

Appendices

- A. Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results (2022)
- B. ADA Accessibility Inventory and Transition Plan
- C. Town of Stow Open Space Committee -- Open Space Ranking Criteria (Revision in Progress)
- D. Freedom's Way Landscape Inventory, Stow Reconnaissance Report: List of Areas Identified
- E. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Food and Agriculture – Agricultural Land Mitigation Policy and Executive Order 193 – November 2001
- F. Comments submitted on the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (TO BE ADDED)

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

The Town of Stow is just beginning the process of updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan – the planning document that addresses the town's needs for conservation and recreation lands and facilities. The goal of this survey is to receive your feedback on how you use conservation and recreation areas in Town, and how you would like to use these areas in the future. We are also asking Stow residents for their views on possible future uses of the portion of the Stow Acres North Course that the Town has voted to purchase. Please share your suggestions and vision for the future of open space and recreation in Stow!

Responses are due by September 15, 2022.

If you would prefer to fill out a paper copy of this survey, you can pick one up in dedicated boxes at the Randall Library and Council on Aging or in the grey cabinet outside the Town Building front door. You can also mail completed surveys to the Stow Conservation Commission, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775.

For more information, please contact the Stow Conservation Department at 978-897-8615 or the Stow Recreation Department at 978-637-2984 or visit our website at www.stow-ma.gov.

Thank you for your time and interest!

1. *What is your age?*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65-74
- ☐ 75+

2. *How long have you lived in Stow?*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 6-12 years
- ☐ 13-20 years
- ☐ 21+ years
- ☐ I do not live in Stow

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

3. Which best describes your household?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ One person household
- ☐ Family without children in the house
- ☐ Family with children in the house
- ☐ Group household
- ☐ Other: _____

4. What are the reasons that protected open space and conservation land in Stow are important to you? (check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Maintains scenic and woodland views
- ☐ Offers places to walk, bike, and enjoy the outdoors
- ☐ Provides habitat for plants and wildlife
- ☐ Helps protect groundwater and surface water
- ☐ Protected farms are a place to buy local produce
- ☐ Maintains rural and small town character of Stow

5. How often do you use Conservation/Recreation land or facilities in Stow?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Almost every day
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ 1-2 times/month on average
- ☐ Once a month on average
- ☐ A few times per year
- ☐ Never

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

6. How often do you use or visit the following recreation and/or open space areas in Stow?

Mark only one oval per row.

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Pine Bluff Fields at Lake Boon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pine Bluff Town Beach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Center Park (Great Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stow Community Park (Old Bolton Rd)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memorial Field (Bradley Lane)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pompo Fields (behind Community Center/Fire Station)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stow Community Gardens (Tuttle Lane)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stow Town Forest/Gardner Hill (Bradley Lane)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Town Conservation Land (Marble Hill, Flagg Hill, Heath Hen, Captain Sargent)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stow Conservation Trust land (Red Acre, Hale/Corzine, Leggett)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lake Boon Boat Ramp	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Delaney Wildlife Management Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assabet River (canoeing/kayaking)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private golf courses in Stow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Private area Health Clubs or Pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Area farms (apple
picking, produce)

☐ ☐ ☐

7. Are there other areas you visit regularly for open space/recreation opportunities outside of Stow? If so, please list them.

8. In which of these activities do you or members of your household participate in Stow or elsewhere? (check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ School sponsored recreation activities/team sports
- ☐ Community/League activities (AVLL, youth soccer, etc.)
- ☐ Adult League activities
- ☐ Camp Stow
- ☐ Other Town Recreation Commission sponsored activities and programs
- ☐ Informal Individual or Group Exercise (walking, running, cycling, cross country skiing, snow shoeing)
- ☐ Dog walking on area conservation properties
- ☐ Competitive events (road races, etc.)
- ☐ Hunting/Trapping
- ☐ Use of Parks/Playgrounds/Picnic Areas
- ☐ Recreational boating
- ☐ Private/formal instruction (dance, karate, etc.)
- ☐ Bird watching/wildlife watching/nature study

9. How do you get information about open space and recreation opportunities in Stow? (check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Town website
- ☐ Recreation Department newsletter
- ☐ COA newsletter
- ☐ Stow Conservation Trust website
- ☐ Social media (Facebook, Next Door, Twitter, etc.)
- ☐ Friends/Word of mouth
- ☐ Local newspaper
- ☐ Other websites (All Trails, etc.)
- ☐ I don't – I just explore

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

10. Below is a list of facilities. Please mark whether you think the current offerings in Stow are sufficient or if you would like to see more of this kind of facility in Town:

Mark only one oval per row.

	Sufficient	Need More	Unsure or Don't Use
Additional formal playing fields – softball, baseball, soccer, field hockey	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessible walking trails (wheelchair, stroller friendly)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bike lanes along roadways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paved bicycle trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unpaved bicycle/mountain biking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Horseback Riding Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/Hiking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sidewalks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Formal Children's Playground Areas – swings, slides, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Informal Children's Nature Play Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood "pocket" parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teen Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expanded Community Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skateboard Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

pool

Spray/Splash Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice skating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Camping Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking/Running Track	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disc/Frisbee golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lawn Games – i.e. Bocce, horseshoes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor performance space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmer's Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public access to water bodies for fishing, boating, swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. *How often do you travel to Stow's open spaces and/or recreation facilities by walking or biking (weather permitting)?*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Every day
- ☐ Frequently
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Never

12. *How important is it for you to be able to access Stow's open space and natural areas, trails, and/or recreation destinations by walking or biking?*

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Not important

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

13. *The Town is currently in the initial stages of planning for the future use of the 110+ acres of conservation and recreation land that is being acquired at Stow Acres Country Club on Randall Road. Please select the six most important elements that you would like to see in the design of this community facility:*

Check all that apply.

- ☐ New Athletic Fields (soccer, baseball, etc.)
- ☐ Paved and Unpaved Walking/Cycling Paths
- ☐ Re-establishing wildlife habitat and stream corridors, tree planting
- ☐ Playgrounds and other formal play areas
- ☐ Formal playcourts (basketball, pickleball, volleyball)
- ☐ Recreation building with exercise facilities, swimming pool, etc.
- ☐ Off-Leash Dog Play Area/Dog Park
- ☐ Skateboard Park
- ☐ Water Play Areas (e.g. splash park)
- ☐ Adventure Play areas (e.g. climbing wall, ropes course)
- ☐ Picnic Tables and Shelter
- ☐ Disc/frisbee golf
- ☐ Farmer's Market and Community Event Space
- ☐ Canoe/kayak access to Elizabeth Brook
- ☐ Restrooms
- ☐ Other: _____

14. *What kinds of land should the town prioritize for continued open space protection? Please choose up to four.*

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Land for active recreation facilities
- ☐ Land for groundwater protection
- ☐ Land for wildlife habitat
- ☐ Land for trails
- ☐ Land that creates connections to other protected land
- ☐ Land abutting existing conservation areas
- ☐ Land for farming or that is in active agricultural use
- ☐ Land with scenic attributes
- ☐ Land that is important to mitigating the impacts of climate change (e.g. floodplains, river corridors)
- ☐ Land that provides public access to waterbodies
- ☐ Other: _____

15. *What is your favorite public open space or recreation facility in Stow? (please just list one)*

16. *Do you have any suggestions for how this favorite place can be improved? (please just list one)*

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Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

17. Please identify one specific place (destination, roadway) you would like to be accessible by walking, but don't feel that you can get there safely (e.g. a school, store, neighborhood, conservation area, street name):

18. Please feel free to expand on any answer, or to comment on something we missed that you feel is important to consider as we update Stow's Open Space and Recreation Plan:

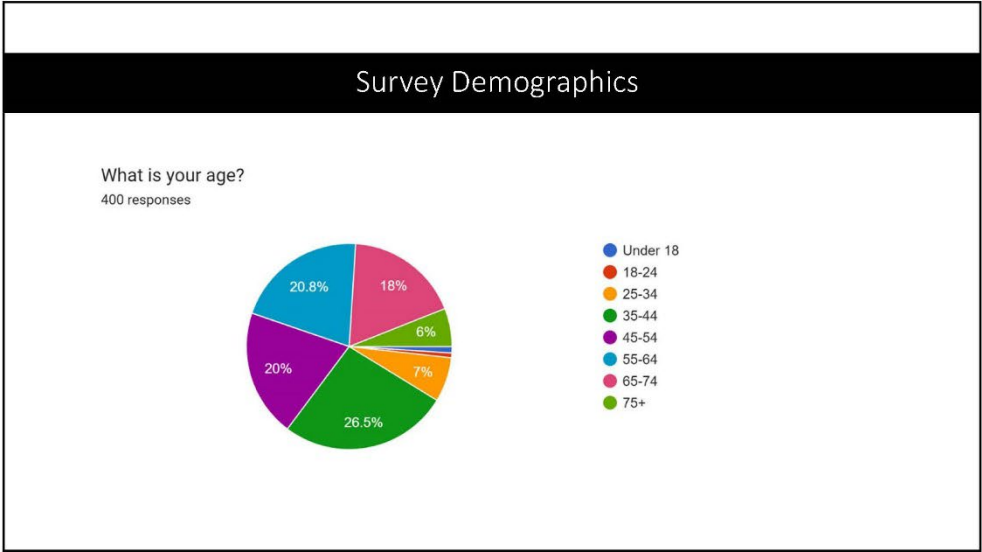
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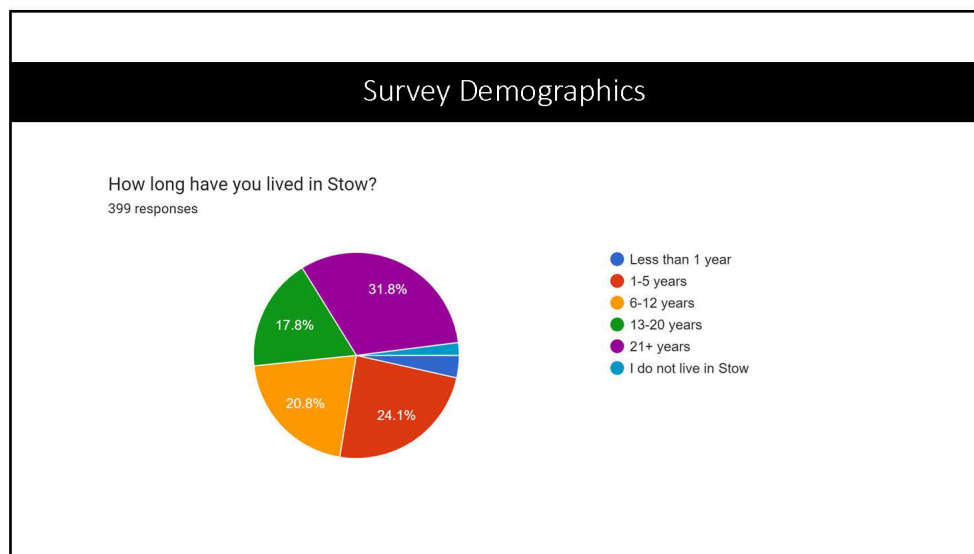


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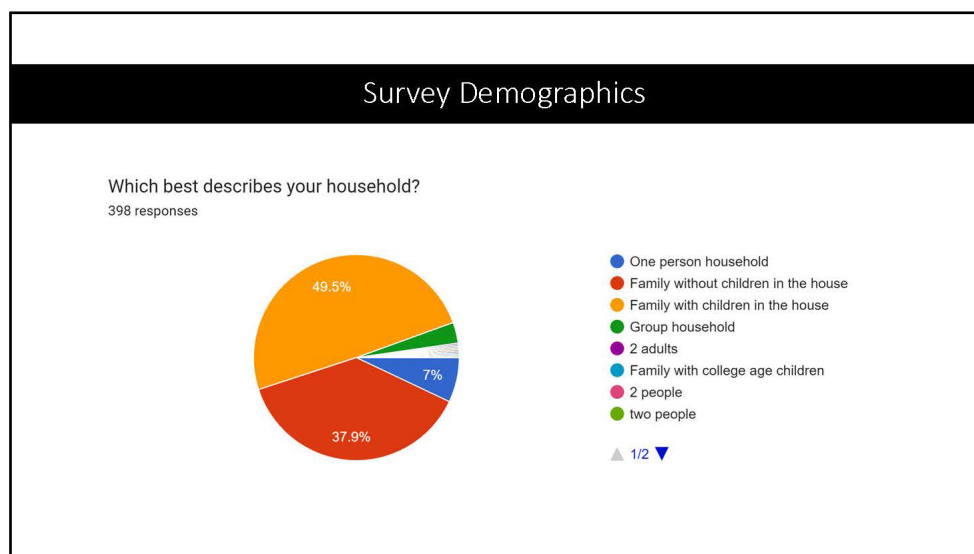


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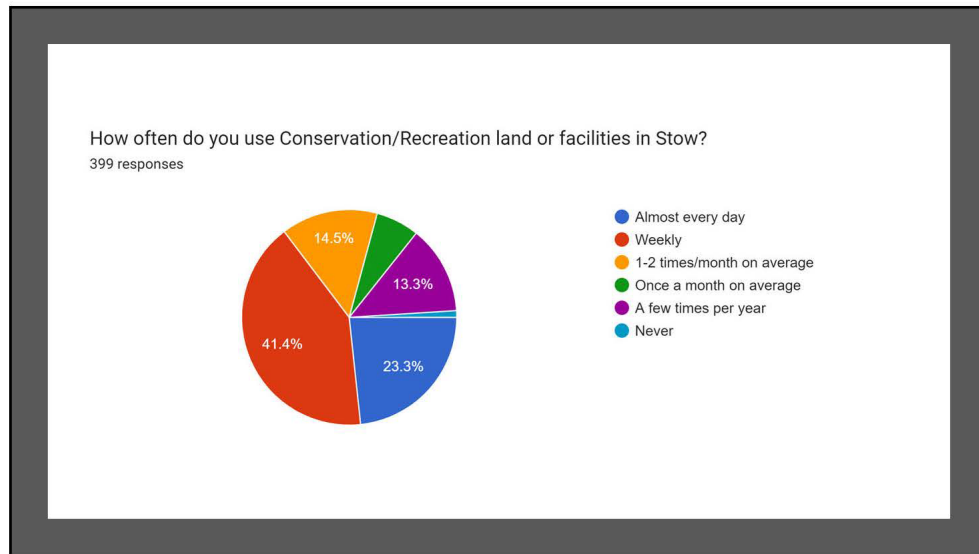


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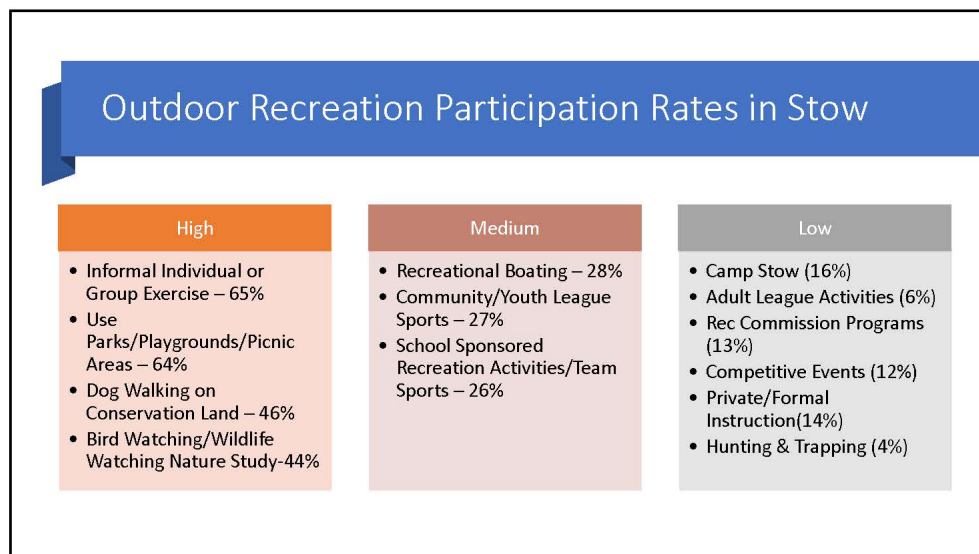


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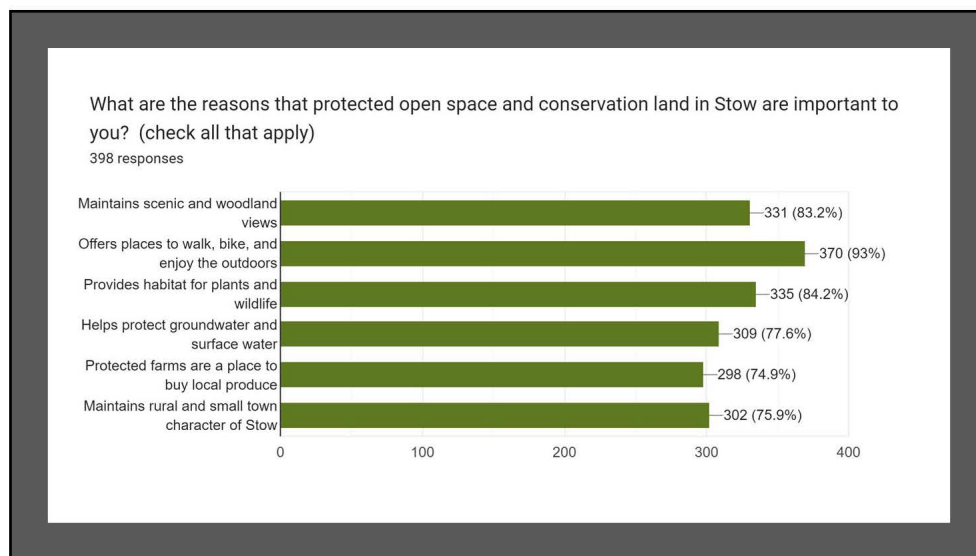


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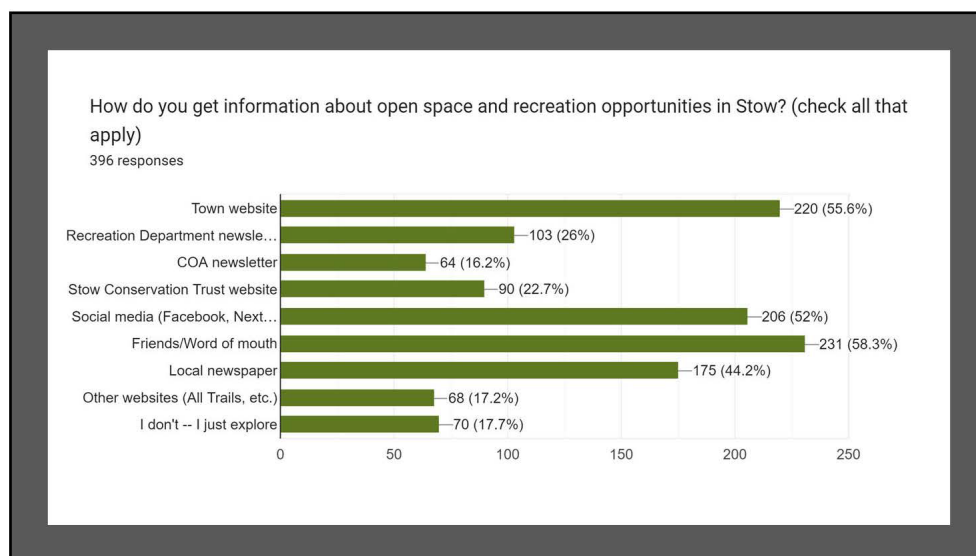


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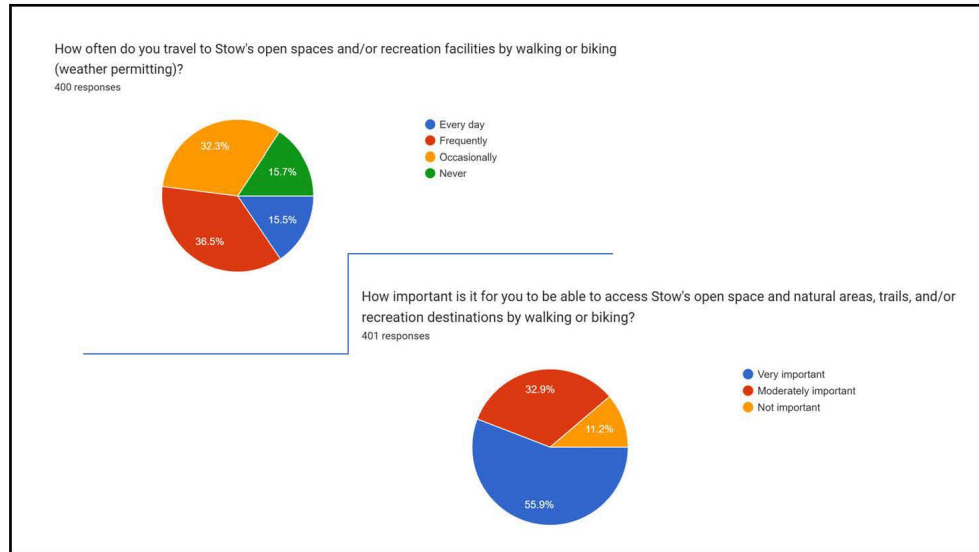


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Most Visited Sites (respondents self-report as "frequent" visitors)

- Area farms and orchards (223)
- Delaney (147)
- Stow Town Forest (108)
- Assabet River NWR (105)
- Other Town Conservation Lands (111)
- Stow Community Park (90)
- Pine Bluff Fields (74)
- Stow Conservation Trust Lands (68)



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Least Visited Sites (respondents self-report as “never” visitors)

- Private health clubs or pools (248)
- Lake Boon Boat Ramp (242)
- Stow Community Gardens (229)
- Private golf courses (224)
- Pompo Fields (219)
- Memorial Field (196)
- Assabet River Canoeing



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Stow Acres Desired Uses

- Paved and Unpaved Walking Trails – 272 (68%)
- Re-establishing Wildlife Habitat and Stream Corridors, Tree Planting – 243 (60.8%)
- Farmers' Market and Community Event Space – 226(56.5%)
- Restrooms – 181 (43.5%)
- Recreation Building with Exercise/Pool Space – 165 (41.3%)
- Picnic Tables and Shelter – 150 (37.5%)
- Canoe/kayak Access to Elizabeth Brook 149 (37.3%)
- Off leash dog play area – 119 (29.8%)
- Playgrounds and other formal play areas – 114 (28.5%)
- Water play areas – 100 (25%)
- Adventure play areas (climbing walls, ropes course, etc.) – 96 (24%)
- Formal Play Courts (basketball, pickleball, volleyball) – 90 (22.5%)
- New Athletic Fields (soccer, baseball, etc.) – 72 (18%)
- Disc/Frisbee Golf – 48 (12%)
- Skateboard Park – 27 (6.8%)



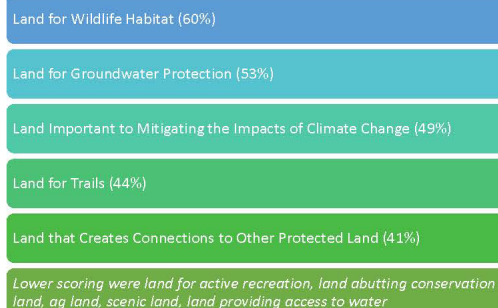
Other Ideas Written In

- Running Track
- Ice Rink
- Golf
- Walking for Seniors, Parents
- Music Performance Area
- Unstructured Nature Play
- Trash Cans
- Elizabeth Brook Fishing
- Cross country skiing/snowshoeing
- Benches
- Horseback Trails
- Arts space
- Outdoor pool
- Gardens

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What Kind of Land Should be Prioritized for Future Acquisition?



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Places People Would Like to Walk

- Town Core – Schools, Library and extending outward
- Ericksons
- Four season sidewalk on 117
- Stow Community Park
- Route 62 & Gleasondale
- Red Acre Road to Lower Village
- West Acton Road & Shelburne Farm
- Hudson Road
- Marble Hill to Flagg Hill
- Sudbury Road/Pine Bluff; Honey Pot
- Harvard Road & Delaney
- Bradley Lane
- Whitman Street & Leggett
- Taylor Road
- Boxboro Road

Anywhere! And many say they are fine...

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Favorite Conservation and Recreation Areas

Stow Town
Forest

Stow
Community
Park

Delaney WMA

Town Center
Park

Assabet River
NWR

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Suggestions for Improvement

Stow Town Forest

- None – 40+%
- Trash/Dog Poop Collection
- Trailside benches
- More trails and better trail marking
- Require dogs to be leashed
- Parking lot grading/potholes

Delaney WMA

- None – 35%
- Better trail markings
- Invasive control
- Restrooms, trash cans, picnic tables
- Better leash enforcement vs. more off leash areas
- Control aquatic weeds, pave trails
- More respect for hunting mission/purpose vs. ban hunting

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Suggestions for Improvement

Stow Community Park	Town Center Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None – 35% • New facilities: pickleball, water play, pool, fields, bathroom, electric charging station • Allow dogs • More land to expand walking trail • Update/expand playground • Better maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None – 56% • Bird houses, better play equipment • Restroom • Paved parking lot and path to gazebo to increase accessibility • Trash can • Shade trees by play area • Tables • Enforce Dog Prohibition

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Suggestions for Improvement

Assabet River NWR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None – 35% • Better trail access to refuge • More trails at refuge/open a larger area • More Canoe Areas • Ban hunting • Boardwalk flooded areas

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Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Comments

- A dog park would be a great addition.
- A lot of people will probably say more sidewalks. As someone who has lived in Stow almost my whole life, I feel that people knew there were no sidewalks when they moved in and now expect we should put them everywhere. I would hate to see the esthetics of Stow change with sidewalks everywhere.
- A sidewalk on Hudson Road would allow traffic at same speed or slightly slower and kids could walk to stow town park or school.
- A swimming pool would be amazing. Apart from Camp Stow/gymnastics club in summer there is nowhere to go for kids to learn!!
- All the dog walkers who drive to the town forest create way too much traffic on Bradley Lane and the road is terribly maintained.
- Better invasives management, active forest management, concern about increasing taxes
- Beyond the Golf Course development let's focus on maintaining existing parks and facilities
- Boat ramp access to Lake Boon with proper trailer parking should be prioritized by the committee/town for future investments.
- Buildings are not the enemy of open space & recreation. With ING Academy coming, perhaps they would be interested in helping on the cost of the previously mentioned ice rink/curling club with cooperation on access.
- Can Stow Acres Course South/North provide canoe/kayak access to Assabet River and Elizabeth Brook?
- Change isn't always needed
- Climate change is most critical, so protecting existing trees is one of the best things we can do.
- Stow Community Park really needs updated playground equipment appropriate for multiple ages. Everything is too high and there aren't enough swings. The rocks alongside the slide at Town Center Park are a hazard if a kid falls while sliding. It would be amazing if there were sidewalks along Gleasondale Road to access Randall Library, Hale and Center school from that direction. It's a pity to live so close and have no way to safely walk or bike there with children. Bike lanes to Lake Boon would be great as well for the same reason. An outdoor town pool and splash pad would be amazing especially considering how frequently Lake Boon has to close for Algae blooms. It would be great to have a reliable summer swimming spot and not have to go to a private facility in another town just to use a pool.
- Compared to Surrounding Towns, Stow's facilities all look and feel very dated.
- Connect Assabet River Rail trail from Hudson to Maynard thru Stow
- Conservation is wonderful in this town but more importantly we need good water and to get rid of all the empty leasable space in lower village! How is this happening that we would lose 2 Dunkin Donuts. This should be an eye opener that our town is not headed in a direction that even DD wants to be a part of! We need to clean up the old gas station, figure out what is happening with the water situation at our schools and lower village - to me these are more important than more open space.
- Dogs should be allowed in many of our Parks and School grounds.
- Don't touch Track Road.
- Education around our town history and why it's important to protect land.
- Elizabeth Brook has limited water and should be left alone for wildlife habitat purposes.
- Emphasis on preserving rural character (agriculture, scenic views, support for farmers), preserving wildlife corridors and aquifers.
- Enforce rights-of-way through private property (where they exist) when property abuts public land. If there is no right-of-way then provide incentives for property owners to provide such. Case in point, the Melone property abutting the Town Forest. There's a nice trail that I used to walk from King's Cove on the Assabet to

the old Stowaway golf course and White Pond Road, but about ten years ago it was posted with No Trespassing signs.

- Develop, budget, and execute a plan to remove large items of disused machinery from the Town Forest. There are several items on the trail by Elizabeth Brook that are now accumulating graffiti. Also, a bunch of junked cars on the red trail leading to Carver Hill.
- Even a simple walk along the road would be nice but we can't do it without a sidewalk.
- I think that the Town Center Park could be made an excellent walkable/bikeable location for students at Center and Hale School. Having an easily accessible outdoor location for students to utilize after school would give young children more opportunities for outdoor activities. It's proximity to the library also makes it an excellent option for those who enjoy reading outdoors.
- Folks cannot walk along 117 though all of Stow on a sidewalk, especially in the winter months because of unsafe conditions/impassable conditions. We need snow removal at least so people can walk outdoors.
- Fresh air, water and habitat protection are all important, Gleasondale needs more access to outdoor areas.
- Getting safely to the new property should be thoughtfully planned. There are children who will be traveling to this new property to use it, and the roads that lead there are busy, narrow and always have pedestrians. We would like to see sidewalks in this neck of the woods.
- Hudson Road Sidewalk
- I appreciate the focus on this, but honestly, focusing on the downtown areas, IMO, is the single most important thing this Town needs to focus on. If we want to improve our Town, we need to fix the downtown, make a park there, pretty it up. Buying more woods is not critical to my family, we only walk a few days a week in them, but we see and drive through downtown every single day. Any plan for open space should focus primarily on our downtown.
- I believe in keeping as much land virgin as possible. Trails are wonderful, we have a lot. It would be great to allow our native creatures peace without invading their homes with more.
- I believe there is beginning to be deer browse pressure in some areas of our forests. I know this is not easily addressed. However if the opportunity arises to build another enclosure with interpretive signage, where it is easily observed, this will help to inform the public of this increasing ecological challenge.
- I don't know if this pertains to the open space plan but since we've mentioned sidewalks...if we could allocate money to clear at least the 117 sidewalk in winter that would allow many more people to walk to things (community center, school, etc.) and have a safe space to walk/run rather than just at the side of the road. I would vote in favor of a tax increase to make that happen at town meeting if it were proposed (and I think a lot of other families would too).
- I feel very happy and lucky with the time I've lived in Stow. We moved here from Marlborough and while we lived on a main road there, we had plenty of access to sidewalks which made walking safe. I walk my dog multiple times a day and we are expecting our first child soon, I was excited to live on a slower/side street. I think with the speed that cars travel down Edson Street and Randall Road to get to the golf course is dangerous. I find myself driving to a neighborhood in Hudson with sidewalks to walk and I wish we would have sidewalks or speed bumps to make our area feel more safe while walking.
- I feel we have enough open space and need to work with the land we have now
- I like farmer's markets but would not want to hurt Applefield or any of the orchard business
- I live on Edson Street and it's currently used as a cut through for the golf course. People speed going down the street I worry about the new development and more cars. I'm fearful for my child's safety and when walking my dog. It would be nice to add speed bumps or other measures to have people slow down on this road.
- I live on Great Rd., across the street from the Stow Center Park, and there is no safe pedestrian crossing for the park or for the library or the UU Church. Why do we not have a WALK sign at the stoplight in the town center?
- I love all the trails. Keep up the great work!

- I rarely walk in Delaney conservation land because dogs are still running loose, and often poop is not picked up despite the rules, no enforcement seen.
- I think a paved trail/ bike path linking to others surrounding area ones would be great benefit.
- I think an outdoor pool would be amazing to have. Maybe an indoor one would get more use year round, but I think people want to be outside in the summer and I don't know if they would go to an indoor one.
- I think the marriage between stow open space areas and a cohesive plan for more community engagement opportunities (events, farmer's market, etc.) both stay true to Stow's rural beauty while also celebrating small community connections.
- I think you need to look at the surrounding communities and compare and adjust according to the surrounding towns. Example: playgrounds and sidewalks since stow already has the nature and hiking trails, it's time to bring the community together and other families to have a place in an open safe space such as those. And those places should be accessible via walking by sidewalks.
- I would like more of a focus on maintaining what we have and not adding much more except a portion (not all) of Pilot Grove Farm if it ever goes on the auction block. Focus on good maintenance and affordable housing. I think we pay too much in taxes already and we have more than enough protected space >25% of total Stow acreage when one also counts Delaney and Assabet Wildlife Refuge (which could use some serious maintenance work on its allowed bikeways!).
- I would like sidewalks on Old Marlborough & 62, and in the Gleasondale neighborhood so that we could access the future Stow Acres project safely by walking or biking.
- I would like there to be sidewalks on some of the major roads for people to walk on safely without conflicting with cars, bicyclists, or needing to walk in poison ivy.
- I would like to see a school-connected emphasis placed upon preservation of Stow history. An example: we could have created a pocket park on Hiley Brook around the historical marker for the second land grant for Stow. I would love to have the Stow school kids create small pocket areas commemorating Stow's history around town. On the historic marker on Hiley Brook is a section of barbed wire that is one of the oldest examples of barbed wire. The wire has been wrapped around the stone for so long (since mid 1800s) that the stone is eroded. Kids could learn about land grants that were offered in the early days of Stow, as well as learning history of how barbed wire changed our farming techniques and how livestock was managed. We could create these small areas all around Stow, illuminating our history and preserving our bits of the past scattered around town.
- I would like to see more safe walking, biking paths throughout the town. I would also love to see a Community Pool for summer.
- I would love to see additional space for kids, teens and adults who love to be outside. Would be great if we didn't have to leave town for some of the activities!
- I would really love to see an indoor swimming pool, in Stow, although that would be very expensive. Perhaps that could be listed as a future plan to keep it on the table
- I would really love to see the rail trail in Hudson on Wilkins Street connect to the formal Maynard/Acton trail via the road along Crow Island Airfield.
- I'd be happy to volunteer or help with Spindle Hill as a resident of the area. Otherwise please keep up the good work with conservation land! It's a big part of the reason why we moved here.
- Improved sidewalks all around please
- increase efforts to acquire protect larger parcels in private ownership
- Informal, small walk/bike access paths to interconnect 'safe access' (e.g. avoiding Rt 62/117. Expand shoulder width for cycling on Rt 117 by moving edge line closer to center line per existing engineering guidance for a road with that traffic density and speed limit. Make it easier for people to avoid auto use and we will! Consider 'intro to bicycling on roads' led by a League of American Bicyclists certified instructor.

- It is not enough just to provide public amenities. It is essential to enable access to those amenities by modes other than automobile. The lack of bike paths and sidewalks restricts the mobility of children, the elderly, and anyone without immediate access to vehicular transportation. This is not just true for recreation, but also for work opportunities and commerce. I would like my kids to be able to walk/bike to school, the shopping plaza, friend's houses, or work at local orchards or business, but they cannot safely do it. Schedules and opportunities of Stow residents of all ages are limited by the availability of a parent or friend to provide transportation, even to places nearby. This creates barriers to access, limits utilization of town resources, restricts economic opportunity. At the bare minimum, bicycle/walking paths along roadways would benefit not only our residents, but allow residents from neighboring towns to patronize our businesses, farms, and build a thriving and connected community.
- Love the idea of a community center that has a fitness facility, pool and gathering places. We have to leave and visit our neighboring towns for access to a lot of things. Would be nice to have a place to gather, workout and swim.
- Lower Village. No place to meet or congregate, no bike racks, no gazebo, no playground. Shopping Ctr. is a glorified strip mall. Lacks imagination. (see West Acton)
- Make it outdoors as much as possible with limited paving and large structures.
- More and easier access to waterways for kayaks. Similar to the Maynard launch by dam.
- Keep the developers away! Keep it wild and provide habitat for wildlife. End hunting in Stow.
- Kindly do not increase taxes.
- More sidewalks are needed
- More sidewalks and bike paths so we can cut down on cars
- My family has primarily shifted its exercise/outdoor activities (e.g., hiking, Nordic skiing, mountain biking, wildlife watching) to the Assabet Refuge. It's beautiful, not crowded, and free of aggressive dog behaviors. I used to love the Town Forest, however, we've had several scary dog confrontations and have been bitten more than once. We simply don't feel relaxed there anymore. There are a variety of fine places to walk dogs in Stow (like Delaney). I wish the crown jewel of our public park system (Town Forest) were reserved for human beings only.
- Nara Park in Acton would be nice model to aspire to, it is nice mix of activities that creates a 'lively' park that is used heavily.
- Need a balance between open space/wildlife preservation and public access/use
- Need to pickup the trash on a regular basis at Snow Park
- North Course of Stow Acres would be a great place for a Disc Golf course.
- Open space planning is great and important but public water should be piggybacked into any places we plan.
- It's important to work on accessibility throughout town. Sudbury has installed disability friendly playgrounds at all of their schools. I'd like to see something like that for our schools and parks as well. I'd also like to see a few more paved trails. Everyone should be able to have public access to the amazing things Stow has to offer.
- Overall the list of facilities is sufficient. What Stow desperately needs is more businesses, restaurants, shopping areas. It needs the water situation fixed at the Shaws plaza. Businesses are leaving, we need to do something about it!
- Part of the rural character of Stow are its farms, yet the needs of horse people are rarely considered in recreational planning. The ONLY reason I live in Stow is because I can have horses and ride directly onto conservation land. As a household that places little burden on the town (no kids), I would really appreciate more consideration - most of the other horse people in town that I know are in similar situations. We contribute to the town, but our needs are a low priority compared to providing services like play areas. Creating more horse friendly trails and suitable parking to go with them would help maintain Stow's country character while providing a valuable service to a section of Stow's population that is often overlooked.

- Pave Track Road like a rail trail
- Please don't let Masters academy take over the use of stow community park.
- Please keep in mind, when building low income housing, let's focus on the elderly rather than families. The elderly cannot move out of their homes as there is no place affordable to go. Single level designs would be very helpful!
- Please keep Stow green. We need more of this space.
- Please locate any new projects near affordable housing.
- Please minimize paving in any of your plans
- Please push back against people who want to develop Stow as a place to serve their recreational needs while destroying the rural character of the town. Once this happens Stow will no longer be the unique rural town they were drawn to in the first place. Hopkinton gave in to development pressure and see what happened there. Rural character is quickly disappearing.
- Please work with the Masters Academy to keep publicly-accessible walking trails around the former Bose property
- Red Acre Road needs a walking/running/biking trail along it, a stop sign at the limited-visibility Tuttle Road intersection, restrictions on the passage of large trucks, more aggressive tree maintenance, a decreased speed limit along the straightaway in front of Red Acre Farm, and overall better speed limit enforcement. So many cyclists use the roadway. So many great trails are located off of Red Acre, but accessing them is not easy or safe - for walkers/runners, cyclists, or drivers. So many people come to walk babies and dogs on our road, Farm Road, because it is safe and quiet, but making the loop requires going on Red Acre Road, which is downright treacherous. Creating safe passage here will also help Stow residents access the South Acton train station and the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.
- Repair/replace/build sidewalks along 117, they are badly in need of repair, widening, and leveling.
- Research supposed need for playing fields. Not real. I had 4 kids in sports. No issues. Individual parents/sports like to say their sports are threatened. Not True! Please consider XC ski trails in open space:/fields (Stow Acres) rather than woods. Less chance of tree debris on trails (if it actually snows)
- Stow needs to expand/complete rail trail and also provide public municipal water to the town to further expand growth of local restaurants.
- Stow needs to fully utilize and maximize the use of all the land we have purchased in the last 40 years, we do not need to purchase any more land! Water for the business district and more businesses needed more urgently
- Stow's abundant conservation areas are why I live here!
- Stow's sidewalk/walkability situation is fairly dire. The sidewalks that do exist are not maintained, not cleared of snow, and have numerous signals and poles in the middle, making stroller use difficult. Beyond that, there are many roads that would benefit from sidewalks, or at least a widened, protected area to walk or bike (South Acton Road comes to mind). Connecting open space to walkable areas would be beneficial.
- Sudbury road has room for a paved footpath almost all the way from the beach to the state forest parking lot.
- Taking accessibility into consideration is critical when looking ahead to creating new spaces! Especially playgrounds, picnic areas, and some trails. Accessibility for wheelchairs, assistive walking devices, strollers, etc should all be not just taken into consideration, but prioritized.
- Taylor Road and Harvard Road need safe sidewalks
- Thank you for asking our preferences. Open community space that's outside in nature is precious.
- Thank you for putting out this survey and protecting our open space and recreation. My overall feeling is Stow has enough Open Space. We need to focus on bringing businesses to town in the Lower Village. All hands on deck - everyone should support businesses going in there (including a Starbucks) so the town can survive. I'm tired of paying so much in residential taxes to support farms and open space.

- Thank you for taking input from the town!
- Thanks for all that you're doing to protect this beautiful town!
- The shed on West Acton Rd could be better developed with a needed water crossing to Capt Sargent, and better trailhead info. This is a very central spot for several great areas. People just don't know.
- We desperately need sidewalks in town so kids can safely get to the parks, schools etc. There are no dog friendly parks in town!
- We don't need any more ball fields or paved play areas. Keep our natural land natural! Also don't urbanize Stow with sidewalks or cycle lanes
- We don't need any more conservation land, use what we have and introduce business opportunities to bring revenue to Stow.
- We don't need more green space. We need quality businesses.
- We need a better playground (bigger, more playscapes, no wood chips) and more safe walking roads.
- We need a moratorium on spending. My taxes increased 34% in 2 years. Nothing else on the planet has increased 34 % in 2 years. This out of control spending will drive people out of town, especially seniors.
- We need sidewalks please!
- We need sidewalks
- We need sidewalks, paved roads and to connect bike trail to surrounding towns
- We need to make walking around town safer
- We need to start investing in the children of Stow. Families want new and updated playgrounds. Spray parks, activities for children.
- We want a Starbucks Drive-thru!
- We will never make Stow completely walking/biking accessible. And we cannot keep doing 1+ acre lots for private homes (we will have group areas). So whatever we have for "open space" where we can gather to take our breaks will require some reasonable parking and drive flow so we can manage access for all to enjoy.
- We're lucky to have so much well-tended open space. We all need to work to keep the balance of housing/business and natural habitat in favor of natural habitat. Thank you for doing this survey.
- What brought people through the pandemic was access to the outdoors AND access to art (books, movies, etc) - it would be wonderful if our conservation space could compliment our outdoor space with indoor capabilities for year-round enjoyment.
- When we moved to Stow, we were excited about the beauty and nature/outdoors access and experiences. But, Stow seems very stuck and unable to move forward - I am still shocked that there are literally no sidewalks. And that we have dangerous water - in home wells, schools, and the shopping center - because the town won't take action against PFAS, or regulate the fire academy, or consider town water via neighboring towns. I want to love Stow, but it doesn't seem like Stow has much of a future or plan.
- We need a gym with a pool, exercise areas, perhaps courts for racquetball or squash, etc.. There needs to be somewhere to do to (e.g. coffee shop, etc.)
- The town needs to put a greater emphasis on activities for the over 40 and 70 crowd.
- The town's open spaces are fabulous. I would hope that future plans would include proper maintenance of all areas. I hope to be able to return to my daily use of the forest again.
- There are too many spaces in town that are unfriendly towards unleashed dogs. I almost never walk trails in my own town anymore because the town and the Conservation Trust has created a hostile environment for dog owners. Those of us who have sport breed and gun dogs need for them to be off leash to run and

expend their energy. Stow styles itself as a rural town. We shouldn't required leashed dogs if we are "rural."

- This is all great and recreation and conservation are important. But I'm more concerned about attracting and retaining businesses in Stow and think our community needs to address the water issues the plaza on Great Rd has been suffering from. Losing Emmas and Dunks has been a blow, and it's critical that we turn this around. More investment is needed in the redesign of this plaza, and I'd love to see broadly a little less conservation and a little more development.
- This town is out of control buying land for no reason. There's plenty of open space. Stop spending taxpayer money I worked very hard for my money and you people just take it away.
- Unless you're in a neighborhood this town is not very family friendly. Please develop something for the kids.
- We desperately need sidewalks in town so kids can safely get to the parks, schools etc. there are no dog friendly parks in town!
- Whitman St provides access to conservation land Honey Pot and Assabet River, but it's a nightmare to walk/bike on. Parts of the road are very narrow and there are numerous blind spots and it sees a good amount of vehicle traffic.
- Widen the trails, please. Too often we're faced with poison ivy exposure. Also trails are needed for people with disabilities.
- Would be nice to connect with the neighboring town bike paths.
- Would like a bike path connection in Stow to neighboring towns that is safely accessible via sidewalks or bike lanes.
- Would like s sidewalk on Boxboro Road. Not a perfect straight one but one that flows with the road.
- Would like to see more paved biking trails. An easy one is to finish the Assabet River Rail Trail through Stow!
- Wildlife (plants and animals) are supremely threatened by Climate Change. Functionally connecting protected open spaces is a powerful/impactful strategy to facilitate necessary wildlife movement in response to Climate Change to increase chances of future survival. In many instances, those connections can also accommodate low impact trail access between existing protected open spaces by people.
- The Town needs to make Lower Village (i.e., existing commercial spaces in town) an economic engine for paying for these spaces. Stow can't just keep upping residential taxes to pay for these. I LOVE open space and fully support but there's a limit to what we can do as residents. Business revenue has to be part of the plan.
- There needs to be stricter enforcement of dog leash laws, especially as we are create new open space at Stow Acres. Inconsiderate dog owners have made some public spaces essentially unusable for anyone who doesn't want to encounter unleashed dogs (e.g., Town Forest).

Appendix B – Americans with Disabilities Act – Accessibility Self-Assessment

Introduction

The Stow Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission make every effort to accommodate people with disabilities, physically and programmatically. In addition, we recognize that an increasing percentage of Stow residents are seniors who are likely to need appropriate access to open space and recreation areas, including trails with gentle grades and wider surfaces. This need was documented by the survey that was completed as part of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Section 504 (of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)) Self-Evaluation of Stow's park, recreation and conservation land indicate that relatively few accommodations exist to provide full access to these areas for people with disabilities, although significant improvements have been made since the last Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2016. The evaluation results are shown below along with a transition plan for corrective action, if any.

Since 2016, the Town, through its Recreation Commission, has retrofitted the Pine Bluffs/Town Beach facility to expand accessibility, including creating a viewing platform at Town Beach and upgraded bathrooms. In addition, Town Center Park was created and opened in 2019 with an accessible parking lot and fully accessible ADA path down to Minister's Pond in a collaborative effort between the Recreation Department and the Conservation Department. The Town Conservation Department is also currently using ARPA funds to create adaptive raised bed gardens at the Town's community gardens at Captain Sargent Conservation Area.

Some of the sites that offer potential for expanded accessibility include:

- the newly acquired Stow Acres North Course property
- the Town Forest/Memorial Field Complex.
- the state-owned Delaney Complex also offers a great potential to provide universal access to the popular site. Relatively modest changes to the parking area and initial access to the walking paths could open the facility for use by many visitors with enhanced accessibility needs. Delaney Complex, as well as the Sudbury Road Bridge, also offer potential water accessibility opportunities, something that is currently not available in Stow.

Evaluation Results

Section 504: Administrative Requirements

- The Town ADA Coordinator is Frank Ramsbottom, Building Inspector.
- The ADA Grievance Procedure and policies are posted on the Town of Stow website here: <https://www.stow-ma.gov/town-administrator/pages/americans-disabilities-act-requirements>
- Stow Town jobs are always advertised without discrimination as to age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, handicap, veteran status, or political affiliation. All job ads are made available on the town website here: <https://www.stow-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/current-employment-opportunities>

Program Accessibility - Facility Inventories & Transition Plans

Facility name	Stow Community Park		
Owner/Manager	Recreation Dept		
Location	Old Bolton Road		
Acreage	8-9		
Activity	Walking, ice skating, field sports, basketball, tennis, accessible swings		
Site Amenities	Parking lot, exercise station trail, picnic pavilion, recreational fields and courts		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
None identified	None planned		

Facility name	Pine Bluffs and Town Beach
Owner/Manager	Recreation Department
Location	Off Sudbury Road
Acreage	31

Activity	Swimming, picnicking, field sports		
Site Amenities	Beach, playground, playing fields, bathrooms, parking lot, accessible deck		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No universal access to beach	Construct handicapped accessible trail / drive from parking lot to beach;	CPA Funds and Permits needed	Rec Dept, CPC
Facility name	Town Center Park		
Owner/Manager	Owner: Select Board; Manager: Recreation Department (Conservation owns the shoreline of Ministers Pond)		
Location	323 Great Road		
Acreage	4.0		
Activity	Walking, nature play, sitting (benches, gazebo), community events		
Site Amenities	Accessible parking area, accessible trail, gazebo, nature play area, picnic table, benches		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
None Identified	None Planned		

Facility name	Stow Town Forest and Memorial Field
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission and Recreation Department
Location	Bradley Lane
Acreage	326

Activity	Hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, fishing, mountain biking, dog walking, playing fields		
Site Amenities	Parking area, bulletin board, emergency call box, field with backstop and seats, bridges, seasonal portajohn.		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No compliant parking	Modify public parking area to include handicap spaces	Hire design consultant with CPA funds	Conservation Commission; Rec Dept; CPC
Trails are inaccessible due to slope/grades and surfaces	Design and construct a short accessible trail from parking lot along Elizabeth Brook on blue/red trail	Hire design consultant with CPA funds	Conservation Commission; CPC
Note: The parking area serves both the Town Forest and Memorial Field. New handicapped parking spaces would be needed in two locations			

Facility name	Flagg Hill (W. Acton Rd and Trefry Lane entrances)		
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission		
Location	West Acton Road		
Acreage	243		
Activity	Hiking		
Site Amenities	Parking lot, trails,kiosks		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No universal access paths	None planned		

Facility name	Flagg Hill (Boxborough entrance)		
Owner/Manager	Boxborough Conservation Commission		
Location	Off Windemere Drive		
Acreage	243		
Activity	Hiking		
Site Amenities	Parking lot, trails,kiosks		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No universal access paths	None planned		

Facility name	Marble Hill Conservation Area & Pompo Playing Fields		
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept		
Location	Great Road		
Acreage	249		
Activity	Hiking, active recreation		
Site Amenities	Parking lot, trails, exercise course, playing fields, kiosks		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No universal access paths; entrance to facility is difficult for people with mobility disabilities	Currently examining alternatives for bridging access stream and revitalizing exercise course with family and senior friendly facilities	Begin Summer 2023	Stow Conservation Commission

Facility name	Captain Sargent Conservation Area/Stow Community Gardens		
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission		
Location	South Acton Road/ Tuttle Lane		
Acreage	153		
Activity	Hiking, agriculture, community gardens, picnic tables		
Site Amenities	Parking lot, trails, kiosks, garden plots, picnic tables		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No universal access paths from main entrance, community gardens have had limited utility for gardeners with physical disabilities	The Conservation Department has obtained ARPA funding for construction of fenced raised bed plots with a dedicated water source; construction began spring 2023 and is due to be completed this summer. Also new boardwalk across a wetland is a major connector trail and will be constructed by Fall 2023.	Summer 2023	Stow Conservation Department

Facility name	Heath Hen Meadow Conservation Area		
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission		
Location	West Acton Road		
Acreage	38		
Activity	Hiking, cross country skiing		
Site Amenities	Roadside parking, kiosks, trails, bridge		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority

No universal access paths	None planned		
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Facility name	Spindle Hill Conservation Area/Wheeler Pond		
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission		
Location	Gates Lane/Wheeler Road		
Acreage			
Activity	Hiking		
Site Amenities	Informal roadside, parking, trails, kiosk		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
No universal access paths	None planned		

Facility name	Stow Acres North		
Owner/Manager	Conservation Commission and Recreation Department		
Location	Randall Road		
Acreage	109		
Activity	TBD – Master Plan in progress		
Site Amenities	None at present; master planning underway for a major town conservation/recreation complex which will feature sustainability and accessibility, as detailed in plan		
Transition Plan			
Barrier to Access	Corrective Action	Scheduled Change	Authority
TBD			

APPENDIX C

Revised Evaluation Criteria for Ranking Parcels – Stow Open Space Committee

What are the Evaluation Criteria?

About fifteen years ago, the Stow Board of Selectmen (BOS) appointed an Open Space Prioritization Committee to help provide greater insight as to the lands in Stow most deserving of protection. Of primary interest were those properties enrolled in the preferential tax assessment programs - Chapter 61(forestry), 61A (agriculture), and 61B (open space/recreation) - as by statute the Town was granted a Right of First Refusal when these lands were proposed to be sold for development. The Open Space Prioritization Committee was asked to develop a tool to allow the community to better assess the relative importance of a given property as a Right of First Refusal arose, to enable the Town to direct its limited resources most effectively.

To accomplish this, the Committee developed a weighted criteria ranking system. Under this framework, points were awarded based on attributes of a property, such as habitat significance, quality of agricultural soils, scenic qualities, historical significance, linkage with existing conserved lands, development potential, and others. The weighted criteria ranking system was then used to evaluate and rank many of the properties enrolled in the chapter programs considered to be of greatest significance to the Town. Results of that exercise matched well with the community's intuitive sense of importance - validating the function of this tool. Since that time, the criteria have been revised to better reflect our understanding of the importance of biodiversity protection and changing community open space priorities. The criteria have been revised into the form of a checklist for items to consider when evaluating potential parcels for acquisition.

Open Space Land Evaluation Factors	Criteria Met? (Yes/No)
1 Water Resources	
a. Site is in an aquifer zone (1977 IEP Study)	
b. Site is in a recharge zone (1977 IEP Study)	
c. Site enhances public access to water	
d. Preservation would contribute to protecting quality of adjacent water bodies (lakes, rivers, streams)	
e. Site is mapped as floodplain or is otherwise known to be flood prone	
2 Agriculture	
a. Site is currently productive or has been in production within 3 years	
b. Site contains prime soil types	
3 Cultural Preservation	
a. Site contains locally significant historic landmarks, buildings, or other features	
b. On or eligible for property listed on the national/state register	
c. Site has importance to indigenous people	
d. Site contains significant archeological resources	
e. Site contains important geological resources or features	

f. There are scenic views across the site or on the site

4 Preserves Town Character

- a. Site contains features that have historically contributed to Stow's identity: farmland, fields, stone walls, architectural qualities of structures on site.
- b. Preservation would contribute to land use diversity in the area or neighborhood in which it is located (e.g. where land use change has begun to homogenize character that was formerly diverse)
- c. Site is located on or visible from narrow winding town road(s), whether public or private ways or is traversed by or runs alongside dirt roads, cart paths, ancient ways
- d. Preservation would contribute to maintaining the rural open space attributes of "outlying" Stow
- e. Preservation would contribute to retaining natural breaks between the towns' more densely developed core and rural elements along the edge.
- f. Preservation would or could contribute to the town's supply of civic open space areas in or near existing village center.

5. Public Open Space

- a. Site is identified in OSRP as a priority
- b. Site is in an area underserved by conservation land
- c. Site will improve passive recreation opportunities
- d. Contiguous or near existing protected land
- e. Contributes to linkage with existing trails, paths, ancient ways, railroad beds, horse trails, etc.
- f. Acquisition would foster consistency with town and state open space planning documents.

6 Natural and Ecological Resources

- a. Site contains water bodies (streams, ponds) and/or vegetated wetlands
- b. Site contains unique geologic features
- c. Site has potential for ecological restoration
- d. Site is of known wildlife corridor significance
- e. Diversity of vegetation
- f. Contains uncommon flora and fauna
- g. Site is mapped as BioMap Habitat of Statewide or Local Significance
- h. Site is mapped as important for climate resilience

7. Municipal uses

- a. Location near town center, existing services
- b. Development suitability
- c. Access to/from major road
- d. Site has capacity for one or more identified recreation facilities (ballfields, ice rink, gym, pool, tennis courts, etc)

e. Site contains existing facilities that respond to an active recreation need

f. Site is in an area of town underserved by parks and recreation facilities

g. Site has few or no development constraints and is near services, making affordable housing/elderly housing development feasible and appropriate

8 Liabilities

a. Hazardous waste contamination is known or likely based on land use history and practices

b. Other dumping has occurred on the site

c. There are encroachments from neighboring properties which need to be addressed

d. Good title cannot be obtained/insured without difficulty

e. There are other issues on the site which could expose the town to potential liability

9 Development Potential/Impacts to the community if not protected

10. Funding

a. Potential for obtaining funding for this property is high

b. The land is a good value with respect to current market prices

Appendix D – Freedom’s Way Landscape Inventory

Stow Reconnaissance Report: List of Areas Identified by the Town of Stow

APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list was generated by local participants at the Heritage Landscape Identification Meeting held in Stow on April 12, 2006 and the follow-up fieldwork on May 11, 2006. **There are undoubtedly other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** The chart has two columns, the names and locations of resources are in the first; notes about resources are in the second.

Landscapes are grouped by land use category. Abbreviations used are listed below.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction

CR = Conservation Restriction

LHD = Local Historic District

NR = National Register

PR = Preservation Restriction

* = Priority Landscape

+ = Part of a Priority Landscape

Agriculture

Apple Barn

Great Rd.

Stone building at the Center School used for storing apples on the Peter Larsen property before land was acquired for the school.

Applefield Farm

727 Great Rd. - Vegetable and flowers. Farm stand selling local products.

Carver Hill Orchard

Brookside Ave.

Lord family farm since the 1850s. Orchard and vegetable farm with cider mill, farm store, hiking trails.

Derby Orchard

438 Great Rd.- Orchard and farm stand with 23 varieties of apples, cider and peaches.

Honey Pot Hill

144 Sudbury Rd. - Apple orchard as well as pears and blueberries. Farm store selling products (apples, cider, etc.) and pick-your-own fruit. Sunflower display in summer is of note. Whitman House built in 1810.

One Stack Farm

441 Great Rd.- Apple orchard with 12 varieties of apples, some peaches, cider made on-site.

Packard Farm

90 Packard Rd.- The Packard House at 90 Packard Rd. sits on this 47-acre site. More than 100 years ago apple orchards lined Packard Rd. on both sides. Now houses line the road. This farm is under 61A.

Orchard Hill Farm

Rockbottom Rd. In Gleasondale. Was a mill farm that produced food for mill workers. Located on esker above Assabet River.

Pilot Grove Farm

76 Crescent St. - Northern edge of Lower Village. The Federal farmhouse was constructed in 1808 (barn demolished). Today it is a sheep farm today.

Red Acre Farm

253 Red Acre Rd. - Northern edge of Lower Village. The farmhouse was built after 1856 and became the summer house of Harriet Bird in 1902. Later she turned it into a haven for overworked and abused horses. More recently a medical research facility and hearing dog center were part of the operation.

Shelburne Farm

106 West Acton Rd. - Was known as the Old Elm Farm with house Federal/Greek Revival house built in ca. 1800. Apple orchards since the early 1900s. There is a conservation restriction on 48.3 acres of this orchard. Farm animals, hay rides, picnic areas, and The Apple Shop.

Small Farm

184 Gleasondale Rd. - On Route 62, farm stand and pick-your-own flowers, herbs and vegetables.

Nurseries

Two nurseries, Stow Branch Nursery and Village Nursery, serve the town.

Archaeological***Conant's Sawmill Site***

Archaeological site in Town Forest. The foundation of a sawmill that operated from the mid 1660s to 1830.

Native American Sites

Various locations - 26 ancient sites have been documented in Stow.

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries***Brookside Cemetery***

Gleasondale Rd. - Established in 1864 at the intersection of Gleasondale and Box Mill Roads. 5.7 acres.

Hillside Cemetery

Crescent St.- Established in 1812. Small burial ground of about 1.5 acres.

Lower Village Cemetery +Pompositticut Rd.- Oldest cemetery. Laid out in 1683. 3.5 acres.

Small Pox Cemetery

Lakewood & Sudbury Rds. - Graves of those who died in the 1840's from small pox.

Civic***Gleasondale ****

Stow's industrial village with Gleason houses, workers houses, boarding house, mill farm (now a horse farm), mill and dam. First mill and dam built prior to 1750. In 1813 the Rock Bottom Cotton and Woolen Mill established at Randall's Mill, hence the industrial village first known as Rock Bottom. Name change in 1898 to honor mid 19th century mill owners Benjamin Gleason and Samuel Dale.

Lower Village *

Great Road - The original town center laid out in the 1680s on Great Road (now Route 117) at Red Acre, White Pond, Samuel Prescott and Pompositticut Roads. Now the commercial center. Historic houses such as Hosmer's Folly and the Minister's Manse. The first meeting house was established here.

Upper Village

Also known as Stow Center or Town Center. Became the town center with Upper Common when the meetinghouse was relocated here in order to be more centrally located within Stow's borders. Site of the fourth First Parish Church in 1827 which burned and was replaced with current First Parish Church (1848). Also site of Town Hall (1848).

Industrial***Blacksmith Shop****

Great Rd. - Located on the former Peter Larsen property, the building was moved from Maynard in 1914 and became a blacksmith shop here. Larsen kept it open into the 1950s thus it is the last blacksmith shop that was operated in Stow.

Box Mill Dam & Pond

At Carver Hill. Dam dates to 1850.

Gleasondale Mill & Dam +

In industrial village of Gleasondale. The Greek Revival mill was constructed in 1854 and the dam and canal in 1883.

Lake Boon Dam +

Built for the Assabet Mill in Maynard about 1850. Height increased in 1870's.

Institutional / Military***Center School***

403 Great Rd. - Built in 1954 on property of Peter Larsen whose stone apple barn and blacksmith shop remain on the property. The Colonial Revival style school houses Grades 3-6.

Churches

First Parish (1848), the former Gleasondale Methodist-Episcopal Church (1898, 4 Marlboro Road), St. Isidore's Catholic Church (1961, 429 Great Rd.), Union Church (1905, 317 Great Road).

Fort Devens Annex

Sudbury, State & White Pond Rds.

The Annex was taken in 1942 from lands in Stow, Sudbury and Maynard. Of 2300 acres 2½ is in Stow. It was in active military use from World War II until 1995. Now operated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife as the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. Many historic farms were on the property taken, some of which still stand. Also, archeological sites.

Hale School

55 Hartley Rd. - 16.6 acres. Built in 1964. Expanded in late 1990's.

John Kettell Monument

Off Maple Street. One of two earliest recorded settlers.

Matthew Boone Monument

Off Barton Rd. Boon, one of the two earliest recorded settlers, who was killed by Indians in 1676 during King Philip's War.

Pompositticut School

511 Great Rd.- A modern school building housing Grades K-2. Built in 1968.

Randall Library

19 Crescent St. - Built in 1892 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It was a gift from the estate of John Witt Randall by his sister, Belinda Randall. Historical Room donated in 1926 by Whitney family. There is a 1975 addition.

Stow Town Hall

Great Rd. & Crescent St. At Stow Center near the Upper Common. Greek Revival building constructed in 1848 with addition in 1895. Now used for meeting space and several town offices. The new town building (1989) is across Great Road from this town hall.

West School

Harvard Rd. - Built in 1825 on the foundation of a ca. 1739 school which was the first at this location. The brick one-room school house now is the Stow West School Museum, administered by the Stow Historical Commission.

Miscellaneous

Cairn

74 West Acton Rd.- At Shelburne Farm. According to the Historical Commission this stone cairn dates to 1640.

Stone Walls

Along roads and in woods and fields.

Natural

Hérons' Nests

Part of the Delaney Project.

Open Space /Parks

Assabet Wildlife Refuge

See Ft. Devens Annex. (Known locally as the “ammunition dump.”) Refuge established in 1999.

Butternut Country Club

115 Wheeler Rd. - Public golf course operated by three generations of the Page family. It was built on an old farm that grew butternut squash.

Flagg Hill Conservation Area

West Acton Rd. - 286 acres in Stow and Boxborough protected through purchase by the two towns in 1998. Has trails, vernal pools, critical habitat and wildlife.

Lions Club Field

Great Rd. at Hudson Rd.

Lower Village Common +

First town center when laid out in 1680s.

Marble Hill Conservation Area

Taylor Rd. - Town owned property of 249 acres adjacent to the Pompositticut School with parking there or on Taylor Road (north end of property). Trails. Native American archeological sites have been identified.

Pine Bluffs Recreation Area +

Sudbury Road - Town-owned 35 acres on eastern shore of Lake Boon with town beach and recreation area established in 1971 from the Parker farm and cottage rental properties. Trails

Pilot Grove Hill

Public and private ownership of land on hill. Landmark reputed to have been used historically for sighting by ships coming into Boston Harbor.

Stowaway Golf Course

White Pond Rd. - 9-hole public golf course since 1960's. Formerly Assabet Country Club in the 1920's.

Stow Acres Country Club

58 Randall Rd. - Golf course (with two 18-hole courses) and historic Randall House built by John Randall, prominent Boston physician made his home in Boston and maintained the property with ca. 1800 Georgian style country retreat. It passed through generations of Randalls to Belinda Randall, sister of John Witt Randall who died intestate. Belinda gave money to many local causes in her family's name. Circa 1920, the Randall property was purchased by Charles M. Cox, a wealthy grain merchant from Boston, who established a golf course here open to African Americans, who were unable to play elsewhere due to segregation practices. First known as Mapledale, this course hosted the first national black men's championship in 1926. Expanded to 36-holes in 1954 by Page brothers of Waltham. The clubhouse (the old Randall house) has been extensively renovated.

Town Forest

Bradley Ln. - Also known as Gardner Hill Land (324acres) purchased by the town in 1968. Near Lower Village. Was part of the C.D. Fletcher estate. Elizabeth Brook forms the northern edge. The foundation of Conant's Mill, a sawmill, is within the Town Forest as is Little Bog Trail.

Wedgewood Pines Country Club

215 Harvard Rd.- Private country club with golf course, swimming pool, large clubhouse. 154 acres. Opened in 1996.

Residential

Boaz Brown House

172 Harvard Rd.

NR First Period Thematic Nomination. One of the oldest houses in Stow, built before 1699. Brown farmed this property and ran a tavern for some time. By the mid 18th century it was part of a 143-acre farm. In 1764 the farm was sold to Stephen Stow.

Cottage Neighborhood +

Cottage neighborhoods around Lake Boon built from 1880's to 1930's are now being stressed by development and mansionization. See Lake Boon Priority Landscape.

Hapgood House

76 Treaty Elm Ln. - NR First Period Thematic nomination. The house was constructed of ca. 1726 for Hezekiah Hapgood.

Hosmer's Folly +

4 Red Acre Rd. - The Rufus Hosmer House was built in Lower Village in ca. 1789 in the Federal style. See Lower Village Priority Landscape

Lake Boon Neighborhood *

Located in southeast corner of Stow, Lake Boon was originally a small pond. Amory Maynard of the Assabet Mill in what was to become Maynard purchased rights in mid century to make a larger pond, which was done by building a dam at Bailey's Brook. This was later raised and the mill pond expanded. After the use of waterpower was discontinued, by 1900, the lake became a summer resort area. Transportation was provided by two train lines, a trolley and a steam boat from Maynard.

Minister's Manse +

9 Red Acre Rd. - A house was constructed for the first minister in 1686. This house, usually identified as the Minister's Manse is possibly somewhat later. See Lower Village Priority Landscape.

Randall-Hale House +

6 Sudbury Rd. - NR. This ca. 1710 house was built by Abraham Randall in Gleasondale. It displays First Period construction with Georgian detail. A large New England barn is on the opposite side of Sudbury Road at the intersection with Gleasondale Road.

Whitney Homestead

485 Great Rd. - Built in ca. 1843 in the Greek Revival style it shows signs of Victorian updating. It has served as a nursing home as well as a single family residence.

Whitney House

27 Whitney Rd. - Part of Whitney Homestead land. Built ca. 1760.

Walcott-Whitney House

137 Tuttle Lane.- NR First Period Thematic nomination. First Period construction with Georgian details built in ca. 1725.

Transportation

Assabet River Rail Trail

Planned trail along the Marlborough Branch Railroad line that was in operation from 1850 to 1980.

Maple Street

In the western part of town from Bolton northeast to Old Bolton Road. Scenic qualities.

Minuteman AirField

302 Boxboro Rd. - Airport established in 1963 with its first building housing the locally known restaurant constructed in 1968. Airport was opened to the public in 1969.

Red Acre Road +

Extends from Great Road at Lower Village north to Acton. Scenic qualities. Built in 1802.

Track Road

A road on private property that is part of the old railroad bed of the Marlborough Branch Railroad. Recreational easement negotiated and signed with Town of Stow and property owner of Track Road and Crowe Island for planned Assabet River Rail Trail.

Trolley Waiting Station

Great Rd. - Stone structure built in 1916 on the Concord, Maynard and Hudson Electric Railway route.

Tuttle Lane

Picturesque country road branching northwest off of Red Acre Road.

Walcott Street

In the southwest corner of Stow running from Hudson north to Hudson Road.

Whitman Street

Rural north-south road between Gleasondale Road on the north and Boon/Sudbury Road on the south.

Waterbodies

Assabet River *

Flows through the southeastern part of Stow from Hudson to Maynard. View of Assabet from Sudbury Road Bridge. The Assabet River originates in Westborough and flows north and then northeast for 32 miles to its confluence with the Concord River. Crowe Island is a land form that juts into the Assabet, most is privately owned. It is reached by Track Rd. Assabet River once was known as Elizabeth River, the English version of the Nipmuc name for the river. The name, Assabet, also a version of this name became the name in ca. 1850 and means in Algonquin "the place where materials for making fishnets grow." The current flow is largely processed sewage.

Delaney Project

Includes the herons' nests. The Delaney Multiple Purpose Complex of the SuAsCo Watershed Project was established in 1968 by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to control flooding from Elizabeth Brook, through the purchase of rights to store 4,000 acre-feet of water along the brook above Delaney Pond in northwest Stow, Bolton and Harvard. The 22-foot Campbell dam was constructed as a flood control project to hold back the waters feeding the Elizabeth brook which are reported to be able to make a 12 inch difference in the Assabet River water level in Maynard during a 100-year storm.

Elizabeth Brook

Tributary of the Assabet River entering the river from the north. At one time this brook was known as Assabet Brook. At the same time the Assabet River was known as the Elizabeth River which is the English version of the Nipmuc name for the river.

Fletcher's Pond

Fed by Elizabeth Brook. A former mill pond.

Heath Hen Meadow Brook

Heath Hen Meadow Brook runs from Boxborough to Ft. Pond Brook in Acton. The brook flows through Shelburne Woodland, purchased by the town in 1997.

Lake Boon +

A Great Pond that straddles Hudson-Stow line. Once a millpond for the mills in Maynard, it is also referred to as Boon's Pond. Primary land use around perimeter is now residential with many former summer cottages. Lake has three sections connected by the Narrows and connected to the Assabet River by Bailey's Brook. Named after Matthew Boon who explored area in 1660s and was killed in King Philip's War in 1676.

Minister's Pond

North of Great Road at Stow Center. Flows south to Elizabeth Brook by manmade drainage stream built by an enterprising minister. The change created additional pasture land.

Sandy Brook

Tributary of the Assabet River.

APPENDIX E

Executive Order 193 and Agricultural Land Mitigation Policy

General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mass. Executive Order #193

By His Excellency EDWARD J. KING

Governor

PRESERVATION OF STATE OWNED AGRICULTURAL LAND

Preamble

Agricultural land in Massachusetts is a finite natural resource that is threatened by competing land use pressure.

The natural resource qualities associated with agricultural land make state owned agricultural land an irreplaceable economic and environmental asset when utilized for food production. This land is part of the "common wealth" of Massachusetts citizens, and the wise use and conservation of state-owned agricultural land is of broad public value. As the loss of private agricultural land in the Commonwealth continues, the state-owned land will play an increasingly important role for the state's remaining farmers and young people who wish to enter farming. As the state-owned agricultural land decline in productivity and efficient utilization, so does the maximum return of benefit to the citizens, of the Commonwealth.

Furthermore, the loss of agricultural land has had a detrimental affect upon environment quality. Agricultural land reduces flooding by effectively absorbing precipitation, while replenishing critical ground water supplies. The open characteristic and natural vegetation of agricultural land helps purify the air; enhances wildlife habitat; provides for recreation; and maintains the landscape's aesthetic and historic quality. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that the Commonwealth's agricultural land remains available for present and future generations.

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth seeks to preserve the productive agricultural land base on which the Massachusetts agricultural industry and the people of the Commonwealth depend; and

WHEREAS, state acquisition programs administered by the Department of Environmental Affairs, pursuant to G.L.c. 132 A, secs 11A-11E and G.L.c. 184 secs 31-33, promote the preservation of private agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Executive Department of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to protect, through the administration of current programs and laws, the Commonwealth's agricultural land base from irreversible conversion to uses which result in its loss as an essential food production and environmental resource;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Edward J. King, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby order and direct all relevant state agencies to seek to mitigate against the conversion of state-owned agricultural land and adopt the policies herewith:

1. State funds and federal grants administered by the state shall not be used to encourage the conversion of agricultural land to other uses when feasible alternatives are available.
2. State Agency actions shall encourage the protection of state-owned agricultural land by mitigating against the conversion of state-owned land to non-agricultural uses, and by promoting soil and water conservation practices.
3. The Secretary of Environmental Affairs shall identify state-owned land suitable for agricultural use according to the following criteria:
 - a. the presence of soil types capable of supporting or contributing to present or potential commercial agriculture
 - b. current and historic use for agriculture, and

c. absence of non-farm development.

4. State Agencies controlling state-owned land suitable for agricultural use shall coordinate agricultural land management policy with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. In managing said land, State Agencies shall be encouraged to allow for use on a multiple year basis for forage and food crops.

5. Surplus state-owned land, identified as suitable for agriculture by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, shall remain available for agriculture when compatible with state agency objectives.

6. For purposes of this Executive Order, "agricultural land" shall be defined as land classified Prime, Unique, or of State and Local Importance by the USDA Soil Conservation Service, as well as land characterized by active agricultural use.

7. For the purposes of this Executive Order, "state-owned land" shall be defined as:

- a. all land under the custody or control of a state agency,
- b. all lands purchased in whole or in part with state funds or federal funds administered by the state.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston this 19th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty one and of the Independence of the United States of American two-hundred and five

Edward J. King Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

LANCASTER FIELD OFFICE

142 OLD COMMON ROAD, LANCASTER, MA 01523 (508) 792-7711 FAX: (978) 365-2131

JANE SWIFT
Governor

BOB DURAND
Secretary

JONATHAN L. HEALY
Commissioner

AGRICULTURAL LAND MITIGATION POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION & STATEMENT OF POLICY

Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution guarantees the right of residents of the Commonwealth to the conservation, development and utilization of agricultural land. Protection of this right is declared to be a public purpose by Article 97. Pursuant to this mandate, therefore, it is the mission of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ("EOEA") and the Department of Food and Agriculture (the "Department"), as restated herein, to protect, preserve and enhance agricultural land, and its capacity to benefit and sustain the citizens of the Commonwealth, as a finite natural resource.

This mission has been accomplished, and shall continue to be accomplished, in part, by discouraging the conversion of viable units of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Further, by way of its Mitigation Policy, the Department requires that one acre of agricultural land of comparable or greater agricultural viability be permanently protected for future agricultural use, for every acre of agricultural land so converted, in the manner described herein or by use of an alternative mitigative tool described below.

II. POLICY BACKGROUND & IMPLEMENTATION

Agricultural land has become a ready target for non-agricultural development as a result of its adaptability and physical characteristics. Such development is subject to review and certification under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA"). In addition, EOEA has designated agricultural land as a critical natural resource. As with other critical natural resources in the Commonwealth (e.g. wetlands, floodplains), a concerted effort has been and shall continue to be made by the Commonwealth to avoid the loss of agricultural land as a result of non-agricultural development. Where avoidance is not possible, Department policy requires mitigation for the loss of agricultural land in the manner described in Section III.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts for many years has actively promoted the preservation of agricultural land. Through the Agricultural Preservation Restriction ("APR") Program the Commonwealth invests significant funds, on a regular basis, to protect critical farmland resources by purchasing rights in agricultural land.

Agricultural Land Mitigation Policy page 2 of 3

In addition, Executive Order 193 complements the APR Program as a protective tool through which state agencies are directed to avoid and to mitigate against the conversion of state-owned agricultural lands. In this regard, the Order states the policy that: "State Agency actions shall encourage the protection of state-owned agricultural land by mitigating against the conversion of state-owned land to non-agricultural uses...". The Order further provides, as a separate policy not restricted to state-owned agricultural land, that: "State funds and federal grants administered by the state shall not be used to encourage the conversion of agricultural land to other uses when feasible alternatives are available."

III. MITIGATION OPTIONS

Compensation for the loss of agricultural land resulting from conversion to non-agricultural uses may be accomplished in one or a combination of the following ways, upon consultation with the Department and approval by the Commissioner. A Financial Contribution shall be utilized only in circumstances when On-site and Off-site mitigation are not feasible. The following order of preference shall be followed:

"On-site Mitigation": The permanent protection, through the granting of an APR to the Commonwealth, on any contiguous agricultural land of equal or greater size, soil quality and agricultural viability to the agricultural land being lost to conversion, as determined by the Department and approved by the Commissioner.

"Off-site Mitigation": The permanent protection, through the granting of an APR to the Commonwealth, on a parcel of agricultural land of equal or greater size, soil quality and agricultural viability to the agricultural land being lost to conversion, as determined by the Department and approved by the Commissioner. Where feasible, the permanently protected piece of land shall be located either in the community within which the agricultural land being converted is located or within a contiguous city or town.

"Financial Contribution": For each acre of agricultural land being converted, a contribution of \$10,000.00 per acre shall be made to the Commonwealth's APR Program, or to a qualified nonprofit farmland preservation organization or municipal farmland preservation program for the purpose of assisting the Commonwealth in permanently protecting agricultural land of equal or greater size and agricultural viability to the agricultural land being lost to conversion, as determined by the Department and approved by the Commissioner.

Agricultural Land Mitigation Policy page 3

DEFINITIONS

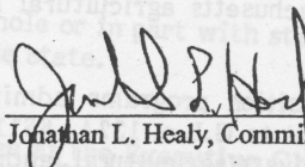
"Agricultural Land": Land comprised of soils which are classified as Prime, Unique, or of State and Local Importance by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, including land currently in active agricultural use, or suitable for active agricultural use, or land which has been in agricultural use within the 15 year time period prior to conversion.

"Agriculture": Agriculture as defined within the Massachusetts General Laws.

"Viable Unit": A parcel of agricultural land that is 5 acres or larger in size, or if fewer than 5 acres, a parcel that significantly contributes to the agricultural character of the community.

For additional information, kindly contact the Massachusetts Department of Food & Agriculture, 142 Old Common Road, Lancaster, MA 01523 (508) 792-7712.

Dated: November 30, 2001


Jonathan L. Healy, Commissioner

Appendix F

Comments on Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan (to be added)