

Town of Falmouth Open Space Rating Guide

Property Owner: _____

Property Location: _____ Rural Area (Y/N)? _____

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).	6	
	b) Includes areas of high value habitat.	5	
	c) Helps connect prime greenways and wildlife corridors.	5	
	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) (10 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.	10	
	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 (12 points)	a) Contains or enhances striking landscape features (e.g. – river corridor, pronounced landforms, mixed viewscales).	5	
	b) Provides open greenspace to separate incompatible land uses or relieves monotony of same uses.	4	
	c) Provides unique aesthetic values.	3	
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 (8 points)	a) Property contiguous to protected lands (e.g. – wetlands, riparian areas, parks or preserved land).	4	
	b) Property contiguous to agricultural area.	2	
	c) Property contiguous to undeveloped land.	2	
Comments:		Subtotal =	
7. Falmouth Priorities (Select either a or b, then rate c) (16 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	
	c) Property aligned with Comprehensive Plan goals.	6	
Comments:		Subtotal =	

Evaluation Category	Subcategory	Maximum Points	Score
8. Development Potential (Score in one subcategory only) (10 points)	a) High likelihood the property will be developed in the next year or two.	10	
	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	10	
4. Aesthetic Value	12	
5. Recreation Potential/Trails	14	
6. Surrounding Land Uses	8	
7. Falmouth Priorities	16	
8. Development Potential	10	
TOTAL =	100	

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

November 2007 Revised March 2015