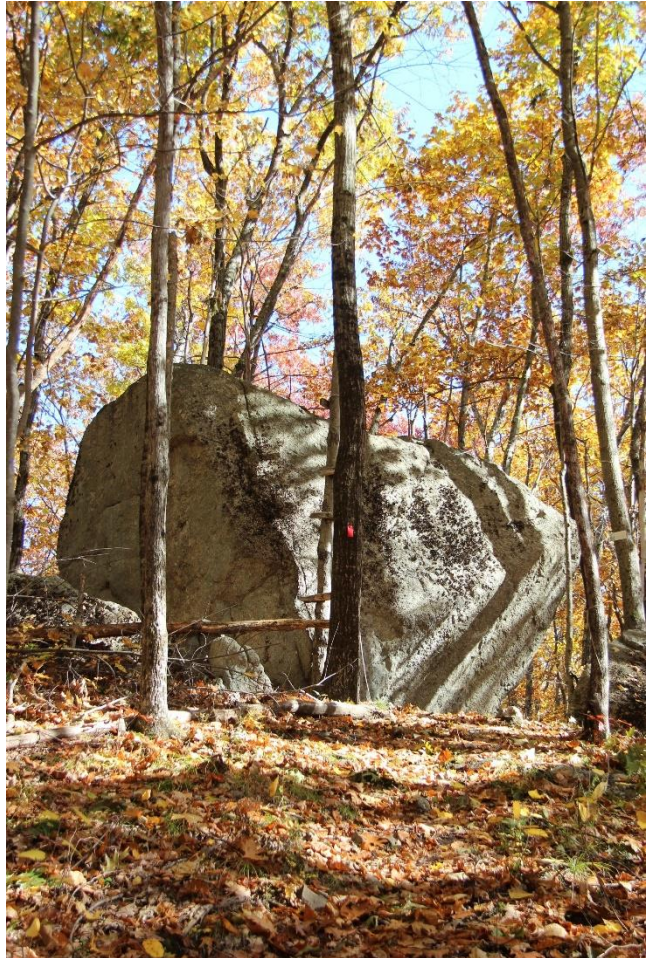


# APPENDIX A

## A Brief History of Conservation in Atkinson

**“As more and more of Atkinson is being developed, it is becoming more and more important that conservation areas be set aside so that Atkinson residents, now and in the future, will have woods, nature trails, and natural wildlife areas available to them so that they will be able to enjoy that inner peace that only a walk in the woods can bring.”**

—Atkinson Conservation Commission First Annual Report, December, 1974



### IN THIS APENDIX:

**The Atkinson Conservation Commission  
Accomplishments**

**The Conservation Fund**

**The Forest Maintenance Fund**

**A Guide to Additional Information**

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**See next page**

## A GUIDE TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This Appendix also contains the following additional information:

**Page A-7 – *By-Laws and Rules of Procedure*** for the Atkinson Conservation Commission.

**Page A-17 – *Mission Statement*** of the Atkinson Conservation Commission.

**Page A-19 – *Policies and Guidelines*** for the Use of Conservation Land

**Page A-21** – An interesting narrative of conservation in Atkinson from 1974 through 1999, adapted from the book ***Atkinson Then and Now***, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.

**Page A-25 – *Chet Ladd Dedication***. The Town’s Annual Report of 1988 was dedicated to Chet Ladd, one of the founding members of the Commission, who was largely responsible for acquiring many of the larger parcels of Atkinson’s conservation land.

**Page A-26 – *Ruth McPherson Dedication***. The Town’s Annual Report in 1992 was dedicated to Ruth McPherson in honor of her donation of more than 28.5 acres of land straddling lower Main Street just south of Maple Avenue.

**Page A-27 – *Atkinson residents who have served*** on the Conservation Commission, 1974 – 2020.

**Page A-29 – *The Conservation Fund***, an essay by former Conservation Chair Scott Kukshel that first appeared in the 2001 Atkinson Town Report. It gives a good explanation of the Conservation Fund and the Land Use Change Tax, and the rationale for using this tax to fund conservation efforts in Atkinson. Included is a table showing the approval procedures for using Conservation Fund money for various conservation projects.

**Page A-33 – *Chronology of Conservation in Atkinson***. A year-by-year summary of Conservation Commission activities and accomplishments, and warrant articles relating to natural resource conservation in Atkinson, based on the Commission’s Annual Reports. The electronic version of this appendix provides hyperlinks to warrant article text.

## The Atkinson Conservation Commission

The Atkinson Conservation Commission was established by vote at Town Meeting in March of 1974 [TM 1974-23], and its powers and responsibilities are governed by New Hampshire [RSA 36-A](#). In addition to RSA 36-A, the Commission has adopted a set of By-laws to govern its activities. These By-laws were last updated in March, 2020, and can be found beginning on [Page A-6](#) below.

Since 2012 [ TM 2012-13], our membership has consisted of 7 regular members and 3 alternates. Long-time members who are no longer active are included in our discussions as non-voting Emeritus Advisors. Members and Alternates are appointed by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms.

Our 2022 membership consists of the following people:

### Regular Members:

- Paul Wainwright, Chair
- Bill Steele, Vice Chair
- Pete McVay, Secretary
- John Fournier
- Scott Kukshel
- Jeff Nenart
- Suzie Newman

### Alternate Members:

- Monique Chrétien
- Hannah Fried
- Denise Legault

### Emeritus Advisors (non-voting):

- Tim Dziechowski
- Dan Kimball
- Dennis Krause

As stated in RSA 36-A, the responsibility of the Conservation Commission is to promote “the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources” in the town. To further clarify our role, the Commission adopted a Mission Statement which can be found later in this Appendix on [page A-16](#).

Our responsibilities span a broad range of areas. We are responsible for the administration and management of the town’s Conservation lands, and for taking action to conserve other ecologically-significant land in Atkinson, as outlined in the above-mentioned Mission Statement.

The Commission’s overall goal is to work with the town’s residents to provide for the protection and appreciation of the town’s natural resources. To that end, the Atkinson Conservation Commission is committed to broadening public awareness of the natural resources of Atkinson, in the belief that this will lead to greater commitment to the careful stewardship of our local and global environment.

## Accomplishments

The Town owes a debt of gratitude to the many dedicated town volunteers who have served on the Commission over the past 48 years. Their names and years of service are recorded beginning on [Page A-23](#) below. A year-by-year summary of conservation activities and accomplishments in Atkinson, based on Annual Reports, can be found beginning on [Page A-29](#).

Many of the Town’s larger conservation parcels were acquired at no cost to the Town by the concerted effort of Commission members in the 1970s and 1980s to obtain Federal grant funding. Other parcels were acquired by gift or by “bargain sale,” where the landowner sold the land to the Town at less than full market value. More recently, the Conservation Fund, described below and in more detail starting on [Page A-25](#), has been used to purchase several important parcels of conservation land.

A complete record of Atkinson’s conservation lands can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this Land Conservation Plan, including maps, and notes about when and how the Town acquired each parcel. At the end of 2021, Atkinson had 589.5 acres of Town-owned land that has been protected from development in perpetuity.

Another important element in the Town’s effort to protect our natural resources is zoning. In addition to the buffer protections around Prime Wetlands, and setback requirements from wetlands for structures and septic systems, Atkinson has adopted several Cluster Development regulations that enable denser development in exchange for setting aside at least 50% of the land as permanent open space. The first of these was the Rural Residential Cluster, first adopted in 1982. At the end of 2021, Atkinson had 661 acres of permanently protected open space resulting from its cluster development zoning. A complete record of these Dedicated Open Space lands can also be found in [Appendix B](#) of this Plan.

## The Conservation Fund

The 1974 Town Meeting vote that established the Conservation Commission also established the Conservation Fund, as defined in [RSA 36-A:5](#), for the purpose of acquiring land and conserving the Town’s natural resources. Town Meeting in 2003 [TM 2003-28] expanded the use of the Conservation Fund to include acquiring an interest in land (i.e., easements). Town Meeting in 2021 [TM 2021-18] adopted the provisions of RSA [36-A:4-a, 1\(b\)](#), which enable the Conservation Commission to fund the establishment of easements on privately-owned land in town, to be held by land trusts such as the Forest Society or Southeast Land Trust.

Since opportunities for real estate transactions are frequently time-dependent, by statute money in the Conservation Fund may be expended without further approval at Town Meeting. The Town Treasurer has custody of the Conservation Fund, and money in the fund can only be expended by vote of the Commission. If the expenditure is for the purchase of land or an interest in land, the Commission must first hold a properly-noticed public hearing. If the land or easement is to be owned by the Town, the Commission must also get approval from the Board of Selectmen to accept the land or easement as Town property.

In Atkinson, the Conservation Fund is funded primarily from the proceeds from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT), as described in [RSA 91-A:25](#). While the percentage of the LUCT deposited in the Conservation Fund has varied over the years, currently 99% of the LUCT revenue is deposited into the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund may also receive tax deductible gifts and bequests.

The Conservation Fund, Land Use Change Tax, and the rationale for using the Land Use Change Tax in this way, are further described beginning on [Page A-25](#) in this appendix.

As of the end of 2021, there was \$668,304.92 in the Conservation Fund.

## The Forest Maintenance Fund

Most of our conservation lands have also been designated as Town Forest lands under NH [RSA 31:110](#). The Conservation Commission’s responsibilities include maintaining professionally-defined Forest Management Plans, and occasionally performing selective timber harvesting to improve the health of the forest and supply modest funds to the Forest Maintenance Fund [[RSA 31:113](#)] from timber and firewood sales.

The Forest Maintenance Fund was established in the 1980s for the purpose of maintaining Atkinson’s Town Forests. This fund receives modest revenue from periodic selective timber cuts within our Town Forests. Expenditures from the Forest Maintenance Fund must first be approved by Town Meeting.

As of the end of 2021, there was \$20,944.15 in the Forest Maintenance Fund.

At Town Meeting in March of 2020, the Conservation Commission received approval to spend up to \$19,000 from this fund in a multi-year program to manage invasive plants in our Town Forests. As of the end of 2021, there was \$8,008 remaining from this appropriation.



**By-Laws and Rules of Procedure  
for the  
Atkinson, NH Conservation Commission**

Approved March 2, 2020

**Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Atkinson Conservation Commission, hereinafter called “the Commission”.

**Article II: Authority**

The Commission shall derive its authority from the powers granted under the NH Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 36-A and the relevant Town of Atkinson ordinances. Nothing in these By-laws and Rules is intended to be in conflict with either of these statutes.

**Article III: Purpose**

The purpose of the Commission shall be to assure the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources of Atkinson, to further an awareness of conservation practices and policies throughout the Town, to protect the water resources of the Town, and any other purposes as may be set forth in NH RSA 36-A:2.

The Commission may, from time to time, adopt a **Mission Statement** to further define its role in the community, consistent with NH RSA 36-A.

**Article IV: Membership**

- 1) **Composition:** The membership of the Commission shall follow the rules set forth in NH RSA 36-A:3. As authorized by the 1974 Atkinson Town Meeting (TM 1974-23) and revised by the 2012 Town Meeting (TM 2012-13), the Commission shall be comprised of seven (7) regular members and up to three (3) alternate members, all residents of Atkinson. Up to one (1) member of the Commission may simultaneously serve on the Atkinson Planning Board, as enabled by RSA 36-A:3.

- 2) **Appointment:** All Commission members shall be appointed by the Atkinson Board of Selectmen, and must be sworn in by the Town Clerk before assuming their duties, as described in RSA 92:2. Persons reappointed to the Commission must be sworn in again following their reappointment.
- 3) **Terms of Appointment:** Both regular and alternate members shall be appointed to three-year terms, so arranged that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members and alternates will expire each year. Terms of appointment normally begin on May 1 of each year, but may begin later if appointments by the Board of Selectmen are delayed. Terms normally end on April 30 of each year, but may be extended until such time as the Board of Selectmen make new appointments for the coming year.
- 4) **Terminology:** In these bylaws, the term ‘member(s)’ shall include alternate member(s) unless explicitly stated otherwise.
- 5) **Education:** It is the responsibility of all members to familiarize themselves with the Handbook for New Hampshire’s Municipal Conservation Commissions, and to avail themselves, as they are able, of other educational opportunities such as attendance at the annual conference of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions.
- 6) **Removal:** Any member of the Commission so appointed and sworn in may, after a public hearing if requested by the member, be removed from the Commission for just cause by the Board of Selectmen.
- 7) **Failure to be Sworn In:** Any person who fails or refuses to be sworn in by the Town Clerk after a reasonable amount of time following their appointment or reappointment may have their appointment returned to the Selectmen, and another person may be appointed in their place.
- 8) **Absenteeism:** Members are requested to attend all regular monthly meetings and as many other site walks and special meetings as possible. Members with an unreasonable number of absences from regular meetings (for example, 4 or more in a 12-month period) may be asked to resign, and, at the discretion of the Chair, may be referred to the Board of Selectmen for removal for cause.
- 9) **Vacancies:** A vacancy occurring otherwise than by the expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.



10) **Representation:** A member shall not unilaterally represent the Commission without first discussing the matter at a Commission meeting and gaining the consent of the Commission. If the matter is urgent and cannot wait until the next regular meeting, the member must get the consent of the Chair.

11) **Authority:** All members of the Commission shall carry out their duties and responsibilities and exercise their powers as set forth in NH RSA 36-A:2 and 36-A:4.

## **Article V: Officers and Duties**

1) **Election of Officers:** The elected officers of the Commission shall consist of :

- Chair,
- Vice-Chair, and
- Secretary.

All officers shall be elected annually by the Commission from among its regular members at the first regular meeting following appointments by the Board of Selectmen, after which the newly elected candidates shall immediately take office. Vacancies in officers shall be filled at the next regular meeting by majority vote.

2) **Recording Clerk:** A paid recording clerk shall be employed to record the minutes of all regular Commission meetings. This person shall be a Town employee, and shall be hired and paid according to Town guidelines. The Recording Clerk may attend Commission meetings and/or transcribe the minutes from the ACTV recordings of meetings. In the absence of the Recording Clerk, minutes for site walks and other special meetings will be the responsibility of one of the members in attendance, as appointed by the Chair.

3) **Duties of the Chair:** The Chair shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the Commission,
- Set the agenda for all meetings, and post notice of meetings as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II.
- Prepare and present the annual operating budget, and track expenses on a monthly basis,

- Make corrections to the minutes as part of the review and approval process, and insure that approved minutes are posted on the Town’s web site in a timely manner,
- Prepare all correspondence with other boards, commissions, agencies or organizations with which the Commission may conduct business, and keep accurate records of such correspondence,
- Prepare and file the Annual Report as required by NH RSA 36-A:2.
- Submit updates to the town’s webmaster, as needed, for posting on the Conservation Commission page on the town’s web site,
- Monitor the Commission’s Facebook group, and post updates of Commission activities and announcements of events, as needed
- Maintain a list of Commission members, and keep track of their terms of appointment
- Authorize and approve expenditures from the Operating Budget. For expenditures in excess of \$500 the Chair should seek consensus of the Commission whenever possible

The chair may delegate any of these duties to others on the Commission as he or she so desires.

- 4) **Duties of the Vice-Chair:** The Vice-Chair shall perform all duties assigned to him or her by the Chair. In the absence or incapacity of the Chair, or if the Chair recuses him or herself for any reason, the Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings and perform all duties of the Chair, and shall have all powers of the Chair.
- 5) **Duties of the Secretary:** The Secretary shall perform all duties assigned to him or her by the Chair, and shall preside at meetings when neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair is in attendance.

## Article VI: Meetings

- 1) **Regular Meetings:** The Commission shall hold regular monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at the Atkinson Town Hall at 7:00 pm, unless the Chair specifies otherwise and provides proper and timely public notice of the change.
- 2) **Special Meetings:** Special Meetings may be called by the Chair, provided that proper and timely public notice is provided as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II.
- 3) **Right To Know:** All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public except as stipulated by NH RSA 91-A:3.
- 4) **Conflict of Interest:** As per NH RSA 673:14, no member of the Commission shall introduce, speak, or vote on any motion, resolution, or issue in which that person has a personal or pecuniary interest, direct or indirect. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission by vote may permit or request any such member to speak or testify on any such motion, resolution, or issue.
- 5) **Quorum:** A quorum for a meeting is considered to be a majority of the number of full-time members (4 of 7), or at least 4 members, including alternates. Pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:2, II, a member may attend by speaker phone.
- 6) **Conduct of Meetings:** The Commission will strive for a decision-making process based on reaching a consensus whenever possible, falling back on the formal rules only when necessary. If needed, the order of precedence for motions (from Robert's Rules of Order) will be used, and are attached to these By-laws for easy reference.
- 7) **General Consent:** Much business can be conducted without formality, by general consent. The chair can announce decisions that would normally require a majority or 2/3 vote, and then that decision will stand unless someone objects.
- 8) **Voting:** A majority vote requires more than half the votes cast (4 of 7, 4 of 6, 3 of 5, 3 of 4). A 2/3 vote requires 5 of 7, 4 of 6, 4 of 5, or 3 of 4. Most votes are by voice, but any member can demand a vote by count. The chair must announce exactly what is being voted on before the vote, and must indicate what a vote for or against will do.

- 9) **Amendments:** Any main motion may be amended, but amendments to amendments are not allowed. Only one amendment may be considered at a time, and must be voted on before additional amendments are considered. Amendments must be appropriate to the subject of the motion, although they may be opposed to the maker's intention, and the motion must remain meaningful after the amendment.
  
- 10) **Debate:** The Chair is the moderator of the debate, and has the power to control the topic, set or change the order of speakers, and halt or deny a speaker's time. The maker of a motion is given the floor first, and the Chair should ask for debate for and against the motion alternately. No member may speak twice until all who wish have spoken once. Debate is to be directed to the issues and not the members or personalities; violators will be asked to yield the floor.
  
- 11) **Motions:** All motions must be seconded, and are adopted by a majority vote unless otherwise noted. Motions are in order of precedence: motions may be made only if no motion of equal or higher precedence is on the floor.

## **Article VII: Subcommittees and Working Groups**

The Commission may from time to time form special-purpose subcommittees or working groups that are deemed necessary in order to conduct business effectively in accordance with its duties and responsibilities. Members of subcommittees or working groups shall be appointed by the Chair after consultation with other Commission members, and may consist of Commission members and/or members of the public. Subcommittees and working groups will give reports of their work and recommendations at regular Commission meetings, and documentation of such reports in Commission minutes will be deemed sufficient to meet the requirements of NH RSA 91-A.

## **Article VIII: Advisory Responsibilities**

- 1) The Commission is the only Town board specifically charged with protecting Atkinson's natural resources. Therefore, one of the Commission's responsibilities is to act in an advisory capacity to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Selectmen, or other boards or committees in matters that pertain to the protection of the Town's natural resources. The Commission will review plans and investigate issues, perform site walks as necessary, and the Chair will provide written advice and recommendations to other Town boards and committees in a timely and professional manner.

- 2) The Commission is also responsible for reviewing NH DES Dredge and Fill permit applications, and is the only town board empowered to intervene (request more time) in the review process. Upon receipt of an application from the Town Clerk's office, the Commission will review pertinent plans and documentation, conduct a site visit if necessary, and the Chair will submit a written recommendation to DES within the time schedule specified by DES.

## **Article IX: Management of Conservation Lands**

- 1) All of Atkinson's Conservation Lands have been designated to be "under the supervision and control of the Atkinson Conservation Commission." This designation can be found either in the deed to each parcel, and/or in votes at Town Meeting approving the acquisition of the land or designation of the land as part of the Town Forest (see NH RSA 31:110 thru 114). Therefore, the Commission is responsible for establishing land use regulations for the Town's conservation lands, and may from time to time adopt and publicize a **Land Use Policy**.
- 2) For Town Forest lands, the Commission is responsible for hiring a licensed Consulting Forester to prepare Forest Management Plans for the major parcels, and to authorize the execution of forest management plans and procedures to maintain the health of the forest.
- 3) Each time a parcel has been added to the Town Forest at Town Meeting, the Town has voted to place any revenue from periodic selective cuts in a Forest Maintenance Fund pursuant to NH RSA 31:113. The Commission is responsible for developing plans for maintaining the health of the Town Forest, and for recommending expenditures for that purpose from the Forest Maintenance Fund, for approval at Town Meeting.
- 4) The Commission is responsible for monitoring lands for which the Town or a conservation organization (such as the Forest Society) owns a conservation easement, and for alerting the easement holder if possible violations of the terms of the easement are found.

## **Article X: Expenditures from the Conservation Fund**

- 1) The Commission is responsible for approving expenditures from the Conservation Fund to purchase land, or easements to land, so that the land will be permanently protected for future generations of Atkinson residents. Expenditures from the Conservation Fund

for purchasing an interest in land must also be approved by the Board of Selectmen after a public hearing, pursuant to NH RSA 36-A:4.

- 2) Approval of expenditures from the Conservation Fund shall be by majority vote of the Commission.
- 3) At the same time that the Town established the Conservation Commission under NH RSA 36-A (TM 1974-23), the Town also established a Conservation Fund pursuant to NH RSA 36-A:5. Over the years, votes at Town Meeting have directed that revenues from the Land Use Change Tax (pursuant to NH RSA 79-A:25) be deposited either in part or completely in this fund. Town Meeting votes have restricted the use of this fund for the acquisition of land (TM 1974-23) or an interest in land such as conservation easements (TM 2003-28).
- 4) The Commission is responsible for researching, writing, and maintaining a **Land Conservation Plan** that will include an updated inventory of our existing natural resources, a prioritization of the environmental qualities we seek to protect, an analysis of which parts of town should be a priority for permanent protection, and an action plan with strategies to focus our effort and leverage our Conservation Fund to protect them.

## **Article XI: Use of Personal Email Accounts and Computers**

- 1) Members may use personal email accounts when conducting Commission business provided that the Commission's town email address ([conservation@atkinson-nh.gov](mailto:conservation@atkinson-nh.gov)) is included in the copy-to of the email. This is to provide a central repository for all Commission email.
- 2) When replying to another member concerning Commission business, members are warned to NOT use the "reply-all" feature to include other members in the reply since this could constitute a "meeting," which is illegal as defined in NH RSA 91-A:2.
- 3) Members may use their own computers in the course of conducting Commission business or preparing Commission documents. It is recommended that members keep Commission-related computer files in a well-organized set of folders that can be made

available to others as needed. Alternatively, some members may prefer to store commission-related files on a cloud server to better preserve these records, and to facilitate sharing among members.

## **Article XII: Other Powers and Responsibilities**

The powers and responsibilities of the Commission include all powers and responsibilities specified in NH RSA 36-A, whether or not they are explicitly mentioned in this document.

## **Article XIII: Amendment of These By-Laws**

Except for amendments resulting from changes to state law (see below), amendments to these By-laws may be made by a motion and second from the floor. After debate or discussion, the Motion to Amend will be automatically tabled until the next regular monthly meeting, at which a 2/3 affirmative vote shall be required to approve the amendment to these By-laws.

Amendments resulting from changes to state law may be proposed and voted on in the same meeting, and may be approved by a simple majority.

Upon adoption, the Chair shall file a copy of amended By-laws with the Town Clerk and provide a copy to the Board of Selectmen.

## Order of Precedence (from Robert's Rules of Order)

**Motion to Adjourn:** Goes to immediate majority vote. This ends the meeting.

**Motion To Recess:** This ends the meeting for a specified amount of time, after which the members reconvene.

**Point Of Personal Privilege:** Request for action by the chair, may interrupt if necessary. Points of personal privilege are used to respond to an attack on an individual (rather than the motion) or to complain about conditions, i.e. a plea to open the windows, etc.

**Motion To Table:** A motion to table is voted upon after it is seconded, without discussion. The motion should be tabled to a specific date.

**Call the Question:** At the chair's request (or without it), a member may call the question. Requires 2/3 vote, applies to the motion on the floor, closes debate and forces vote.

**Motion to Commit or Refer:** Refer the question to a committee, which committee and reporting date amendable.

**Motion to Amend:** Amendments must be voted for by a majority vote. If amendment is accepted as "friendly" by the mover of the original motion, then it will be accepted without a formal vote; this is a way of including a consensus-building process into procedure without endless debate over amendments to amendments.

**Main Motion:** Requires majority vote.

**Point of Order:** Request for action by the chair, may interrupt if necessary. A Point of Order is a question about process, or objection and suggestion of alternative process. May include a request for the chair to rule on process.

**Motion to Appeal Decision of the Chair:** Goes to immediate vote, requires 2/3 vote to override. Allows the body to overrule a decision made by the chair.

**Motion to Suspend the Rules:** Suspends formal process for dealing with a specific question. Requires 2/3

vote. One such suspension may be to limit or extend the limits of debate.

**Motion for Division of the Assembly:** Calls for a vote by counting, as opposed to a voice vote.

**Object to the Consideration of a Question:** Made when a motion is introduced, undebatable, requires 2/3 vote.

**Point of Information or Parliamentary Inquiry:** A request for information on a specific question, either about process or about the content of a motion. This is not a way to get the floor to say something you think people should know.

**Restating The Motion:** If someone asks that the motion be restated, the mover of the motion or the recorder restates it.

**Motion to Reconsider:** made after a vote by one who voted with the majority, may be taken up later to reverse earlier decision. Reversal requires majority vote.

**Motion to Rescind:** may be moved by anyone, requires 2/3 vote to rescind earlier decision.



## **Mission Statement**

Approved May 7, 2018

The Atkinson Conservation Commission was established by vote at Town Meeting in March of 1974 (Article 1974-23), and operates under the provisions of RSA 36-A. Our mission is to:

- Provide a focal point within the town for environmental concerns. Be an advocate for the conservation of our natural environment, and raise public awareness of the benefits of open space in our town.
- Serve as an advisory board to the NH State Wetlands Bureau and the Atkinson Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment for permitting and variance issues.
- Manage the Town Forests, as authorized by RSA 31:112 and numerous Town Meeting votes, including but not limited to periodic selective logging, invasive species control, and establishment of public use regulations.
- Inspire, organize, encourage, advise, and educate conservation-minded residents to help maintain the town's conservation trails, and provide signage, blazes, maps, and interpretive markers to facilitate the public's use and enjoyment of our open spaces.
- Actively seek out opportunities to further protect our dwindling open spaces and groundwater resources, including but not limited to purchasing land, or conservation easements to land. Where possible, look for grants to augment our town's Conservation Fund.
- Help town residents understand wetland zoning and state regulations, and advise homeowners with questions about their property, especially those private lands that abut conservation lands.
- Support Scout Troup 9 and similar organizations by providing opportunities, guidance, and modest funding for Eagle Scout and other conservation-related public service projects.



## Policies and Guidelines for the Use of Conservation Land

Atkinson Conservation Commission

*Adopted July 22, 2020*

### INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to NH RSA 36-A:4, the Atkinson Conservation Commission is empowered to manage and control the town's conservation lands. In that capacity, these policies and guidelines are set forth to preserve the town's open spaces and natural resources, while at the same time making them accessible and enjoyable to the public. Any exceptions to these Policies and Guidelines must be explicitly approved ahead of time by the Atkinson Conservation Commission.

- 1. Public Use:** As is the custom with conservation areas in other municipalities, all of Atkinson's conservation lands shall be open and available equally to all, free of charge, without limitation to where people live or any other distinguishing characteristic such as race, gender, or ethnicity.
- 2. Respect the Neighbors:** Many of our conservation areas are surrounded by residential properties, and some areas have very narrow roads leading to them. Please be respectful of the neighbors. For example, don't turn around in their driveways or back onto their lawns or gardens. These things are obvious, but unfortunately they need to be said from time to time. Visiting our conservation lands is a privilege, not a right.
- 3. Parking:** The Commission has made an effort to provide some parking for the publicly-accessible conservation lands in town. However, parking is on a first-come, first-served basis, and we cannot guarantee parking will be available during periods of high demand. Users of our conservation lands are required to follow posted signs and park only where indicated. If parking is not available, we ask visitors to return at another time. Parking on conservation land is only for the use and enjoyment of that land, and overnight parking is prohibited.
- 4. Carry-in, Carry-out:** All of the town's conservation lands are "carry-in, carry-out" locations. No trash cans are provided, and all trash must be taken with you when you leave.
- 5. Dogs:** Dogs are welcomed on the town's conservation lands and do not need to be leashed as long as they are well-behaved and under voice control of the owner. We do not enforce the town's "clean-up" regulations, just don't let your dog poop on the trail. Signs are provided at dog eye level reminding them of this. If you do clean up after your dog, you must take "it" with you (see #4 above).
- 6. Motorized Vehicles:** Motorized vehicles of any sort are strictly prohibited on the town's conservation lands. These include but are not limited to All-Terrain Vehicles, Dirt Bikes, and Snow Mobiles. Exceptions to this policy include law enforcement and other first

responders, electric motorized devices for disabled people such as wheelchairs, and Commission-approved trail maintenance activities. Horseback riding is permitted.

7. **Trails:** The conservation trails are maintained by town volunteers, and visitors are invited to assist by clearing branches or picking up trash. Maps are available on the town’s web site and (while supplies lasts) in mailboxes at trail entrances. Interactive trail maps are available for your smartphone via a QR code posted at each entrance. If you choose to use a paper map, you are invited to return it to the mailbox upon completion of your walk. You are permitted to walk off-trail in the woods, but please do so “gently” so as not to harm native plants. Some of our trails are on easements across other people’s land, and these are marked with red signs “Respect land owner, stay on the trail.” In those cases, do what the sign says.
8. **Don’t Take or Harm Anything:** Except for berry picking, mushroom gathering, and invasive plants (see the next item), visitors are asked to “do no harm” and “take no souvenirs.” This includes but is not limited to picking flowers, harvesting plants, disturbing stone walls, cutting trees, making new trails, paintball, and so forth. The harming or removal of official signs or trail blazes is strictly prohibited.
9. **Invasive Plants:** The exception to the “do no harm” rule is cutting or uprooting invasive plants. If you are familiar with the state’s list of invasive plants and can identify them in the field, you are more than welcome to uproot or cut them. Just don’t take them with you since it’s illegal to transport invasive plant materials. The most common invasive plant in our forests is Oriental Bittersweet, which is pretty easy to spot.
10. **Camping and Fires:** Overnight camping or fires of any sort are not allowed on the town’s conservation lands unless a camping permit is first obtained from the Conservation Commission, and/or a fire permit is obtained from the Fire Chief. Such permits are made available on an extremely limited basis, and are given only to non-profit community organizations such as the Boy or Girl Scouts. Fireworks are prohibited on all town conservation land.
11. **Construction:** Building anything on conservation land is prohibited unless prior consent is obtained from the Commission. Consent will only be given for permanent improvements for the public good, such as a bridge across a stream. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to shelters, dams, platforms, and signs.
12. **Commercial Activities:** No commercial activities are allowed on conservation land. Examples include professional dog walking and professional photo shoots.
13. **Hunting:** Limited in-season hunting is allowed on the town’s conservation lands, and specific Commission-approved regulations for hunting are available from the Selectmen’s office.
14. **Dumping:** The dumping of brush or leaves (or anything else for that matter) on conservation land is prohibited.
15. **Drones:** The use of drones on conservation land is permitted as long as all applicable state and federal laws are followed, and as long as such use is for personal enjoyment and not for commercial purposes.

Adapted from the book *Atkinson Then and Now*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1999)  
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Atkinson originally had a combined Recreation and Conservation Commission, which was formed in 1970 when Conservation was added to the existing Recreation Commission. That dual commission lasted through 1973, when its members reported in their 1973 Annual Report:

"The five members of your Recreation and Conservation Commission feel that, with the expanding recreation program and the additional conservation duties, we can no longer do justice to both activities. For this reason, we would like to establish two separate Commissions and get more townspeople involved in both programs."

With the successful passage of Warrant Article 23 at 1974 Town Meeting, Atkinson's Conservation Commission came into existence.

The members of Atkinson's first Conservation Commission were:

- Carol Grant, Chairman,
- Chet Ladd,
- Winthrop Comley,
- Al Xenakis,
- John Widman.
- Steve Lewis, and
- Meredith Reynolds, Selectman ex-officio.

In the Commission's first 1974 Annual Report, it announced its primary goals were "acquiring open space and woodlands for the town, and protecting Atkinson's wetlands."

### **Land Acquisition**

In 1975, spearheaded by Chairman Carol Grant, the Commission moved to achieve its land acquisition and land preservation goals. With the discovery of an old rock shelter on the 5.9-acre Carl Noyes property near Crown Hill, the Commission began a fund drive to raise \$4000 to acquire the parcel. The Atkinson Historical Society co-sponsored the Rock Shelter Project. Thanks to the generosity of the residents of Atkinson, the fund drive was a success and a little piece of 'old Atkinson' was

preserved for the future. After its acquisition, root cuttings from endangered species of wildflowers were planted on the parcel by Commission members.

While applying for \$2,000 matching Federal funds, Mrs. Grant discovered how the Commission could obtain Federal funds for future land acquisitions without having to raise a town match. The key was to get land owners to sell for half or less than half of the federal appraisal value of their land, with the difference between the sales price and one-half of the appraisal value qualifying as a donation, which could then be used as a match against additional Federal funds.

Armed with this information, the Commission began a very aggressive land acquisition project. Because Mr. Noyes sold for \$4000 when the appraised value was \$10,000, the Commission qualified for a donation credit. A generous donation by Philo Hutcheson of an abutting 1.46-acre parcel appraised at \$35,500 gave the Commission an additional \$5,500 credit eligible for matching federal funds.

In 1976, the Commission and the Selectmen entered into a joint project to purchase 63 acres of the Ruth Sawyer land, with 48.83 acres to be purchased by the Commission as conservation land. Because the conservation portion was acquired at far less than the true market appraisal value of \$140,000 the Commission received \$43,000 of federal funds to totally cover the cost of the conservation land while receiving an additional \$27,000 federal credit to apply towards a future land purchase.

In 1978, the Commission used its Noyes, Hutcheson and Sawyer donation credits as a match against more federal funds to acquire the 23.4-acre Chambers-Fila parcel for \$15,700 and the 28.4 acre-Chadwick parcel for \$56,000. The Commission's first land acquisition project—\$118,700 of federal funds, requiring no town tax money as a match, paid for five land parcels totaling 107.54 acres.

The Commission submitted a successful petitioned warrant article at 1976 Town Meeting which required selectmen to bid for the town at each tax sale on all property except that being bid upon by the owner of record. Passage of that article resulted in the commission picking up an additional 9.81 acres from tax sales in 1979, 1980, and 1990, to be added to 9 acres from tax sales previous to 1976.

At no cost to the taxpayers, the Commission then acquired 35.17 acres adjoining Island Pond from Ruth L. Marshall for \$52,750 in federal funds and 11.67 acres of the Slade land off the Pope Road for \$9,250 in federal funds and \$1,750 earned by the Commission from timber sales.

In 1980, Chet Ladd took over as chairman. That same year, using \$81,000 in federal funds, the

Commission acquired the 57.87-acre Bonin land off of Forest Road.

In August 1982, the Commission took title to 24.3 wooded acres of the Walter Stickney Estate between Rt. 111 and Big Island Pond, the last bit of shoreline available on Big Island Pond. Following the past practice, the commission used no town tax money, instead using dual matches of \$26,750 from Federal Revenue Sharing Funds and Federal Land and Water Conservation Act funds. As a club project, the Atkinson Lions Club built a canoe launching area on the parcel.

In 1982 and 1983, using \$2,700 of the Town Forest timber sales money, the Commission acquired, from the N.H. Highway Dept., the former Downing parcel which had been cut in two by the relocated Rt. 111 (.6 acres south of and 3.4 acres north of Rt. 111, abutting the Stickney parcel). In 1985, \$1,000 of timber sales money acquired a secondary accessway to town forest land off Rt. 111 and joined previously unconnected town land.

In 1983, the 13.98-acre Cirome land, abutting the Sawyer land, was acquired using \$4,378 of timber sales money with the balance of the \$20,000 purchase price from federal funds.

In 1985, using \$25,000 of federal funds and \$10,000 of Federal Revenue Sharing funds, the Commission acquired 63.17 acres of the Sawmill Swamp from Martin Feuer. The Sawmill Swamp is a major Atkinson watershed and groundwater recharging area, besides being a major wildlife habitat.

Several conservation-minded people have also donated land to the Conservation Commission; Philo Hutcheson, Rudi D. McPherson, Jan Balazik, and the heirs of Ruth A. Stickney.

The most generous gifts of land have been those of Mrs. Ruth D. McPherson, who gave two separate gifts, 4.2 acres and 24.355 acres, totaling 28.555 acres. At a Special Town Meeting in June 1992, the voters gave Mrs. McPherson a standing ovation when it accepted her second gift of 23 acres. Atkinson also dedicated the 1992 Annual Report to her.

After much hard work by Chairman Debbie Byers, using \$65,000 of N.H. Land Conservation Investment Program funds, in 1990 the Commission acquired the 59.19 acre rear parcel of Trinity House Camp, designated by 1990 Town Meeting as the Caroline Orr Conservation Land.

### **Conservation Land as Town Forests**

The Selectmen appointed Chet Ladd as Town Forester in 1976, to take charge of improving

timber stands on conservation land. The Commission also began the policy of requesting Town Meeting action under RSA 31:112(11) to designate parcels as Town Forest, and empower the Commission to manage the parcels as Town Forest land. That designation qualified the land for technical assistance and long-range forest management assistance from the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands and the County Forester. At a succession of Town Meetings, 422 acres, on 20 different parcels, were designated as Town Forest. Working with registered foresters, Chet supervised timber cuts and sales in 1981, 1982, 1985-88, ' and 1995.

Signs identifying all town conservation and Town Forest parcels have been placed for the benefit of Atkinson residents, with Chet Ladd having supervised the laying out of thousands of feet of a trail system. During Chet's many years on the Commission he spent hundreds of hours on field work, preliminary survey work, and deed research in support of all of the Commission's land acquisitions. For his continued hard work, the 1988 Town Report was dedicated to him.

### **Wetlands Protection**

The original Commission also set the policy of prompt action on all environmental pollution complaints, securing Cease and Desist Orders against violators when necessary, seeking action by the N.H. Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission, and firm action on Dredge and Fill applications.

In 1977, concern for the protection of Atkinson's wetlands spurred the Commission to work on a Wetlands Ordinance. With the completion of Atkinson's soils mapping, the Commission was able to start work. Spearheaded by Carol Grant and with the assistance of Harold Bragg of the Southern Rockingham Regional Planning Commission, the Commission drew up a tough Wetlands ordinance for the June 1978 Special Town Meeting. There was much controversy when the Planning Board changed the wording of the Commission's ordinance, leaving a weaker version on the ballot. The Commission re-submitted the original ordinance to next town meeting, this time by petition to prevent wording changes. Atkinson voters restored the Conservation Commission's original tough wetlands ordinance, and in the years since, have defeated repeated attempts to weaken it.



## **From the 1988 Town Report**

The 1988 Atkinson Annual Town Report is dedicated to Chet Ladd.

Chet Ladd, a retired airline pilot, continues to lend his skills in forestry to the Conservation Commission. Appointed as one of the original members of the newly reorganized Conservation Commission in 1974, Chet has served as chairman for 6 of his 14 years on the commission. As such, he was instrumental in the preparation and adoption of many of our wetland ordinances. Chet has also been actively involved in pursuing key land parcels for acquisition by the town. His efforts in both these areas have resulted in the preservation and protection of some of Atkinson's natural wetland treasures and unique land areas. Chet's work will be enjoyed and appreciated by many generations to come.

Related to our town lands, Chet has served as Town Forester since 1977, supervising the management and controlled harvesting of trees in our town forests. Two years ago, the Rockingham County Woodland Owners Association annual award was presented to Chet for his outstanding conservation work in Atkinson.

In addition, Chet has been correcting and updating our town tax maps for over 10 years. Most recently, he has completed the 1988 perambulation of our town boundaries. During his 16 years here, Chet has assisted and volunteered in more activities than we have room to list here in print.

Although rarely in the limelight, Chet's quiet, behind-the-scenes contributions to the town are greatly appreciated. Chet exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism and dedication that is essential to the preservation of Atkinson 's charm and character as a quaint New England town.

Hats off and many thanks to you, Chet Ladd!

## From the 1992 Town Report

The 1992 Atkinson Annual Town Report is dedicated to Ruth McPherson:

A rare thing happened in 1992. One lady — a lady who cares about trees, flowers and wildlife — gave the town 23 acres of land with the provision that it be forever protected from development. She gave another 50 acres of land to the Haverhill Greenbelt Society, keeping only 5 acres of her large tract of land to go with her old and historic home.

This lady's one great dream was that future generations would receive the same kind of pleasure and enjoyment from her land that it has always given her. Wildlife thrives there and lady slippers abound. To make sure that happened, she donated a significant share to the care of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Because the land means so much to her, it's a very precious gift, and we will guard it carefully.

Town Meeting gave this lovely lady a standing ovation when it accepted her gift in June, and she received a multitude of publicity for her generosity; but it just didn't seem to be enough of a tribute.

The Town honors one very special person annually through recognition in its Annual Report. Usually that person has made a significant contribution through their work in some branch of town government. It seems to us, though, that there are other ways of making a "significant" contribution, and this lady's magnificent gesture is, in our opinion, an excellent example.

In recognition of her caring and concern, and of her selfless contribution to our future, we are pleased to dedicate the 1992 Annual Report to Mrs. Ruth McPherson.

## Atkinson Residents who have served on the Conservation Commission 1974 - 2020

Bruce Bishop	2007 - 2009
Andrew Borisko	2020 - present
Peter Bradshaw	2018
Gordon Brown	1990 - 1991
Deborah Byers	1981 - 1995 (Chair 1987 - 1993)
Winfield Comley	1974 - 1976
Victoria Czaia	2012 - 2013
Joe DiVanna	1994
Timothy Dziechowski	2002 - 2018 (Chair 2005 - 2017)
Marty Feuer	1992 - 1994
Michael Fletcher	1989
Mari Anne Fournier	2000 - 2001
John Fournier	2020 - present
Robert Fritz	1995 - 1997
Tom Goodwin	1985
Ray Gordon	2000 - 2004
Carol Grant	1974 - 1977, 1984, 1998 - 1999 (Chair 1974 - 1977, 1984)
Ed Hale	1976 - 1977
Stuart Hale	1977 - 1983
Carole Hall	1978 – 1980, and 1985 - 2004
Pamela Hantzis	1996
John Hayes	1981 - 1983
Doug Henderson	1993 - 1998
Diane Henderson	1994 - 1998
Mark Hertrich	2017 - 2018
Sonny Jendrick	2012 - 2013
Jane Jones	1994 - 1997
Dan Kimball	2005 - 2019
Jackie Kiston-Gardella	1999 - 2002
Dennis Krause	2018 - present
Scott Kukshel	1988 - 2010, 2018 - present (Chair 1998 - 2004)
Chet Ladd	1974 - 1995 (Chair 1978 - 1983)
Denise Legault	2006 - present
Linda Lette	1978 - 1988
Steve Lewis	1974 - 1975
Chris Lewis	1992 - 1999 (Chair 1993 - 1997)
Pete McVay	2003 - present

Appendix A – A Brief History of Conservation in Atkinson

Tom Merrick	1977
Dee Morse	1985 - 1988, 1999 - 2000
Jeff Nenart	2018 - present
Suzie Newman	2020 - present
Ed O'Leary	1978 - 1980
Richard Picone	1991
Frank Polito	1985 - 1986
Karen Porier	1984
Meredith Reynolds	1975
Alice Sambol	1997 - 2000
Alice Sambol-Ward	2001 - 2003
Phil Sansone	2000 - 2002
Michael Saviano	1989 - 1990
Rick Schafer	1984 - 1993
Janrt Scheerer	1984
William Sible	1982 - 1983
Crysta Slade	1975 - 1981
Dennis Spurling	1982 - 1988
Bill Steele	2019 - present
Gordon Stone	1994 - 1999
Paul Sullivan	1989
Michelle Veasey	2002 - 2012
Paul Wainwright	1999 - present (Chair 2018 - present)
Timothy Walker	1991 - 1992
William Walsh	1997
Denise Watkins	1977 - 1978
John Widman	1974 - 1976
Elizabeth Wood	1979 - 1981
Alan Xenakis	1975 - 1976

## THE CONSERVATION FUND

*This appendix is adapted from an essay by Scott Kukshel that first appeared as part of the Commission's 2001 Annual Report.*

### INTRODUCTION

The Conservation Fund is a permanent fund established by the Town in 1974 for the purpose of open space protection and preservation. The rules for funding and use of the Fund are governed by New Hampshire state law, which specifies, among other things, that the Fund is a "non-lapsing" account (i.e., it is carried over from year to year), and that money from the Fund can only be used to protect Atkinson's natural resources. Only the Conservation Commission can authorize expenditures from the Fund, and, if the Fund is being used to acquire land or an easement on land in Atkinson, the Board of Selectmen must also approve the expenditure. Furthermore, in many cases state law requires that the Commission first hold a public hearing.

A table showing the possible uses of the fund, and the required approvals, appears at the end of this appendix.

As with many towns in our area, the primary funding mechanism for Atkinson's Conservation Fund is the Land Use Change Tax. State law allows owners of larger parcels of open land to apply to the town for a "Current Use" property tax assessment, which results in a substantially reduced property tax on the land, which, in turn, helps landowners to keep the land as open space. If the landowner develops the land, or sells to a developer, there is a one-time tax that is assessed called the Land Use Change Tax, and this tax is the source of funding for the Conservation Fund. Currently, 99% of the Land Use Change Tax is placed in the Conservation Fund.

So, in essence, as open space land is developed and its tax status changes, money is deposited into the Conservation Fund. Therefore, the Land Use Change Tax is the perfect funding vehicle for the Conservation Fund since the rate of deposits to the fund is directly proportional to the rate of development. As open space disappears from our landscape, the Conservation Fund is empowered to protect and preserve some of the remaining open space with the funds it receives.

In recent years, the value of the Conservation Fund has increased considerably. While we are pleased to have that money set aside for open space preservation, the relative amount of

money collected compared to previous years serves to starkly illustrate just how quickly development is taking place in Atkinson, and also how much demand there is for new housing.

### **USE OF THE CONSERVATION FUND**

So, the first obvious question is "How is this money being used?" The answer is that the money is being saved (earning interest, of course) in anticipation of being able to fully maximize its value when an especially vital protection project comes along. In addition to fee-simple purchases of land, the Commission is also pursuing alternative means of land protection such as conservation easements and purchase of development rights. While grants can help offset the cost of a land protection project, they usually require "matching funds" from the Town, and it is important to have a healthy Conservation Fund for this purpose. These types of protection projects take time to implement due to both landowner education that is required, and the need to construct each land deal in a unique manner.

The next obvious question is "Don't you have enough money in the Conservation Fund yet?" The answer is that it costs a lot of money to acquire land or conservation easements. The goal of this Land Conservation Plan is to help the town make wise decisions and protect land that is of significant environmental value. Although there may appear to be a "surplus" in the Conservation Fund for some period of time, it is critically important to continue making regular contributions to the Fund in order to keep it effective in the future.

The Commission is always interested in talking with Atkinson landowners about the possibility of acquiring or protecting land parcels which are significant from an ecological and/or scenic perspective, and about the variety of financial arrangements and land use practices which can be mutually beneficial to both the owner/seller and to the Town. Many landowners are unaware of the significant impact that Federal inheritance taxes can have on even a small to medium size estate which includes land whose value has significantly appreciated over the years. There have been cases where lack of proper planning has resulted in a large inheritance tax, and the heirs have been forced to sell off or develop property which they had intended to keep in the family for generations. The Commission is always willing and available to help begin the land protection education process.

### **WHY SPEND MONEY ON PRESERVING OPEN SPACE?**

Since 1998, the people of Atkinson have continually expressed support for using the Land Use Change Tax to fund the Conservation Fund. Community support clearly demonstrates that preservation of open space continues to be a top priority among the residents of Atkinson.

Let the Conservation Commission members be the first ones to sympathize with the ethic of frugality. After all, the very definition of "conservation" is saving! However, we recognize that

it is sometimes difficult to justify putting money in the bank for future land preservation when there are so many other current needs going unmet. But while it is easy to look back on the Land Use Change Tax money collected in past years and say, "Think of what we could have bought with that money!", we assert that it is important to keep in perspective where that money is coming from, and even more importantly, what it is going to be used for.

Funding of the Conservation Fund comes as a direct result of the loss of open space and the development of that land. If you speak to new residents of these developments, invariably they will tell you that the reason they chose to live in Atkinson is the "open space and rural character" of the town. Many people move to Atkinson to escape "overbuilt" towns in which open spaces were taken for granted until they were lost before they realized it. Therefore, there is a strong argument that our open spaces and rural character actually increase our property values, which, in turn, lowers our tax rate.

In order to keep Atkinson an attractive place to live and work, we need to maintain exactly those qualities which attracted us here in the first place, and not take our open spaces for granted. People who have lived here all their lives may find it hard to imagine the farm next door being turned into a housing development, but it is happening all across the country, and Atkinson is especially vulnerable. It is impossible and most likely unwise to try to severely limit development, so perhaps the next best thing is to make sure that the loss of open space due to development is offset by the preservation in perpetuity of other lands. If you agree, then you must conclude that the use of the Land Use Change Tax as a funding mechanism for open space preservation strikes a perfect balance.



# New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE’S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

<b>Process for Spending Conservation Fund Money to:</b>		
Pay for conservation-related goods or services		Requires majority vote by conservation commission
Acquire property interest (including donating toward a land protection project in which the municipality will hold an interest)		
	<b>In town (Within municipal boundaries)</b>	Requires majority vote by conservation commission
		Requires approval of BOS or other governing body (RSA 36-A:4)
		RSA 36-A:5 states that Conservation commission must hold a public hearing with notice in accordance with RSA 675:7
	<b>Not in town (Not within municipal boundaries)</b>	Town must have passed special warrant article (RSA 36-A:4-a, I(a))
		Requires majority vote by conservation commission
		Requires approval of BOS or other governing body (RSA 36-A:4)
		RSA 36-A:5 states that Conservation commission must hold a public hearing with notice in accordance with RSA 675:7
Donate toward land protection project where municipality will NOT hold property interest		Town must have passed special warrant article (RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b))
		Requires majority vote by conservation commission
		RSA 36-A:5 states that Conservation commission must hold a public hearing with notice in accordance with RSA 675:7



## Chronology of Conservation in Atkinson

*This appendix is based on Conservation Commission annual reports and conservation-related warrant articles from 1974 to 2020.*

**Note: the hyperlinks are not active in this paper copy.**

**1974** The Town voted to establish the **Conservation Commission** and the **Conservation Fund** under the provisions of NH RSA 36-A [[TM 1974-23](#)].

"As more and more of Atkinson is being developed, it is becoming more and more important that conservation areas be set aside so that Atkinson residents, now and in the future, will have woods, nature trails, and natural wildlife areas available to them so that they will be able to enjoy that inner peace that only a walk in the woods can bring."

**1975** "The Conservation Commission raised the money (\$2000) to purchase the 5.9-acre parcel containing the **Noyes Rock Shelter**. Together with the Garden Club, the Commission plans on using part of this land for a **wildflower garden**. [It should be noted that now (2020) this parcel is completely wooded.] Subsequent to this, Philo Hutchinson donated a parcel abutting the Noyes land."

**1976** "Work continues towards [establishing] a **Town Forest**. Its value, besides financial, is the preservation of Atkinson's rural character, open space, wildlife habitat, and land for outdoor enjoyment. Also, commissioner **Chet Ladd** has spent many hours on conservation land improving timber stands. The Selectmen have recognized his efforts for the Town by appointing him **Town Forester**."

The Town voted to adopt the goals of the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act aimed at eliminating the discharge of pollutants into surface waters [[TM 1976-26](#)].

**1977** "We were very pleased to learn that the **Bureau of Outdoor Recreation** has approved the appraisal values we submitted and [we] are now awaiting the arrival of our BOR check for \$118,700. This does not need to be matched by the Town. This check will complete a 5-parcel project totaling 107.54 acres. It consists of the **Noyes and Crown Hill** parcels (both already deeded to the Town), and the former **Sawyer, Chadwick, and Chambers-Fila** parcels."

The Town voted to purchase 65 acres of land along Sawyer Avenue, which today is part of the **Sawyer Town Forest** [[TM 1977-13](#)].

**1978** "Early last April we completed two years of work with the **Bureau of Outdoor Recreation** (B.O.R.), and the Town took title to five parcels of land totaling 107 acres."  
[This includes: 19-61 (7.36 ac), 18-83 (3.85 ac), 4-11 (20 ac - **4H Field**), 19-18 (17.05 ac **Chambers/Fila TF**), 4-11-1 (48.38 ac, **Sawyer TF**), and 12-5 (10 ac **Brush Dump**).

The Town failed to pass a warrant article to purchase for conservation purposes the 66-acre Dickey land on Main Street, which today is **the Winslow Drive development**. Federal funds would have covered more than \$100k of the \$150k purchase price [[TM 1978-21](#)].

**1979** "After three years and a few setbacks we now have deeds to two parcels. The largest of the two acquired is 35 wooded acres [**Ruth Marshall TF**] adjoining Island Pond. The other is nearly 12 wooded acres [**Slade TF**] in the Pope Road and Main Street area. Both were purchased primarily by federal funding (**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**)."

**1980** "A **nature trail** was established on the town-owned **Marshall** parcel which is approximately [a] one hour walk through various wooded stands, by the shore of Big Island Pond and through other interesting areas."

**1981** "1981 was the year of the first **timber sale** on Town Forest lands. A white pine thinning and improvement cut was completed on a portion of the **Sawyer** parcel, yielding 84,000 board feet of mature saw logs. Income from this sale was \$6,029.93, which was deposited, as specified by RSA 31:113, in the **Forest Maintenance Fund**. The acreage of Atkinson's official Town forest lands is now 155 acres."

The Town voted to establish a **Capitol Reserve Fund for purchasing land**, and voted to place \$2500 in it (amended down from the proposed \$45,000) [[TM 1981-18 & 19](#)].

**1982** "The **Stickney land acquisition** became a reality in August when the 24-acre wooded parcel was finally deeded to the Town. A second 0.6--acre parcel [between Route 111 and Hall Farm road] was acquired this year from the New Hampshire Highway Department [as a result of the relocating of Route 111]. Also, the Conservation Commission successfully completed the long process of obtaining partial Federal funding for 14 acres of woodland off of Sawyer Avenue abutting the **Sawyer Town Forest**. [This is now known as the **Cirome parcel**.]"

The Town voted to raise and appropriate **\$53,500** to purchase the 24.3-acre **Stickney** land, half to come from the Revenue Sharing Fund established under the provisions of the State and Local Assistance Act of 1972, as amended, the other half to come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (**LWCF**) [[TM 1982-16](#)].

In 1982, the Town voted to adopt a zoning ordinance allowing for **Rural Residential Cluster** developments, which would require **dedicated open space to be set aside in perpetuity** [TM 1982-03].

**1983** "In 1983, the Town took title to over 4 acres [on the east side of] Main Street generously given by Mrs. **Ruth D. McPherson**. Also, several thousand feet of **new trails** were laid out on three parcels of Town Forest lands this year, and some of them [have been] cut and marked. An **Exercise Trail** by the Recreation Commission is in the early stages of development on the **Chadwick** Parcel of our Town Forest. And serious soil erosion is already showing up on some of our lands caused by **dirt bikes**."

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to purchase the 14-acre **Cirome** parcel [now part of the **Sawyer TF**], funded mostly by the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the remainder to be funded from the Forest Maintenance Fund [[TM 1983-20](#)]. The Town also voted to purchase from the State the 3.4-acre parcel [now part of the **Stickney TF**] on the north side of Route 111 resulting from the relocation of that highway [[TM 1983-21](#)].

**1984** "This year, a firewood thinning cut is planned for the **Stickney** parcel. We have secured the services of a registered professional forester [**Charlie Moreno**] to guide the Commission and supervise the cutting."

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$35,000 to purchase 63.2 acres of **Marty Feuer's land** on the western side of Sawmill Swamp, to be funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (**LWCF**) and the Revenue Sharing Fund established by the State and Local Assistance Act of 1972 [[TM 1984-28](#)].

**1985** "With the help and co-sponsorship of the Lions Club, a **canoe launching area** was established on a piece of Town-owned land on Stickney Road at Big Island Pond. We completed a **timber sale on our Stickney Road parcel** with the help and guidance of our consulting forester, **Charlie Moreno**. The forestry work on the Stickney parcel, and previous careful improvement cuttings on the Sawyer parcel a few years ago qualified us for membership in the nation-wide **American Tree Farm System**. Our tree farm sign was awarded to us in December."

**1986** "**Carol Hall**, member of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, serves on the New Hampshire **Wetlands Board**. This has provided our town with additional representation at the state level. The Commission has also investigated the possibility of a **Prime Wetland study**, but has postponed this because of lack of funding. The **Planning Board** has encouraged the Commission to undertake this study."

**1987** "**Charles Moreno** has been hired as a Consulting Forester to establish a plan for forest management of Town forests. Also, this past year the State of New Hampshire passed the **Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP)** to provide matching funds for land acquisition projects. The Commission has decided this will be a major focus for the coming year."

**1988** "In March the Town voted to appropriate money for acquisition of land using funds from the Land Conservation Investment Program (**LCIP**). At this time, it appears that the Town will apply for funding to acquire the backland of the Trinity House Camp, approximately 56 acres." [This is now the **Caroline Orr Town Forest**.]

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$80,000 for the purpose of acquiring land or an interest in land, to be deposited into the **Conservation Fund**, and to authorize the Commission to apply for matching funds from the **Land Conservation Investment Program** [TM 1988-40]. Also, the Town voted to spend up to \$3,000 from the **Forest Maintenance Fund** for costs associated with land acquisition [TM 1988-41].

**1989** "Our conservation lands now total 362 acres. The number one objective for these lands is passive recreation. We also have a detailed **Forest Inventory and Management Plan** that our Consulting Forester, **Charlie Moreno**, completed this past year."

The Town voted to raise and appropriate \$80,000 to acquire the Trinity Camp front parcel [now the Community Center, TM 1989-38], and to raise and appropriate \$6,000 [in addition to LCIP funds approved last year] for costs associated with acquiring the Trinity Camp backland [now the Caroline Orr Town Forest, TM 1989-39]. The Town also voted to deposit 10% of the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) in the Conservation Fund [TM 1989-45], and to accept a gift of land from Jan and Maria Balazik [TM 1989-50].

**1990** "This spring, two students from UNH, under the direction of Commission member **Tim Walker**, created a new **self-guiding nature trail on the Sawyer land**. In August, the Town took title to the 59-acre parcel known as the **Caroline Orr parcel**, which was obtained through the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP). This land will be important to future generations for wildlife protection, education, and passive recreation."

**1991** "During the late spring and summer, member Tim Walker worked with **Matt Caron** on his **Eagle Scout** project. Matt has chosen to upgrade the **Sawyer trail system** by constructing foot bridges to make the trail easily accessible for hikers. Also, Commission members **Rick Schafer** and **Carole Hall** worked on the **Water Resource Management and Protection Plan** under the guidance of the Rockingham Planning Commission."

**1992** "At the Special Town Meeting held in June, the **Ruth McPherson** land [to the west of Main Street] was accepted as town conservation land. The Commission appreciates this generous donation of 23 acres of land for town conservation purposes, which will be protected in perpetuity as Town Forest land. We all thank Mrs. Ruth McPherson for her foresight and generosity in preserving this land so that **future generations** of townspeople will be able to enjoy its unspoiled natural beauty. The Commission also placed signs throughout the community on conservation parcels so everyone can easily locate the town conservation areas."

**1993** "In April, for Arbor Day, commission members **Deb Byers**, **Chris Lewis**, and **Martin Feuer** gave away tree seedlings to town residents. The Commission also sponsored a scholarship with Timberlane Regional High School for a student to attend the Forest Society Conservation Camp."

**Wetland "buffer" language** was removed from zoning because it was thought to be confusing, and in its place the term **"setback"** was used to be consistent with State requirements [TM 1993-04].

**1994** "The Commission finished its review of Atkinson's Town Forest Management Plan, and voted to implement the next scheduled **logging project** in the **Marshall Town Forest**. Also, the Conservation Commission obtained a grant through the Rockingham Planning Commission/Office of State Planning and NH Audubon Society to **evaluate the wetlands** in our community, and to update our local wetland ordinance with the information obtained."

**1995** "A subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, which is chaired by **Scott Kukshel** and includes volunteers from the community and Planning Board, has been meeting regularly and conducting site walks to **evaluate Atkinson's wetlands**. The Commission will be holding an informational meeting before starting the second phase, which will be to update the wetlands [zoning] ordinance with the information obtained."

A proposed **Wetland Conservation District** zoning amendment was resoundingly defeated at Town Meeting, 315 to 1056 [[TM 1995-05](#)].

**1996** "Upon **Chet Ladd's** move to Florida, the Commission voted to make him a lifetime, non-voting member in recognition of the work and valuable knowledge he contributed to the Town. Doug Henderson was appointed as Town Forester to replace Chet Lad. Under **Doug Henderson's** supervision, the trail on conservation land behind the Community Center was cleaned and improved as an **Eagle Scout project**."

**1997** "One of the major successes of this past year is that, through [the] use of the **Slade Town Forest** land and Town conservation land adjacent to the **Woodlock Recreational Park**, a six-mile trail system is being developed which connects two new developments: Settler's ridge and Wright Farm Phase II. Parking for public access will be located at both Town-owned parcels." [Editor's note, apparently this trail was never completed.]

**1998** "The Commission is continuing to investigate the possibility of acquiring or protecting (through **conservation easement**) land parcels in town which are significant from an ecological and/or scenic perspective. We are always interested in talking with landowners about the variety of financial arrangements and land use practices which can be mutually beneficial to both the owner/seller and the Town."

The Town voted to deposit 100% of the **Land Use Change Tax** in the **Conservation Fund** [[TM 1998-30](#)].

**1999** "In an effort to further inventory and catalog Atkinson's wetland resources, the Commission applied for and received assistance from a group of students in the **UNH Natural Resources Department**. Under the guidance of the Commission, the students spent the Fall semester studying and surveying the **Sawmill Swamp** using the "New Hampshire Method," a standard procedure for comparative evaluation of wetland complexes. Also, a forestry thinning cut was performed on the **Chambers-Fila Town Forest**."

A petitioned warrant article to reduce the LUCT deposit from 100% to 50% failed [\[TM 1999-37\]](#).

- 2000** "Again this year, the Commission applied for and received assistance from a group of **UNH students**, who spent a semester studying, mapping, and reestablishing the trail network in the **Ruth Marshall Town Forest** on Boulder Cove Road. Their work culminated in the production of a **self-guided Trail Guide** that describes various environmental features at numbered sign posts along the trail."

The town voted to **decrease the LUCT deposit from 100% to 97%** in order to cover the administrative costs of assessing the tax [\[TM 2000-29\]](#). The Town also voted to raise and appropriate zero dollars to purchase "**no hunting**" signs and post them on the Chadwick, Sawyer, Caroline Orr, Judge Marshall, Ruth McPherson, Chambers-Fila, Noyes, and Hanson Town Forests [\[TM 2000-31\]](#).

- 2001** "The Commission sponsored a Boy Scout **Eagle project**, which succeeded in rebuilding and reblazing the **interpretive nature trail** on the **Ruth Marshall** Conservation Land. The scouts' work implemented the educational material and trail layout suggestions made previously in a report produced by a group of **UNH Natural Resources students**. Another Eagle Scout Project involved the construction and installation of several wood **duck boxes** at various wetland locations around town."

Yet another petitioned warrant article to eliminate the LUCT deposit into the Conservation Fund failed [\[TM 2001-13\]](#).

- 2002** "The primary focus of the Commission's efforts this past year was to identify and designate Atkinson's most valuable wetlands as '**Prime Wetlands**.' This is a designation recognized under NH State law, which flags the wetland as worthy of extra protection because of its uniqueness, fragility, and/or unspoiled character."

The Town voted to eliminate the LUCT deposit into the Conservation Fund [\[TM 2002-25\]](#).

- 2003** "In January, the Commission completed a study of major wetlands in Town as a first step in designating them as **Prime Wetlands**. In May, the commission received a '**Moose Plate**' **grant** to research and develop a **conservation brochure** that will discuss the conservation efforts in town, and describe all of the conservation lands within the town. Also, Commission members spent a significant amount of time trying to address the ever-increasing problem of damage caused to Town lands by careless riders of **all-terrain vehicles**. At the urging of the Commission, the Selectmen passed a moratorium on the riding of motorized vehicles on town-owned land."

The Town voted to amend the **Prime Wetland zoning definition** to agree with State language [\[TM 2003-03\]](#), and also voted to expand the use of the Conservation Fund to include the purchase of easements [\[TM 2003-28\]](#).

**2004** "After much discussion, many revisions, and three public hearings, zoning for a new **Wetlands Conservation District** was crafted and moved to this coming year's [2005] ballot with a unanimous recommendation by the Planning Board. Also, the Commission continued work on the Moose Plate-funded project to research and develop a **conservation brochure** about the Town's conservation lands."

The Town voted to adopt the provisions of RSA 41:14a which, among other things, prohibits the Town from selling RSA 36-A (Conservation) land, RSA 31:110 (Town Forest) land, or land that was donated to the Town for charitable or community purposes [[TM 2004-24](#)].

**2005** "Thanks to the generosity of the **Betournay** family, the Town now has a **conservation easement** on a portion of their land, Map 14 Lot 3-1, which serves to protect part of "the tunnel" on Main Street. In 2006 we began reviewing the Town Forestry plans, and new Commission member **Dan Kimball** will be spearheading this effort. Also, thanks to the generosity of a developer, we were able to negotiate a **public trail easement** from Deer Run Road (Map 16 Lot 1) to the **Judge Marshall Town Forest**, Map 16 Lot 12-1."

The Town again failed to pass a **Wetland Conservation District Zoning** amendment [TM 2005-02].

**2006** "Scout Troop 9 cleared the trail from **Woodlawn Avenue** over the easement to the Sawmill Town Forest, and the Commission regravelled the woods road entrance to the western portion of the **Sawyer Town Forest**. We also accomplished two surveying projects: the **central entrance** from Sawyer Avenue to the Sawyer TF was marked for future access and parking, and the **Canoe Launch** was surveyed and had permanent stone boundary markers installed."

Yet another attempt at passing a **Wetland Conservation District zoning** amendment failed [TM 2006-05].

**2007** "We would like to thank **Dennis Krause** for clearing and **blazing the Sawyer Town Forest** trail system, and **Margaret Jackson** for a Girl Scout project which placed tree identification and interpretive signs on the trail from **Woodlawn Avenue** to the Sawmill Town Forest. Also, thanks to **Zack Wolf** for an Eagle project that cleared an area by the pond behind the Community Center and placed a bench there."

The Town voted to place a conservation easement on the former **4H field** (a 20-acre part of the Sawyer Town Forest) in exchange for a **deed amendment** allowing the Recreation Commission to construct and maintain sports fields on the 10-acre conservation parcel (the former Busby land) on **East Road** [[TM 2007-27](#) & [TM 2007-28](#)].

**2008** "We started 2008 by concluding the legal work for the **East Road and Sawyer Avenue land swap**. The East Road conservation land is now under deed restriction allowing recreation playing fields, and the Sawyer 4H field is now under conservation easement allowing forestry, agriculture, and passive recreation. And this spring we completed our **new 4' x 20' dock** at the canoe launch on Stickney Road."

**2009** "Last year began with significant **ice storm damage** to the forests in town, both private and town-owned. Our consulting forester, **Charlie Moreno**, has completed an update of our forestry plan for the 140-acre **Sawyer Town Forest**. We will be doing a maintenance cut this winter on about 70 acres of the Sawyer Town Forest to clear ice damaged trees, cull to enhance future growth, and improve wildlife habitat. Also, we completed a perimeter survey of the **Stickney Town Forest**, which borders the southern end of Big Island Pond."

The Town voted to designate the following as Prime Wetlands with a 100-foot natural vegetative buffer [\[TM 2009-05\]](#):

- Hall Farm Pond, between Hall Farm Road and Route 111,
- Hog Hill Brook, south of Island Pond Road,
- Stewart Farm Pond, north of Pope Road, and
- Bryant Brook wetlands, in the southeast corner of the town.

Also, the Town voted to allow conservation ownership of land outside the town's borders [\[TM 2009-34\]](#).

**2010** "Early this year, the Conservation Commission applied for and received a grant from the NH Department of Transportation under the **CTAP** program to fund the Rockingham Planning Commission to update the **Natural Resources Inventory** section of the Town's Master Plan. That work is nearing completion and adoption by the Planning Board, and provides a lot of great information, which we didn't previously have. Also, the maintenance cut to clear ice-damaged trees and enhance future growth and wildlife habitat in a portion of the **Sawyer Town Forest** has been completed."

The Town voted to also designate the following parcels as Prime Wetlands [\[TM 2010-02\]](#):

- East Sawmill Swamp,
- West Sawmill Swamp, and
- Hovey Meadow wetland.

Also, the vegetative buffer for Prime Wetlands is increased to 150 feet [\[TM 2010-05\]](#).

And, the Town voted to televise Conservation Commission meetings [\[TM 2010-27\]](#).

**2011** "Our consulting forester **Charlie Moreno** is preparing a Forest Management Plan for the **Caroline Orr Town Forest**, with the goal of wildlife and Prime Wetland preservation, and long-term health of the forest. Also, the newly-acquired '**Pettengill lot**', which abuts the far end of the Caroline Orr Town Forest, is perfectly located for observing wildlife in the **Bryant Brook Prime Wetland**."

The Town voted to restore funding the Conservation Fund with 100% of the LUCT [\[TM 2011-14\]](#)



**2012** "The '**Jane Jones Lot**,' which we purchased this year, contains some of the oldest growth forest left in Atkinson. It is unlikely we will ever do logging on this land, other than thinning diseased trees. We are fortunate to have enough town forest land to manage some for wilderness preservation. Also, we received a grant from the Division of Resources and Economic Development (**DRED**) for **trail improvements in the Sawyer Town Forest.**"

The Town voted to clarify **Conservation Commission membership** to include up to 7 regular members and up to 3 alternate members, each with 3-year terms [[TM 2012-13](#)].

**2013** "The Conservation Commission is working with the **Planning Board** on a revision to the Town's **Master Plan** 'Future Land Use' chapter which will include guidance and recommendations for the highest and best use for town-owned lands. Also, this past year we completed a **Forestry Plan** for the **Caroline Orr** Town Forest behind the Community Center, and will do a selective timber and firewood harvest in the next year. And, we assisted NH Fish & Game **Wildlife Biologist Chris Bogard** with reintroducing an endangered **Blanding's Turtle** to its habitat in **Sawmill Swamp.**"

The Town voted to approve a "**Conservation Cluster Subdivision**" zoning amendment that would grant density incentives in exchange for preserving ecologically significant land [[TM 2013-02](#)]. To date, no developer has opted to use this section of our zoning. **Wright Farm Pond** was added as the 8th **Prime Wetland** [[TM 2013-03](#)]. Also, the Town voted to **allow bow hunting** on the 14 parcels that previously were posted as "no hunting" [[TM 2013-06](#); the previous vote was in 2000; see [TM 2000-31](#)].

**2014** "We have the tallest ash tree in the state, located in the **Sawyer Town Forest**. Our **Champion ash** is featured in the book "Big Trees of New Hampshire: Short Hikes to the Biggest Trees in New Hampshire."

**2015** "This year, our work centered on trail easements and access to conservation and. We were successful in negotiating an **easement over the Winslow Drive open space** from the end of Woodlawn Avenue to the Sawmill trail system. Going North from there, we negotiated a trail **easement over the Sawmill Ridge open space** to the town boundary with Hampstead, where it connects with existing trails in Hampstead. We received a donation of a small piece of land at the **end of Industrial Way** that gives **access to the Judge Marshall land**, and John Vesey opened a **trailhead on Crown Hill Road** to the Atkinson/Hampstead/Plaistow trail system. Also, Member **Dan Kimball** started a quarter-acre wildlife food lot in the **Caroline Orr** field, and **Peter Graziano** completed an Eagle project on the **Woodlock trails.**"

The Commission proposed a warrant article to build a **shed at the Town Garage** to house Conservation Commission equipment, which failed to pass [[TM 2015-09](#)]. The Commission also put forward a warrant article to **exchange** a 1-acre parcel of conservation land (**Map 20 Lot 15**) for the abutting 13-acre parcel, **Map 16 Lot 9**, which contains the Hall Farm Pond Prime Wetland and a 150-foot vegetative buffer around it [[TM 2015-08](#)]. This passed but failed to get the necessary NH DOT approval due to deed restrictions on the 1-acre Map 20 Lot 15 parcel.

- 2016** "Our biggest challenge in 2016 was trying to protect as much as possible of the undeveloped land around **Sawmill Swamp**. The former **Page Farm** is being developed by a group that has been sensitive to environmental issues in the past, and we are **negotiating to purchase** a part of the land at the end of Knightland Road to provide access to the **Sawmill Town Forest**. We also supported several Eagle Scout projects. **Keeghan Howson** cleaned up the entrance to the **Sawyer Town Forest**, rebuilt the sign, and constructed a bench, and **Tim Troy** replaced a **bridge** over a stream in the **Chadwick Town Forest** behind Woodlock Park."
- 2017** "In 2017, we collaborated with the Kimball Library to present a "**Big Trees of New Hampshire**" talk, which included a hike to our Champion ash tree, one of the biggest in the state. Unfortunately, the **Emerald Ash Borer** has reached that area of the Sawyer Town Forest. In 2019 we will be working with the NH Division of Forests and Lands to use both biological controls and insecticides to try to save this tree. We completed a forestry maintenance cut on the **Caroline Orr Town Forest**, which opened up the forest to improve its health. Also, three Scouts, Zach Hertrich, Tim Troy, and Keeghan Howson, completed Eagle Scout projects for the Conservation Commission."
- 2018** "The Conservation Commission experienced significant growth in 2018, and we are now at 'full strength' with 7 regular members and 3 alternates. Our major focus has been on **trail maintenance**, perhaps the most visible thing we do. Long-time Atkinson residents **George and Lyn Kutzelman** donated a **conservation easement** on 10 acres of land between Maple Avenue and Main Street, which will help protect the 'tunnel' along Main Street from being cut. Also, a new **parking area for the Chambers-Fila Town Forest** has been provided by **Brent and Mary Ebner** off of East Road at the town line with Hampstead, at no cost to the Town. From this point, hikers can access trails in Atkinson, Hampstead, and Plaistow."
- 2019** "We succeeded in obtaining grants from the **Grassroots Environmental Fund** and the **Moose Plate Conservation Fund** to support work on a comprehensive **Land Conservation Plan**. This multi-year planning effort will include an updated inventory of our existing natural resources, a prioritization of the environmental qualities we seek to protect, an analysis of which parts of town should be a priority for permanent protection, and an action plan with strategies to focus our efforts and leverage our Conservation Fund to protect them. We began work on a plan to control **invasive plants** in our Town forests. Also, we were very pleased to support Eagle Scout **Adam Torris'** project to repair the **canoe/kayak dock** on Stickney Road."
- The Town voted to reduce the **LUCT deposit into the Conservation Fund** from 100% to 99% [\[TM 2019-15\]](#)
- 2020** The Town voted to appropriate \$19,000 from the Forest Maintenance Fund to control invasive plants in the Atkinson Town Forests [\[TM 2020-14\]](#).

# APPENDIX B

## Current State of Conservation in Atkinson

**“If the Earth was an apartment, we wouldn’t be getting our security deposit back”**

—Jim Shubert, stand-up comedian



### IN THIS APENDIX:

**Summary of Land Uses in Atkinson – Page B-3**

#### Tables and Maps:

**A – Town-Owned Conservation Lands**

**B – Cluster Development Open Space**

**C – Conservation Easements on Privately-Owned Land**

**D – Projects Funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

**E – Lands with Current Use Tax Assessments**

**F – Municipal and Undesignated Town-Owned Land**

**G – Prime Wetlands**

**H – Trails on Conservation Lands**

**I – Conservation Lands Allowing Hunting**

**J – Current Aerial Photograph (September 2000)**

**K – Aerial view of the “Open Space” at the Atkinson Resort and Country Club**

**Ecological Descriptions of Atkinson’s Prime Wetlands**

**Supplemental Reference Data (Deeds and Plans)**

**Town-Owned Conservation Land**

**Cluster Development Open Space**

**Conservation Easements on Privately-Owned Land**



**SUMMARY OF LAND USES IN ATKINSON**  
**As of December, 2021**

Category	# of Parcels	Acres	Data Source
Town-Owned Conservation Land	52	589.5	RCRD
Cluster Development Open Space	20	661	RCRD
Privately-Owned Land with Conservation Easements	6	74.46	RCRD
Open Space at the Atkinson Country Club	1	220.75*	RCRD
Land in Current Use	56	844.6	Tax Records
Municipal Land	12	48.7	Tax Records
Town-owned "Undesignated" land	17	35.8	Tax Records
All Parcels	3184	6663.7	Tax Records
Undeveloped Land	136	573	Tax Records
Undeveloped, 10+ acres	14	324.4	Tax Records
Undeveloped, 2 - 9.9 acres	43	200	Tax Records
Undeveloped, smaller than 2 acres	79	48.6	Tax Records

**Notes:**

RCRD = data was derived from deeds and plans recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

Tax Records = data was derived from tax assessor's records

Statics for undeveloped land did not include Conservation Land, Cluster Development Open Space, or privately-owned land protected by Conservation Easement.

\* Open Space in the *Declaration of Covenants Regarding Open Space* for the Atkinson Resort and Country Club (RCRD Book 6259 Page 2310) has not been included in the conservation analysis presented in this plan because of its relatively low environmental value – see Table and Map K later in this section.



**Town-Owned Conservation Lands in Atkinson - organized by Town Forest proximity**

December, 2021

Source of data: plans and deeds recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

<b>Total Acrage --&gt;</b>	<b>589.51</b>
<b>Total parcels --&gt;</b>	<b>52</b>

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Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired
<b>The Chambers/Fila Town Forest</b>			
19-18	23.400	Chambers/Fila Town Forest	4/3/1978
19-61	1.460	Crown Hill Land	1/12/1977
19-61 (was merged)	5.900	Noyes Rock Shelter	4/20/1976
19-62	12.000	"Hansen Town Forest"	10/30/1998
19-76	2.000	Backland of Chambers Fila TF	3/15/1980
19-80	4.070	Balazak Lot	5/30/1989
<b>The Caroline Orr Town Forest</b>			
5-48	59.19	Orr Town Forest	8/1/1990
10-8	2.000	Pettengil lot	7/1/2011
<b>Ruth McPherson Town Forest</b>			
4-50	24.355	McPherson West	6/29/1992
4-46	4.2	McPherson East	7/28/1983
<b>Sawyer Town Forest</b>			
4-11	20	4-H Field	10/27/1977
4-11-1	48.38	Sawyer Town Forest	4/11/1978
3-19	57.87	Bonin Parcel	9/11/1980
3-108	13.98	Cirome Parcel	6/1/1983
3-31	1.11	12 JUNIPER LN	1/2/1997
3-47	1.21	SLEEPY HOLLOW RD	1/2/1997
4-47	4	Chooljian Parcel	2/4/2019
<b>Chadwick Town Forest</b>			
12-2	28.4	Chadwick TF	4/10/1978
12-2 (was merged)	0.17	Merrill Connector	8/5/1980
12-1-1	7	Hovey Meadow Pond	12/28/1992
12-7-1	8.25		12/28/1992
12-12	2.44		12/28/1992
12-2-3	1.805		11/28/1978
12-17	2.6		7/12/1990

Slade Town Forest

12-8-1	11.664	Slade Town Forest	11/9/1979
17-3-1	7.125	Jane Jones Lot	11/29/2012

Judge Marshall Town Forest

16-12-1	31.62	Judge Marshall Town Forest	1/3/2000
16-12-1 - merged	0.42	Judge Marshall Access from Industrial Way	4/17/2015

Sawmill Town Forest

18-77	17.43	Feuer Land	4/25/1985
18-78	45.74	Feuer Land	4/25/1985
18-86	4		12/28/1992
18-65	7		12/28/1992
18-41	7.2		3/26/1979
18-82	4.04		5/28/1999
18-83	3.85		6/7/1977
18-84	2.78		4/30/1999
18-85	2.26		2/7/2007
18-58	0.35		5/8/1984
18-109	7.7		4/15/1999

Stickney Town Forest

20-35	24.3	Stickney TF	8/4/1982
20-15-1	3.4	Downing Parcel(north of 111)	3/25/1983
20-13-1	3.91	Lakeside Drive Parcel	4/1/1970
20-15	0.6	Downing Parcel(south of 111)	4/28/1982
20-23	0.3	Waters Edge parcels	2/7/1994
20-31	1.5	Waters Edge parcels	2/7/1994
23-40	0.27	Canoe/Kayak Launch	8/4/1982
23-91	0.161		4/17/1991

Ruth Marshall Town Forest

20-36	35.17	Ruth Marshall TF	12/19/1979
20-37-1	9	Susan Beckhorn parcel	12/14/2021

Other Conservation Lands

2-53	10.2	Brushwood Drive parcel	9/24/2003
15-27	10.03	Collins Park	6/2/2006
16-19	1.7	Conley Road Parcel	9/21/1998



**Cluster Development Open Space Land in Atkinson - organized chronologically**

December, 2021

Source of data: plans and deeds recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

<b>Total Acres in Cluster Developments --&gt;</b>	<b>1312.98</b>
<b>Total Acres in Open Space --&gt;</b>	<b>660.98</b>

Development Name	Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Plan Approved Date
		Entire Development	Open Space	
1 Wright Farm	13-94	43.09	none on plan	5/10/1985
2 The Commons	17-86	111.34	67.84	7/26/1986
3 Waterwheel Estates	21-1	40.88	30.00	6/10/1987
4 Bryant Woods	10-7	170.23	85.13	7/13/1988
5 Dearborn Ridge	18-74 18-109	36.622	14.596 <-- Listed under town-owned conservation land.	7/19/1995
6 Atkinson Woods	20-9 and 49	52.85	43.49	10/18/1995
7 Centerview Hollow	13-96	115.22	47.94	7/2/1997
8 Settlers' Ridge	12-1	154.78	59.683	8/20/1997
9 Fieldstone Village	2-1	56.04	28.14	1/14/1998
10 Millstream Crossing	11-11 11-39 11-53 11-54 11-61	38.34	2.7676 3.2592 2.2221 5.8839 2.3724	4/27/1998
11 Carriage Chase Estates	9-16-62	43.24	17.21	7/28/1999
12 Jesse Page Estates	13-22	52.845	26.552	8/18/1999
13 Cogswell Farm	13-1-1 13-1-2	56.32	18.33 10.65	5/15/2000 5/15/2000
14 Ashford Lane	17-29-7	20.44	11.3	10/3/2001
15 Eldon Way - Birchwood	7-139	12.84	6.34	5/15/2002
16 Jameson Ridge - Winslow Drive	13-29	67.85	36.26	7/15/2004
17 Little River	9-33	15.6	7.9	5/13/2005
18 Sawmill Ridge	17-54	110.88	60.06	12/29/2016
19 Page Farm	13-26 etc	87.17	59	11/29/2017
20 Heritage Estates	4-16	26.4	14.05	10/4/2019

## Conservation Easements on Privately-Owned Land

December, 2021

Source of data: plans and deeds recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

**Total Acrage --> 74.46**

	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Easement Established	Easement Grantor	Easement Holder (Grantee)
<b>Williams &amp; French</b>						
	22-1	9.5	Williams #4	2/22/1982	Walworth B. &	Atkinson Cons Comm
	22-120	0.37	Williams #4	2/22/1982	Mary Louise Williams	Atkinson Cons Comm
	22-121	7	French Easement	12/27/1978	Robert French	SPNHF
<b>Betorney &amp; Kutzelman</b>						
	14-3-1	4.71	Betorney Easement	2/14/2006	Harven and Rita Betournay	Atkinson Cons Comm
	9-40	9.73	Kutzelman Easement	11/13/2018	George & Lyn Kutzelman	Atkinson Cons Comm
<b>4 Industrial Way</b>						
	16-4	6	4 Industrial Way	11/8/2021	Bill Ermer	Atkinson Cons Comm
<b>Killam Easement - West Side Drive</b>						
	11-20-1	37.15	Killam Easement	10/13/2022	Dean and Sue Killam	SELT

ProjID	Sponsor	ProjName	Scope	Last Inspection	Inspection Due
3300082	ATKINSON	POPE ROAD RECREATION AREA	The improvement of Pope Road Recreation Area including renovation of 1/2 mile access road, new 60' baseball field with backstop, and a new 60'x 120' gravel parking lot.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300295	ATKINSON	ATKINSON GREENBELT	Acquire 5 parcels of woodlands of 107.54 acres; Sawyer, 48.38ac. on Mass. border abutts other Town 20ac.; Chambers-Fila, 23.4ac. at jct. of Atkinson, Plaistow & Hampstead lines; Crown Hill, 1.46a. at Pine Knoll, abutts Noyes; Noyes 5.9ac; Chadwick 28.4ac.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300363	ATKINSON	ATKINSON GREENBELT II	The acquisition of 4 parcels of land totaling 104.71 acres; land of Slade, 11.67 a. on W side Pope Rd at Rt 121; Marshall, 34.9 a. and 0.27 a. at Island Pond off West Road (Hampstead); and Bonin, 57.87 a. off east side of North Broadway.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300377A	ATKINSON	POPE ROAD II	Storage building, two tennis courts, baseball/soccer turf field with backstop.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300436	ATKINSON	ATKINSON GREENBELT III	The acquisition, by negotiation, of 24.3 acres (Stickney land) on Route 111 and Conley Grove Road with frontage on Big Island Pond.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300446	ATKINSON	ATKINSON GREENBELT IV (CIROME)	The acquisition of 14 acres of woodland off Sawyer Ave.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300502	ATKINSON	ATKINSON SAWMILL SWAMP	The acquisition of 63.17 acre parcel (Feuer) including 35 acres in Sawmill Swamp, access from Maple Avenue.	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19
3300609	ATKINSON	WOODLOCK/POPE ROAD RECREATION AREA	Development of additional sports and playfields, trails and support facilities	11-Sep-14	11-Sep-19

## Lands in Current Use February, 2022

Map	Lot	Sub	Pub Acc	Address	
2	11	0		2	JERICO RD
2	14	0			JERICO RD
2	16	0		32	SALEM RD
2	23	0		11	SALEM RD
2	36	0		3	SALEM RD
3	6	0		59	SAWYER AVE
3	121	0		23	N BROADWAY
4	41	0		6	UPLAND ROAD
4	41	1			UPLAND ROAD
5	49	0			MAIN ST
6	13	0		60	PROVIDENCE HILL RD
6	22	0		63	PROVIDENCE HILL RD
8	3	0		60	SAWYER AVE
8	130	0		57	MEDITATION LN
8	130	0		57	MEDITATION LN
8	131	1		18	SAWYER AVE
8	138	0			MAIN ST
9	38	1			MAPLE AVE
9	39	0		51	MAPLE AVE
9	40	0		53	MAPLE AVE
9	45	0	Y	58	MAPLE AVE
11	17	0		46	HAVERHILL RD
11	18	0			JENNAS WAY
11	20	1		48	WESTSIDE DR
11	20	1			WESTSIDE DR
11	20	2			OAK RIDGE DR
12	1	15			BACKLAND-MAIN ST
13	21	0		129	MAIN ST
13	85	0		88	MAIN ST
13	104	0	Y	15	BITTERSWEET LN

Appendix B, Table E  
(See Map E)

14	30	1		59	EAST RD
14	37	0			MAPLE AVE
16	9	0			HALL FARM RD
16	9	2			RUBY WAY
16	12	0	Y		HALL FARM RD
16	13	0			OAK RIDGE DR
16	21	0			OAK RIDGE DR
16	22	0			EMERY DR
16	65	0			INDUSTRIAL WAY
16	68	0			OAK RIDGE DR
17	7	0	Y		MAIN ST
17	49	0		180	MAIN ST
17	50	0		180	MAIN ST
18	40	0		21	KNIGHTLAND RD
18	106	0			STONE POUND LN
20	7	0			KIPCAM RD
20	14	0			RTE 111
22	1	0			HEMLOCK HEIGHTS RD
22	120	0			HEMLOCK HEIGHTS RD
22	121	0	Y		HEMLOCK HEIGHTS RD

Town-Owned Municipal Land:	48.67	Acres
Number of parcels:	12	

Owner	Type	Notes	Notes	Map	Lot	Sub	Acres
Town od Atkinson	Municipal	Firepond on East Road		000010	000006	000000	1.21
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Family Mediation		000013	000077	000000	0.25
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Town Hall		000013	000070	000000	2.42
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Community Center		000005	000067	000000	4.63
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Dow Common		000013	000091	000000	0.47
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Fire Department		000013	000030	000000	9.31
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Firepond at Salem Road		000007	000198	000000	0.37
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Kelly Lane firepond		000009	000090	000000	2.65
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Library and Cemetary		000013	000031	000000	9.37
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Woodlock Park - west		000011	000004	000000	7.50
Town of Atkinson	Municipal	Woodlock Park east		000012	000005	000000	10.00
Town of Atkinpsn	Municipal	Police station		000014	000033	000000	0.50

Undesignated, Town-owned land:	35.18	Acres
Number of Parcels:	17	

Owner	Type	Notes	Notes	Map	Lot	Sub	Acres
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town Owned		000007	000199	000000	5.87
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000002	000013	000000	0.50
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000023	000090	000000	0.12
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000009	000034	000010	5.80
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000016	000058	000000	4.33
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000017	000094	000000	4.10
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned	swamp	000018	000070	000000	4.00
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned	wet	000009	000027	000006	3.48
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000018	000035	000000	1.60
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000017	000011	000000	1.30
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000018	000030	000000	1.25
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000008	000108	000000	1.00
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned	wet	000013	000043	000000	0.82
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000017	000026	000003	0.55
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000019	000017	000000	0.21
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000007	000204	000000	0.16
Town of Atkinson		Undesignated, Town-owned		000018	000088	000000	0.10

### Prime Wetland Locations in Atkinson

See Notes

Wetland Name	Description	TM Vote	Town 150' Buffer	State 100' Buffer
Hall Farm Pond	10+- acre wetland located south of NH Route 111 and north of Hall Farm Road, primarily on Tax Map 16, Lot 9.	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
Hog Hill Brook	17.5+- acre wetland which extends southeast of Island Pond Road, located primarily on Tax Map 20, Lot 7, and extending onto Tax Map 16, Lot 64 and Tax Map 21, Lot 1.	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
Stewart Farm Pond	21+- acre wetland located due west of Stewart Farm Road and northeast of Village Drive, primarily on Tax Map 12, Lot 1	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
West Sawmill Swamp	121 +- acre wetland extending across the northern Atkinson border with Hampstead, and located directly west of Upper Maple Avenue, on Tax Map 18	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
East Sawmill Swamp	58+- acre wetland located directly east of upper Maple Avenue, on Tax Map 19.	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
Hovey Meadow Wetland	13+- acre wetland located north of Pope Road and East of West Side Drive, primarily on Tax Map 17, Lot 68, and extending onto Tax Map 12, Lots 3 and 4	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
Bryant Brook	69+- acre wetland located on the southern border between Atkinson and Plaistow, primarily on Tax Map 10. Lot 7, and extending onto Tax Map 9, Lot 62-22 and Tax Map 5, Lot 48.	TM 2010-2	Yes - New construction only	Yes - new and existing construction
Wright Farm Pond	46+- acre wetland bordered by Sawmill road, Summit Drive, Walker Road, Merrill Drive, Meeting Rock Road, and Bittersweet Lane, primarily on Tax Map 23 Lot 96.	TM 2013-3	Yes - New construction only	No

**Notes:** The Town's 150' natural vegetation buffer is described in Zoning Section 400.10

The State's 100' natural vegetation buffer does not apply to the Wright Farm Pond prime wetland because State law was changed between 2010 and 2013.

**Ecological descriptions of Atkinson's Prime Wetlands can be found in this appendix following the maps.**

## INDEX OF ATKINSON'S TRAILS

**1. Caroline Orr:** The Caroline Orr trails meander through 60 acres of forested woodlands with ponds, streams and marshes as points of interest. The trailhead of the primary loop trail is blazed in yellow and leads from the rear of the Atkinson Community Center parking lot, and follows an old carriage trail over some hilly terrain. Along the trail loop are trail branches blazed in red to several points of interest to explore: 2nd Pond, Bryant Marsh, and Bryant Brook. A second trailhead is located at the end of Robie Lane. The Orr land has ample open spaces to wander and enjoy nature.

**2. Sawyer:** The Sawyer Land nature area covers nearly 140 acres of new growth forest, includes several small streams and vernal ponds, as well as historic 18th century stonewalls and state boundary marker. The primary flat 1 1/2-mile Blue blazed loop is a well-defined old woodlot road from which several red and yellow branch trails emanate. Points of interest are the Champion white ash tree, the original 1741 NH/MA state boundary marker, and the Bonin field, where there is a good chance in seeing a White-tail deer. There are two trail heads; one off Sawyer Ave. and other off Juniper Lane, both with limited parking. Trails are dog friendly, so take a walk in the woods with your buddy!

**3. Woodlock:** The Woodlock trails in the Chadwick Town Forest cover approximately 50.7 acres of beautiful woodlands with scenic views of Hovey Meadow Pond, a network of colonial stonewalls, and a historic site: Meeting Rock. The primary trailhead is located adjacent to Woodlock Park recreational area, which also provides ample parking. A secondary trailhead is located off Merrill Drive. With a watchful eye, one may observe a beaver in the pond, a deer in the meadow or a red-tailed hawk circling high overhead.

**4. Crown Hill:** The Crown Hill Trail System is a combination of two yellow blazed Conservation parcels of old field roads and both hiking and mountain biking trails that meander over rolling, new forested hills and streams through a network of 18 century stonewalls. They are connected by a red blazed trail corridor that parallels and shares trails of the Plaistow and Hampstead trail systems. Points of interest are the old tri-town (A/P/H) boundary marker and Noyes rock shelter. The primary trailhead is off East Road with ample parking and second trail entrance off Crown Hill Rd. Trails are dog friendly and provide an excellent opportunity to explore the trail networks of adjacent communities.

**5. Sawmill South:** The Sawmill Swamp Trail system is comprised of two conservation parcels separated by wetlands. The South parcel is a descending, forested valley that has deeded access to the town land through privately owned land. The blue-blazed trail entrance is over a deeded right-of-way approximately one-half mile long leading to town-owned land and joining the primary trail loop blazed in red. Along the trail loop are points of interest such as the new town water tank, many granite outcroppings, and a mega size white oak tree along the edge of the swamp. Off the loop is a trail exit which reaches Maple Ave over private land, but is not



open to the public. The trailhead for the South trail is located at the end of Woodlawn Avenue, with limited parking. This trail is an excellent fall and winter hike to the edge of Atkinson's most ecologically significant wetland.

**6. Sawmill North:** The North parcel trail system of the Sawmill Swamp Conservation Area is an old field road, blazed in red, that passes through old and new growth forest with many 18<sup>th</sup>-century stone walls, and travels along a portion of Atkinson's most ecologically significant wetland. There is a scenic vista overlooking Sawmill Swamp. Another significant point of interest is the 1940 Atkinson/Hampstead town boundary marker. There are branch trail segments, blazed in blue, which crisscross throughout the primary trail. This is a scenic four-season trail system, especially during the fall when the marsh turns to a brilliant golden meadow.

**7. Stickney:** Stickney Trail System is a network of both hiking and mountain biking trails that meander over hilly, wooded terrain, through and around granite outcroppings, and along the shoreline of Big Island Pond. There is a primary trail loop, blazed in white, that circumnavigates the conservation parcel, with numerous branch trails blazed in blue. There are excellent views of the pond from the shoreline as well as a view of the Atkinson kayak/canoe dock and launch site. The primary trailhead with limited parking is at the end of Lakeside Drive. If biking is your passion, these trails will definitely be a challenge.

**8. Marshall:** The Marshall Land Trail System meanders about 35 acres of old and new-growth forest, through late 1700's stone walls / fences and down old field roads. This land was originally the homestead of Moses Brown, and later in 1847, by Luther Chase. The primary trail loop, blazed in white, follows an Eagle Scout restored 14-station nature trail, with blue blaze trail segments leading to points of interest such as the 1741 Atkinson/Hampstead boundary pointer, the 1847 Luther Chase cellar, and views of Boulder Cove at Big Island Pond. There are several exit trails blazed in red that lead to adjacent roadways, and one which provides access to the Hampstead trail system. The primary trailhead is off Boulder Cove Rd with limited parking, and a secondary trailhead is off the West Rd at the Hampstead trailhead with abundant parking. Enjoy a nature walk back to the colonial times!

-71.118

-71.116

-71.114

-71.112

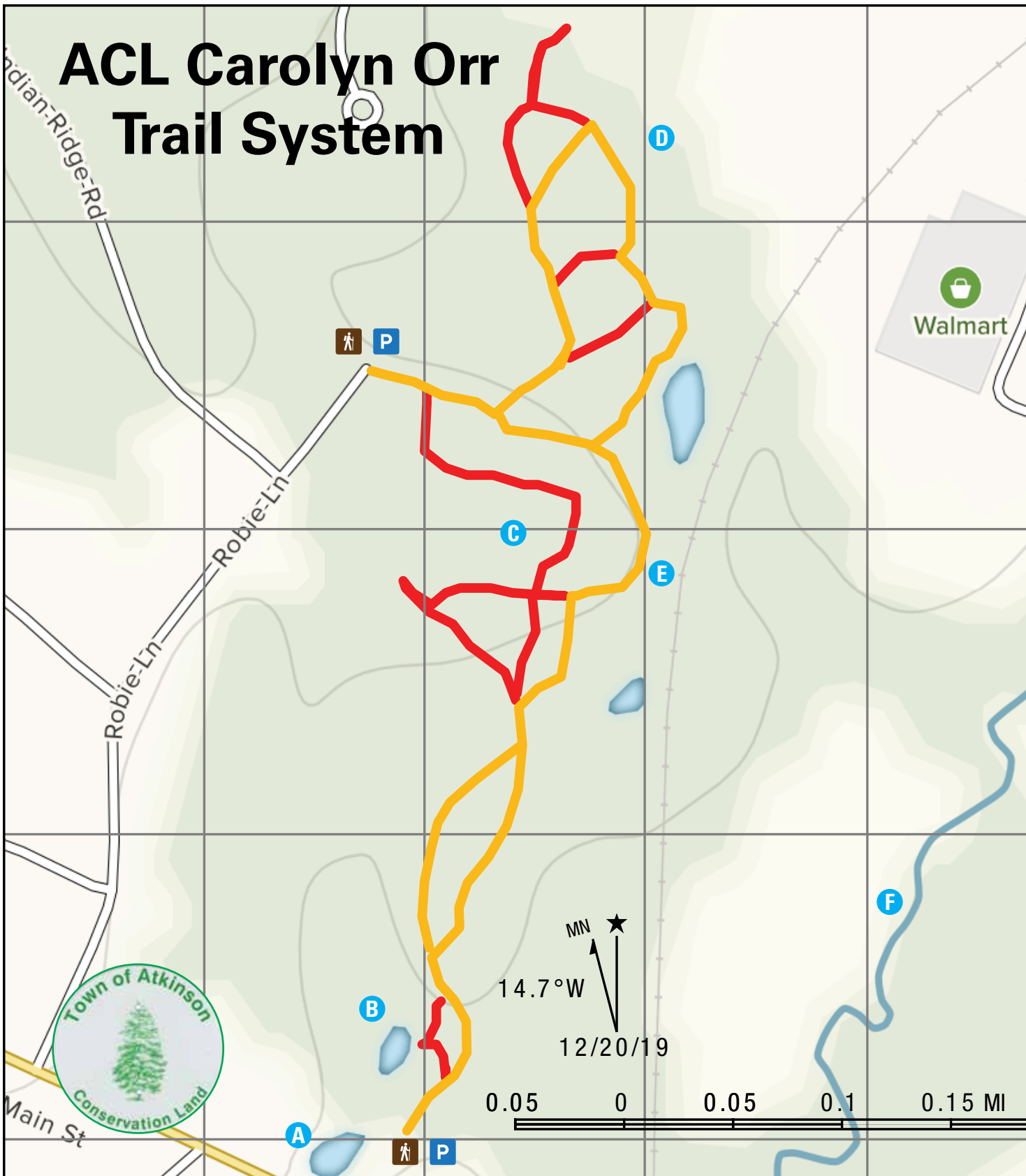
# ACL Carolyn Orr Trail System

42.8826

42.824

42.822

42.820



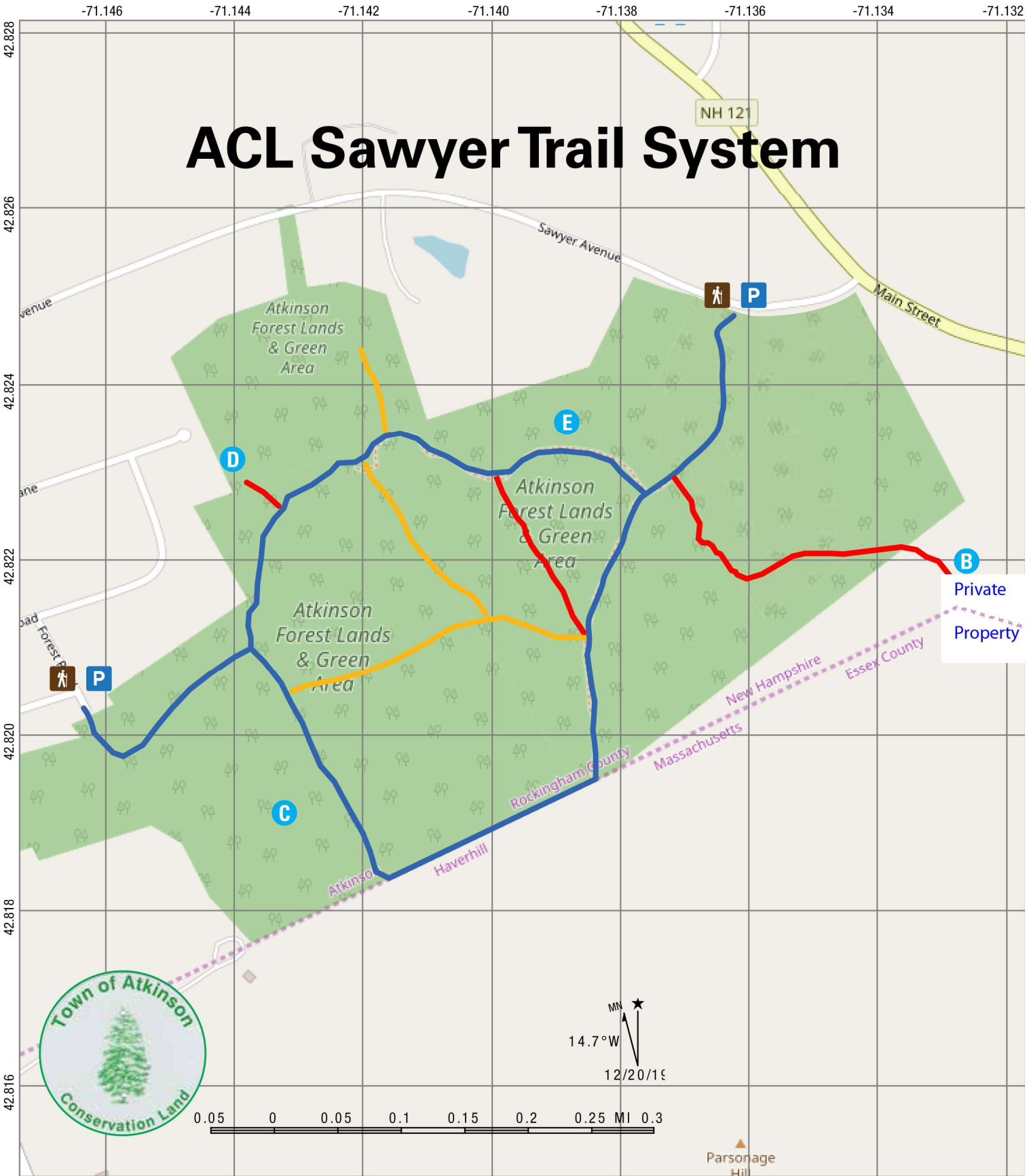
## LEGEND

- Parking
- Trail Head
- Conservation Land

- Yellow Blazed Trails
- Red Blazed Trails
- 1st Pond
- 2nd Pond

- Meadow
- Bryant Marsh
- Bryant Brook
- Little River

# ACL Sawyer Trail System



## LEGEND

- Parking
- Trail Head
- Conservation Land

- Blue Blazed Trails
- Yellow Blazed Trails
- Red Blazed Trails
- 1890 Marker

- 1800's Marker
- Deer Meadow
- Champion Ash
- Foot Bridge

-71.177

-71.176

-71.175

-71.174

-71.173

-71.172

-71.171

# ACL Woodlock Trail System



Atkinson Rec Park

42.837

42.836

42.835

42.834

42.833



Hovey-Meadow Rd

Hovey-Meadow Rd

Hoyt Cir

Hoyt Cir

Merrill Dr



## LEGEND

Parking

Restrooms

Conservation Land

White Blazed Trails

Yellow Blazed Trails

Red Blazed Trails

Scenic View

Canoe/Kayak Launch Site

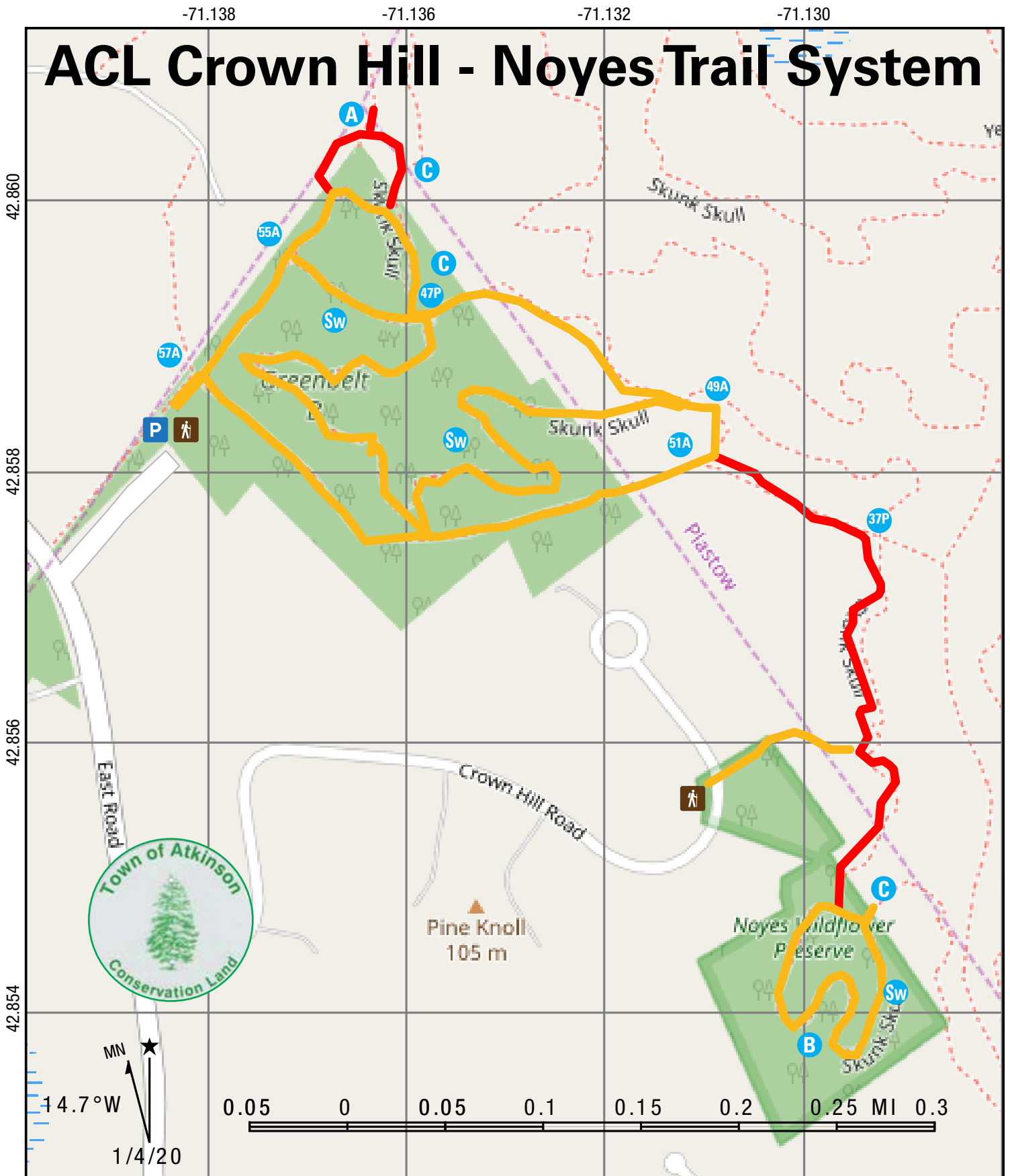
Scout Bridge

Meeting Rock

Stone Walls

Trail Head

# ACL Crown Hill - Noyes Trail System



## LEGEND

**P** Parking

**hiker icon** Trail Head

**Green** Conservation Land

**#A** Location Markers

**Red line** Red Blazed Trails

**Yellow line** Yellow Blazed Trails

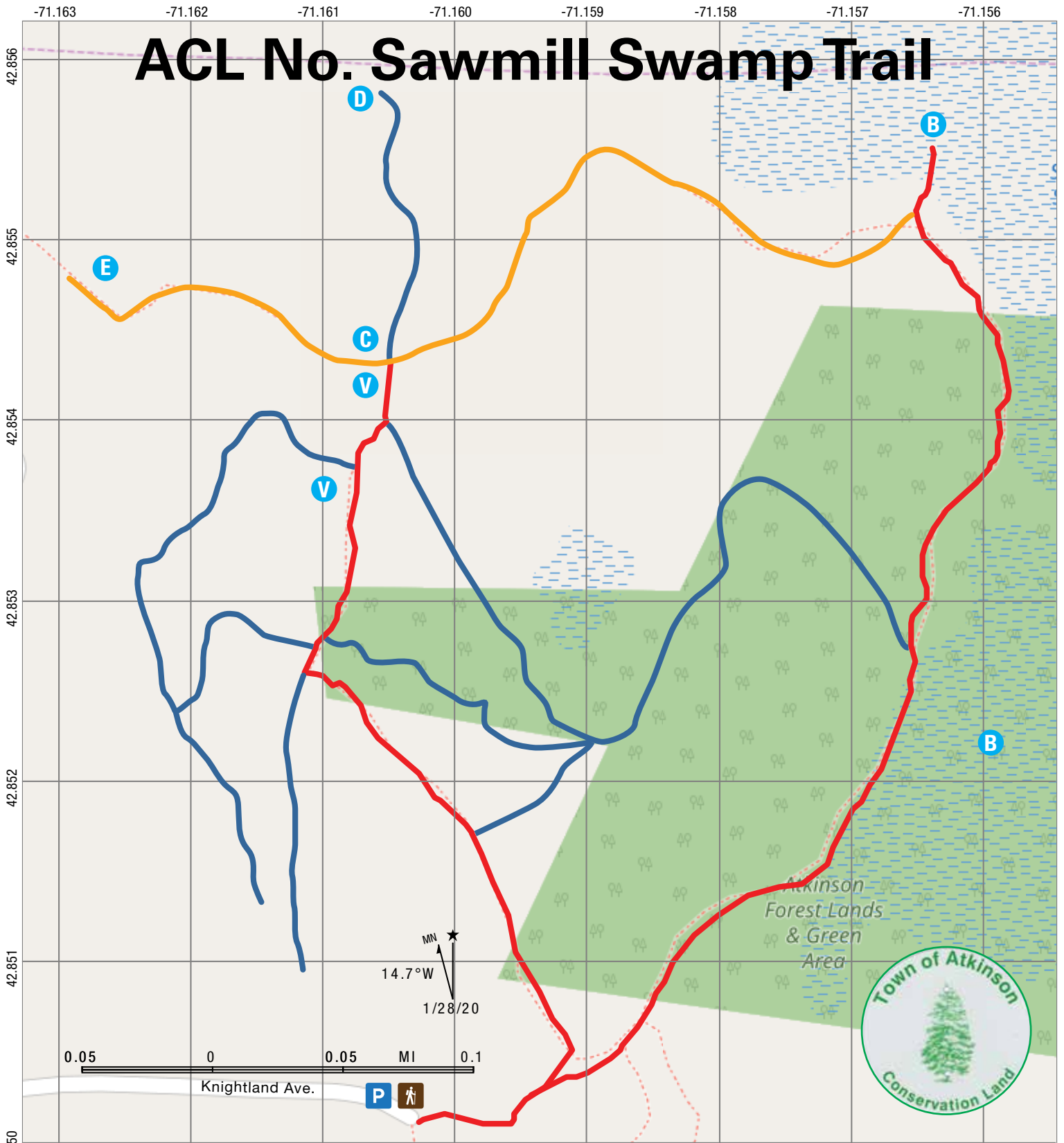
**A** Tri-Town Marker

**B** Noyes Shelter

**C** Foot Bridge

**Sw** Stone Walls

# ACL No. Sawmill Swamp Trail



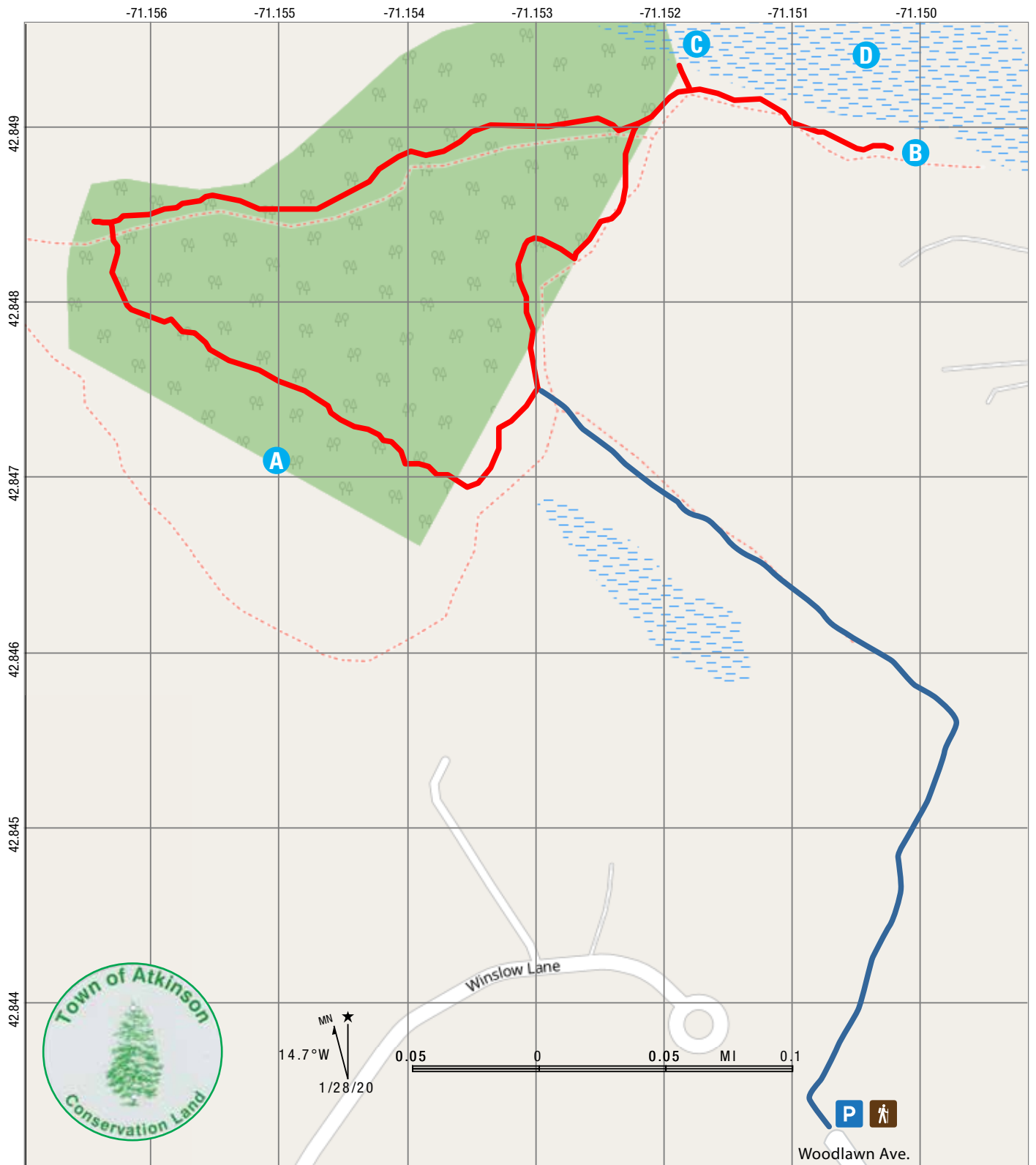
## LEGEND

- Parking
- Trail Head
- Conservation Land

- Red Blazed Trails
- Blue Blazed Trails
- Orange Blazed Trails
- Vernal Pool

- Sawmill Marsh
- Bench
- A/H Town Marker
- Exit to Stevens Court Road

# ACL So. Sawmill Swamp Trail









## LEGEND





- |                   |                    |               |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Parking           | Red Blazed Trails  | To Maple Ave  |
| Trail Head        | Blue Blazed Trails | Big Oak Tree  |
| Conservation Land | Water Tank         | Sawmill Swamp |



## LEGEND

-  Parking
-  Trail Head
-  Conservation Land

-  White Blazed Trails
-  Blue Blazed Trails
-  Kayak Launch

-  Vernal Pool
-  Bike Jumps
-  Stone Walls
-  Exit to Conservation Land



-71.200

-71.199

-71.198

-71.197

-71.196

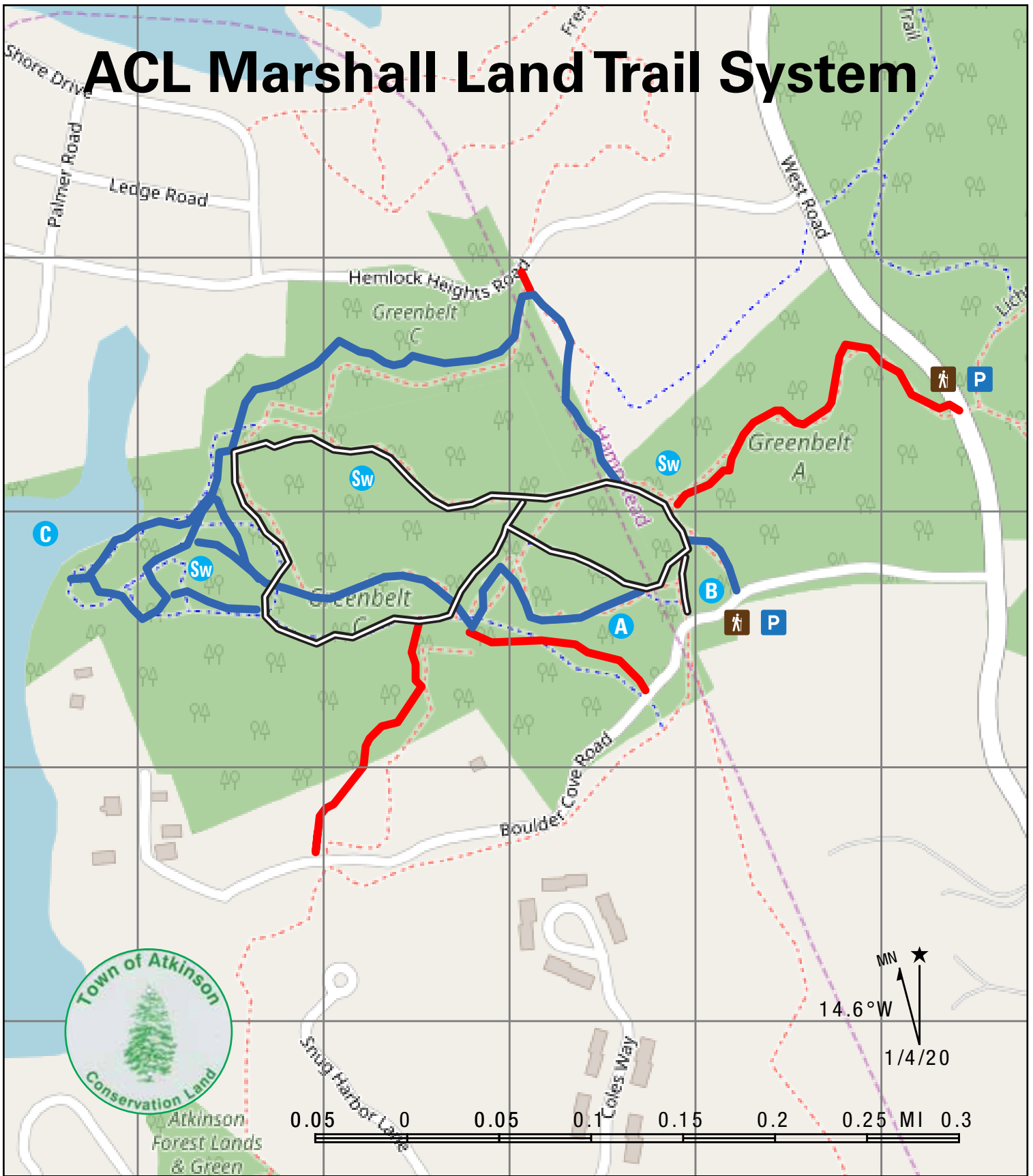
# ACL Marshall Land Trail System

42.863

42.862

42.861

42.860



## LEGEND

**P** Parking

Trail Head

Conservation Land

White Blazed Trails

Blue Blazed Trails

Red Blazed Trails

**A** 1741 A/H Marker

**B** Chase Cellar

**C** Big Island Pond

**Sw** Stone Walls

## Atkinson Town Forest Hunting Access and Parking

Hunting with bow, shotgun, or muzzleloader is allowed on Town-owned parcels in areas 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 with no Town permit required. (All NH Fish and Game rules, seasons, and regulations must be followed at all times). These five areas abut swamps or ponds and provide waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Bow and crossbow hunting is allowed on Town-owned parcels in areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 11, and 12 with a special Atkinson Bow Hunting permit available from the Selectmen's Office.

A larger scale PDF map of the conservation lands and trails is available on the town's web page at [http://www.town-atkinsonnh.com/conservation\\_trails\\_lands.html](http://www.town-atkinsonnh.com/conservation_trails_lands.html)

### 1/ Caroline Orr Town Forest (61 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. Park at the Community Center or use the trail at the end of Robie Lane.

### 2/ Sawyer Town Forest (140 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. Park at the trailhead on the South side of Sawyer Ave near Main Street, or along Juniper Lane at the marked trailhead there.

### 3/ Chadwick Town Forest and Woodlock Trails (51 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. No hunting is allowed in the Woodlock Park Recreation Area. Park in the recreation lot at the end of Woodlock Park Lane or by the trailhead on the side of Hovey Meadow Road.

### 4/ Chambers-Fila - Crown Hill Town Forest (40 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. This land abuts the Plaistow and Hampstead Town Forests. Park (where marked) along the driveway that enters the Town Forest on the east side of East Road by a small cemetery at the Hampstead town line. Or use the Plaistow Town Forest parking lot on the West side of Route 121A.

### 5 & 6/ Sawmill Swamp Town Forest (94 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed on this backland. There is a small parking area at the end of Knightland Road with access to the northern area (parcel #6), and there is a parking area at the end of Woodlawn Ave and a trail easement (to the right through the gap in the stone wall) across private land to access the southern area (parcel #5). However, the terms of the easement prohibit hunting on the private land.

### 7/ Ruth Stickney Town Forest (32 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed. There is a parking area at the end of Lakeside Drive on the left.

8/ Marshall Town Forest (35 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed. Follow Boulder Cove Road, watching for a cellar hole on the right near the town line. The parking area and trailhead is on the right after the cellar hole.

9/ Judge Marshall (no relation) Town Forest (31 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. There is a small parking area at the end of Industrial Drive (but no trail).

10/ Slade Town Forest (19 acres)

Bow, shotgun or muzzleloader hunting is allowed. The property runs to the edge of Stewart Farm Pond, providing opportunities for duck hunting. Park on North side of Pope Road.

11/ Brushwood Drive Town Forest (10 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. This land is almost entirely swamp, and can be easily seen from Brushwood Drive. Note that there is a fire pond and hydrant close to the road, so parking here is restricted.

12/ Ruth McPherson Town Forest (28 acres)

Bow hunting only with Town permit. This parcel straddles the very busy Route 121/Main Street, but there is currently no parking area or trails into this parcel. We suggest asking an abutting landowner for access.

## Open Space at the Atkinson Resort and Country Club

The Open Space created by the *Declaration of Covenants Regarding Open Space* for the Atkinson Resort and Country Club (RCRD Book 6259 Page 2310) has not been included in the analysis presented in this plan because it is of very low conservation value, as defined in Section 2 of this plan.

Map K presents an aerial view of the Country Club's property, with the property boundary and Open Space envelopes shown in purple and yellow, respectively. The land that is declared as Open Space appears darker than the other areas of the property. As can be seen from Map K, the declared Open Space has mostly been clear cut and planted with non-native grasses, and is used as the fairways and greens for the golf course. Furthermore, these areas are fertilized and watered, and likely have been treated with herbicides and pesticides, rendering them not only useless as wildlife habitat, but also a burden on our scarce water and other natural resources.

For these reasons, they were not considered in the analysis presented in this plan. At the time the Resort was approved by the Planning Board, zoning allowed these uses in Open Space.

Below is a table derived from Plan D-35976 that summarizes the Open Space acreage created by the Country Club.

Open Space Area Number (See D-35976)	Size (acres)
#21	42.25
#22	18.19
#23	105.33
#24	3.79
#25	6.96
#26	10.55
#27	30.00
#28	3.68
Total	220.75

## **Ecological Descriptions of Atkinson's Prime Wetlands**

From the 2003 Prime Wetland Study

These wetlands were visited by Natural Resources Consulting Service, the study contractor, from August through October, 2002. These field observations were done during one of the worst droughts on record. Below are the contractor's comments on these prime wetlands.

### **Hall Farm Pond Prime Wetland**

Route 111 borders this wetland to the north and Hall Farm Road to the south. This 9.4-acre wetland has only few small inflow streams and the outlet culvert is partially blocked. Even with this partial blockage, the culvert inlet is at an elevation sufficient to maintain the health of this wetland. This culvert was located several feet above the water height during our investigations.

Though just under ten acres, this wetland shows very diverse features with open water, emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested areas. During our visits we observed several species of wildlife, including black ducks, red-tailed hawk, and many songbirds. A stand of *Decodon verticillatus*, (water-willow) was observed in this wetland. This is the host plant of the *Decodon* moth, a species listed as N2 (Nationally Imperiled) by The Nature Conservancy's web site (NatureServe).

There is a pull-off from Hall Farm Road that allows an observer to view most of the shallow open water and scrub-shrub areas of this wetland, thus providing excellent access and education/research point. At this observation point there are two fire hydrants where water can be pumped directly from the wetland.

Even with the partially constricted elevated culvert, this wetland appears to be very stable. There was previous beaver activity, as indicated by the beaver houses found in the wetland. The beaver damming activity appears to have been limited to the partial plugging of the culvert with mud and vegetative debris.

Although this wetland falls just below the 10-acre threshold, it possesses several exemplary attributes. These include potential habitat for an endangered species, undisturbed natural communities, and excellent access for general viewing or educational pursuits.

### **Hog Hill Brook Prime Wetland**

This wetland is a 17.5-acre long narrow wetland that is the result of a dammed stream, and is bordered by Island Pond Road and Chandler Drive. At the north end of the wetland, the inlet stream enters through a culvert under Island Pond Road from Hodges Mill Pond. The outlet for this wetland is at the south end at an approximately 20-foot-long earthen berm. There is beaver activity throughout the middle and southern portions of this wetland, where there currently is open water. The north portion of the wetland consists of a narrow stream and scrub

shrub/emergent plants. There is no direct access to this wetland for the general public, and therefore there is no area for education or research without seeking landowner permission.

There are several stone walls that run into and some that run across this wetland indicating that the berm is of relatively recent construction, and that this property was used for animal grazing or crop cultivation in the past.

### **Hovey Meadow Prime Wetland**

This wetland is an irregular-shaped pond and stream, bordered by Pope Road to the south and West Side Drive to the West. This wetland is located to the southwest of the Village Subdivision. Stewart Farm Pond print wetland drains into it from the northeast. Much of this wetland has emergent vegetation with some scrub shrub and a small amount of forested wetland section. There is a section of open water south of Wellington Circle. An earthen dam that may have been a farm road crossing in the past dams the water. Water does percolate through this dam and flows southwesterly, eventually exiting through a culvert under West Side Drive. Just east of this culvert the wetland dries up completely during the dry summer months exposing a cobble rock bottom with little to no vegetation. The unvegetated bottom indicates that flows are sustained until late in the season, and the cobble rock indicates that there are relatively high velocities in the stream. Moving easterly, the wetland becomes a forested pit and mound wetland with an intermittently distinguishable stream channel. The channel is definite near to the earthen berm. Upslope of the berm the wetland is open water and cattail swamp turning back into a forested wetland/mineral bottom stream at the inlet.

### **Stewart Farm Pond Prime Wetland**

This wetland is a shallow bottom, predominantly open water pond with emergent vegetation along the perimeter. There is definite beaver activity, with an active beaver dam at the outlet along the southwest side. There is also another impounded area on the southwest side that borders a logging road; the beaver activity could divert water across a low area, creating a second outlet to this wetland – but only during high flow periods. Along an inlet on the northwest corner is a curious stonewall structure that separated two neighboring herds of cows while allowing them to drink from the wetland that sits along a mineral/cobble bottom stream with surrounding forested wetland. The mill is only distinguishable by the rock foundation in the middle of the stream. The northern section of the wetland is vegetated with various reeds and cattails. Discussions with a local fisherman found that there are fish (such as catfish) found in this pond. A barred owl was flushed in the tall white pines located at the northwest sector of the wetland. This stand of mature pine and the adjacent red maple swamp provide ideal habitat for this species. There are some dead trees within the wetland showing that the water elevation wasn't always this high and that the rising water, possibly due to the beavers, may have killed them.

There is a development of homes surrounding this wetland on the westerly side and they are located mostly on high banks and overlook the open water that is more in the center of the

wetland. It appears that the mowed lawns of some of these houses extend to the wetland/pond edge, which may conflict with portions of the Shoreline Protection Act.

### **West Sawmill Swamp Prime Wetland**

This wetland is a very large wetland located along the northern border of the Atkinson Town line. The Town of Atkinson owns several parcels that border the westerly side of this wetland. Maple Avenue bisects the East and West portions of Sawmill Swamp with a section of fill and a culvert. Water flows from east Sawmill Swamp, through the culvert, and then north through this wetland and across the town border into Hampstead. Other ephemeral (intermittent) streams enter this wetland from the south and west. This wetland is not entirely located within the Town of Atkinson, 64 acres of the 130 acres are located within the Town with the remaining acres located in Hampstead.

This wetland has great diversity, varying from forested wetland, scrub shrub, emergent, and some shallow open water. The banks are fairly distinct for the most part with only limited areas of less distinct prime wetland jurisdiction near the south west corner where the wetland gradually transitions into a forested wetland. This wetland shows great animal diversity with sign of deer, coyote, beaver, various ducks, great blue heron, and many songbirds. There are several islands in the forested wetland. Upland Islands increase overall habitat diversity. One island is almost entirely located within the Town of Hampstead north of the Atkinson Town Line.

### **East Sawmill Swamp Prime Wetland**

This wetland is also a very large, diverse wetland. This wetland flows westerly through a culvert under Maple Avenue into the west portion of Sawmill Swamp, described above. Much of this wetland has shallow marsh emergent and scrub shrub vegetation (standing water) with very little open water (no floating-leaved aquatics). Several ephemeral streams located all along the boundary feed the wetland.

This wetland has great animal habitat. Bear scat was found along the north section of the wetland within a blueberry thicket. There was also sign of coyote, deer, many songbirds, and various ducks. The habitat throughout the wetland is diverse and much of the houses along this wetland are set far enough back to create a substantial buffer for wildlife.

There is some sign of illegal fill (mostly yard debris) found in this wetland along the southeast border at the bottom of a steep hill near Dearborn Ridge Road.

### **Wright Farm Pond Prime Wetland**

This wetland is located between Sawmill Road, Bittersweet Lane, and Kings Grant Drive. There is no direct public access to this wetland, and, therefore, access for research and education is low. However, this is a very diverse and interesting wetland. The diversity and interspersions of habitats range from a large forested wetland to scrub shrub, emergent, open water, as well as a large forested island in the middle of the wetland. This diversity creates great animal habitat. Animal

signs seen during several visits include deer, coyote, great blue heron, various ducks, beaver, and numerous songbirds.

The island is actually now a peninsula joined to the mainland with fill for access road to a community water well. The road has three culverts underneath allowing connection for the natural hydrology. The fill does not appear to have affected the wetland hydrology, and because of the narrowness of the fill and openness of the road, the island could still be considered fairly isolated from the mainland surrounding this wetland. This fill may have adverse impacts to resident wildlife as it provides an access to the island by subsidized predators, i.e., house cats, raccoons and skunks, who are predators for the native species.

There are two stream courses entering the wetland, one from the northeast and one from the east. The northeast stream forms a channel that eventually opens up into the open water of the wetland. The eastern channel drains into the forested wetland and does not form a significant channel.

There is an earthen dam at the outlet at the northwest corner that may have been created by beavers but fortified by people. This dam is approximately 20 feet long but very substantial. If this structure was breached or removed, the water in the wetland would drop several feet drying up the forested wetland section to the southeast.

There were several areas where filling of the wetland is occurring. This is mostly behind the residences along Summit Drive. There were several piles of lawn clippings and vegetative debris as well as dump piles within the wetland.

### **Bryant Brook Prime Wetland**

This wetland runs south along the border of Atkinson and Plaistow. Bryant Brook enters Atkinson from the east, crossing Line Brook Road. The wetland then flows south under East Road, along Bryant Woods Drive, and behind Bayberry Drive, heading under a railroad trestle as it exits the Town of Atkinson to the south. This wetland comes from several wetland fingers that finally develop into a brook that is held back by a large beaver dam (approximately 50 feet long) that spills into a cobble bottom stream course running under the railroad trestle. This wetland has several distinct features. In the south near the beaver dam there is a large span of open water with emergent vegetation along the borders.

Moving upstream, the wetland spreads into narrow swales that extend westward across Bryant Woods Drive. The southernmost stream is held back in one section by an earthen dam approximately 1400 feet from where the swale empties into the main section of Bryant Brook. This dam is approximately 100 feet long. This section of the swale continues to Little Rob Road.

The second swale heads more northwest from Bryant Brook and also extends across Bryant Woods Road. Passing through three culverts it becomes an area that has recently been disturbed by at least three months of continuous draining (as reported by a local resident). The area that had been



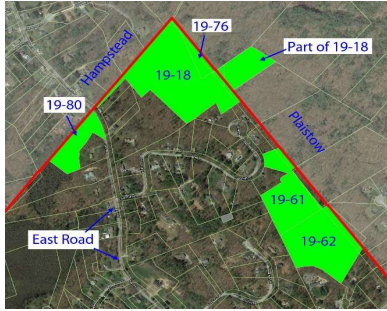
## Appendix B, Ecological Descriptions of Atkinson's Prime Wetlands

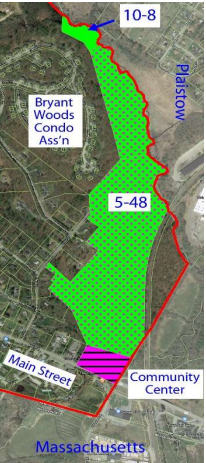
drained also had some filling and much of the vegetation had been completely removed. Shrubs and trees were cut down, leaving sticks, branches, and wood chips. Though drained, the area remained a wetland with the hydrology still evident.

Moving northward, the wetland becomes a forested pit and mound wetland extending out into an overgrown field along East Road. The wetland passes under a bridge under East Road. On the east side of East Road is a dry hydrant. The wetland continues northward along East Road and then behind some residences and across the town line. There was evidence of dumping of yard debris behind the residences along East Road. The predominant fill was lawn clippings, branches, and vegetative debris.

The Chambers/Fila Town Forest

	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
	<a href="#">Locus</a>									
1	<a href="#">(click image to enlarge)</a>									
1	19-18	23.400	1 Chambers/Fila Town Forest	4/3/1978	<a href="#">2308-0935</a>	<a href="#">C-7728</a>	<a href="#">TF STM 1978-9</a>		<a href="#">33-00295</a>	17.05 +- acres in Atkinson, 6.35 +- acres in Plaisrow
2	19-61	1.460	1 Crown Hill Land	1/12/1977	<a href="#">2273-1956</a>	<a href="#">B-6691</a>	<a href="#">TF STM 1978-9</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00295</a>	
3	Combined with 19-61	5.900	1 Noyes Rock Shelter	4/20/1976	<a href="#">2258-0461</a>	<a href="#">C-6060</a>	<a href="#">TF STM 1978-9</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00295</a>	Originally intended to be a wildflower preserve
4	19-62	12.000	1 "Hansen Town Forest"	10/30/1998	<a href="#">3339-1214</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 1999-27</a>	Deed		"Forest J. and Hazel M. Hanson Town Forest"
5	19-76	2.000	1 Backland of Chambers Fila TF	3/15/1980	<a href="#">2408-1703</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2014-28</a>	Landlocked		Tax sale
6	19-80	4.070	1 Balazak Lot	5/30/1989	<a href="#">2794-2303</a>	<a href="#">D-19182</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	Deed		Gift - Mostly wet



	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
<b>The Caroline Orr Town Forest</b>										
	<a href="#">Locus</a>									
	<a href="#">(click image to enlarge)</a>									
7		59.19	1	Orr Town Forest	8/1/1990	<a href="#">2847-0058</a>	<a href="#">D-20086</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1991-42</a>	<a href="#">Project Agreement</a>	Purchased from the Forest Society (SPNHF) using funds from the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP), and protected by a written agreement, now administered by the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives.
				Acquisition Warrant Articles -->	<a href="#">TM 1988-40 &amp; 41</a>					
8		2.000	1	Pettengil lot	7/1/2011	<a href="#">5226-0957</a>	<a href="#">D-27100</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2012-12</a>	Deed	Purchased for \$0,000 from the Conservation Fund

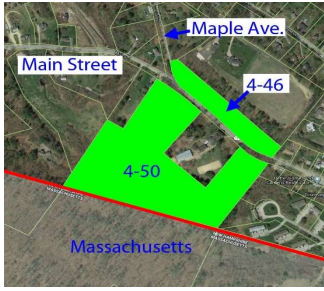
**Ruth McPherson Town Forest**

Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
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[Locus](#)

[\(click image to enlarge\)](#)

9



10

000004 000050 000000	24.355	1	McPherson West	6/29/1992	<a href="#">2933-0866</a>	<a href="#">D-21571</a>	<a href="#">TF STM 1992-6</a>	Deed	Town Annual Reports mention that both of these parcels were donated to the Town.
000004 000046 000000	4.2	1	McPherson East	7/28/1983	<a href="#">2456-1453</a>	<a href="#">C-11682</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	Deed	

**Sawyer Town Forest**

[\(click image to enlarge\)](#)

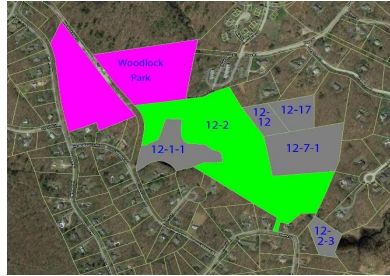


	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
11	4-11	20	1	4-H Field	10/27/1977	<a href="#">2298-1094</a>	<a href="#">D-7375</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2009-35</a>	<a href="#">Conservation easement deed 4889-2182 held by RCCD</a>	On 1/29/2008, a conservation easement was placed on this land as part of a deal to allow the Recreation Commission to use the Busby conservation land on East Road for playing fields.
				Acquisition Warrant Article -->	<a href="#">TM 1977-13</a>		Easement vote -->	<a href="#">TM 2007-27</a>		
12	4-11-1	48.38	1	Sawyer Town Forest	4/11/1978	<a href="#">2308-0940</a>	<a href="#">D-7375</a>	<a href="#">TF STM 1978-9</a>	Funding sources	<a href="#">33-00295</a> Purchased from SPNHF using Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Funds. LWCF project ID 3300295.
				Acquisition Warrant Article -->	<a href="#">TM 1977-13</a>					
13	3-19	57.87	1	Bonin Parcel	9/11/1980	<a href="#">2371-1434</a>	<a href="#">D-9716</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1983-19</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00363</a> Purchased with LWCF funds, restrictions in deed.
14	3-108	13.98	1	Cirome Parcel	6/1/1983	<a href="#">2454-1104</a>	<a href="#">D-11188</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1984-46</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00446</a>
15	3-31	1.11	1	12 JUNIPER LN	1/2/1997	<a href="#">3193-2410</a>	not found	<a href="#">TF TM 2014-28</a>	Gift	
				Acquisition Warrant Article -->	<a href="#">TM 1997-39</a>					
16	3-47	1.21	1	SLEEPY HOLLOW RD	1/2/1997	<a href="#">3193-2410</a>	not found	<a href="#">TF TM 2014-28</a>	Gift	
				Acquisition Warrant Article -->	<a href="#">TM 1997-39</a>					
17	4-47	4	1	Chooljian Parcel	2/4/2019	<a href="#">5978-1784</a>	<a href="#">sketch</a>	TF TM 2021-17	Landlocked and wet	Tax Sale

Arthur Bonin Donations -->

**Chadwick Town Forest**

[\(click image to enlarge\)](#)



Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
12-2	28.4	1	Chadwick TF	4/10/1978	<a href="#">2308-0938</a>	<a href="#">C-7727</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1981-25</a>	<a href="#">33-00295</a>	
merged with 12-2	0.17	1	Merrill Connector	8/5/1980	<a href="#">2369-0579</a>	<a href="#">C-9510</a>			Plan also shows access easement to 12-2-3
<b>Lewis Land Swap parcels:</b>									
				Land Swap Warrant Article -->	<a href="#">TM 1992-47</a>				
12-1-1	7	1	Hovey Meadow Pond	12/28/1992	<a href="#">2961-2963 Parcel 5</a>	<a href="#">C-7727</a>	TF TM 2021-17	Pond	Lewis Land Swap (Golf Course)
12-7-1	8.25	1		12/28/1992	<a href="#">2961-2963 Parcel 2</a>		TF TM 2021-17	Landlocked	Lewis Land Swap (Golf Course)
12-12	2.44	1		12/28/1992	<a href="#">2961-2963 Parcel 1</a>		TF TM 2021-17	Landlocked	Lewis Land Swap (Golf Course)
(1-4, 8.17 acres)	Previous deed		Land we gave Peter Lewis -->		<a href="#">2961-2966</a>	<a href="#">D-20507</a>			
			- contains conservation restriction -->		<a href="#">2848-2844</a>				
(3-121, 3 acres)			Land we gave Peter Lewis -->		<a href="#">1961-2970</a>				
12-2-3	1.805	1		11/28/1978	<a href="#">2355-1747</a>	<a href="#">B-7453</a>	TF TM 2021-17	Landlocked	Backland, mostly wet
			Deeded access to 12-2-3 -->		<a href="#">3897-2542</a>	<a href="#">C-10127</a>	This is the deed and plan for Map 12 Lot 7-2, over which we have access to 12-2-3		
12-17	2.6	1		7/12/1990	<a href="#">2844-0329</a>		TF TM 2021-17	Landlocked	Tax sale, Backland, adjacent to Chadwick TF
Total Acres -->		50.7	Added 2021:		22.1				

**Slade Town Forest**

(click image to enlarge)



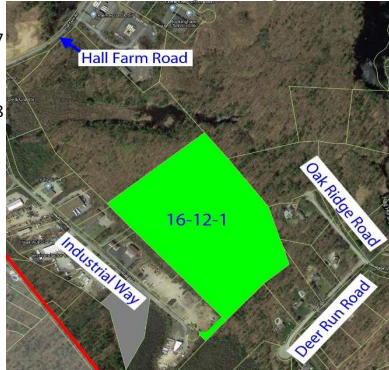
25

26

Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
<a href="#">Locus</a>									
12-8-1	11.664	1	Slade Town Forest	11/9/1979	<a href="#">2353-0761</a>	<a href="#">D-8322</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1981-25</a>		RSA 36-A not in deed
17-3-1 (was combined into 12-8-1 for a total acreage of 18.789)	7.125	1	Jane Jones Lot	11/29/2012	<a href="#">5382-1641</a>	<a href="#">D-37487</a>	Deed		

**Judge Marshall Town Forest**

(click image to enlarge)



	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
27	<a href="#">Locus</a> 16-12-1	31.62	1	Judge Marshall Town Forest	1/3/2000	<a href="#">3447-2489</a>	<a href="#">D-8554</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2014-28</a>	Deed	Conservation fund purchase
28	Merged with 16-12-1	0.42	1	Judge Marshall Access from Industrial Way	4/17/2015	<a href="#">5610-0001</a>	<a href="#">D-38754</a> <a href="#">page 1</a>		Deed	Lot line adjustment - no cost to Town
						<a href="#">Consolidation</a> (not filed)				



	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
<b>Sawmill Town Forest</b>										
	<a href="#">Locus</a>									
29	(click image to enlarge)									
										
	18-77	17.43	1	Feuer Land	4/25/1985	<a href="#">2542-1320</a>	<a href="#">C-10652</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1986-51</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00502</a>
30	18-78	45.74	1	Feuer Land	4/25/1985	<a href="#">2542-1320</a>	<a href="#">D-12209</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1986-51</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00502</a>
31	18-86	4	1		12/28/1992	<a href="#">2961-2963</a>	<a href="#">D-12209</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	landlocked swamp land	"Parcel 4" of a 6-parcel sale to the Town by Lewis Builders
32	18-65	7	1		12/28/1992	<a href="#">2961-2963</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	landlocked swamp land	"Parcel 3" of a 6-parcel sale to the Town by Lewis Builders
33	18-41	7.2	1		3/26/1979	<a href="#">2345-1179</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	landlocked swamp land	Tax sale: \$36.62
34	18-82	4.04	1		5/28/1999	<a href="#">3418-0798</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	Deed	18-82 and 18-84 were purchased from Steven Lewis for \$8,600 in 1999.
35	18-83	3.85	1		6/7/1977	<a href="#">2285-0147</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 1986-51</a>	Deed	
36	18-84	2.78	1		4/30/1999	<a href="#">3418-0798</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	Deed	
37	Total size (acres) 94.3									
	18-85	2.26	1		2/7/2007	<a href="#">4764-0297</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	Deed	
38	<b>Two nearby conservation parcels (not Town Forest)</b>									
	18-58	0.35	1		5/8/1984	<a href="#">2489-1754</a>		n/a	Deed	Newbury Drive backland
39	18-109	7.7	1		4/15/1999	<a href="#">3446-2824</a>	<a href="#">D-24190</a>	n/a	Cluster devel. open space	Swamp land east of Maple culvert - "odd ball" - dedicated open space for Dearborne Ridge, but owned by the town.

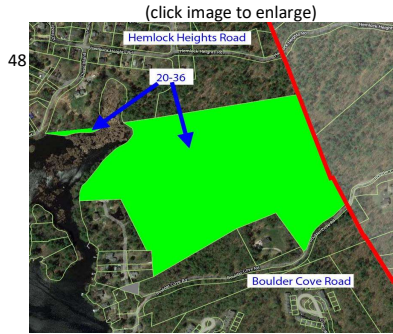
	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
	<a href="#">Locus</a>									
40	20-35	24.3	Stickney TF	8/4/1982	<a href="#">2419-1310</a>	<a href="#">D-10381-1</a> <a href="#">D-10381-2</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1983-19</a>	Deed	<a href="#">33-00436</a>	
41	20-15-1	3.4	Downing Parcel (north of 111)	3/25/1983	<a href="#">2439-1524</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 1984-46</a>	Deed		Part of Route 111 relocation
42	20-13-1	3.91	Lakeside Drive Parcel	4/1/1970	<a href="#">2168-0408</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 2021 17</a>	See LWCF <a href="#">33-00436</a> <a href="#">page 8 of 22</a>		Tax sale - Current tax map shows this as "conservation" land because the application for LWCF funds to purchase the Stickney land pledged to leave this parcel forever as open land.
43	20-15	0.6	Downing Parcel (south of 111)	4/28/1982	<a href="#">2412-0901</a>		<a href="#">TF TM 1984-46</a>	Deed		Part of Route 111 relocation
44	20-23	0.3	Waters Edge parcels	2/7/1994	<a href="#">4157-0389</a>			Deed		"charitable gift" of Charles Warren Stickney (a sliver of land)
45	20-31	1.5	Waters Edge parcels	2/7/1994	<a href="#">4157-0389</a>			Deed		"charitable gift" of Charles Warren Stickney
<b>Total for these parcels inside of box:</b>		<b>34.01</b>								
46	23-40	0.27	Canoe/Kayak Launch	8/4/1982	<a href="#">2419-1309</a>	<a href="#">D-10381-1</a>		Deed		
47	23-91	0.161		4/17/1991	<a href="#">2872-1633</a>	<a href="#">D-10381-2</a>		Deed		"charitable gift" of Walter E. Stickney, Jr.

**Stickney Town Forest**

(click image to enlarge)






**Ruth Marshall Town Forest**



Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	LWCF Project ID	Notes
<a href="#">Locus</a> 20-36	35.17	1 Ruth Marshall TF Bargain Sale documentation -->	12/19/1979	<a href="#">2356-0667</a> <a href="#">Waiver</a>	<a href="#">D-8321</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 1981-25</a>	Deed  <a href="#">LWCF Agreement</a>	<b>33-00363</b>	LWCF Project #33-00363  <a href="#">1995 Stone Walls</a> <a href="#">1985 Self-Guided Nature Walk</a>
20-37-1	9	1 Susan Beckhorn parcel							

**Other Conservation Lands**

	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Acquired	Deed	Plan	TF Vote	Protection Method	Notes	
49	<p>(click image to enlarge)</p>  <p><a href="#">Locus</a> 2-53</p>	10.2	1	Brushwood Drive parcel	9/24/2003	<a href="#">4157-0395</a>	<a href="#">D-24087</a>	<a href="#">TF TM 2013-7</a>	Deed	Deed: "Charitable Gift"
50	<p>(click image to enlarge)</p>  <p><a href="#">Locus</a> 15-27</p>	10.03	1	Collins Park  Recreation Deed Addendum --> <a href="#">4882-0099</a>	6/2/2006	<a href="#">4663-0950</a>	<a href="#">D-33598</a>	no	Deed	Former Busby land - Bargain Sale
51	<p>(click image to enlarge)</p>  <p><a href="#">Locus</a> 16-19</p>	1.7	1	Conley Road Parcel	9/21/1998	<a href="#">3327-0233</a>	<a href="#">D-7640</a>	no	Deed	Tax card says "gift"

1

**Wright Farm**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
13-94	from tax card 43.09	none on plan 0	condo	5/10/1985				<a href="#">D-15364</a> <a href="#">D-16496</a> <a href="#">D-17064</a> <a href="#">D-20894</a> <a href="#">D-25309</a>

2

## The Commons

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
17-86	111.34	67.84	Condo	7/26/1986				<a href="#">D-24235</a>
							Earlier (1986) plan showing open space -->	<a href="#">D-15148</a>

The Town owns a .5 acre parcel, Map 17 Lot 26-3, which was "7.5%" land from a 1977 subdivision



Deed to our land: --> [2273-0083](#)  
 Plan showing our land and the right-of-way --> [C-6531](#)  
 Current deed to Map 17 Lot 26 showing our right-of-way --> [5661-2459](#)

3

**Waterwheel Estates**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



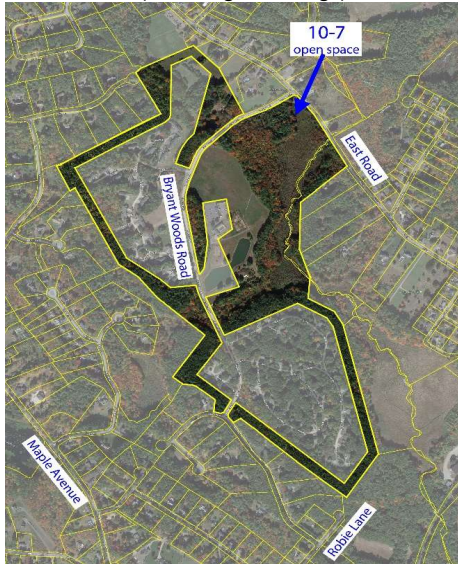
Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
21-1	40.88	30.00	Condo	6/10/1987				<a href="#">D-16536</a>

4

## Bryant Woods

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Open Space Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
10-7	170.23	85.13	Condo	(see D-18275) 7/13/1988				<a href="#">D-18275</a>
(see D-18275)								
							D-17458 sheet 3 -->	<a href="#">Approval</a>
							D-17458 sheet 3 -->	<a href="#">Notes</a>
							D-17458 sheet 3 -->	<a href="#">Open Space</a>

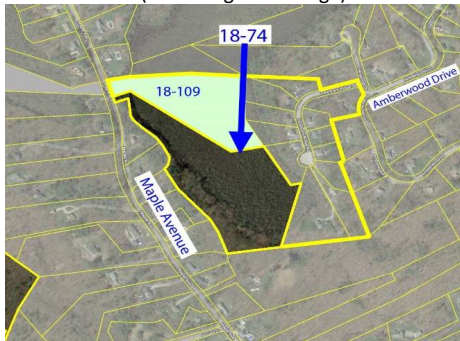


5

**Dearborn Ridge**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
18-74	36.622	14.596	RRC* with low/moderate income housing	7/19/1995				<a href="#">D-24190</a>
18-109	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Acreage for 18-109 is listed under town-owned conservation land. 18-109 was donated to the Town of Atkinson by George T. Lemory on April 15, 1999. <a href="#">See 3446-2824</a> </div>							

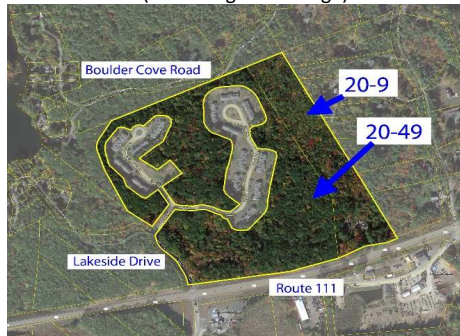
Notes from Sheet 1 of D-24190 --> [Notes](#)

6

### Atkinson Woods

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
20-9 and 49	52.85	43.49		(See D-25398) 10/18/1995			Condo Association	<a href="#">D-29903</a>
							Notes from plan -->	<a href="#">D-25398</a>

7

## Centerview Hollow

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



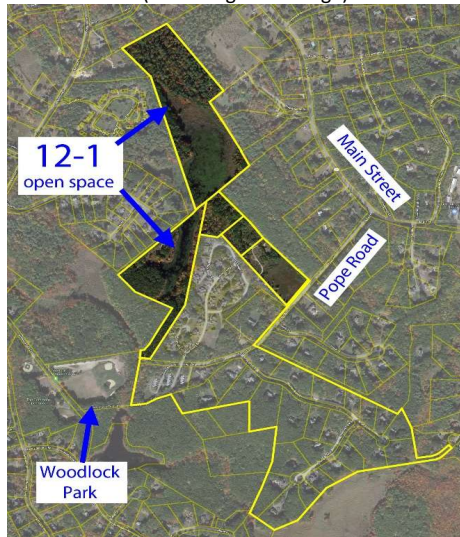
Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
13-96	115.22	47.94	Condo	7/2/1997				<a href="#">D-26674</a>
	(see D-26674 Notes)		with Low/Moderate income housing				Notes from D-26674 Sheet 2 -->	<a href="#">Notes</a>
							Land of Edna Wright, 1979 -->	<a href="#">D-9013</a>

8

## Settlers' Ridge

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
12-1	154.78	59.683	RRC*	8/20/1997			Homeowners Association	<a href="#">D-25866</a>
(see note about Community Open Space)								
with low/moderate income housing								
								Sheets 6 and 7 (of 30) showing open space --> <a href="#">D-25866-O</a>
								Sheets 12-15 (of 30) showing Estate Phase --> <a href="#">D-25866-E</a>

### Settlers' Ridge Open Space:

32.2380	Parcel "A" (Stewart Farm Pond Prime Wetland)
6.1963	Dedicated Active Agricultural Open Space - closer to Pope Road
2.6569	Community Garden Open Space
3.6579	Dedicated Agricultural Open Space - closer to Stewart Farm Pond
14.9336	Wildlife Protected Open Space
4.2206	0
	Common Open Space (Community Center Building)
	<b>59.6827 Total</b>
With Common Open Space -->	63.9033

Page from D-25866 showing a trail easement --> [Easement Report](#)

Notes page from D-25866 --> [Notes](#)

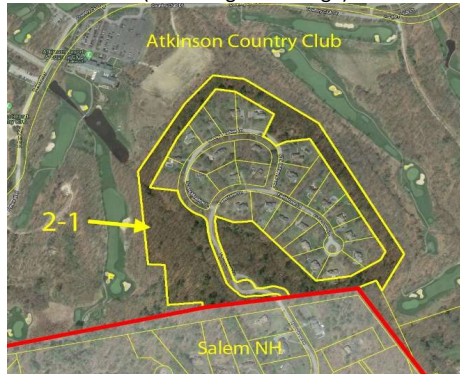
9

**Fieldstone Village**

[Locus](#)

Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Final Plan Approved	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		

(click image to enlarge)

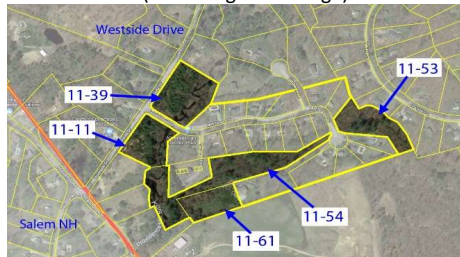


2-1	56.04	28.14	Rural Residential	1/14/1998		2378-1520	Homeowners Association	<a href="#">D-26216</a>
								Backland Lotline Adjustment --> <a href="#">D-20508</a>

10 **Millstream Crossing**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Cons. Deed Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
11-11		2.7676						
11-39		3.2592						
11-53		2.2221						
11-54		5.8839						
11-61	38.34	2.3724		4/27/1998	(conservation easement) <a href="#">3290-0058</a>		Atkinson Conservation Commission	<a href="#">D-26231</a>

Notes from D-26231 sheet 2 --> [Noes](#)

Total conserved acres --> 16.505  
 (sum of open space numbers above)  
 Percent of total conserved --> 43.05%

11 **Carriage Chase Estates**

[Locus](#)

Size (acres)	
Entire Development	Open Space

Type of Cluster

Plan Approved Date

Protection Method	
Deed	Condo Doc

Stewardship

(click image to enlarge)



9-16-62	43.24	17.21	Low/Moderate Income Housing	7/28/1999	(wellhead protection easement) <a href="#">3424-2077</a>	Walnut Ridge Water Company (HAWC)	<a href="#">D-27356</a>
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Notes from sheet 1 of D-27356 --> [Notes](#)

12

**Jesse Page Estates**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
13-22	52.845	26.552		(See D-27547) 8/18/1999				<a href="#">D-27547</a>
							Notes from D-27547 -->	<a href="#">Notes</a>



13

### Cogswell Farm

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Conserv. Deed Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
13-1-1	56.32	18.33		5/15/2000	<a href="#">3475-0137</a>		Atkinson Conservation Commission	<a href="#">D-28056</a>
13-1-2		10.65		5/15/2000			Homeowners Association	
				Percent conserved -->	51.5%			
								Notes on D-28056 sheet 1 --> <a href="#">Notes</a>

14

**Ashford Lane**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Final Plan Approved	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
17-29-7	20.44	11.3	Single Family Cluster Condominium	10/3/2001	None found	None found		<a href="#">D-29303</a>
							Plan Notes -->	<a href="#">D-29303</a>

15 **Eldon Way - Birchwood**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
7-139	12.84	6.34	Condo with Low/Moderate Income Housing	5/15/2002				<a href="#">D-30307</a>
							Site Plan with notes -->	<a href="#">D-29836</a>

16 **Jameson Ridge - Winslow Drive**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Cons. Easement Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
13-29	67.85	36.26		7/15/2004	<a href="#">4329-1486</a>		Atkinson Conservation Commission	<a href="#">D-31787</a>
								Trail Easement from Woodlawn Avenue to Sawmill land, Map 18 Lot 77 --> <a href="#">4329-1500</a> Trail Easement shown on plan --> <a href="#">D-31787</a>
								Emergency Access Easement (not accepted by the Town, and was apparently cancelled) --> <a href="#">4329-1502</a> Cemetery Fence Easement --> <a href="#">4329-1504</a> Deed to the land --> <a href="#">4329-1524</a> Restrictive Covenants --> <a href="#">4424-2076</a>

17

**Little River**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Cons. Deed Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
9-33	15.6	7.9		5/13/2005	<a href="#">4481-2524</a>	n/a	Atkinson Conservation Commission	<a href="#">D-32359</a>
			Percent area conserved -->	0.51				

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**Sawmill Ridge**

[Locus](#)

(click map to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	As-built Plan Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
17-54	110.88	60.06		12/29/2016			(merged 3 sheets)	<a href="#">D-39914</a>
								Plan D-39914 --> <a href="#">Sheet 1</a>
								Plan D-39914 --> <a href="#">Sheet 2</a>
								Plan D-39914 --> <a href="#">Sheet 3</a>
								Deeded trail easement between conservation land and Hampstead --> <a href="#">5652-0870</a>

**Page Farm**

[Locus](#)

(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
13-26 etc	87.17	59		11/29/2017		Open Space Plan - 60 units -->		<a href="#">D-40536</a>

See Amended Open Space Pain

67-unit Open Space:



Amended Open Space Plan - 67 Units - not yet filed --> [67-units](#)

**Heritage Estates**

[Locus](#)

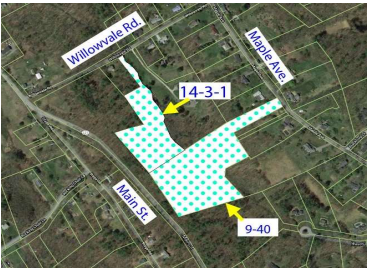
(click image to enlarge)



Map and Lot	Size (acres)		Type of Cluster	Plan Approved Date	Protection Method		Stewardship	Plan
	Entire Development	Open Space			Deed	Condo Doc		
4-16	26.4	14.05	Single Family Rural Cluster Residential	10/4/2019				<a href="#">D-41771</a>
							Cover sheet and notes from D-41771 -->	<a href="#">Sheet 1</a>



Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Easement Established	Easement Deed	Easement Grantor	Easement Holder (Grantee)	Executory Interest	Land Deed	Land Plan	Notes
<p><b>Williams &amp; French</b></p> <p>(click image to enlarge)</p> 	<a href="#">Locus</a> 22-1	Williams #4	Donated 2/22/1982	<a href="#">2409-0434</a>	Walworth B. & Mary Louise Williams	Cons Comm	SPNHF	<a href="#">5016-1849</a> <a href="#">Parcel Four,</a> <a href="#">Tract 2</a>	<a href="#">Sketch</a>	Current Owner: Susan V. Beckhorn (daughter of Walworth and Mary Louise Williams). <b>Easement says land must be open to public access.</b>
			Current Use Application -->	<a href="#">CU App</a>	(Does not take the 20% recreational discount)					
	22-120	0.37	Williams #4	See above	See above	See above	Cons Comm	SPNHF	See above	<a href="#">C-2327</a>
<a href="#">Locus</a> 22-121	7	French Easement	12/27/1978	<a href="#">2364-1531</a>	Robert French	SPNHF	NH Audubon	2316-0918		Current owner: Meadoesend Timberlands, LLC. <b>Easement does not mention public access rights or restrictions.</b>
			Current Use Application -->	(Tax card mentions recreational discount)						

	Parcel ID (Map & Lot)	Size (Acres)	Common Name	Date Easement Filed	Easement Deed	Easement Grantor	Easement Holder (Grantee)	Executory Interest	Land Deeds	Land Plan	Notes
<b>Betorney - Kutzelman</b> 4 (click image to enlarge)	<a href="#">Locus</a> 14-3-1	4.71	Betorney Easement	2/14/2006	<a href="#">4617-2815</a>	Harven and Rita Betournay	Atkinson Cons Comm	n/a		<a href="#">D-33502</a>	
				6/6/2006					<a href="#">4664-1908</a> <a href="#">Betorney to Mullett</a>		"Subject to a conservation easement..."
	<a href="#">Locus</a> 14-3-1		Mullett Easement	9/13/2007	<a href="#">4842-2378</a>	Lorraine Mullett Family Trust	Atkinson Cons Comm	n/a			The easement was re-done for some reason
				11/28/2007					<a href="#">4865-1496</a> <a href="#">Mullett to Mullett</a>	<a href="#">D-35011</a>	Reference to the Conservation Easement was removed from the land deed.  Subdivision of 14-3-1 was approved by the PlanningBoard on 9/21/2007
				7/21/2016					<a href="#">5735-1106</a> <a href="#">Mullett to Macedo</a>		
	6	9-40	9.73	Kutzelman Easement	11/13/2018	<a href="#">5960-2756</a>	George & Lyn Kutzelman	Atkinson Cons Comm	n/a	<a href="#">5962-0797</a> <a href="#">Kutzelman to Lacourse</a>	<a href="#">2104</a>
									Kutzelman Tax Map -	<a href="#">Tax Map</a>	

Useful plan for monitoring of both easements --> [Monitoring Plan](#)

# APPENDIX C

## Additional Reference Material

**“Not everything that counts  
can be counted, and not  
everything that can be  
counted counts.”**

—Albert Einstein, physicist



### IN THIS APENDIX:

**Property Tax Rate Analysis**  
**Buffers and Setbacks Demystified**  
**Available Sources of Grant Funding**

**Page C-3**  
**Page C-11**  
**Page C-13**



## PROPERTY TAX RATE ANALYSIS

Data sources for these Tax Rate Tables are:

Population: <https://www.nh.gov/osi/data-center/population-estimates.htm>

Tax rates: <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/municipal/documents/19-tax-rates.pdf>

### Tax Rates for NH Municipalities of Similar Size

Sorted by Tax Rate

Towns of similar population (6000 - 8000) are shaded in gray

Municipality	County	2019 population	2019 Tax Rate	Tax Rate State Rank
Wolfeboro	Carroll	6,312	\$15.84	34
Gilford	Belknap	7,255	\$15.86	35
Meredith	Belknap	6,420	\$15.89	37
Atkinson	Rockingham	7,115	\$17.67	49
Stratham	Rockingham	7,559	\$18.63	56
Plaistow	Rockingham	7,749	\$21.31	80
Kingston	Rockingham	6,240	\$22.00	92
Farmington	Strafford	6,883	\$22.24	95
Hollis	Hillsborough	7,962	\$23.10	112
Pembroke	Merrimack	7,093	\$23.58	122
Belmont	Belknap	7,353	\$25.01	146
Swanzy	Cheshire	7,398	\$25.76	154
Bow	Merrimack	7,903	\$26.21	160
Sandown	Rockingham	6,473	\$26.96	173
Epping	Rockingham	7,031	\$27.70	184
Rindge	Cheshire	6,244	\$27.76	185
Plymouth	Grafton	6,911	\$28.19	196
Peterborough	Hillsborough	6,716	\$29.75	204
Newport	Sullivan	6,480	\$32.53	223

## Tax Rate for Rockingham County Municipalities

Sorted by Tax Rate

Towns of similar population (6000 - 8000) are shaded in gray

Municipality	County	2019 population	2019 Tax Rate	Tax Rate State Rank	Tax Rate County Rank
New Castle	Rockingham	968	\$6.19	2	1
Newington	Rockingham	800	\$9.34	5	2
Rye	Rockingham	5,479	\$10.22	9	3
Portsmouth	Rockingham	22,206	\$14.86	28	4
Seabrook	Rockingham	8,904	\$15.75	33	5
Hampton	Rockingham	15,207	\$16.01	40	6
Greenland	Rockingham	4,146	\$16.40	41	7
North Hampton	Rockingham	4,582	\$16.70	43	8
<b>Atkinson</b>	<b>Rockingham</b>	<b>7,115</b>	<b>\$17.67</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>9</b>
South Hampton	Rockingham	826	\$17.85	51	10
Candia	Rockingham	3,967	\$18.60	55	11
Stratham	Rockingham	7,559	\$18.63	56	12
Auburn	Rockingham	5,653	\$18.81	58	13
Londonderry	Rockingham	26,266	\$19.39	64	14
Kensington	Rockingham	2,146	\$19.46	66	15
Newfields	Rockingham	1,723	\$20.59	74	16
Chester	Rockingham	5,298	\$20.80	76	17
Hampstead	Rockingham	8,741	\$20.99	79	18
Plaistow	Rockingham	7,749	\$21.31	80	19
Salem	Rockingham	29,957	\$21.98	89	20
Kingston	Rockingham	6,240	\$22.00	92	21
Hampton Falls	Rockingham	2,428	\$22.11	93	22
Nottingham	Rockingham	5,144	\$22.50	100	23
East Kingston	Rockingham	2,424	\$22.52	101	24
Northwood	Rockingham	4,300	\$22.52	102	25
Windham	Rockingham	14,792	\$22.55	103	26
Deerfield	Rockingham	4,659	\$23.11	114	27
Exeter	Rockingham	15,382	\$23.27	118	28
Newmarket	Rockingham	9,460	\$24.26	138	29
Derry	Rockingham	33,249	\$26.12	159	30
Newton	Rockingham	4,967	\$26.38	163	31
Raymond	Rockingham	10,489	\$26.59	166	32
Sandown	Rockingham	6,473	\$26.96	173	33
Brentwood	Rockingham	4,610	\$27.70	183	34
Epping	Rockingham	7,031	\$27.70	184	35
Danville	Rockingham	4,553	\$28.06	194	36
Fremont	Rockingham	4,765	\$31.05	215	37

## Tax Rates for all NH Municipalities

Sorted by Tax Rate

Towns of similar population (6000 - 8000) are shaded in gray

Municipality	County	2019 population	2019 Tax Rate	Tax Rate State Rank
Hart's Location	Carroll	46	\$4.00	1
New Castle	Rockingham	968	\$6.19	2
Moultonborough	Carroll	4,129	\$7.15	3
Newington	Rockingham	800	\$9.34	5
Bartlett	Carroll	2,837	\$9.34	4
Hebron	Grafton	628	\$9.69	6
Bridgewater	Grafton	1,106	\$9.76	7
Tuftonboro	Carroll	2,423	\$10.11	8
Rye	Rockingham	5,479	\$10.22	9
Jackson	Carroll	849	\$11.26	10
Monroe	Grafton	813	\$11.34	11
Windsor	Hillsborough	222	\$11.81	12
Eaton	Carroll	418	\$12.05	13
Wakefield	Carroll	5,141	\$12.47	14
Alton	Belknap	5,361	\$12.51	15
Easton	Grafton	272	\$12.99	16
Holderness	Grafton	2,131	\$13.17	17
Errol	Coos	296	\$13.43	18
Freedom	Carroll	1,596	\$13.56	19
Albany	Carroll	753	\$13.97	20
Waterville Valley	Grafton	248	\$14.14	21
Dummer	Coos	304	\$14.16	22
Chatham	Carroll	344	\$14.20	23
Sandwich	Carroll	1,357	\$14.23	24
Lincoln	Grafton	1,748	\$14.58	25
New London	Merrimack	4,117	\$14.71	26
Randolph	Coos	308	\$14.80	27
Portsmouth	Rockingham	22,206	\$14.86	28
Stoddard	Cheshire	1,277	\$15.10	29
Center Harbor	Belknap	1,091	\$15.22	30
Shelburne	Coos	379	\$15.44	31
Clarksville	Coos	278	\$15.55	32
Seabrook	Rockingham	8,904	\$15.75	33
Wolfeboro	Carroll	6,312	\$15.84	34
Gilford	Belknap	7,255	\$15.86	35

Newbury	Merrimack	2,193	\$15.88	36
Meredith	Belknap	6,420	\$15.89	37
Sunapee	Sullivan	3,489	\$15.93	38
Pittsburg	Coos	888	\$16.00	39
Hampton	Rockingham	15,207	\$16.01	40
Greenland	Rockingham	4,146	\$16.40	41
Brookfield	Carroll	735	\$16.70	42
North Hampton	Rockingham	4,582	\$16.70	43
Groton	Grafton	610	\$16.83	44
Ossipee	Carroll	4,436	\$17.11	45
Nelson	Cheshire	737	\$17.25	46
Conway	Carroll	10,215	\$17.32	47
Harrisville	Cheshire	965	\$17.40	48
Benton	Grafton	377	\$17.67	50
<b>Atkinson</b>	<b>Rockingham</b>	<b>7,115</b>	<b>\$17.67</b>	<b>49</b>
South Hampton	Rockingham	826	\$17.85	51
Stark	Coos	573	\$18.07	52
Madison	Carroll	2,648	\$18.26	53
Hanover	Grafton	11,502	\$18.45	54
Candia	Rockingham	3,967	\$18.60	55
Stratham	Rockingham	7,559	\$18.63	56
Thornton	Grafton	2,611	\$18.68	57
Auburn	Rockingham	5,653	\$18.81	58
Columbia	Coos	779	\$18.92	59
Bedford	Hillsborough	23,011	\$18.95	60
Franconia	Grafton	1,132	\$18.98	61
Sanbornton	Belknap	3,005	\$19.22	62
New Hampton	Belknap	2,298	\$19.24	63
Londonderry	Rockingham	26,266	\$19.39	64
Pelham	Hillsborough	14,032	\$19.40	65
Kensington	Rockingham	2,146	\$19.46	66
Cornish	Sullivan	1,654	\$19.52	67
Croydon	Sullivan	778	\$19.56	68
Tilton	Belknap	3,673	\$19.61	69
Carroll	Coos	818	\$20.00	70
Sugar Hill	Grafton	583	\$20.07	71
Hudson	Hillsborough	25,514	\$20.28	72
Newfields	Rockingham	1,723	\$20.59	74
Laconia	Belknap	16,709	\$20.59	73
Ellsworth	Grafton	86	\$20.64	75
Chester	Rockingham	5,298	\$20.80	76



Washington	Sullivan	1,143	\$20.84	77
Dorchester	Grafton	362	\$20.88	78
Hampstead	Rockingham	8,741	\$20.99	79
Plaistow	Rockingham	7,749	\$21.31	80
Bath	Grafton	1,114	\$21.40	81
Tamworth	Carroll	2,918	\$21.54	82
Hooksett	Merrimack	14,650	\$21.55	83
Andover	Merrimack	2,372	\$21.64	84
Woodstock	Grafton	1,380	\$21.69	85
New Ipswich	Hillsborough	5,328	\$21.73	86
Nashua	Hillsborough	88,872	\$21.76	87
Webster	Merrimack	1,902	\$21.96	88
Salem	Rockingham	29,957	\$21.98	89
Jefferson	Coos	1,134	\$21.99	90
Springfield	Sullivan	1,344	\$21.99	91
Kingston	Rockingham	6,240	\$22.00	92
Hampton Falls	Rockingham	2,428	\$22.11	93
Sharon	Hillsborough	360	\$22.12	94
Farmington	Strafford	6,883	\$22.24	95
Sullivan	Cheshire	699	\$22.25	96
Chesterfield	Cheshire	3,705	\$22.32	97
Landaff	Grafton	424	\$22.47	99
Franklin	Merrimack	8,714	\$22.47	98
Nottingham	Rockingham	5,144	\$22.50	100
East Kingston	Rockingham	2,424	\$22.52	101
Northwood	Rockingham	4,300	\$22.52	102
Windham	Rockingham	14,792	\$22.55	103
Temple	Hillsborough	1,404	\$22.58	104
Rollinsford	Strafford	2,579	\$22.61	105
Barrington	Strafford	9,123	\$22.67	106
Gilmanton	Belknap	3,809	\$22.79	107
Bristol	Grafton	3,124	\$22.80	108
Barnstead	Belknap	4,740	\$22.83	109
Rumney	Grafton	1,498	\$22.94	110
Loudon	Merrimack	5,684	\$22.98	111
Littleton	Grafton	5,939	\$23.10	113
Hollis	Hillsborough	7,962	\$23.10	112
Deerfield	Rockingham	4,659	\$23.11	114
Salisbury	Merrimack	1,424	\$23.14	115
Campton	Grafton	3,405	\$23.21	116
Wentworth	Grafton	925	\$23.22	117

Exeter	Rockingham	15,382	\$23.27	118
Chichester	Merrimack	2,630	\$23.40	119
Strafford	Strafford	4,179	\$23.47	120
Milton	Strafford	4,617	\$23.56	121
Stewartstown	Coos	1,040	\$23.58	123
Pembroke	Merrimack	7,093	\$23.58	122
Litchfield	Hillsborough	8,634	\$23.65	124
Milan	Coos	1,345	\$23.69	125
Weare	Hillsborough	8,951	\$23.71	126
New Durham	Strafford	2,641	\$23.72	127
Warren	Grafton	930	\$23.77	128
Northfield	Merrimack	4,884	\$23.80	129
Dalton	Coos	1,001	\$23.86	130
Danbury	Merrimack	1,199	\$24.00	131
Alexandria	Grafton	1,651	\$24.04	132
Whitefield	Coos	2,379	\$24.04	133
Lyman	Grafton	548	\$24.13	134
Merrimack	Hillsborough	26,237	\$24.13	135
Francetown	Hillsborough	1,585	\$24.17	136
Richmond	Cheshire	1,179	\$24.19	137
Newmarket	Rockingham	9,460	\$24.26	138
Manchester	Hillsborough	110,712	\$24.32	139
Wilmot	Merrimack	1,383	\$24.49	140
Goffstown	Hillsborough	17,938	\$24.58	141
Hancock	Hillsborough	1,665	\$24.60	142
Dublin	Cheshire	1,593	\$24.63	143
Lancaster	Coos	3,542	\$24.90	144
Rochester	Strafford	30,992	\$24.90	145
Belmont	Belknap	7,353	\$25.01	146
Enfield	Grafton	4,714	\$25.05	147
New Boston	Hillsborough	5,857	\$25.05	148
Dover	Strafford	31,795	\$25.19	149
Roxbury	Cheshire	224	\$25.28	150
Hill	Merrimack	1,102	\$25.41	151
Walpole	Cheshire	3,863	\$25.51	152
Stratford	Coos	768	\$25.74	153
Swanzey	Cheshire	7,398	\$25.76	154
Mont Vernon	Hillsborough	2,601	\$25.82	155
Grantham	Sullivan	3,044	\$25.86	156
Milford	Hillsborough	16,003	\$25.97	157
Plainfield	Sullivan	2,443	\$26.00	158

Derry	Rockingham	33,249	\$26.12	159
Bow	Merrimack	7,903	\$26.21	160
Mason	Hillsborough	1,428	\$26.24	161
Middleton	Strafford	1,812	\$26.28	162
Newton	Rockingham	4,967	\$26.38	163
Fitzwilliam	Cheshire	2,418	\$26.49	164
Piermont	Grafton	790	\$26.50	165
Raymond	Rockingham	10,489	\$26.59	166
Orange	Grafton	337	\$26.60	167
Bethlehem	Grafton	2,591	\$26.73	168
Westmoreland	Cheshire	1,748	\$26.85	169
Effingham	Carroll	1,498	\$26.90	170
Troy	Cheshire	2,140	\$26.95	171
Sandown	Rockingham	6,473	\$26.96	173
Amherst	Hillsborough	11,599	\$26.96	172
Antrim	Hillsborough	2,646	\$26.97	174
Epsom	Merrimack	4,787	\$27.09	175
Lyme	Grafton	1,729	\$27.19	176
Dunbarton	Merrimack	2,909	\$27.21	177
Greenfield	Hillsborough	1,777	\$27.27	178
Somersworth	Strafford	11,844	\$27.28	179
Lempster	Sullivan	1,184	\$27.31	180
Greenville	Hillsborough	2,079	\$27.39	181
Durham	Strafford	16,085	\$27.43	182
Brentwood	Rockingham	4,610	\$27.70	183
Epping	Rockingham	7,031	\$27.70	184
Rindge	Cheshire	6,244	\$27.76	185
Concord	Merrimack	42,982	\$27.78	186
Langdon	Sullivan	697	\$27.80	187
Alstead	Cheshire	1,961	\$27.85	188
Canterbury	Merrimack	2,404	\$27.87	189
Goshen	Sullivan	822	\$27.88	190
Bradford	Merrimack	1,690	\$27.91	191
Ashland	Grafton	2,099	\$27.95	192
Gilsum	Cheshire	826	\$28.01	193
Danville	Rockingham	4,553	\$28.06	194
Boscawen	Merrimack	4,049	\$28.12	195
Plymouth	Grafton	6,911	\$28.19	196
Unity	Sullivan	1,605	\$28.49	197
Surry	Cheshire	760	\$28.92	198
Bennington	Hillsborough	1,489	\$28.93	199

Wilton	Hillsborough	3,746	\$29.04	200
Acworth	Sullivan	907	\$29.07	201
Hopkinton	Merrimack	5,712	\$29.12	202
Lyndeborough	Hillsborough	1,727	\$29.14	203
Peterborough	Hillsborough	6,716	\$29.75	204
Madbury	Strafford	1,846	\$29.86	205
Brookline	Hillsborough	5,387	\$29.87	206
Warner	Merrimack	2,915	\$29.96	207
Orford	Grafton	1,258	\$29.98	208
Sutton	Merrimack	1,881	\$30.09	209
Colebrook	Coos	2,323	\$30.13	210
Haverhill	Grafton	4,663	\$30.30	211
Lebanon	Grafton	14,079	\$30.37	212
Deering	Hillsborough	1,939	\$30.62	213
Lisbon	Grafton	1,688	\$30.67	214
Fremont	Rockingham	4,765	\$31.05	215
Allenstown	Merrimack	4,368	\$31.10	216
Marlborough	Cheshire	2,143	\$31.47	217
Lee	Strafford	4,483	\$31.49	218
Hillsborough	Hillsborough	5,992	\$31.56	219
Grafton	Grafton	1,371	\$31.77	220
Marlow	Cheshire	748	\$31.92	221
Northumberland	Coos	2,251	\$32.44	222
Newport	Sullivan	6,480	\$32.53	223
Pittsfield	Merrimack	4,096	\$32.86	224
Canaan	Grafton	3,987	\$32.93	225
Gorham	Coos	2,819	\$33.77	226
Hinsdale	Cheshire	4,058	\$34.07	227
Jaffrey	Cheshire	5,424	\$34.80	228
Henniker	Merrimack	4,922	\$35.34	229
Winchester	Cheshire	4,349	\$35.64	230
Keene	Cheshire	23,429	\$37.60	231
Charlestown	Sullivan	5,154	\$39.11	232
Berlin	Coos	10,167	\$39.82	233
Claremont	Sullivan	13,246	\$40.26	234

## BUFFERS AND SETBACKS DEMYSTIFIED

### Buffers:

Implementation of water quality buffers provides a comprehensive approach to protecting the quality and availability of New Hampshire’s drinking water resources, surface waters, groundwater, and riparian habitats. Protection is often focused on tailoring approaches based on site specific conditions, land use best management practices, and the best available science.

Water quality buffer programs are accomplished most often through one or more of the following approaches:

- Local water resource protection and conservation that engages community stakeholders and water users, and promotes best practices in water management, investments in protective measures, and sound land use planning and policies;
- Land use regulation and management focused on pollution prevention best practices by limiting development and impervious surfaces in drinking water supply watersheds;
- Land conservation practices focused on protecting source waters and their contributing drainage and recharge areas; and
- Applying best available science on water quality protection, drought, climate change, water conservation, water resource, and demand management.

Water quality buffers are adopted for the purpose of protecting municipal, public, and private drinking water sources, surface waters, and groundwater resources. Water quality buffer standards are adopted to achieve the following goals:

- A. Preventing the destruction of, or significant environmental changes to, drinking water sources, surface and groundwater resources, and wetlands.
- B. Protecting the continuation of natural flow patterns and hydrology of surface waters, streams and other water courses, and wetlands, including maintenance of groundwater recharge and stream flow during dry periods.
- C. Providing for nutrient attenuation and prevention of nonpoint source pollution from stormwater runoff.
- D. Preventing erosion and excess sedimentation from entering drinking water sources, surface water resources, and their associated wetlands.
- E. Preserving and protecting important wildlife habitat, and maintaining ecological services that protect water quality.
- F. Preventing the expenditure of municipal funds for the purpose of providing and/or maintaining essential drinking water-related services and utilities, which otherwise might be required as a result of abuse or inharmonious use of water resources.
- G. Protecting wetlands, watercourses, surface and groundwater supplies, and waterbodies from degradation of their functions.

**Setbacks:**

Setbacks are designed to separate structures - most commonly permanent buildings served by septic - from a sensitive resource such as wetlands or surface waters. Unlike the “no disturb” natural state of a buffer, the setback area is typically *not* a “no disturb” area. In many instances, setback regulations only require that a certain distance be maintained between structures and a wetland or surface water, and such regulations typically allow land disturbance and alteration within the setback area. Anything not identified as a “structure” in the zoning ordinance or land development regulations, including permanent uses such as parking areas and stormwater management infrastructure, are often permitted within the setback area. This level of alteration and introduction of impervious surfaces can significantly reduce or eliminate water quality protection and habitat functions in the setback area.

**Hybrid Options:**

From a water quality and habitat protection perspective, a smaller buffer is often more protective than a larger setback. Keeping a portion of a setback area in a natural state would allow it to continue to perform water quality protection functions, which, in turn, would greatly enhance the setback’s water quality protection capabilities, even if only for the first 25-30 feet from the resource.

Other alternatives include implementation of green infrastructure practices (practices that mimic or replace natural landscape functions), such as replacing standard pavement with porous pavement or pavers. Another example would be to utilize “constructed wetlands” (also called *bioretention areas*) in a project’s design, which would serve as stormwater management infrastructure that maintains natural vegetation and wildlife and aquatic habitats through the restoration of natural landscapes.

## SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR LAND CONSERVATION

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)** – Administered by the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) has two components:

- Agricultural Land Easements – Conservation easements that limit non-agricultural uses on cropland, pastureland, grassland, and nonindustrial forest land on working farms. **Local government and private landowners eligible.**
- Wetlands Reserve Easements – Conservation easements designed to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands which have been previously degraded due to agricultural uses. **Private landowners eligible.**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/>

**Application Deadline:** Application batching periods typically mid-January and mid-May.

**Funding:** Varies, with New Hampshire receiving between \$4 million to \$8 million annually.

**Contact:** NH NRCS State Office:

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?service=page/ServiceCenterSummary&stateCode=33&cnty=015>

**Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund** – Administered by the NH Department of Environmental Services. Grant funds are available to support conservation activities that are ecologically important and will effectively sustain aquatic resource functions in the watershed for the long term. Activities include protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetlands and streams through acquisition of land, conservation easements on land, removing fill, removing invasive species, restoring wetland hydrology, and more. Funds are pooled according to nine watersheds, called Service Areas. Atkinson is within the Merrimack River Service Area.

**Eligible Applicants** include local and county government, watershed associations, school districts, and nonprofit organizations.

**Application Deadline:** NHDES typically releases a request for pre-proposals in early February, with a pre-proposal submission deadline at the end of May. If selected to submit a full application, that deadline is typically the end of August.

**Funding:** Funding amounts vary, with \$2 million available in 2021.

**Contact:** NH DES: <https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/aquatic-resource-mitigation-fund>

**Community Forest Program** – Administered by US Forest Service. Provides grant funds to acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits, including economic benefits through active forest management, clean water, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and public access for recreation. Full fee title acquisition is required; conservation easements are not eligible. The program pays up to 50% of the projects costs and

requires a 50% non-federal match. Public access is required. Lands acquired through the program are actively managed in accordance with a community forest plan.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest>

**Eligible Applicants** include local and county government and nonprofit organizations.

**Application Deadline:** Application typically due to NH State Forester in early January.

**Funding:** Funding amounts vary, with \$4 million available nationwide in 2021.

**Contact:** Eastern Region Manager: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/contact-us/community-forest-regional-coordinators>

**Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund** - Administered by the NH Department of Environmental Services. The Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund was established by the NH Legislature per NH RSA 485-F. The Fund provides loans, grants, and matching funds to municipalities, public and private water utilities, land trusts, and other non-profit conservation organizations for projects designed to protect, preserve, and enhance drinking water and groundwater resources in New Hampshire. Funding programs include:

- **Source Water Protection Grant Assistance Program** – Funds permanent protection of undeveloped water supply land, including wellhead protection areas, hydrologic areas of concern, and land that is likely to benefit future public water supply sources.  
**Eligible Applicants** include municipalities, public water systems, land trusts, and other conservation organizations.  
**Application Deadline:** Eligibility applications typically due mid-June. If the project is determined to be eligible the funding application is typically due in early September.  
**Funding:** Funding amounts vary, with \$2 million available statewide in 2021, with \$500,000 the maximum award.
- **Consolidated Study Assistance Program** – Funds available for small community water systems for identifying and evaluating the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of connecting to another community water system.  
**Eligible Applicants:** Community Water Systems serving up to 1,000 people, or nonprofit, non-transient, non-community water system (for example, public school)  
**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.  
**Funding:** \$200,00 available statewide in 2021; grant up to \$10,000 awarded.
- **Low-Income Residential Drought Assistance Program** – Funds for low-income qualifying homeowners experiencing drought-related loss of a safe, reliable source of drinking water at their primary residence. Program funds short-term relief (bottled water), well replacement, or connection to a community water supply.  
**Eligible Applicants:** Low-income households, determined by income criterion set by US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development guidelines.  
**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.  
**Funding:** Funding amounts vary, with \$1.5 million available in 2021.



- **Special Project Assistance Program** – Funds water supply construction projects that meet at least one of four circumstances – drinking water contamination, time critical, financial hardship, support economic growth.  
**Eligible Applicants:** Municipal and private water systems, cooperative neighborhood associations.  
**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round but must be time critical.  
**Funding:** Funds are available as loans and grants with \$1.4 million allocated in 2021.
- **Drinking Water Construction Project Assistance Program** – Funds projects that create drinking water infrastructure, improve water quality, increase the viability or longevity of existing drinking water infrastructure, and enable the State to meet present and future drinking water needs.  
**Eligible Applicants:** Municipal and private water systems.  
**Application Deadline:** Applications typically due early September  
**Funding:** Varies, with \$34 million available in 2021 across all the programs listed.

**Contact:** NH DES: [https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-dwg-trust/?page\\_id=98](https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-dwg-trust/?page_id=98)

**Fields Pond Foundation** – A private foundation that grants funds for trail making and other enhancement of public access to conservation lands, rivers, and other natural resources; land acquisition for conservation; assistance in establishment of stewardship as a component of a land protection projects; and directly related education programs and publications as components of a land protection project.

**Eligible Applicants:** Tax exempt nature and land conservation organizations.

**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.

**Funding:** Expected grant range of \$500 to \$10,000

**Contact:** Fields Pond Foundation: <http://fieldspond.org/index.htm>

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – Administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Fund provides matching grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local, county, and state government; school districts

**Application Deadline:** Intent to Apply Forms typically due the end of May.

**Funding:** Varies, with projects in NH typically awarded between \$25,000 - \$400,000.

**Contact:** NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources: <https://www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/community-recreation/land-water-conservation-fund-grant>

**National Park Services Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**- Administered by the National Park Service. Provides technical assistance (not funding) in support of projects that develop or restore parks, conservation areas, rivers, wildlife habitats, outdoor recreation opportunities, and programs that engage the public in the outdoors.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local, county, and state government, community groups, nonprofit organizations.

**Application Deadline:** Applications typically due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Funding:** Varies.

**Contact:** National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

**New England Environmental Grass Roots Fund (NEGEF)** – A non-profit foundation awarding grant funds designed to energize and nurture long term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe, and environmentally sustainable communities.

**Eligible Applicants:** Community organizations that are volunteer driven.

**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.

**Funding:** Varies, with range of \$500 -- \$4,000.

**Contact:** NEGEF: <https://grassrootsfund.org/>

**New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Community Grants Program** – The Foundation award unrestricted grants to support an organization’s general operations rather than a particular project. Focus areas include health and well-being, civic engagement, education, economic development, environmental protection, and arts and culture. Atkinson is included in the Foundation’s Manchester region.

**Eligible Applicants:** Tax exempt community organizations

**Application Deadline:** Concept papers typically due end of June, with full applications due early October.

**Funding:** \$30,000 - \$60,000 over three-year period.

**Contact:** New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: <https://www.nhcf.org/how-can-we-help-you/apply-for-a-grant/unrestricted-grant-program/>

**New Hampshire Fish and Game Small Grants Program** – Administered by NH Fish and Game Department. The program assists landowners who own a minimum of 25 contiguous acres restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. Funding is available for the creation and/or maintenance of wildlife habitat within the property. Projects that qualify include brush clearing or mowing to maintain grasslands and shrublands and maintenance of woodland openings. In exchange for the grant, landowners agree that their land will remain open for non-motorized public access activities, including hunting.

**Eligible Applicants:** Municipalities and private landowners.

**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.

**Funding:** Up to \$4,000.

**Contact:** NH Fish and Game: <https://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/habitat/small-grants.html>

**New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP)** – Established per NH RSA 227-M and administered by an independent state authority, the NH Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) provides matching grant funds to conserve and preserve New Hampshire’s most important natural, cultural, and historic resources.

**Eligible Applicants:** Municipalities and tax-exempt organizations.

**Application Deadline:** Intent to Apply form typically due mid-May with final proposals due mid-June.

**Funding:** Varies, with \$3.5 million available annually.

**Contact:** LCHIP: <https://www.lchip.org/index.php>

**Recreational Trails Program** – Administered by the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Provides grant funds for public trail projects, including maintenance and restoration of existing trails, purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment, construction of new trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities, and trail linkages.

**Eligible Applicants:** Municipalities and tax-exempt organizations.

**Application Deadline:** Typically end of May.

**Funding:** Varies, with a range of \$5,000 - \$110,000 in 2021.

**Contact:** NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources: <https://www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/trails-bureau/grants/recreational-trails-program>

**State Conservation Committee – “Moose Plate” Grants** – Administered by the NH State Conservation Committee. Grant funds are available for projects that support and promote programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state’s valuable natural resources.

**Eligible Applicants:** Municipalities, County Conservation Districts; County Cooperative Extension, Tax-exempt organizations, public and private schools, scout groups.

**Application Deadline:** Applications typically due early September.

**Funding:** Varies, with a range of \$8,000 - \$25,000 awarded in 2021.

**Contact:** State Conservation Committee for information:  
<https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/scc/grant-program.htm>

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) -**

Administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. CSP is a voluntary conservation program that provides landowners with financial and technical assistance to conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources. Enhancement activities include brush management to improve wildlife habitat and planting for pollinators and beneficial insects.

**Eligible Applicants:** Private landowners.

**Application Deadline:** Applications accepted year-round.

**Funding:** Varies.

**Contact:** NH NRCS State Office:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nh/programs/financial/csp/>