

# Blackstrap Hill Community Forest Management Plan



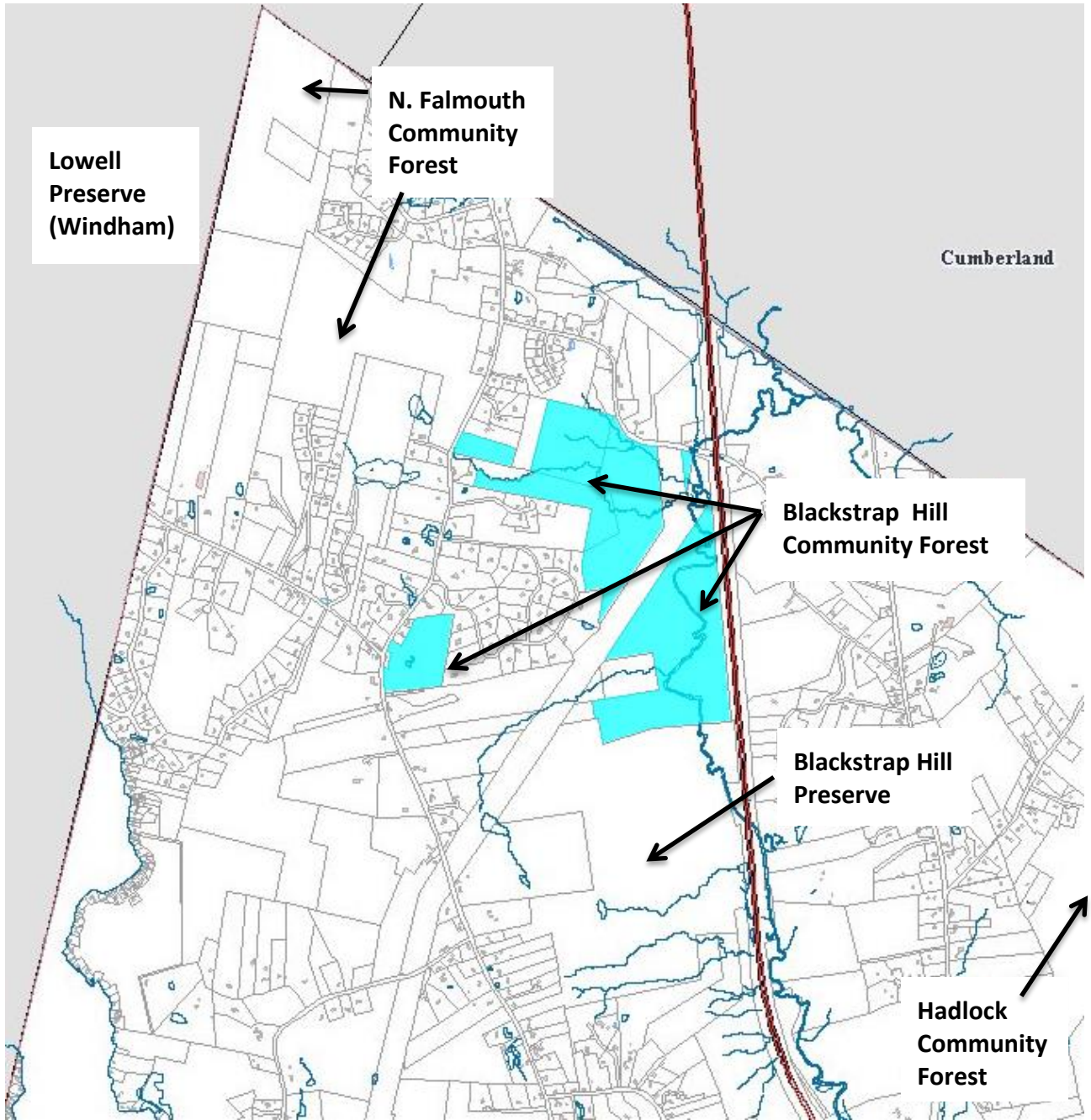
**Town of Falmouth**

July 2011  
Updated January 2013

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# Map I: Location



## I. Summary

Blackstrap Hill Community Forest (BHCF), together with the Falmouth Land Trust's Blackstrap Hill Preserve, form the largest bloc of conservation land in Falmouth. The combined 527-acres of forest create a prime recreation area, offering opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor pursuits. The Forest also include significant wildlife habitat and protection for a major stretch of the West Branch of the Piscataqua River.

While no new trails are needed, there is still work to be done to improve existing trails, particularly the Orange Trail, and to the access road and parking area. A strong effort must also be made to reduce illegal ATV and dirt bike use on the property.

Recreational user conflicts are a concern in the area, particularly between mountain bikers and hunters during deer hunting season.

Many of the forested portions of the property have been poorly managed in the past. The condition of the forest can be improved over the next few decades through selective harvesting of the low quality trees, leaving the more vigorous trees to grow and seed in the next generation. To do that, the management recommendations made in the 2009 forest management plan should be implemented in the coming year.

Although no opportunities for acquisition of two key adjacent parcels are likely in the next few years, the town should monitor the status of those parcels should they come on the market. The Conservation Commission and Open Space Subcommittee should also be prepared to advocate for the town's trail interests should development plans for one of these properties come before the Planning Board.

## II. Description

Blackstrap Hill Community Forest is a 234-acre parcel located west of the Maine Turnpike and east of Blackstrap Road (see Map I). A CMP utility line bisects the property. Most of the land is wooded, with the exception of two fields and the utility corridor. A long section of the West Branch of the Piscataqua River runs through the easternmost section of the property before it flows under the Turnpike. The parcel abuts the 293-acre Blackstrap Hill Preserve owned by the Falmouth Land Trust. Elevations range from an average of 350 ft along Blackstrap Road to 100 ft along the West Branch. BHCF lies between Hadlock Community Forest to the southeast and North Falmouth Community Forest to the northwest.

Seven different lots constitute BHCF, as shown on Map II:

- R08-86-B, 88 & 93 were purchased in 1995 as part of the Wilshire Farm project and are the foundation parcels for this property, totaling 154.6 acres in size.
- R08-54 abuts Blackstrap Rd, but is discontinuous from the interior lots. It is a former Portland Water District lot,

as is R08-47. They are 7 and 22 acres in size respectively.

- R08-57 (the square lot) abuts Hurricane Road. Its 28 acres were apparently acquired for back taxes in 1901.
- R08-21 also abuts Blackstrap Road where it intersects Babbidge Road. Acquired in 2009, it too is unconnected to the interior parcels. ±19.5 of its 23.3 acres are wooded, with the remainder grassland.



A CMP utility line bisects the property.

By the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, this land was primarily used for pasture, as evidenced by traces of barbed wire fencing still extant on the property. It reverted to forest by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and has been logged in succeeding years. An old iron pipe leading from the river is an artifact of the steam power sawmill used in the area during the 1920s and 1930s.

The only managed section of the property is the former Stillings lot off Blackstrap Rd (R08-21). It is a healthy woodlot, last harvested in the late 1990s.

A professionally developed forest management plan for BHCF was prepared in 2009, including harvest recommendations for improving the quality and commercial value of the forest. No harvesting has been conducted since the town acquired the property.

There is an extensive network of trails on BHCF, with access points on Hurricane and Blackstrap Roads. These trails connect to trails on the Blackstrap Hill Preserve. The property is used by hunters, mountain bikers, hikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers and the occasional equestrian.

Several small streams run east from Blackstrap Ridge across the property into the West Branch. Water levels in the West Branch

fluctuate widely with rainfall amounts, but normally the river is very shallow and not navigable. Brown trout are stocked in the river and provide some fishing opportunities. Several vernal pools are located in the southeast corner, between the river and the Turnpike. Lot RO8-21 contains a small permanent pond that is used by breeding amphibians and by migrating waterfowl.



The main entrance to the property is from Hurricane Road, where there is a kiosk and parking area.

Human impact on BHCF is particularly apparent along the old woods roads, several of which are severely eroded. The erosion problems are exacerbated by illegal ATV and dirt biker use on these roads and the trails. Enforcement is difficult however, so the damage continues.

Another serious erosion problem exists along the river just below the Hurricane Road parking area. The CMP access road has washed out, along with culverts that carried water under that road from a tributary stream. The access road off Hurricane Road has also been severely eroded and needs to be re-graded and filled.

Most trails are in good condition, with blazes and signage. A large kiosk has been erected at the Hurricane Road entrance and several small kiosks at key trail junctions. The Orange Trail along the river does need major improvements. Bridges are needed over several streams and an extensive muddy area in the northern portion of the trail, aggravated by ATV and dirt bike damage, needs to be hardened and/or re-routed. It also needs re-blazing.

Invasive species are a major problem in several areas of BHCF, particularly along the river around the Hurricane Road parking area. That area is heavily infested with honeysuckle and bittersweet. Those species, plus other invasives, can be found in other areas of the Forest as well, although not to the same extent.

### III. Conservation Values

The conservation values being protected in Blackstrap Hill Community Forest include:

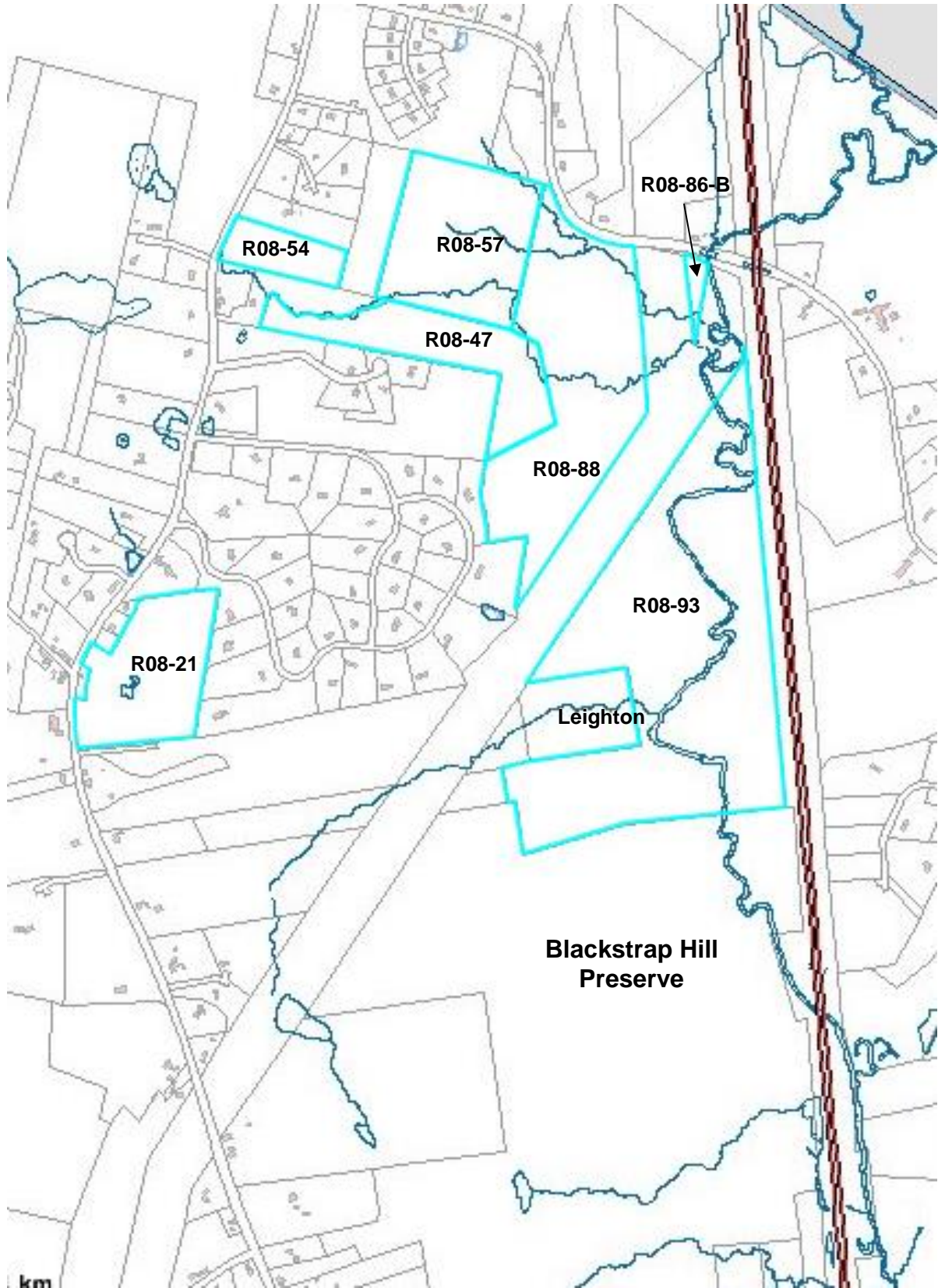
- The large block of unfragmented habitat it provides for wildlife, including deer, fisher, porcupine, and other large and small mammal species; for woodland nesting bird species, including thrushes, tanagers, owls and many kinds of warblers; and for the myriad of other vertebrate and invertebrate species that live and breed in forests such as this one.



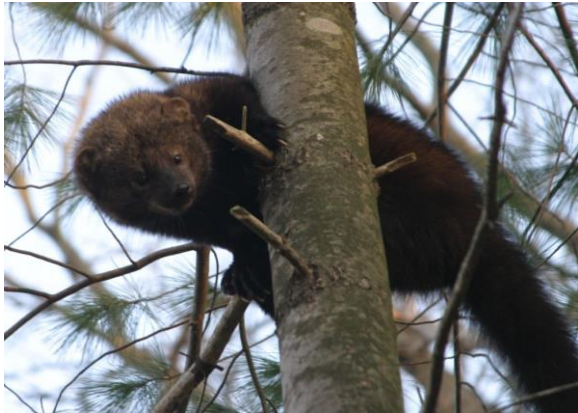
*Look for barred owls along the Yellow Trail*

- The watershed protection the forest contributes to surface and groundwater quality. By moderating run-off and absorbing rainfall and snowmelt, the forest contributes to the water quality in West Branch and Presumscot Rivers, and Casco Bay. The West Branch riparian corridor provides high quality habitat for vertebrate and invertebrate species that live in, on and around the river.
- The aesthetic value such a large block of undeveloped property offers, just ±12 miles from downtown Portland.
- The forest products it could provide, including biomass fuel used as an alternative to petroleum-based energy sources, as well as the pulpwood, firewood and saw logs that contribute to Maine's economy.

# Map II: Blackstrap Hill Community Forest Parcel Map



Fishers are one of the more elusive wildlife species living in Blackstrap Hill Community Forest. Porcupines, also common here, are one of their favorite meals.



#### IV. Visitor Experience

Blackstrap Hill Community Forest, together with the adjoining Blackstrap Hill Preserve, is the largest single block of conservation land in Falmouth. It is also one of the most heavily visited properties, both by trail users (hikers, mountain bikers) and by hunters. Thus, the potential for user conflicts is higher than on other conservation parcels. Reducing such conflicts by spreading people out across the property helps to reduce the possibility of such conflicts occurring.

Visitors to the property should have the opportunity to observe and identify native plants and animals. They should also be able to think and reflect in a quiet setting without disturbance. Hunters should also be able to pursue their sport without disruption.

The best way achieve these goals is to provide multiple entry points into the parcel and to have enough trails to spread people out once they are there. Both strategies help ensure that recreational users will be able to experience the kind of solitude most people seek when they chose to go out on a property of this size. Asking people to voluntarily limit their use of the property during hunting season will help ensure that those users will be able to pursue their sport without interference, and help ensure the safety of all concerned.

#### V. Easement Provisions

All of 154.6 acres acquired in the Wilshore Farm purchase are protected by a conservation easement held by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. They include parcels R08-86-B, 88, & 93. So too is the 28-acre tax acquired lot, R08-057, that abuts the Wishore lots. The other three parcels are unprotected, although the town has agreed to place an easement on the former Stillings parcel (R08-21). The value of easements on these parcels could be counted as match money in future acquisition grants.

The purpose of the easement is to “assure that the property will be retained forever in its essentially undeveloped, scenic and natural condition.” The basic provisions of that easement include:

- Guaranteed public access to the property, including trail building for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, fishing or nature study;
- Farming and agricultural activity is allowed;
- Timber harvesting is allowed;
- No extraction of resources (gravel, etc.);
- No construction of buildings or other structures.
- No activity which would affect the water quality of the West Branch.

The easement is silent about control of invasive species or the use of herbicides in that regard.

#### VI. Management Goals

The most immediate need is to manage Blackstrap Hill Community Forest in ways that maximize the recreational opportunities the property affords. Trail improvements and improvements to the access road and parking area are the primary needs in that regard.

The second most important need is to manage the forested areas of the property in ways that restore their overall health and vitality, especially on the former, heavily logged Wilshore lots, and that result in vigorous tree growth and high value wildlife habitat.

A third need is to try to stabilize, and perhaps restore the severely eroded areas that threaten the water quality of the West Branch.

A fourth need would be to control invasive species that have established themselves on the property.

A fifth need is to document the flora and fauna that live on the property and develop a wildlife management plan based on the results.



ATVs, trucks and dirt bikes have done significant damage to trails and woods roads on the property.

## VII. Management Activities

Given existing circumstances, the management activities for Blackstrap Hill Community Forest should include the following.

### *Maximizing Recreational Opportunities*

As the parcel map indicates, there is an extensive pedestrian and bicycle trail network on BHCF, much of it built by mountain bikers. These trails are accessible from three different points (four counting the abutting Blackstrap Hill Preserve). One trail easement (on the Leighton property) and two trail licenses (Parker & O’Roarke) connect the discontinuous parcels from the main portion of the property.

While no new trails are needed, a number of improvements should be made regarding recreational use.

- Several trails need to be blazed to conform to the town trail map.
- The Hurricane access road and parking lot need grading and fill to make the area more useable.
- The Orange Trail that parallels the West Branch needs major improvements, including several bridges and hardening of muddy areas.
- The property needs to be posted in regards to motorized vehicle use (i.e. – dirt bikes, ATVs) and more enforcement is needed to prevent further damage to existing trails. The eroded section of the CMP access road, which includes a section of the Orange Trail, needs to be relocated and the eroded area restored.

### *Hunting*

BHCF is a popular place to hunt in Falmouth, as it is on the abutting Blackstrap Hill Preserve, with firearms, bow & arrow and black powder weapons. Providing such traditional outdoor recreation opportunities is a primary *Greening of Falmouth* goal and in this case an important way of keeping the town’s deer population in check.

A notice is posted at the trailhead kiosk each fall alerting the public to the fact that the property is open to hunting.

### *User Conflicts*

One user conflict of concern is the impact of heavy mountain bike use on the ability of hunters to pursue their sport in the allotted season. The safety issues that may result are also a concern. Minimizing this conflict could be done by closing trails to bike use during the hunting season or limiting their use to trails on the west side of the utility line only. The area bike club should be consulted about their ideas on how to manage this use conflict.

### *Stewardship*

The Ombudsman has overall stewardship responsibility for the property. Additional stewards are needed to monitor the property and make whatever improvements are needed as circumstances dictate. Given its heavy use by mountain bikers, the local mountain bike club is interested in assuming a stewardship role.

### *Mapping Natural Communities*

No attempt has been made to map the natural communities that exist on the property, or to document the plant and animal species living in them. No rare or endangered species are known to live there, but a number of birds species of special concern do live and breed there.

### *Improving Forest Quality*

A forest management plan has been prepared for BHCF and should be implemented. Like the Hadlock harvest, the plan calls for a “worst first” management approach that removes the low quality / low value trees in favor of higher quality stems, with pine and oak being favored. That approach will produce low value biomass, firewood and pulpwood products initially, but over time will also result in higher value saw log products. Inaccessible areas, such as the ravines in lots 47 & 57, will be left “forever wild,” as should the mature hemlock stand along the river at the southeast corner of the property. Accessibility to the southern portion of the property is problematic and may be an obstacle to plan implementation. Coordinating any forestry activity with the Falmouth Land Trust’s abutting property may be a solution to this problem.

An exception to the “worst first” approach would be to harvest mature oak trees soon from the northeast corner of the property. These trees have reached maturity and their top market value and are ready to be selectively harvested for sawlogs.

### *Maintaining Fields*

The original Wilshore purchase included a hay field on lot R08-88, mowed each year by the owner of that farm. A second field is located on the former Stillings lot, with frontage on Blackstrap Road. This field should be mowed annually to maintain its grassland habitat, but not until after mid-August to protect nesting birds. Absent a volunteer to do the mowing the town should contract with someone to do this work. The present haying agreement with Wilshore Farm should be continued to maintain the other field.

### *Stabilizing Eroded Areas*

Two severely eroded roads can be found on the property, plus two others that are moderately eroded. The first is the CMP access road along the West Branch. Discussions are underway regarding the relocation of this road, but it is not clear what will happen to the eroded portion afterwards. The river,



when in flood stage, scours this section, making any attempt to fill in the eroded area futile. It is probably best to leave it as is with the hopes that nature will reclaim it.

The woods road at the southern end of the property that runs from the utility line down to the river is also severely eroded. That road is also a key part of the snowmobile trail network. Expert advice from one of the area natural resource agencies should be solicited for recommendations about how to deal with this problem.

Two roads on the former PWD lots that lead down the ridge to the utility line are also in an eroded condition, exacerbated by ATV and dirt bike users. Again, expert advice should be solicited as there is no obvious solution to this problem.

#### *Controlling Invasive Species*

Invasive species are common on BHCF, especially on the northern end along the river. The infestation is so dense along the river near the parking lot, and generally along the strip of land lying between the Turnpike and the river, that is probably not practical to try and control them there.

Invasives can be controlled in other areas where populations are more manageable through chemical means, including along the river and at the Blackstrap/Babbidge Road trailhead. Falmouth Conservation Corps volunteers should be able to exercise this control in the coming years.

Finally, boundary markers need to be posted along the western edge of the former PWM lot, R08-47 and Wilshire lot R08-88. This work will be done by Conservation Corps volunteers.



The CMP access road along the river is heavily washed out. It needs to be relocated.

Blackstrap Hill Community Forest and the abutting Blackstrap Hill Preserve comprise the single largest area of continuous conservation land in Falmouth. There are three lots that would be of interest for future acquisition.

The first is a 7-acre lot that lies between the Blackstrap Road PWM lot (R08-47) and the former Wilshire property. The owner has no interest in selling that property at the present time. In fact, he may try to develop it for house lots. If so, the Planning Board should require a trail easement connecting the two town-owned parcels as part of a development plan.

The second is a 37-acre lot that lies between R08-21 and the utility corridor is slated for development. The owner is conservation minded and since any development there will trigger the conservation subdivision ordinance requirements, provisions should be made for a trail corridor across that property. If open space is required, obtaining the portion of that lot east of the utility corridor would be a good idea, along with an abutting 3-acre parcel that is also part of a larger lot. Both contain a trail segments.

A third property, almost an in-holding, is owned by Ronald Leighton, a descendent of the original Leighton settlers in this area of Falmouth. That property, due to a lack of access, has no development potential and is held by Mr. Leighton as a family legacy. He has said that if the family ever wants to give it up, he will sell or give the land to the town. Meanwhile, he has donated a trail easement on a portion of that land to accommodate a section of the Orange Trail.

Connections to Hadlock Community Forest to the east of the Turnpike and Route 100 should also be actively pursued. While the snowmobile club has permission from private landowners in this area for their trail, that trail is not open to pedestrians or bicyclists.

Prospects are better for connections to North Falmouth Community Forest across Blackstrap Road and through the proposed 100-Acre Woods subdivision property, 50 acres of which is slated for Falmouth Land Trust acquisition. Planning Board approval for that project included provisions for trail connections between these two large town-owned parcels. The actual delineation of any such trails remains to be done however.

#### VIII. Future Opportunities / Plans



The Falmouth SnoVoyagers built this bridge across the West Branch in 2010, part of a major snowmobile trail segment that connects Falmouth to Cumberland, Windham and points beyond. If landowner permissions could be obtained, this trail could also connect pedestrians to Hadlock Community Forest and down to Falmouth Community Park.

#### IX. Longterm Management Issues

The various watercrossings along the river trail have an expected life of at least 15 years. At some point after 2027 they will need to be replaced. Trail blazes and You Are Here kiosks are expected to last at least ten years before they will need replacement. The replacement cost for all of these items will not be more than a few thousand dollars at current prices. Any income earned from forestry operations on the property should more than offset these longterm replacements costs.

#### X. Budget Summary

The immediate management needs for this property can be met for a moderate cost. Those needs include:

- Posting the property regarding ATV use. (signs are in hand) \$0
  - Repair the Hurricane Road gate \$400
  - Relocate the Hurricane Road entrance trail \$1,000
  - Control invasives \$1,500
- Total = \$2,900

This amount could come from the town's openspace property management appropriation.

Additional trails and repairing the washed out woods roads are a more long term priority and don't require any financial consideration at this time. Additional trails will not require bridges or bog bridging, so \$200 worth of blazes will suffice. Erosion control, if attempted, would require a contractor estimate to get an accurate cost figure.

**Table I: Summary of Management Tasks**

Goal	Task	Action Steps	When	Who	Cost	Other
<i>Maximize Recreational Opportunities</i>	1. Get NEMBA to assume stewardship responsibilities for the property.	1. Propose the idea to NEMBA's board, get a vote from them.	August 2011	Ombudsman	None	<b>Accomplished</b>
	2. Blaze the Yellow Trail and lower portion of the Blue Trail with painted stakes.	1. NEMBA schedule a time to do this.	August 2011	NEMBA stewards	None	<b>Accomplished</b> Ombudsman supplies the paint
	3. Upgrade the Orange Trail, hardening muddy areas, reblazing and building new bridges.	1. NEMBA schedule a time to do this.	September 2011	NEMBA stewards	\$700	<b>Mostly Accomplished</b> Materials paid with available trail grant funds.
	4. Mitigate user conflicts between mountain bikers and hunters.	1. Meet with NEMBA membership to explain issue, get input. 2. Implement rules.	August 2011 September 2011 November 2011	Ombudsman, NEMBA Ombudsman	\$400 for signage	<b>Mostly Accomplished</b> Signs paid with available trail grant funds.
	5. Eliminate ATV and dirt bike use on the property.	1. Council adoption of new ordinance provisions. 2. Post property access points with signage. 3. Increased police patrols in the area. 4. Enlist "neighborhood watch" support.	Fall, 2011	Town manager, Ombudsman, Falmouth PD	\$200 for signage	<b>Signs Posted</b> Signs paid with available trail grant funds.
	6. Post boundary signs on the western edge of the property.	1. As needed	Winter 2011	FCC Volunteers	\$0	<b>Signs Posted</b> Signs are on hand

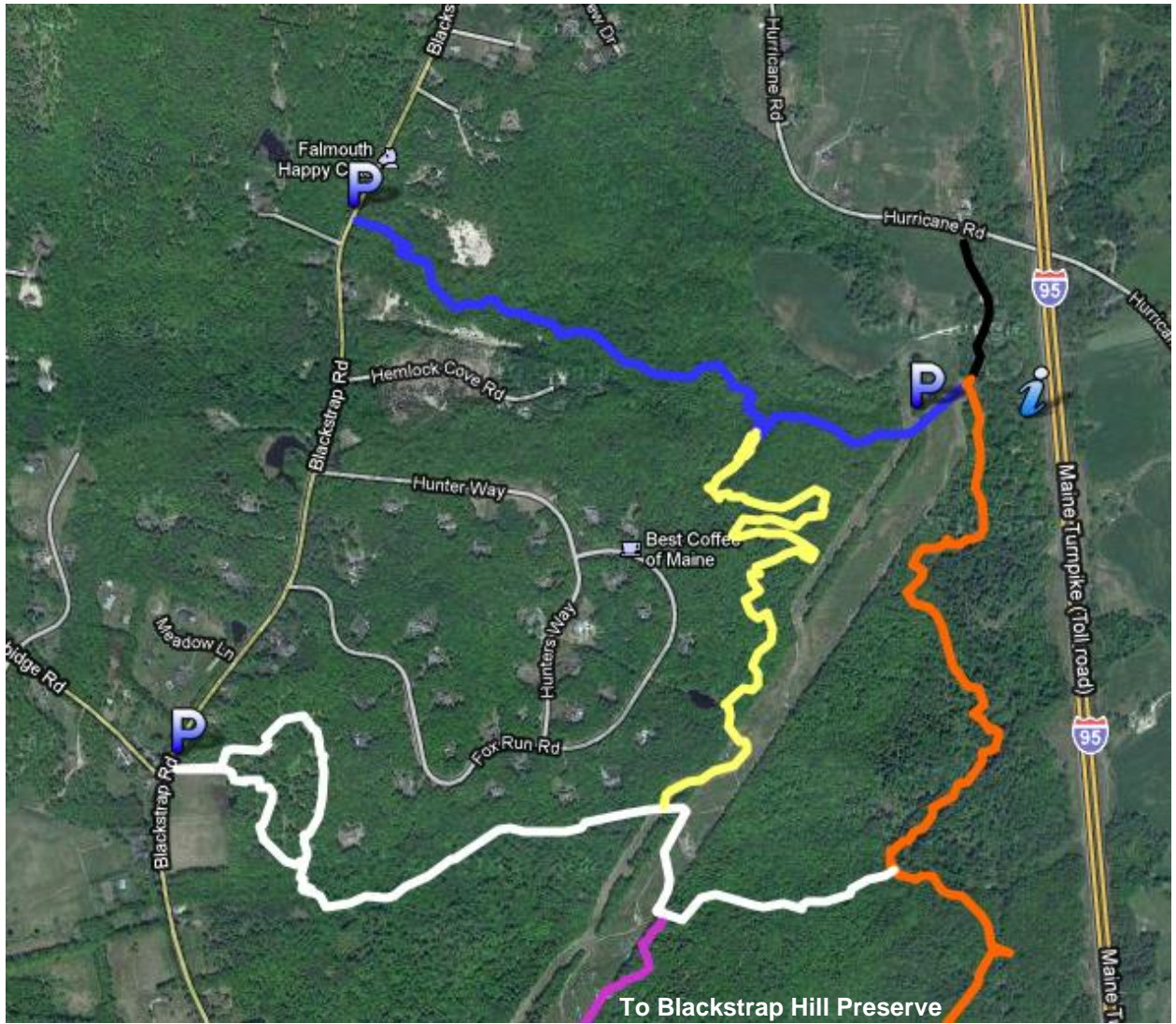
Goal	Task	Action Steps	When	Who	Cost	Other
<i>Stabilize eroded areas</i>	1. Improve Hurricane access road and parking lot.	1. Get new bids on the cost of grading and filling the road and parking lot. 2. Contract with low bidder to get it done.	Summer 2012	Ombudsman, Randy	\$6,000	Needs to be budgeted for by the town.
	2. Repair the heavily eroded woods road leading to the river.	1. Consult with the Natural Resource Conservation Service on how best to deal with the problem. 2. Find the people who can do the work, get bids. 3. Contract to get it done.	Summer 2012	Ombudsman, Randy	Unknown	Needs to be budgeted for by the town.
	3. Assess the eroded woods roads on lots #57 & 88 and take whatever actions are needed.	1. Consult with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to assess the damage and generate possible solutions.	Summer 2012	Ombudsman	Unknown	
	4. Relocate CMP access road.	1. Keep pushing CMP to implement their decision to do this work.	Summer 2011	Ombudsman	None	CMP agrees they own the road. They will relocate the road.
<i>Improve Forest Quality, Harvest Mature Trees</i>	1. Begin implementation of the parcel's forest management plan.	1. Meet with town forester to plan the scope of initial the harvest. 2. Authorize the town forester to mark trees and arrange for a logging contractor.	September 2011	Ombudsman Town Manager	None	Avoid areas traversed by trails.
<i>Control invasive species.</i>	1. Assess the overall extent of the invasives problem, identify areas in which they may be eradicated. 2. Implement control measures.	1. Walk the property to map problem areas. 2. Obtain needed herbicides. 3. Apply appropriate treatment.	Summer 2013	FCC volunteers	\$1,500	
<i>Develop a wildlife management plan.</i>	1. Document natural community on the property, including flora and fauna found there. 2. Develop a management plan based on the results of the survey.	1. Conduct public field activities that will document existing species. 2. Use IF&W expertise.	Plan done by 2016	Volunteers IF&W biologists	None	
<i>Maintain fields</i>	1. Mow fields annually.	1. Contract with someone who can bush hog the Stillings' field. 2. Continue to allow Wilshore Farm to hay the northern fields.	Every summer	Wilshore farm Contractor or volunteer	\$300 per year	

**Accomplished**

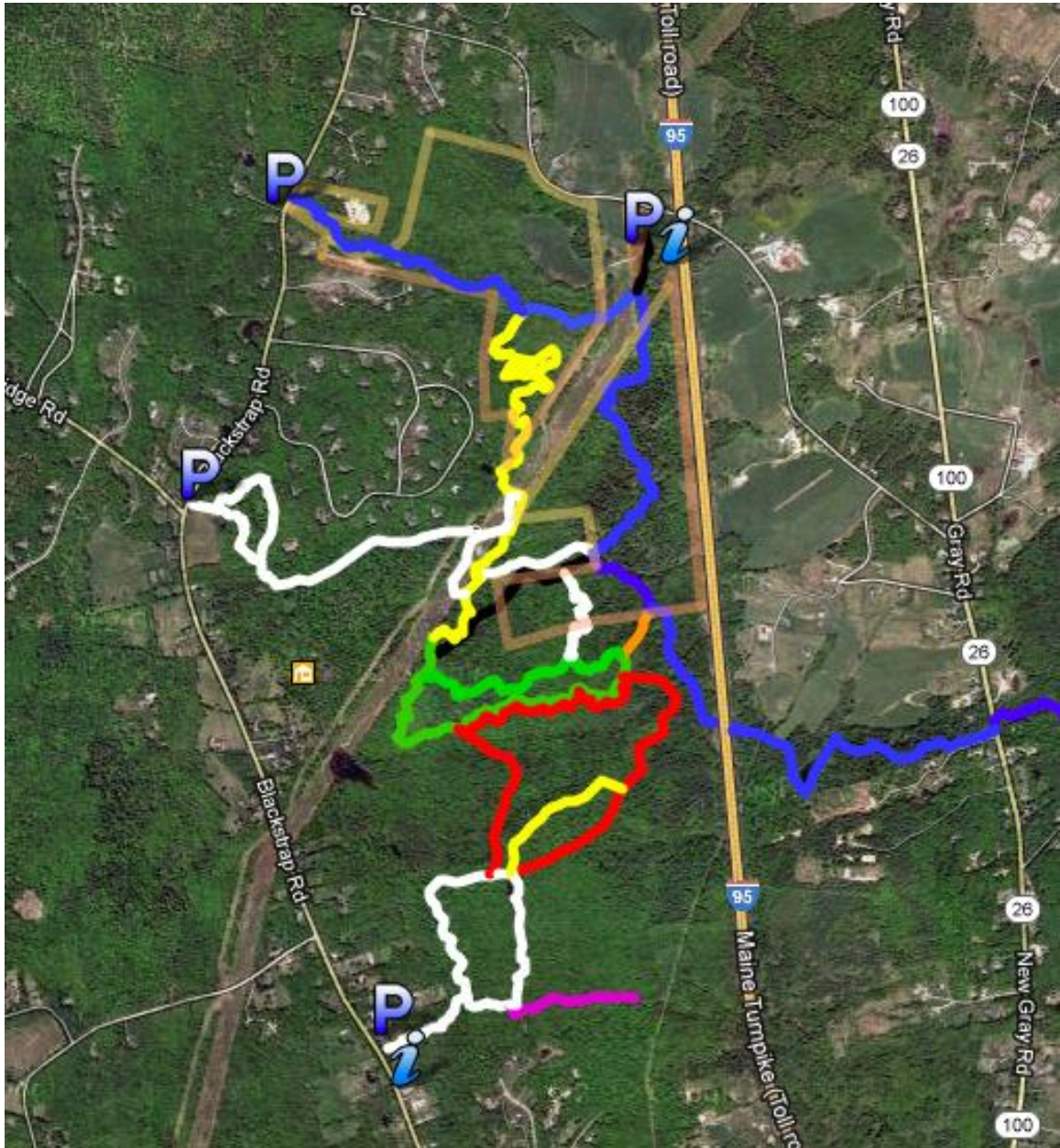
**Not Possible**

**Accomplished**

# Blackstrap Hill Community Forest 2011 Trail System



# Blackstrap Hill Community Forest 2013 Trail System



Initial plan developed July 2011  
Revised January 2013

Approved by the Land Management Team: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Approved by Parks & Community Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Approved by the Town Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Approved by the Town Council: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

# 2013 Progress Summary

## Accomplishments

Many of the 2011 management plan goals have been accomplished over the past 18 months. Specifically:

- Allspeed Bike Shop has taken over stewardship of the property. As a result, the mountain bike community has built several new trails and upgraded the condition of several more, particularly the River (former Orange) Trail section of the Cross Falmouth Trail where a number of new bridges were constructed.
- All trails have been blazed with plastic diamonds and revised trail maps have been posted at the Hurricane Road kiosk. Ten different You Are Here kiosks were placed on both the town and Land Trust properties.
- The entire property has been marked with boundary signs.
- Signs have been posted regarding ATV and dirt bike use.
- Various mountain bike organizations now use their email lists to notify members about trail closure and our desire that they stay off the trails during hunting season. While not completely eliminating conflicts, this has had the effect of reducing them.
- A new section of the Cross Falmouth Trail has also been constructed linking BHCF to Hadlock Community Forest. This has been a goal for almost 20 years and was finally accomplished through permissions granted by four private landowners.



- CMP will not rebuild the eroded access road just in from the Hurricane Road entrance. Continued erosion of that road, and ATV damage to alternative (parallel) route makes it very difficult to access the property from this location during wet periods. Hardening the alternative route should be a priority.
- The Public Works Department has repaired the Hurricane access road, but it needs to be monitored closely to see if those repairs hold. If not, more extensive and permanent improvements will need to be made.
- Given the heavy use the trails on this property get, especially by mountain bikers, it would be wise to create at least two more trails to spread users out and alleviate pressure on the primary access trails. The first of these would be a trail starting just past the eroded area off Hurricane Road entrance that ran through the wooded section that separates the powerline from the gas line. This would provide an another access point to the trail network, thus reducing the wear on the River Trail. A second trail loop could be constructed on the land east of the West Branch, accessed across the snowmobile bridge via the Cross Falmouth Trail.
- In retrospect, the goal of repairing eroded woods roads, controlling invasives and developing a wildlife management plan were much too optimistic. Given other priorities on other properties, these goals need to be pushed out to some future date.



Blackstrap Hill Community Forest has the potential to support a New England cottontail rabbit population if the early succession habitat they need is created.

## Remaining Challenges

- The goal of doing forest management on the property still remains, awaiting a vote from the Council. The initial harvesting and wildlife management plan has been modified to include the creation of New England cottontail rabbit habitat along the edges of the hayfield and along the borders of the utility corridor. This work has been planned as part of a regional effort to restore the endangered New England cottontail to its historic range.



# Revised Management Goals Summary

**Table I: Summary of Management Tasks**

Goal	Task	Action Steps	When	Who	Cost	Other
<i>Alleviate user impact on existing trails.</i>	1. Construct two new trails on the property, one on the wooded strip between the two sections of the utility corridor, the other a loop trail east of the river.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get town authorization for such trails.</li> <li>2. Get a trail license from CMP for the corridor buffer trail.</li> <li>3. Get mountain bike users to construct the trail according to town standards.</li> <li>4. Revise maps to show the new trails.</li> </ol>	August 2015	Ombudsman	\$700	
<i>Improve the access trail in from Hurricane Road.</i>	1. Harden the alternative trail that parallels the washed out section.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill the affected area with gravel.</li> <li>2. Secure the existing bridge to keep it from washing out in high water.</li> </ol>	May 2013	Ombudsman	\$500 to \$5,000	Can Public Works provide and place the fill? If not, it will have to be contracted out.
<i>Stabilize eroded woods roads</i>	1. Repair the heavily eroded woods road leading to the river.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult with the Natural Resource Conservation Service on how best to deal with the problem.</li> <li>2. Find the people who can do the work, get bids.</li> <li>3. Contract to get it done.</li> </ol>	Summer 2016	Ombudsman	Unknown	Needs to be budgeted for by the town.
<i>Improve Forest Quality, Harvest Mature Trees, Create Cottontail Habitat</i>	1. Begin implementation of the parcel's forest management plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Get Council approval.</li> <li>2. Meet with town forester to plan the scope of initial the harvest.</li> <li>3. Authorize the town forester to mark trees and arrange for a logging contractor.</li> </ol>	July 2013 September 2013 January 2014	Town Manager Ombudsman	None	Avoid areas traversed by trails. Will generate revenue.
<i>Control invasive species.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the overall extent of the invasives problem, identify areas in which they may be eradicated.</li> <li>2. Implement control measures.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Walk the property to map problem areas.</li> <li>2. Obtain needed herbicides.</li> <li>3. Apply appropriate treatment.</li> </ol>	Summer 2016	FCC volunteers	\$1,500	Herbicide, applicator time

## Revised Management Goals Summary

<p><i>Prevent trail damage</i></p>	<p>1. Control ATV and 4-wheel vehicle access.</p>	<p>1. Post signs asking people to report violators. 2. Repair the gate on the Hurricane Rd entrance to close off the access road.</p>	<p>Spring 2013 Spring 2013</p>	<p>Ombudsman, Parks Dept.</p>	<p>\$400</p>	<p>Signs already printed.</p>
<p><i>Easement protect former Stilling parcel</i></p>	<p>1. Follow through on our commitment to protect this property within four years of purchase.</p>	<p>1. Draft easement. 2. Get it signed and recorded.</p>	<p>Summer 2013</p>	<p>Ombudsman, Town Manager</p>	<p>\$0</p>	

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