



**Milton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update  
Public Forum #1  
September 18, 2023**

**Objective: to understand how residents gauge the Town's progress in meeting needs for natural resource/open space protection and recreational opportunities.**

**Question #1: What is the Town of Milton doing well? (grouped by theme, not prioritized)  
What is the Town of Milton doing well by way of protecting the natural environment and/or providing recreational opportunities for residents?**

**Group #1 (Jeff/Tim)**

- The Ponds...Turner's, Pope's, and Houghton's Ponds
- Proximity of walking paths at lakes/ponds
- Pine Tree Brook path to Pope's Pond (can't wait for the bridge!)
- Proximity to trails
  
- Cunningham Park
  
- Proximity to skiing facility
  
- Milton Landing
  
- Overall maintenance/cleaning of sites
  
- Provision of conservation land
  
- Eustis Estate
  
- Brookwood Farm
  
- Preservation of history
  
- Blue Hills
  
- Community Preservation Act
  
- Recreation and athletic facilities
- Scheduling of activities between fields

**Group #2 (Kellie/Craig)**

- Turner's Pond/walking path (3)
  - o Like being able to walk through nature to get to different parts of town
- Expand bicycle facilities (3)
  
- Historic New England presence



- Town website for activities
- Sustainability/Resilience Committee
- Shade Tree Committee (360 Project)
- Accessibility of playground spaces
- New playground (Peveryly)
- Community Preservation Act being able to fund projects
- Focus on Milton Landing (but overly prescriptive)
- Manning Park redesign/green spaces

**Question #2: What could we do better? (grouped by theme and prioritized)**

***What existing recreation facilities could benefit from improvements? How could they be improved?  
What natural resource protection strategies being used by the Town could be strengthened?***

**Group #1 (Jeff/Tim)**

- Access to the Blue Hills
- Access/parking at Pope's Pond
- Better knowledge and access to other open spaces (Pope's/Turner's Ponds)
- Improve access to Blue Hills/Houghton's Pond
- Access to Houghton's Pond, Eustis Estate, and Wakefield
  
- Bike lanes needs physical barriers (painted lines are not safe)
  
- More Town support (\$) for Brookwood Farm
- Conservation Commission needs money to maintain land under their authority
  
- Preserve more than wetlands

**Priority #3:**

- No one knows you need permission to take down private trees
- Tree maintenance/care
- Need strategic plan for shade tree initiative (beyond 360 Project)...tree cover is disappearing on public/private land
  
- Need turf ban (Board of Health)

**Priority #1:**

- More sports fields
- Need more playing fields
- Need strategic plan for all grass fields reconstruction to alleviate field shortage (not piecemeal/one by one)



Priority #2:

- Incentivize private owners to preserve land in perpetuity
- Estate development protections

**Group #2 (Kellie/Craig)**

Priority #2 (tie)

- Mature tree loss

Priority #1

- Better management/identification of conservation lands
- Identify and protect lands in perpetuity/deeds
- Accessibility/Maintenance of neighborhood sidewalks
- Lack of well-maintained playing fields for youth sports

Priority #3 (tie)

- The rubber stuff under playgrounds/better maintenance of natural areas

Priority #3 (tie)

- Conservation signage/viewsheds

Priority #2 (tie)

- Connectivity between open spaces

Priority #2 (tie)

- Think about an outdoor stage
- Boat/Kayak House at Landing
- Public art

**Question #3: What more could we do? (grouped by theme and prioritized)**

*What are new recreational opportunities that the Town should consider? What natural areas need protection but are not currently protected? What are some new strategies to protect the natural environment?*

**Group #1 (Jeff/Tim)**

Priority #1

- Tree protection/expand tree canopy
- Expand trees in Milton
- Strategic plan for tree cover (short/medium/long term...plan ahead for legacy tree end of life)

- Youth Center

Priority #3 (tie)

- Dog Park

Priority #2

- Increase open space and recreation
- Protect estate open space



- Need for parking signs at conservation land at bridge (Gile Rd.) behind high school (cars park on conservation land)

#### Priority #3 (tie)

- Playground in grassy area at Pope's Pond abutting Sumner (and benches)
- Ban plastic fields and invest in reconstruction of all grass fields (strategic plan)
- Improve accessibility to Blue Hills, Turner's Pond, and Houghton's Pond
- Regulations for fertilizer on grass lawns
- Enforcing pollution restrictions that affect clean water sources in Milton

#### **Group #2 (Kellie/Craig)**

##### Priority #3

- Take pride in all wetlands
  - o Try to recover natural, native plants and species
  - o Limit toxins
  - o Use organic practices to help the environment

##### Priority #1

- Commit to preservation of open space lands
- Acquire open space for passive and recreation/sustainability
- Approach owners of Great Estate properties about setting acreage in trust
- Connect Landing to Hutchinson Field along the water

##### Priority #2

- Find new use for Brush Hill Road playground

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

- Who is DCS?
  - o MA Department of Conservation Services.
- Is it a requirement to submit the draft OSRP to the state for approval? Does state have to approve plan?
  - o If the Town want to be eligible to apply for funding through the state, then yes.
- What's the end date target?
  - o Aiming for early (spring) of 2024
- Will Select Board have to review and approve the plan before it goes to DCS? Will the Planning Board?
  - o Yes, the draft plan will be provided for all Town departments/boards/commissions for review and approval.
- In the 2006 OSRP, there was a 7-year action plan. Does this OSRP update include a report card on the 2006 OSRP action plan to evaluate how the Town did?
  - o Yes, that will be included in the update. We can also post this to the project website.



- Who is included on the OSRC? Is there a way to include a member from the new climate change committee?
  - o Mark E. Boyle – Secretary, Resident Representative
  - o Winston Daley, Board of Park Commissioners Representative
  - o Kristi Downey, Resident Representative
  - o Wendy Garpow, Conservation Commission Representative
  - o Meredith Hall, Planning Board Representative
  - o Frederick McFadden, Historic Commission Representative
  - o Becky Simonds, Resident Representative
  - o Tim Czerwienski, Director of Planning and Community Development

We can add a representative from the Climate Change/Sustainability Committee to the list of interviews/focus groups.

- Related to CPC, private land... does the plan distinguish between land ownership? Is ownership included in the inventory? What about neighborhoods that have put restrictions on land?
  - o Section 5 – Inventory of lands of conservation/recreation interest we be updated to include all of these.
- The inventory is valuable. There's still a lot of confusion about who owns what and who is responsible for which resources. Is part of the plan identifying those responsible parties/owners?
  - o Yes, Section 5 will include this information.