

EAST WINDHAM CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Version	Date	Author
1	June 2023	Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

Owner

Town of Windham

Name:

Barry A. Tibbets

Position:

Town Manager

Signature:

[Signature]

Date:

9/21/23

Conservation Easement Holder

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

Name:

Rachelle Ayre

Position:

Executive Director

Signature:

[Signature]

Date:

9/21/23

Goals for East Windham Conservation Area

Establish a preserve that permanently provides both a great place for the community to have four season recreation and wildlife habitat. The preserve will also provide space for outdoor education programs for the community, recreation department, and schools.

Project Boundaries

The East Windham Conservation Area is composed of approximately 700 acres and formerly the property owned by Morrell, BICS LLC, and Thompson. See the attached map for the specific parcels and locations.

Land Uses

ACTIVITIES ALLOWED

- Low impact passive recreation (walking, running, birding, snowshoeing, x-country skiing, dog walking, and mountain biking) throughout the trail network as well as fishing and picnicking along Little Duck Pond.
- High impact active recreation (snowmobile and ATVs) on designated trails only.
- Organized outdoor recreational activities and education events (provided that they maintain the conservation value of the land within the easement).
- Hunting and trapping within town and state regulations.

ACTIVITIES THAT NEED SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM THE TOWN OF WINDHAM PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR AND THE LAND TRUST

- Adding, closing, or changing any trail, signage, bridge or bench within the Preserve.
- Camping and fires for education and trail building purposes.
- Large educational or recreational events (50 people or more).
- Any event that charges a fee.

- Forest harvesting requires the town to have a forest management plan created by a licensed forester for the purpose of forest health and wildlife habitat value.

ACTIVITIES NOT ALLOWED

- Building structures, including tree stands, sheds, etc, except for recreational amenities such as trailhead parking, benches, outlooks, kiosks, and pit toilets as well as the potential construction of an observation tower in the future.
- Removing wood by the public for personal or commercial use.

Please see Baseline Report (Appendix C) for information on:

- Acquisition History
- Surrounding Area and Conservation Connections
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology
- Natural Plant Communities and Fauna
- Rare/Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Cultural Resource Inventory
- Land Use History
- Current Recreational Uses

Management Objectives

The following management objectives have been identified to reflect the recreational and natural resource values of the Preserve in order of priority, based on the 900 responses received from the community wide survey in April 2022.

1. **WILDLIFE HABITAT, CLEAN WATER & OPEN SPACE:** Protect and maintain forest, wetland, and riparian habitat throughout the Preserve (including controlling and removing invasive exotic plants). Prioritize minimizing impact to water and habitat.
2. **RECREATION:** Provide a welcoming and high quality four-season recreational multi-use trail network that includes a fully accessible section and the use of ATVs and snowmobiles in designated areas.

3. EDUCATION & RECREATION PROGRAMS: Encourage and facilitate educational and recreational use by school groups and community organizations.
4. HUNTING: Allow hunting within town and state regulations.
5. EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES: Explore adjacent recreation and conservation opportunities.

Roles and Responsibilities in the Collaboration:

CONTACTS:

- Primary Land Trust Contact: Rachelle Curran Apse, Executive Director
 - Field staff: Toby Jacobs, Project Manager
 - Youth and Family: Brenna Crothers, Community Engagement Manager
- Primary Town of Windham Contact: Linda Brooks, Parks and Recreation Director
 - Field staff: Kevin Bailey, Parks Maintenance Foreman
 - Maria Goodstein, Recreation Coordinator

ROLES:

- Directors for both organizations:
 - Approve requests for group events
 - Approve changes in management plan
 - Approve changes to trail plan including
 - the removal of existing trails or development of additional trails
 - any changes to signage (includes both logos), bridges and benches within the Preserve.
 - Agree how to fund larger capital improvements
 - Works with motorized vehicle clubs, snowmobile and ATV, to ensure trails are suitable for motorized vehicles and closed as needed due to weather or other conditions that make the trails impassable or negatively impact wildlife habitat.
- Land Trust field staff:
 - Oversees and is responsible for trail condition of all non-motorized trails
 - Oversees field volunteers
 - Acts as primary contact with mountain bike group, trail running group, and all interested trail volunteers

- Ensures all maps and signage in the field and on the kiosk are up to date
 - Ensures all educational signage is up to date
 - Ensures youth and family educational signage, story walks, fairy villages and scavenger hunts are up to date.
 - Oversees all wildlife habitat improvement projects
 - Informs director when there are larger capital improvements needed
- Town of Windham field staff:
 - Ensure trailhead parking lot is in good condition and is plowed in the winter season
 - Ensure accessible trail is maintained
 - Helps with trail improvements on trails and bridges when larger equipment is needed (contacted by Land Trust field staff when needed)
 - Informs director when there are larger capital improvements needed
- Town of Windham and Land Trust staff:
 - Coordinate youth and family educational signage, story walks, fairy villages and scavenger hunts.

Implementation Plan - Phase 1 Infrastructure and Trails

What	Objective #	When	Who
Carry out lead abatement on soil/rocks in quarry area	1	Summer/fall 2023	Town of Windham hires contractor with cost split by previous owner of property
Create concept plan for 10 total miles of multi-use trails of varying types: ● ~1 mile accessible trail	1, 2, 3	summer 2022 (complete)	Aceto Landscape Architects with

• 4 miles of non-technical “woods trail” • 5 miles of technical trail			input from Land Trust and Town of Windham
Plan and flag 4-mile non-technical perimeter trail network	1, 2, 3	spring 2023 (complete)	Land Trust and Maine Conservation Corps
Plan and flag 5-mile technical trail network	1, 2, 3	fall 2022 - spring 2023 (complete)	Land Trust and Technical Trail Contractor Chris Cyr
Plan motorized vehicle trail system	1, 2, 3	2023	Town of Windham, Land Trust and snowmobile and ATV club
Plan ~1-mile accessible trail, including reroutes of existing woods road to avoid steep areas. Trail will go from the trailhead near Falmouth Road to the high point just east of the quarry in the center of the property.	1, 2, 3	2023-2024	Town of Windham hires Accessible Trail Contractor
Design and build parking lot with estimated 50 parking spaces and porta potty structures	2, 3, 4	2023	Town of Windham hires parking lot contractor
Construct accessible trail	1, 2, 3	2024	Accessible Trail Contractor (hired and paid by Town of Windham)
Construct non-technical trails	1, 2, 3	summer - fall 2023	Land Trust hires contractor (MCC) with

			assistance from Land Trust staff and volunteers
Construct technical trails	1, 2, 3	2023 - 2024	Land Trust hires contractor with assistance from Land Trust staff and volunteers and GPNEMBA volunteers
Land Trust designs and builds welcoming overlooks in two locations along the trail system. Includes limb and tree removal, creating viewing areas, and adding benches. Town of Windham leads the purchase and installation of picnic tables.	1,2,3	summer - fall 2023	Land Trust and Windham Parks and Rec hire contractors, which will include MCC. In addition, Land Trust staff and volunteers will help
Land Trust designs and builds welcoming Little Duck Pond overlook. Includes limb and tree removal, creating viewing areas, and adding benches. Town of Windham leads the purchase and installation of picnic tables.	1,2,3	summer - fall 2023	Land Trust and Windham Parks and Rec hire contractors, which will include MCC. In addition, Land Trust staff and volunteers will help
Construct or purchase and install a kiosk at the trailhead and populate with trail maps and other educational postings about the property, Land Trust, and Town	1, 2, 3	fall 2023	Land Trust staff

Create and post signage on all 10 miles of trails, including trail maps at junctions, directional signs, and navigational blazes	1, 2, 3	fall 2023	Land Trust staff and MCC
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Implementation Plan - Ongoing Stewardship:

What	Objective #	When	Who
Hold a Spring Clean-Up with volunteers led by the Land Trust staff and volunteers	1, 2, 3	Annually in Spring	Land Trust lead on trails and Town of Windham lead on parking area and accessible trail
Perform maintenance on non-motorized recreation trail system as needed	1, 2, 3	Ongoing	Land Trust
Monitor the Preserve with field visits to all trails and boundaries and provide an annual report. Provide separate report to LMF as per program requirements.	1,2,3,4,5	Annually in the fall	Land Trust and Town of Windham
Maintain communication with a primary contact person representing each of the primary user groups to get feedback on the trail system and requests for changes/updates.	1, 2, 3	Ongoing	Land Trust and Town of Windham
Update kiosk and trail signage as needed	1,2,3,4	Ongoing	Land Trust and Town of Windham

Perform maintenance on motorized recreation trails and bridge when needed	1, 2,3	Ongoing	Town of Windham and User Groups/Clubs with support from Land Trust as needed
Replace kiosk, motorized vehicle bridges or other larger capital projects when necessary	1,2,3	As needed	Town of Windham and User with Groups/Clubs with support from Land Trust as needed
Maintain the public access trailhead parking surface and porta potty.	1, 2, 3, 4	Ongoing	Town of Windham
Plow trailhead parking.	1, 2,3,4	Throughout the winter	Town of Windham
Determine whether an updated Forest Management Plan is desired	1,2,3,4,5	As needed	Land Trust and Town of Windham
Contract Licensed Forester if a Forest Management Plan is desired	1,2,3,4	Before any cutting	Town of Windham
Review and update management plan, including trail map, as needed and at least every 5 years	1,2,3,4,5	Next in 2028	Land Trust and Town of Windham
Wildlife habitat improvement projects (e.g. bat boxes, bird boxes, invasive species removal, tree plantings)	2	Ongoing	Land Trust

APPENDIX A

Past Stewardship Actions in 2022 to Prepare for the Shared Management Plan:

What	Objective #	When	Who
Create a survey and distribute widely to get feedback from potential trail users. Over 900 survey respondents.	1,2,3,4,5	Spring 2022	Land Trust and Town of Windham
Create baseline documentation of the condition of the Preserve at the time the conservation easement begins	1,2,3,4,5	October 2022	Land Trust
Agree to land management plan	1,2,3,4,5	Fall/Winter 2022	Land Trust and Town of Windham

***NOTE: APPENDIX C – [BASELINE REPORT](#) (see in separate file) *current conditions at the time the conservation easement was signed**

APPENDIX B – TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN



East Windham Conservation Project Parcels and Trails

