

Parks & Community Programs Advisory Committee

Parks Tour

May 19, 2015

The Town of Falmouth currently owns or assisted in the purchase of over 1500 acres of public land.

Town Green at Mason-Motz Activity Center: Per the Purchase & Sales Agreement between the Town and Ocean View this green space is to be developed in partnership with the Town and maintained by Ocean View.

Depot Park: Depot & Rt. #1: 1 acre, This park is undergoing a renovation during the Route1 construction project.

Village Park: Hat Trick Drive: 12 acres, hockey rink is currently being refurbished by Casco Bay Hockey into a seasonal open-air refrigerated rink), concert gazebo, and an open field area. There is a Land Use Agreement between the Town and Casco Bay Arena much like the Family Ice facility.

Phillips Park: Corner Rt. #1/Phillips Rd: 1/4 acre, open space and benches.

Pine Grove Park: Foreside Rd., 27 acres, walking trails with war monuments. This is a grand, mature pine forest with several connecting trails. A nature walk with 12 interpretive stations is in the center of the preserve behind the Pine Grove School. A trail guide is available at the Pine Grove School. Trails vary from grassy paths to narrow paths covered with pine needles. This preserve was given to the Town of Falmouth by George Woodward in 1924. It is to be preserved forever as a park and forest. Let's keep it lovely. Take only pictures - leave only footprints. The site was part of a forestry project in 2012 using cattle.

Underwood Park: Foreside Rd., 8 acres, playground equipment, nature trails, open space and benches. The trail crosses the large grassy area and goes into the woods at the rear of Underwood Park. Look for several large boulders placed to keep out motorized vehicles. There are several loops through young forests of beech, maple and pines, with many ferns in the understory. There is an important endangered plant species on this site -- a sedge (*caryx polymorpha*). This plant was transplanted from a nearby development to the north-west edge of the Park lands. Please stand at the top of the slope to observe these delicate plants from a distance. This area was once mined for gravel.

Nature Preserve: Foreside Rd.: 83 acres, property includes hiking trails excellent for exploration and cross-country skiing. These trails now enter into the Mill Creek Preserve. The Falmouth Nature Preserve is off Rte. 88 (Foreside Road) about .7 miles SW of the Town Landing Market (which is at the intersection of Johnson and Foreside Roads). The dirt road leading into the Preserve is directly opposite 177 Foreside Road. Several narrow trails wind through a young, mixed forest of hemlock, beech, maple, and yellow and white birch. The two main trails, marked with red or blue blazes, lead to the unspoiled Mill Creek Tidal Estuary and Salt Marsh. Deer, fox, raccoons and other small mammals make their home here. Additional trails were created in 2004 at the rear of the property. Although some of the trails are flat, many have a varied elevation through the forested areas abutting the salt marsh. See the map at the parking lot for trail details. Some of the trail boardwalks were refurbished with the assistance of the Falmouth Land Trust summer intern program in the summer of 2013.

Woods Road Community Forest: This property is boasts trails through wooded lands and but is closed to the public in winter months as it is a Maine Dept. IF&W deer yard. A parking lot was added to the site in 2013.

Longwoods Road Trail Access: This recently renovated trail was designated as part of the plans for the Cornerstone sub-division and has been refurbished to connect to the Woods Road Community Forest Trails. There is a trailhead and small parking area off of Longwoods Road.

Falmouth Community Park: Winn Rd., Falmouth Community Park, 160 acres in size, includes an active farm, open fields, forests, multi-purpose fields, running fields, and two ball fields. There is a family cemetery on the property that dates to 1856. The park features nearly 3 miles of general use trails designed for cross-

country skiing, hiking, walking and jogging. The trail begins in front of the first open field and continues along the perimeter of the athletic fields linked by bridges. Once past the athletic fields, the trails circle around the edge of the hay field periodically entering and exiting the forested section of the park which follows along a stream. The park features trails designed for cross-country skiing, hiking, walking, and jogging.

Town Forest: Winn & Field Rds.: 21 acres, wooded recreational area with a nature trail, excellent for exploration. This short, half-mile loop crosses relatively flat terrain and over several small brooks. The path is somewhat overgrown. Light blue blazes on large trees about 6' off the ground, mark your way. A secondary growth forest of large pine, hemlock and maple shields a thick understory of smaller maple, elm and ferns. The wetlands, small brooks and a ravine are home to associated plants and small animals. Cross Falmouth Trail.

River Point Conservation Area: adjacent to Hannaford West Falmouth: River Point is a 41-acre jewel of a property in the middle of an otherwise highly developed area of town. Known historically as Three Rivers Farm, it borders the Presumpscot River and both east and west branches of the Piscataqua Rivers. With its water features, including two small ponds and diverse habitat, the property is home to a wide variety of plants and wildlife, including the endangered New England cottontail rabbit. Eagles, hawks and ospreys can be seen here, along with many songbirds. Coyotes, beaver, fox, deer, and many small mammals can also be found. Over a mile of walking trails are located on the property. Informational tags identify many of the indigenous trees.

Huston Park: Falmouth & Winn Rds.: 4 acres, 2-lighted tennis courts, ball field, lighted ice-skating pond, playground equipment, 2 basketball courts and a storage garage.

Hurricane Valley Farm: Hurricane Valley Farm is located in West Falmouth off of Gray Road/ Route 100 at the Falmouth Cumberland border. Consisting of 62 acres of open fields, farmland and wetlands, this project strives to preserve one of the most scenic view sheds in Falmouth. The site has outstanding connections to other open space parcels (see map) as well as connections to Town of Cumberland open space. A barn and small house come with the project and the Trust plans to continue the current use as a hayfield with a future eye towards meeting the demand for a variety of agricultural uses. Rare open space opportunity permanently protecting scenic view shed and agricultural land. Key linkage piece between multiple conservation parcels-- Wilshire Farms, Blackstrap Hill Preserve in Falmouth and Milburn property in Cumberland. Potential future connections to Hadlock Forest in Falmouth and Rines Forest, Knight's Pond/ Blueberry Hill in Cumberland.

Cemeteries maintained by the Town for Veteran's status (7):

- Two on the Falmouth Road (McGregor & Marston)
- Pleasant Hill Road (Pleasant Hill)
- Brook Road (Packard)
- Pineview Road (Leighton)
- Foreside Road (Foreside Community Church)
- ½ Falmouth owned and ½ Cumberland owned
- Woodville Road (Merrill-Winslow)
- Eureka Road (Community Park - Baker Family)

Town Facilities (8):

- Town Hall
- Mason/Motz Activity Center
- Police Station
- Public Works
- Transfer Station
- Foreside Fire Station #1
- Central Fire Station #2
- Winn Road Fire Station #4
- Mill Garages: Parks Department