

KINGSTON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2008

Section 1 - Plan Summary

The Kingston Open Space Committee was established by the November, 1996 Special Town Meeting. It is charged by the town to implement the Open Space Plan by acquiring land including incurring legal and engineering costs associated with such acquisitions and to investigate sources of funding for any such land acquisitions. In order to accomplish this mission, the Committee has undertaken the task of updating the Kingston Open Space Plan in accordance with the five-year schedule required by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services, to maintain eligibility for Self-Help and other Commonwealth of Massachusetts funding opportunities.

In keeping with the process established during initial planning (1987) and the revision updates (1995, 2002), the Open Space Committee has assessed and evaluated the recent Open Space Plan with three objectives in mind.

The first is to update the previous Open Space Plan with changes to:

1. The community setting.
2. The environmental inventory and analysis of needs.
3. The inventory of open space lands for conservation and recreation interest.
4. Any other section that needs updating.

The second objective is to assess the needs, goals and objectives of the previous plan and to identify objectives which:

1. Achieved.
2. Not achieved but still applicable and attainable.
3. No longer applicable.

Additionally, in the 2008 Update, we evaluated needs that might be related to Climate Change and sea-level rise. Additional maps will be included that project how this phenomenon might impact the town in the future.

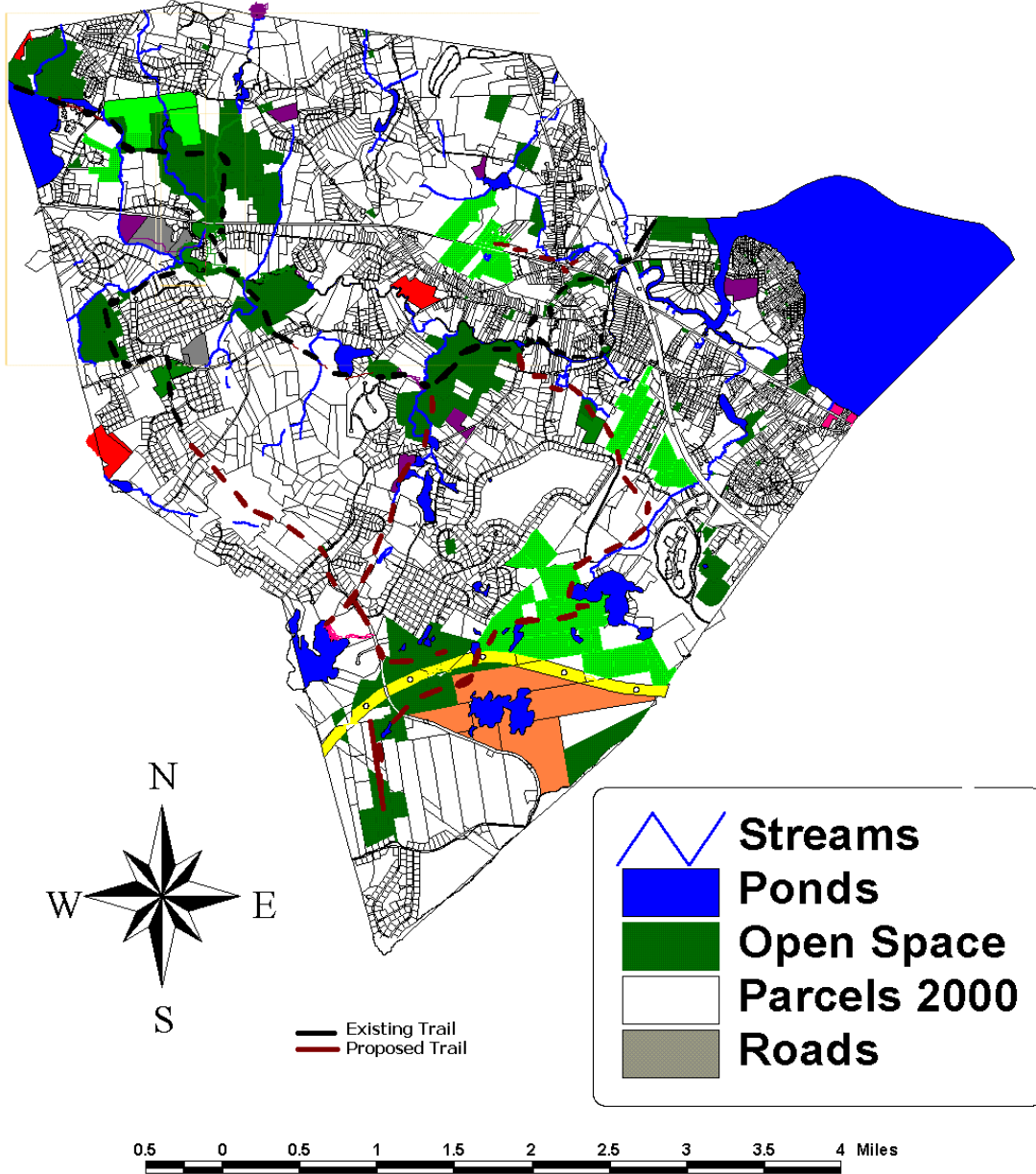
The third objective is to identify new goals and needs which have arisen due to an ever-increasing population and the associated decrease in parcels available to be designated as open space. With a population increase of 30% over in the last decade and significant increases expected in the near future, acquisition of more public open space is essential to maintain the character of the town and the current quality of life for the people of Kingston. Open space corridors connecting various large tracts of land are considered the best planning mechanism to protect wildlife habitat while at the same time addressing the need for recreation access, water resource protection, and protecting land for generations to enjoy.

The proposed action plan presents a two prong approach which is focused on both acquiring additional as open space and on managing existing conservation properties in ways that will improve accessibility and use. Because the town is losing vast tracts of land to development, this plan continues to suggest that the town maintain an aggressive acquisition schedule in order to mitigate the loss of natural resources.

The objectives of the five-year plan are to obtain additional open space parcels, as follows:

1. Stony Brook Park: work with the developer of Stony Brook Falls and other town business and property owners to develop a park area following the old Greenbush railroad bed from the Duxbury town line, through Maple Street and crossing Stony Brook to the old railroad station in the Center of town, with potential links to the Pottle Street Fields.
2. Jones River Corridor/Trail/Silver Lake Sanctuary: continue to secure an open space corridor from Bay Farm on the ocean all the way to Silver Lake, substantially following the path of the Jones River. The goal is to dedicate this as an unbroken section of the southernmost anchor in the Commonwealth's Bay Circuit Trail System. Obtain easements where parcel acquisition is impossible or impractical.
3. Indian Pond and Smelt Pond Trails: work with the developers and residents of Indian Pond Estates and the proposed 1021 Kingston Place to develop an open space corridor and trail links connecting Sampson Forest on the Jones River, to the Kingston Intermediate School and through to Smelt Pond off Raboth Road in Camp Nekon and an additional trail to Indian Pond (off Route 80). Acquire easements and conservation restrictions through subdivision planning process.
4. Multi-use bike trail: obtain easements from large tract property owners and work with the Planning Board to create a bikeway that connects the western part of Kingston to town center and to Plymouth. Help the town develop bikeways along town roads.
5. River and Habitat Protection and Restoration: work with local, state and federal agencies, and with non-profit groups to assess, inventory, and restore vital river and pond characteristics that support important or unique habitats, such as fisheries, wildlife habitats and endangered species and their habitats.

Kingston Open Space



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