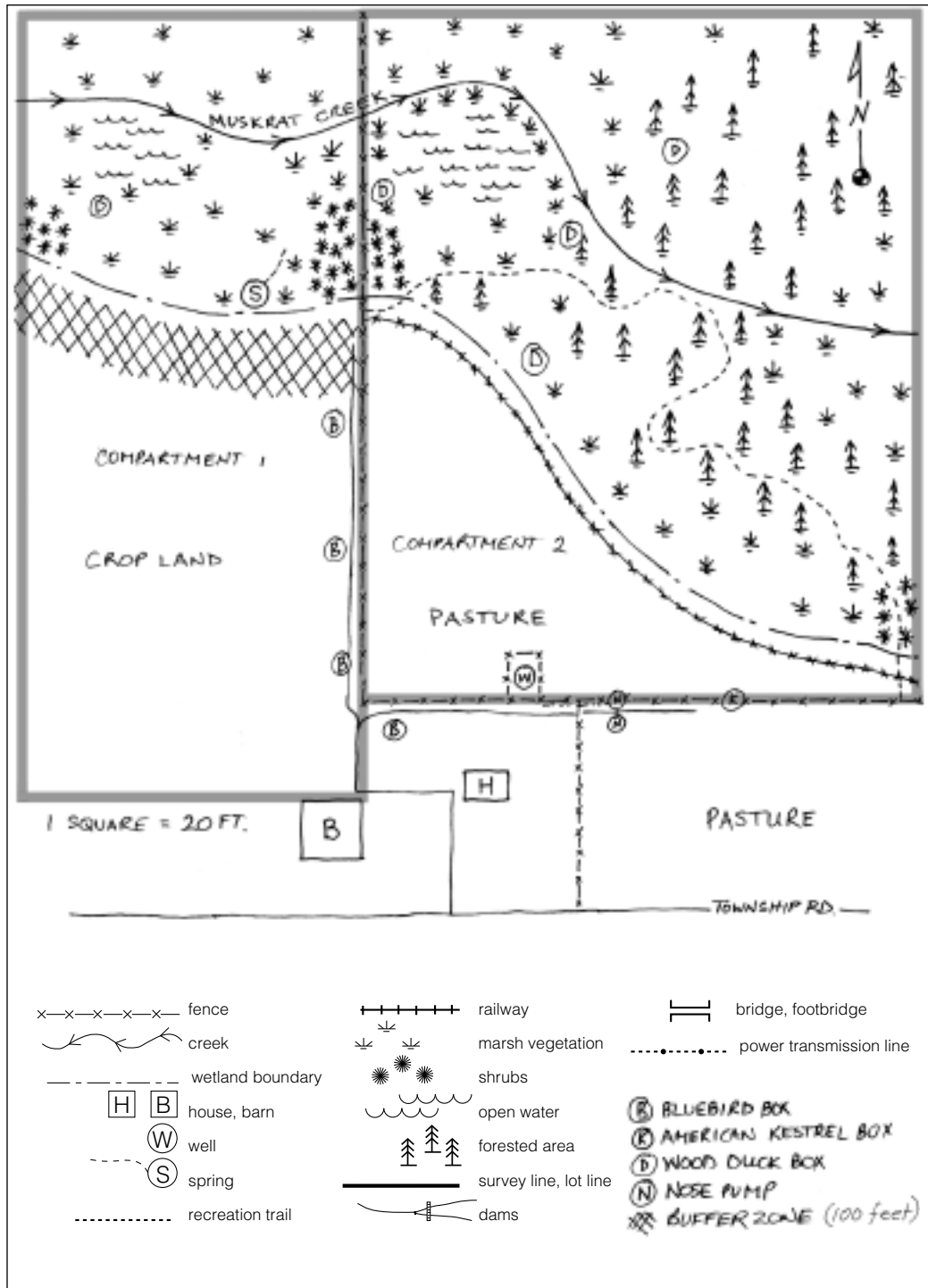
Explain why the wetland values which you ranked high and medium are important. Describe why you want to achieve these objectives, and more importantly, describe how you intend to do this.

### 6.3 Details About Objectives

Water quality is very important to us since the well is our only source of drinking water. We have seen first-hand the influence the wetland has on our well and it is in our interest, as well as our neighbours, to keep the wetland protected and functioning. Having spoken with other farmers and cattle experts, we understand that cattle are healthier and more productive when they have a clean source of water. Currently, the water gets really muddy and the cattle are always covered in mud. By fencing the cattle out of the wetland and installing a nose pump/trough, the cattle will no longer trample the wetland edge — keeping the water and themselves clean. This fencing project will also help to protect the wetland and diversity of wildlife and plants. We will also adjust our cropping practice and establish a permanent grass buffer strip so that we no longer encroach into the wetland. Since this field floods in the spring and fall, machinery often gets mired and the yields are often poor. Native grasses will be planted in the low section to help stabilize the soil and provide nesting habitat for ducks. This property is our home and we spend a great deal of our time here. The wetland adds a great opportunity for recreation. Since we harvest some trees for fuel, it is very easy to put some habitat back by building nesting boxes for birds, bats and ducks.

**Section 6.4:  
Map of  
Activities**

On this map show where the activities you are planning will take place. You can copy the map from Section 4.3 and add the activities, or you can write directly on the original map. You may want to divide your property into compartments to clearly indicate areas that have similar natural and physical features (e.g. dominant vegetation, soil type, drainage, wildlife *species*). You will notice that your activities will vary from compartment to compartment, as the natural and physical features change. For example, compartment #1 is a shallow wetland area, a feature that makes it suitable for wood duck nesting boxes. Compartment #2 is a drier *upland* area, more appropriate for kestrel nesting boxes.



## Section 6.5: Objectives and Schedule of Activities

Once you have considered your priorities and how you intend to achieve them, clearly list your objectives and associated activities. Develop a schedule which you will follow as you work towards completing your objectives, keeping in mind that this plan is designed for a ten-year period.

<b>6.5 List of Objectives and Schedule of Activities</b>				
Wetland Area (map compartment #)	Objective	Activity	Year Scheduled	Year to be Completed
1	wetland protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>establish 100 ft. buffer strip of native grasses/ upland nesting area</li> </ul>	summer 1997	1997
2	habitat enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>erect 4 bluebird boxes and 1 kestrel box</li> </ul>	winter 1997	1997
2	wetland protection/ herd health improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>erect electric fence to restrict cattle</li> <li>build alternative source of water</li> </ul>	fall 1997	fall 1997
2	recreation/ wildlife habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>build/erect 5 wood duck boxes</li> <li>enhance ski trail</li> </ul>	fall 1997 winter 1997	winter 1998 2006

## Section 6.6: Maintenance Strategy

Projects that you undertake will eventually require maintenance; some foresight is necessary to develop a maintenance strategy. Where will you find the time and money to carry out this maintenance? Will it affect or compromise your original goals?

### 6.6 Maintenance Strategy

All activities will be built into our yearly farm activities. The buffer strip will require very little maintenance because of the use of native species. In late summer of year 4 (2001), the buffer strip will be mowed to eliminate any woody vegetation. Nesting boxes will be monitored for success and cleaned out each winter. This will be turned into an annual family event. The electric fence control will be located in the barn and can be checked daily simply by listening. The fence will be checked by family members since the recreational trail will pass near it.