

FOXBOROUGH OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

APPENDICES

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Upper Carpenter Pond

APPENDIX A
RESOURCE CRITERIA AND PARCEL RANKINGS

A. Resource Criteria

The criteria to be used for determining whether or not the town may wish to pursue a land acquisition should consider the following:

1. The property is abutting other permanently protected or Town-owned land;
2. The land is within the water protection district (Zone I or II);
3. The land is greater than 10 acres;
4. It contains rare species habitat;
5. It contains wetland or floodplain;
6. It contains one or more vernal pools;
7. The land is located within the Canoe River Area of Critical Environmental Concern;
8. The land could provide access for hiking, boating, canoeing, fishing or access to a major water body or river;
9. It contains historical, cultural or archaeological significance;
10. It contains significant scenic landscapes or vistas;
11. The land is listed specifically within the current Open Space and Recreation Plan; or
12. The land is actively used for agricultural purposes.

B. Parcel Ranking System

When the Town is interested in purchasing a parcel of land, or if it is offered the right of first refusal for a Ch. 61 property (see Section 7.C.4), the property should be evaluated and receive one point for each of the 12 criteria listed above.

- If the property meets greater than six of the criteria, it will be ranked Highest Priority.
- If the property meets a minimum of six of the criteria, it will be ranked as a Priority.
- If the property meets a minimum of three of the criteria, it will be ranked as a Consideration.

A parcel might be ranked as only a Consideration, but could contain other attributes that would warrant a purchase despite a relatively low ranking.

The parcel ranking system is simply a tool for determining acquisition which is used to provide a qualitative value to the property and to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. It is a method of looking objectively at the benefits of adding a parcel of land to the open space inventory.



Witch Pond in Early Spring

APPENDIX B

2009 OPEN SPACE PLAN SURVEY AND RESULTS

This survey is being conducted in order to understand the needs and concerns of the citizens of Foxborough. This type of input is necessary to qualify for state reimbursement programs for acquisition and protection of important open space.

Open space in this survey is defined as *public and privately-owned undeveloped lands which are important for a variety of reasons*. These lands can be used for recreation, agriculture, forestry or simply available because of their scenic qualities and their contribution to the overall character of the town. Faced with significant growth now and in the future, open space planning will help us preserve open space while allowing development to occur that maintains the character of the town.

Please answer ALL questions. OPTIONAL questions are personal in nature, and may be answered at your discretion. If you wish to comment on any questions or qualify your answers, please use the COMMENT space at the end of this survey. ***Thank you for your help!***

1. You consider Foxborough to be best described as: *(Please choose most appropriate answer.)*

- ...a rural town ...a suburb of Boston
 ...a bedroom community ...a town in transition

2. How important is it to you to preserve:
(Please choose the number corresponding to your choice.)

... buildings of historical or architectural interest	1	2	3	4	5
... farmlands	1	2	3	4	5
... open space to meet water and conservation needs	1	2	3	4	5
... open space to meet active recreational needs	1	2	3	4	5
... open space to preserve wetlands	1	2	3	4	5
... open space to preserve critical wildlife habitat	1	2	3	4	5

- 1 – not at all important
 2 – less important
 3 – neutral
 4 – important
 5 – very important

3. To preserve open spaces in town, would you: *(Please circle most appropriate answer.)*

... contribute some land to the town	yes	no
... donate money to buy land	yes	no
... rewrite your deed to limit future use of land	yes	no
... sell land to the town at a “bargain price”	yes	no
... sell or contribute a conservation restriction to protect your land from future development	yes	no
... sell land to town at fair market value	yes	no
... vote for town-supported land acquisition	yes	no
... no action	yes	no

4. What Town actions do you favor to preserve open space? *(Please indicate all choices you feel appropriate.)*

- Combine public & private assistance
 Encourage conservation restrictions
 Town purchase of land
 Zoning for open space
 Dedication of open space by developers
 No action

5. What State actions do you favor to preserve open space? *(Please indicate all choices you feel appropriate.)*

- Outright purchase of land
 Purchase of development rights
 Property tax reduction programs for farm, forest and recreation land

6. Indicate your rating pertaining to the need for recreational facilities listed.

(Please select the choice you feel appropriate.) Sufficient- as is, Additional - facilities needed or New - facilities needed.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Family recreation area w/facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Public swimming area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country Skiing Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Public access to water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating and sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking and canoeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation center building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor ice skating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Area/Open Space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting Areas |

S = Sufficient
A = Additional
N = New

If you selected Other please specify: _____

7. How often do you visit the following for recreation?

Harold B. Clark Town Forest	1	2	3	4	5
F. Gilbert State Forest	1	2	3	4	5
Cocasset River Recreation Area	1	2	3	4	5
Cocasset River Park	1	2	3	4	5
Canoe River Wilderness Area	1	2	3	4	5
Lane Properties	1	2	3	4	5
School recreational facilities	1	2	3	4	5
Town Common	1	2	3	4	5
Lakes and ponds	1	2	3	4	5
Booth Playground	1	2	3	4	5

Visits per year:
1 = never
2 = 1 - 4
3 = 5 - 10
4 = 10 - 14
5 = 15 or more

8. Indicate your rating pertaining to the type of businesses you feel appropriate for open space area. *(Please select the choice you feel appropriate.) Sufficient - as is, Additional - facilities needed or New - facilities needed.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> working farms | <input type="checkbox"/> retail stores (large) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> food stores | <input type="checkbox"/> retail stores (small) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> light industry | <input type="checkbox"/> restaurants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> health services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heavy industry | <input type="checkbox"/> fitness services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> offices | <input type="checkbox"/> sports facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> human services | |

S = Sufficient
A = Additional
N = New

Name, address and email (optional) _____

Please return the survey to the Conservation office, 40 South St. by May 22, 2009.

You can also fill out the survey on-line by going to www.foxboroconservationsurvey.org.

Comments: _____

2009 OPEN SPACE PLAN SURVEY RESULTS – TABULATED ANSWERS

How important is it to you to preserve:	
Historic buildings	42%
Farmland	42%
Protect water supply	64%
Land for recreation	55%
Protect wetlands	52%
Protect wildlife	53%
To preserve open spaces in town, would you:	
Give land	44%
Give money for land	60%
Deed restrict land use	50%
Sell land to town for less	41%
Conservation restriction	64%
Sell land for market value	40%
Vote for town to buy land	70%
No action	46%
Town zone open space	65%
State tax reduction open space	68%
Most Needed Facilities:	
Conservation open space	59%
Public access to water	59%
Family recreational areas	54%
Outdoor ice skating	53%
Top Recreational Areas:	
School	43%
Booth Playground	43%
Town Common	27%
F. Gilbert Hills State Forest	21%

Using the results from our Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey, 87% indicated the importance of open space and recreational needs for the community.

The five prioritized recreational needs were:

1. Conservation areas (46%);
2. Public access to water (44%);
3. Bike trails (42%);
4. Swimming pool (39%); this need has been met with the opening of the town pool;
5. Hiking and skiing trails (33%);
6. Library (33%).

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey results rated the importance of preserving open space:

	<u>Important</u>	<u>Unsure</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
Preservation of open space:	97%	.05%	2%

In addition, fifty seven percent (57%) would support the Town's purchase of land for recreational/open space purposes. With respect to the Parks and Recreation Department the following needs were identified through the survey: (additional) bike trails, hiking and skiing trails, access to public access to water, places for adults, and use of conservation areas.

SURVEY QUESTION #9
COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING OPEN SPACE PLANNING...

- Any change can work for the best as long as it's in the proper location.
-

- As someone who loves to fish with his young family I would love to see town access (a Town owned ramp) similar to the one on Lake Pearl in Wrentham, where you would pay a user fee to use the ramp.
-

- Boundaries of town conservation areas must be clearly marked.
 - No Motor Vehicles or No Motorized Use. Motorcycle riders now say they don't know where they are? Not hard to believe!
-

- By biking trails, I am suggesting interconnected road bike trails between towns.
 - We are already very fortunate we have a lot of outdoor recreation opportunities in Foxboro.
 - The town has supported special opportunities in the past, and I am sure will continue to do so despite tight budgets.
 - It is very important to me that the town avoid spending significant time and dollars on narrowly defined or failed issues that either do not enjoy broad support or may impact some residents negatively.
-

- Do not feel pressured into giving land away as a swap from greedy business people
-

- Do not put any form of a dog park or dog walking area at Cocasset River Park. Open Cocasset River Park to people only. Open the swimming facility at Cocasset River Park.
 - Develop the town dump for multiuse recreational, dog park and open space areas to be used all year.
 - Plant shade trees along roads and sidewalks.
 - Ask the town to use a less toxic road salt.
 - Improve sidewalks in town. This will allow more to safely get around, use the sidewalks for recreational purposes (walking ourselves, walking our dogs, and jogging), reduce vehicle emissions and create connections between conservation areas, recreation areas, open spaces and green areas.
 - Most non-agricultural businesses don't belong in Open Space Areas.
 - Look into instituting Residential Cluster Development.
 - Decrease business sprawl/strip-malls, encourage multi-storied buildings for businesses.
 - Build wildlife tunnels and crossings.
 - Protect animal and plant habitats and habitat corridors.
 - Thoroughly cleanup and dredge Neponset Reservoir and Crackrock Pond. Provide all season access to Neponset Reservoir.
 - Take zoning or policy steps to reduce air, noise, ground and water pollution.
 - Increase safety and patrols at unattended recreational areas.
 - Increase awareness of the reasons why we need to protect wildlife habitat, water recharge areas, green spaces, and agricultural lands.
-

- Don't understand question 8... not sure how an "open space" could have food stores, industry, etc. on it???
 - Would like to have all town property have to go through Town Meeting vote before selling, with appropriate notice to the public before such a vote...
-

- Feel hunting on conservation land in residential neighborhoods needs to stop.
 - Have had hunters on my property with guns on more than one occasion. Police have not once come down to take care of it. Have also had them hunting on the off-season, again with no help from the police.
 - Makes no sense to let them come within 500 feet of a house when their guns can shoot farther than that.
 - Feel strongly that the open space in Foxboro is one of its strongest assets and should be preserved.
 - We would also like to see the town's financial resources no longer being spent on the issue of the dog park.
-

- FOXBORO IS DEFINITELY CHANGING! PLEASE KEEP IT THE QUIET, FRIENDLY, QUAIN TOWN IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.
 - Do revive the playground area near the midget field; not much being offered there.
 - Too many buildings and houses are going up!!!
 - PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW COMMUTER RAILS OR ANY OTHER MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO SETTLE IN FOXBORO! It will destroy the town and take all its peace, quiet and BEAUTY.
 - When I first moved to Foxboro it was a rural town. If I had enough land to contribute to the town, I definitely would.
-

- Foxborough needs to do whatever it takes to preserve as much land as possible.
-

- Good survey, easy to do, let's hope we get many replies.
-

- Hunting should be prohibited on conservation land that abuts residential developments and/or business. Foxboro has developed greatly in the past decade. I think the Conservation Department needs to reevaluate whether hunting in these designated areas throughout town is now posing a danger within our community. Many of the children in these developments often play in conservation designated land and I think it's an accident waiting to happen.
-

- I am not sure if the portion of the survey asking how often you visit certain areas will come back with skewed results.
 - I would love to visit or utilize Cocasset River Park and the following trails for example but feel like the neighbors have made it impossible to visit and use the space even if the dog park portion was to continue restricted.
 - I find it disgusting that these neighbors have made it so that I am uncomfortable AND fearful bringing my child down to use these areas and instead I search for places to go outside of the town I live in.
-

- I appreciate all that the Conservation Commission is doing to try to protect open space and Foxboro's stunning undeveloped areas (woods, ponds, wetlands, etc).
 - To me, the special nature of Foxboro is the preservation of its beautiful natural areas despite (increasing) growth/building pressures. Foxboro has still been able to maintain its character, though it will continue to be a challenge in the future.
 - One suggestion is to perhaps make volunteer opportunities or community involvement with the Conservation Commission more visible to people. Investment of time by many people in conservation efforts can only increase support for the Commission.
-

- I don't understand question 8. Perhaps I have a different understanding of "open space." It seems to me that if you put any of the options into open space, it would no longer be open space. If the question is asking what I think we should change our open space to, or what it would be better used for, I would like it to remain undeveloped for active and passive recreation.
 - One of the things that I love about Foxboro is that we have so much land available for outdoor recreation and wildlife. I would like to see as much of the town to remain as undeveloped as possible.
 - I think we should do a better job educating our residents to the long-term costs of residential development in school and service costs.
 - We are lucky to have the thriving commercial areas that we do.
 - We have the opportunity to be a remarkably unique community with commercial development, beautiful neighborhoods and large areas of open space, all within commuting distance of Boston and Providence.
-

- I feel open space that we currently have in town should be kept just that...OPEN SPACE so that everyone can enjoy it.
 - I would be great to have more tourism in our town.
-

- I find that Foxboro is a town that cannot decide what it wants to be. It is mostly a suburb without a city to be a suburb of.
 - We have a nice common area, but until the sewer issue is resolved, we really cannot take advantage of the area.
 - In Question 7, I only indicated some items, because we can find basically no information on the other items.
 - For example, I can go online and get info on the state forest, but I cannot find any info on the town forest. I don't know if there is parking, are there trails, etc.
 - If I search for the Canoe River Wilderness area, I can find the private campground, but nothing else.
 - I forgot to mention, that what we do not need is a turf project as all that will do is help destroy our open spaces.
-

- I hope that Foxboro will consider a CPA as we seem to be developing lots of land with mixed use buildings without a clear sense of rebound impact, i.e. school, water, allocations.
 - I also hope that Foxboro will do some strategic planning around how to dovetail new construction with preservation as well as ecologically sound suburban planning.
-

- I like the concept of clustered living as we have in Cannon Forge/Summerfield. These types of developments leave open space for neighborhoods.
 - Also, as far as existing structure, I think it's worth exploring the viability of turning the old firehouse into a teen community center (pool tables, ping pong, lounging area for studying, etc).
-

- I must note that in the past I frequently visit most of the areas listed in question 7, I no longer do because of physical limitations.
-

- I value open space in Foxboro
-

- I was so surprised to see so many outdoor areas listed in question 7. I wish that the town promoted these areas to our own citizens more.
 - I have been to F. Gilbert a few times but each time we were attacked by gnats...but will try it again.
 - Never heard of Clark Town Forest...looked it up just now and will try it out.
 - Not sure I know the difference between Cocasset River Park and Cocasset River Recreation Area.
 - Also, looked online to find out what canoe river wilderness area...and didn't find anything. What is this?
 - As well not sure what Lane properties are?
 - Will go searching online now to try to figure out. Foxboro has so much beautiful areas....I hope to learn more about them and spread the word.
 - Would it be possible to make some sort of presentation to the town/schools etc. so that people know more of what the town offers?
 - Good luck with the planning initiative...it is so vital that we maintain the proper balance of open vs. used space.
-

- I would like to see more areas for hunting, fishing and camping. Also, more softball fields.
-

- It's important that we protect Foxboro's open space and support activities that foster recreation on open space (fitness programs, sports programs, recreation-boating/fishing programs, etc.)
-

- Many sections of this survey are difficult to answer.
 - Appropriate use and businesses would depend on the type of business and scope.
 - There are no options for Not Applicable.
 - The question prompt does not always match the option headers for our selections, i.e. Question 8.
-

- No dog park. No hunting
-

- No dog walking areas, no Dog Park, hunting areas
-

- On recreational facilities I feel that the Dog Park which has been closed is a wonderful park. It is sufficient if it is opened again. If not, we need a dog park.
 - Also, on question 8, I always think of open spaces as undeveloped areas - no supermarkets, restaurants, gyms, etc.
-

- Only visited CRP when Dog Park was open.
 - Where are the lakes and ponds?
-

- Open space land is the only thing we can't make more of... we need to protect and accept any and all open space offered to us, NO matter how small.
-

- Open Space planning is critical at this point in Foxboro history. If action is not taken at this point in time, our future generations are at risk.
-

- Our schools can hold only so many students, through the greed this country has faced and we along in Foxboro have over built. It sure would be nice to leave some of the integrity and character our founding fathers intended for this beautiful town
-

- Please bring back the Dog Park
-

- Please reconsider opening the Cocasset River Dog Park. It was just a perfect location for the dogs and their owners. Onsite parking, already gated, lake, woods, quiet, secluded, and accessible for senior citizens and the handicap.
 - What a draw for out-of-towners to visit Patriot Place, Pawsmopolitan, and all the new stores and restaurants popping up all around Foxboro. A real money maker and asset for the town.
-

- Property values and qualities of towns in Massachusetts are directly related to their proximity to Boston and to Open Space. The value of Foxborough, not just monetarily, will plummet if we do not preserve the conservation, open spaces and forest areas we have.
 - I think we have had enough commercial growth in the last two years to tide us over for a long, long time between Chestnut Green and Patriots place.
-

- Questions 6, 7, and 8 are in my "don't have sufficient knowledge to answer" category. Sorry
-

- Regarding question 8, open space should remain just that -- with only hiking trails open to the public.
 - Also, your survey did not allow a choice to be rescinded.
-

- Residents need reminders of the investments already made, and value/cost savings as these lands and facilities are available for cash-strapped residents to use for recreation and activities/gatherings/group events - this is lost if not misrepresented in current economic panic and competition for dollars and attention of voters.
-

- Renew Cocasset River Park as a swimming facility. There is an old access from South St. that could be opened to relieve Mill St. entrance. It is a beautiful place and provided many families with a place to spend a summer day. It would be a perfect tie-in to the Mill St. recreation facility the town bought several years ago. It's a shame to let it continue to lie in waste.
 - Many people worked hard to bring this to Foxboro about 40 years ago and most people don't even know what its original use was.
-

- Thank you for taking the time to preserve our precious resources and hopefully optimize and promote the wise use of them.
 - It would be good to find a way to promote the options that we do have with our current open spaces, especially for family recreation.
 - Many people are probably not aware, or don't tend to think of making use of the free natural resources we have in our town. Would be good to promote such options in these tough economic times as outlets for people.
 - Would like to see a community sustainability plan.
 - Thanks again for your time and efforts.
-

- Thank you for your efforts. I strongly support maintaining and even increasing the amount of undevelopable land in Foxboro.
 - We have plenty of commercial areas and residential development increases taxes in the long run.
-

- Thanks for sending out this survey, I appreciate the chance to give feedback.
 - I would especially like paved bike trails that could be used instead of the roadside to get around town (not rough trails like F Gilbert Hills).
 - We have a very nice town, keeping as much of the woodlands as possible would be a priority for me.
-

- The Dog Park needs to be re-opened; it is a draw to this town and much needed.
-

- The more conservation land, the better. We have too much development going on in town - it is ruining the beauty of Foxboro as I knew it 20 years ago!!
-

- The recreation property on the former state hospital property needs to be fully developed in the very near future to address many of the needs of both organized youth sports and passive recreation.
-

- Times are tough; I would not favor anything that takes away from the tax base.
-

- Turf field would be REALLY nice...
-

- We have great space in Foxboro.
 - If I had a wish list, it would be for a Turf Field, so the kids could play w/o damaging the field and also for those fields to be sprayed for ticks, etc. b/c it is such a threat to our health. We feel we cannot visit the natural areas of our town b/c the ticks are so bad.
-

- We need more development in our downtown area. Too much attention is paid to Patriot Place and mass retailers.
-

- We would be very interested in the town purchasing land to conserve as open space.
 - The town has become much too busy and developed in the last four years.
 - Let's keep Foxborough as a rural town.
-

- What is going on with the Oak St. camp? Is this privately or town owned? If possible this should not be developed, but turned into a nature area; that side of town doesn't have much for nice open space that's accessible.
-

- When an enterprise comes in like the Dog Park, one should ask the abutters or neighbors if they are for or against this. This can be done by letter or door to door by the proposer. If this had been done, it would have saved a lot of grief.
-

- While my busy schedule limits use of recreational areas, they all serve important segments of the population.
 - I think use of Lakeview, Upper Dam and Neponset should be promoted.
 - The Barton State Park on Sunset Lake should be opened to the public and town land on Beaumont Pond should facilitate access to the water.
 - The former Cocasset River Park area offers great passive recreation potential.
 - It would also seem we could develop a safe outdoor skating area.
-

- Wish I had somewhere to walk my dog.
-

- With Patriot Place, and the new stores near Stop and Shop, we seem to have enough development right now.
 - It would be nice to have more useful businesses in the Town Center; some seem to be wasting space.
 - The Job Lot Plaza needs to be repaved and rebuilt.
-

- Would like to have open space maintained, and additional growth of retail and housing slowed down or halted. Too many shops have been added too quickly.
 - We need fields for playing, access to ponds and reservoir, and hiking trails.
-

- Would love more non-hunting hiking trails.
 - Often do not go to Gilbert because I am hiking with small children and I'm uncomfortable doing so when it is hunting season. I know there's no hunting on Sundays, but my kids are in school only half day, and I'd love to go M-F, but I usually won't because of hunting season.
 - Also, some of the open space may need to be publicized more - not sure where there is hiking/canoeing in Foxboro if any.
 - Also, would love to see improvements/expansion made to Booth or an additional facility (love Ames St. playground in Sharon - something along those lines in Foxboro would be wonderful).
 - Also would love bike trails (kid-friendly rather than mountain biking).
 - We do have lots of open space, and I'm very happy we do.
-

- Sorry it was so late - I'm disabled.
 - I hate and I use the word very little - what this town did to the Conservation Commission with the dog park. The selectmen had their "own" agenda and issues. They supported the abutters and not the town. It is/was a disgrace.
 - We need more honest people who care about our land and not the rich.
 - Thank you to our Conservation Commission for not backing down.
-

APPENDIX C
DRAFT 2011-2018 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN
DISTRIBUTION LIST

Draft Plan, including Maps placed on reference at:

Boyden Library, 10 Bird Street
Foxborough Senior Center, 75 Central Street
Recreation Office, 80 South Street
Town Hall Offices, 40 South Street:
 Conservation Commission
 Planning Department
 Town Clerk

Draft Plan and Cover Letter sent by USPS and email with link to website:

Melissa Cryan, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs DCR
Three Rivers Interlocal Council, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Email Notification sent, including reference to website link with Draft OSRP:

Foxborough Departments:

Administration, Town Manager
Animal Control
Counsel on Aging
Finance
Fire Department
Health
Highway
Inspections
Library
Parks, Tree Warden
Police Department
Recreation
Town Clerk
Veterans Services
Water & Sewer Department

Foxborough Boards & Committees:

Advisory Committee
Agricultural Commission
Board of Assessors
Board of Selectmen
Foxborough Committee for Disabled Citizens
Historical Commission
Neponset Reservoir Committee
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee
Planning Board
School Committee
State Forest Advisory Council
Zoning Board of Appeals

Regional Organizations and Others:

Boy Scout Troop 7
Boy Scout, Old Colony Council
Cocasset Lake Association
Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee
Foxboro Cable Access
Foxboro Jaycees

Organizations and Others (continued):

Foxborough Patch
Foxboro Reporter
Foxboro Rotary Club
Foxboro Youth Soccer Association
Gillette Stadium
Girl Scout Troop 80971
Hockomock Area YMCA, Invensys Foxborough Branch
Neponset Friends
Neponset River Watershed Association
SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District), Bill Napolitano
Taunton River Watershed Alliance, Carolyn LaMarre
Wildlands Trust, Allison Gillum



TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

40 South Street
Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035
508-543-1251

Robert W. Boette, Chair
Allan F. Curtis, Vice Chair
Eric Nelson, Clerk
Douglas L. Davis

Judith L. Johnson
James Marsh
Valerie Marshall
Jane Sears Pierce,
Conservation Manager

June 8, 2011

Ms. Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs DCR
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Foxborough DRAFT Open Space & Recreation Plan, 2011-2018

Dear Melissa:

As promised during our telephone conversation last week, a copy of Foxborough's Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan is enclosed for your review. The parcel maps will need to be revised very slightly (by our intern, Allison Gillum, Wildlands Trust) to correct some last minute revisions that I made to Section 5's open space parcel tables.

If you would like to see the plan in full color (the color photos are really quite nice), you can download or view it at www.townfoxborough.us/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/OSRP.

I look forward to your input... this plan is long overdue and I am *thrilled* to finally "finish" it and take it off of my "to do" list!

Regards,

Jane Sears Pierce
Conservation Manager

Enclosure



TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

40 South Street
Foxborough, Massachusetts 02035
508-543-1251

Robert W. Boette, Chair
Allan F. Curtis, Vice Chair
Eric Nelson, Clerk
Douglas L. Davis, Commissioner

Judith L. Johnson, Commissioner
James Marsh, Commissioner
Valerie Marshall, Commissioner
Jane Sears Pierce, Conservation Manager

To: Foxborough Residents and Landowners
Date: May 26, 2011
Re: Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Foxborough Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and the Foxborough Conservation Commission are pleased to announce the completion of the Draft 2011-2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of all who participated in its creation, and encourage a thorough reading of its pages to ensure it truly reflects the objectives and direction set forth by residents and town boards and committees.

The Draft Plan can be downloaded from the Town's web site at:
http://www.foxboroughma.gov/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/OSRP

Reference copies are available at the Boyden Library, the Recreation Department's office at 80 South Street and at the following Town Hall offices at 40 South Street: Conservation Commission, Planning Department and Town Clerk. Paper copies of the Plan will be made available upon request to the Conservation Manager, Jane Sears Pierce at jpierce@town.foxborough.ma.us or by calling 508-543-1251. Information that will need to be updated for the final plan has been shown in red on the Draft Plan.

A 30 day comment period has been established, which will end on June 26, 2011. Written comments will be accepted during this period by sending them to the Conservation Manager at 40 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035; or by email to jpierce@town.foxborough.ma.us.

A final plan will be compiled to reflect comments received on the draft plan. Your involvement in this last stage is critical, as we want the final plan to be as accurate and inclusive as possible. Please take some time to explore the plan, and let us know your thoughts.

Thank you again for contributing to this important endeavor. Through these efforts of visioning and leadership, we will be able to sustain the excellent quality of life in Foxborough that we desire for ourselves and future generations.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee

Public review starts for town's open space plan

Published: Thursday, May 26, 2011 10:28 AM EDT

Foxborough's Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) has been posted on the Conservation Commission's website for public review at:

www.townfoxborough.us/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Conservation/OSRP.

The OSRP was prepared in accordance with guidelines developed by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EOEEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS). The plan contains a land use and demographic profile of the town; a summary of recent growth trends; an inventory and analysis of the town's natural, historic and scenic resources; an inventory of existing open space and recreation parcels; an analysis of open space and recreation needs; a statement of goals and objectives; and an action plan through 2017.

Information that will need to be updated for the final plan has been shown in red on the draft plan.

Overall, according to The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, the plan affirms Foxboro's desire to preserve and protect water resources, its natural assets, history and cultural heritage and provide environmental education and diverse recreational opportunities to the community. As the town continues to grow, developmental pressures and land use conflicts will undoubtedly increase, making the establishment of a strong open space management program of critical importance. Balancing development with the town's diverse needs for conservation land, parks, playgrounds and outdoor sports facilities will be especially difficult during these financially challenging times, the committee concludes.

Copies of the Draft Plan are available for review at the Boyden Library, the Recreation Department's office at 80 South St. and at the following Town Hall offices at 40 South Street: Conservation Commission, Planning Department and Town Clerk; paper copies are available upon request.

A 30-day public comment period has been established, which will end on June 26. Written comments and letters of support should be sent to Jane Pierce, Conservation Manager, either by mail at 40 South St., Foxboro, MA 02035, or via email at jpierce@town.foxborough.ma.us.

A final plan will be compiled to reflect comments received on the Draft Plan which will be submitted to the DCS.

Script of Presentation to Board of Selectmen, May 24, 2011

by Bob Boette, Conservation Commission Chairman

During Cable-Televised Meeting

The Conservation Commission and Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee are pleased to announce that Foxborough's Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (or OSRP) has been posted on the Conservation Commission's website for public review at:

www.townfoxborough.us/Pages/FoxboroughMA_Consevation/OSRP

~ paper copies are available upon request.

The OSRP was prepared according to guidelines developed by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services, or DCS. A community with an approved OSRP becomes eligible to apply for various types of grants for up to \$500,000 through the DCS. These grants are usually for acquiring conservation, water supply or recreation lands and developing recreation facilities.

The plan contains:

- a land use and demographic profile of the town;
- a summary of recent growth trends;
- an inventory and analysis of the town's natural, historic and scenic resources;
- an inventory of existing open space and recreation parcels;
- an analysis of open space and recreation needs;
- a statement of goals and objectives; and
- an action plan through 2018.

Overall, the plan affirms Foxborough's desire to preserve and protect water resources, its natural assets, history and cultural heritage and provide environmental education and diverse recreational opportunities to the community.

As the Town continues to grow, developmental pressures and land use conflicts will undoubtedly increase, making the establishment of a strong open space management program of critical importance. Balancing development with the Town's diverse needs for conservation land, parks, playgrounds and outdoor sports facilities will be especially difficult during these financially challenging times.

I have come before the Board of Selectmen tonight to ask Town residents, Boards and Committees to review the draft plan and submit their written comments and/or letters of support, for inclusion in a final plan. A 30 day public comment period has been established, which will end on June 26, 2011.

Copies of the Draft Plan are available for review at the Boyden Library, the Recreation Department's office at 80 South Street and at the Conservation Commission, Planning Department and Town Clerk offices in the Town Hall at 40 South Street. The draft plan can also be viewed on the Commission's website.

Please send your comments and/or letters of support to the Conservation Manager, Jane Sears Pierce,

- by email at jpierce@town.foxborough.ma.us or
- by mail to 40 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035.

A final plan, which will incorporate your comments, will be submitted to the DCS by the end of June. Thank you in advance for your support!

News

Survey helps town plan its open space

Published: Thursday, April 30, 2009 11:14 AM EDT

The Foxborough Conservation Commission and Recreation Board are asking the citizens of Foxboro to take a few minutes to fill out their Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey. This survey is being conducted in order to better understand the needs and concerns of the townspeople when it comes to recreational needs and open space preservation goals.

Currently, the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Department are in the process of updating Foxboro's Open Space and Recreation Plan. In order to properly develop the plan, members of both town groups say they need to understand what the priorities are for residents. The overarching goal of this document is to provide a planning tool for the town that determines the future of the character of the town and protection of natural resources by balancing pressures of commercial, industrial and residential development with the demands for open space preservation.

An Open Space and Recreation Plan is a five-year strategic planning document that provides towns with a policy guide, outlining a clear direction for the balanced use of the town's natural resources including the following: maintenance of environmental quality; protection and preservation of ground and surface water; a balanced recreation plan to meet the needs of a growing population; preservation and promotion of natural areas for conservation purposes; and, integration of conservation and recreation areas.

Conservation and recreation board members say the responses to this survey is critical if the town wants to develop a planning tool that is truly representative of the will of the citizens and provides an accurate planning guide for preserving natural resources for future generations.

The survey can be filled out online at www.foxboroconservationsurvey.org, or you can obtain a copy at the library, town hall, senior center, or by calling the conservation office. Copies of the survey will also be sent home through the school department.

When the surveys have been returned and collated, a public meeting will be held to discuss the results with all those who are interested. Anyone who wishes to become more involved in the Open Space and Recreation Planning project is welcome. For more information, contact the Conservation Commission at 508-543-1251 conservation.dept@townfoxborough.us.

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COMMUNITY

Boards ask residents to fill out open space planning survey

Published: Thursday, April 23, 2009 9:04 AM EDT

The Foxborough Conservation Commission and Recreation Board are asking the citizens of Foxboro to take a few minutes to fill out their Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey. This survey is being conducted in order to better understand the needs and concerns of the townspeople when it comes to recreational needs and open space preservation goals.

Currently, the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Department are in the process of updating Foxboro's Open Space and Recreation Plan. In order to properly develop the plan, members of both town groups say they need to understand what the priorities are for residents. The overarching goal of this document is to provide a planning tool for the town that determines the future of the character of the town and protection of natural resources by balancing pressures of commercial, industrial and residential development with the demands for open space preservation.

An Open Space and Recreation Plan is a five-year strategic planning document that provides towns with a policy guide, outlining a clear direction for the balanced use of the town's natural resources including the following: maintenance of environmental quality; protection and preservation of ground and surface water; a balanced recreation plan to meet the needs of a growing population; preservation and promotion of natural areas for conservation purposes; and, integration of conservation and recreation areas.

According to the Massachusetts state law, open space is defined as "Land retained in substantially a natural, wild or open condition, or in a landscaped condition, in such a manner as to allow to a significant extent the preservation of wildlife and other natural resources." (G.L. Ch 61B) "Open space" is a general classification for different types of land-use, including but not limited to: Wetlands; Conservation; Agricultural; Recreation, and; Well-head protection areas.

Conservation and recreation board members say the responses to this survey is critical if the town wants to develop a planning tool that is truly representative of the will of the citizens and provides an accurate planning guide for preserving natural resources for future generations.

"In order for our statistics to be meaningful, we need a representative return," says a recent press release from the two boards. "We urge you to take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to take the survey and identify what your priorities are so that they will be considered in shaping the future character and preservation of the Foxboro's natural resources and recreation activities."

The survey can be filled out online at www.foxboroconservationsurvey.org, or you can obtain a copy at the library, town hall, senior center, or by calling the conservation office. Copies of the survey will also be sent home through the school department.

When the surveys have been returned and collated, a public meeting will be held to discuss the results with all those who are interested. Anyone who wishes to become more involved in the Open Space and Recreation Planning project is welcome. For more information, contact the Conservation Commission at 508-543-1251 conservation.dept@townfoxborough.us.

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Municipal Departments
Boards, Committees, Commissions
FOCSA, NRRC, FOC, FONRC

FROM: Robert W. Boette, Chairman Foxborough Conservation Commission
Peter St. Laurent, Chairman, Foxborough Board of Recreation

DATE: February 3, 2009

RE: Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Foxboro Conservation Commission and the Foxboro Recreation Department would like to invite you to a kick-off planning meeting to update the Foxboro Open Space and Recreation Plan (OS&RP). The meeting will be held on February 11, 2009 from 7-9 p.m. in the McGinty Room in the Public Safety Building (8 Chestnut Street).

The following topics will be discussed:

- Purpose of an Open Space and Recreation Plan;
- Revised goals and objectives;
- Town survey; and
- Proposed time-line.

In order for this OS&RP to reflect the goals of the community, it is important that we gather town wide input and support. We look forward to your participation at this meeting and in the planning process of Foxborough's OS&RP.

APPENDIX D

Public Comments Received on Draft Plan (attached):

1. Debbie Giardino, Director, Recreation Department
2. Debbie Cunniff, Foxborough Resident
3. Leo Potter, Superintendent, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners
4. Vicki L. Lowe, Council on Aging & Human Services
5. Eric S. Arvedon, Chairman, Board of Health
6. Hannelore Simonds, Chief Assessor
7. Daniel Iagatta III, Foxborough Resident
8. Jerry M. Cirillo, Library Director, for the Boyden Library Board of Trustees
9. Sharon Wason, Town Planner
10. Kevin Paicos, Town Manager
11. Joel Barrera, Deputy Director, MAPC
12. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager, EOEEA