Town of Falmouth
Open Space Rating Guide

Property Owner: _____

Property Location: _____

Map / Lot Number: _____ Size (acres): _____ Rater Name: _____

Evaluation Category	Subcategory	Maximum Points	Score
1. Ecological Value (16 points)	a) Contains areas of special biological or geological significance (e.g. – nesting areas, waterfalls, vernal pools, significant woodland).	7	
	b) Includes areas of high value habitat.	5	
	c) Helps connect prime greenways and wildlife corridors.	4	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	
2. Natural Function Value (14 points)	a) Significant upland buffer to an area otherwise protected (wetland, shoreline, riparian area).	4	
	b) Contains prime/unique soils or agricultural values.	3	
	c) Provides ground water recharge and water quality enhancement.	3	
	d) Provides flood and storm water control.	2	
	e) Provides important natural functions not protected by other means.	2	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	
3. Parcel Size **(Select one)** (14 points)	a) Large land area that will add to, or has the potential to become, part of a 250 ac. or larger block of unfragmented habitat.	14	
	b) Property abuts permanently preserved property or property that has the potential to be permanently preserved.	10	
	c) Property larger than 5 acres.	5	
	d) Property less than 5 acres.	3	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	

Evaluation Category	Subcategory	Maximum Points	Score
4. Aesthetic Value (14 points)	a) Contains or enhances striking landscape features (e.g. – river corridor, pronounced landforms, mixed viewscapes).	6	
	b) Provides open greenspace to separate incompatible land uses or relieves monotony of same uses.	4	
	c) Provides unique aesthetic values.	4	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	
5. Recreation Potential/Trails (14 points)	a) Property is or can be used for hunting, fishing, hiking and other traditional outdoor pursuits.	5	
	b) Property contains existing trails or has the potential for trail development that would provide a key link in an existing or potential trail system.	5	
	c) Property provides access to beaches, rivers, other land of interest.	4	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	
6. Surrounding Land Uses (10 points)	a) Property contiguous to protected lands (e.g. – wetlands, riparian areas, parks or preserved land).	4	
	b) Property contiguous to agricultural area.	3	
	c) Property contiguous to undeveloped land.	2	
	d) Property contiguous to residential or mixed use area.	1	
		Subtotal =	
7. Falmouth Priorities **(Select one)** (10 points)	a) Property identified as a "jewel" property or a "pocket parcel" that offers potential neighborhood greenspace.	10	
	b) Property falls within one of the seven identified unfragmented habitat blocks.	10	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	

Evaluation Category	Subcategory	Maximum Points	Score
8. Development Potential **(Score in one subcategory only)** (8 points)	a) High likelihood the property will be developed in the next year or two.	8	
	b) Moderate development potential.	5	
	c) Low development potential.	3	
Comments:		**Subtotal =**	

Scoring Total

Category	Max Pts.	Score
1. Ecological Value	**16**	
2. Natural Function	**14**	
3. Parcel Size	**14**	
4. Aesthetic Value	**14**	
5. Recreation Potential/Trails	**14**	
6. Surrounding Land Uses	**10**	
7. Falmouth Priorities	**10**	
8. Development Potential	**8**	
TOTAL =	**100**	

Adapted from a selection guide developed by Ada Township, Michigan.

November 1007