

Section 5 - Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The inventory from the 1987 Open Space Plan and two Updates (1995 & 2002) have been reviewed and additions made where property has been purchased or lost. The own Planner is working to integrate this inventory with the Mass GIS (Massachusetts Geographic Information System) database and new parcel software obtained late in 2007. This is a system which provides mapping and backup data for open space lands within the Commonwealth. Towns provide the basic information to the Commonwealth from which maps and information are compiled and cross referenced with State-generated natural resource information. By utilizing this data, both a town and the State can prepare plans for protecting and enhancing natural resources. Mass GIS does not appear to have the most recent Kingston data. This information should be conveyed as soon as possible by the Town Planner in cooperation with the Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee.

The "protected and recreational open space" data layer contains the parcel boundaries of protected open spaces and recreational facilities in Massachusetts. The associated database contains a wealth of information about each parcel, including ownership, acreage, assessment data, deed references, conservation and use restrictions, funding sources, property management, access, level of protection, and types of facilities and activities permitted.

Kingston has approximately 12,160 total acres of land, of which, about 13% is off the tax rolls for various reason.

I. Protected Parcels: Parcels held for conservation, recreation and water supply, as well as cemeteries, which can be considered to remain so in perpetuity because of their importance in their assigned use and the difficulty of converting use because of deed protections and Article 97 of the State Constitution.

A.	Town of Kingston		
	1.	679.28 ¹	acres Conservation Commission
	2.	139.81 ²	" Water Department
	3.	56.28	" Playgrounds and Ball fields (town)
	4.	6.5	" Beach
		881.87	" Total

B. 134.90 acres Non-Profit Conservation lands

C. 251.02³ acres State Forests

¹ Included here is land under management of conservation commission owned by other agencies in particular, the DCR and Kingston Water Department, but which assign management to the commission.

² Not included in the water department holdings is 147.5 acres that is part of the holdings for the Soule's Pond well. This land was taken from Sampson Park for the wellhead protection by the Water Department in 1966, but it is managed with Sampson Park, this inventory counts the acreage within the Conservation Commission.

³ included are some portions of Route 44 which were taken for the new highway construction, but the

D. 59.69 acres in three Cemeteries

II. Unprotected Parcels

A. Town of Kingston
273.69⁴ acres Selectmen (of which 193.39 acres is Camp Nekon)

B. Chapter 61, 61A & 61B Land
According to Town Assessors records, in January 2007 there were a total of 44 parcels in the combined Ch 61 tax bracket:

4 in Ch. 61 forestry; 37 parcels in Ch 61A, agriculture; and 3 parcels in 61B, recreation

1.	197.38 acres	Chapter 61	Managed woodlands
2.	769.84 acres	Chapter 61A	Agricultural (209 acres are listed as cranberry bogs)
3.	150.55 acres ⁵	Chapter 61B	Recreational

These tax chapters give the town the right of first refusal upon the sale of the property, or five years of roll back taxes in the event the properties are removed from agriculture, forestland or recreation.

The inventory of Protected and unprotected lands follow. See Map 5 in the appendix for an overview of these parcels as well as the properties viewed as important for acquisition or protection during the next five year period.

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SUBJECT: OS Plan Update-Comment on Section 5; Page # (please indicate page #s)

exact amount of acreage is unknown at this time.

⁴ Includes properties considered open for conservation and recreation but not purchased with this restriction clearly stated on the deed, such as Town Landing, Camp Nekon, boat ramp at Delano Rd., Jones River Park, etc.

⁵ Included is 61B :Indian Pond Estates Country Club golf course.