

Setting Priorities for Open Space Acquisition in Upton
Dodson Associates, Ltd./Upton Open Space Subcommittee
July 31, 2006

Natural Resources

- Parcel contains rivers or streams draining over 100 acres.
- Parcel contains rivers or streams draining over 1000 acres.
- Parcel contains isolated small wetlands or potential vernal pools.
- Parcel contains wetlands over 1 acre in extent or part of riparian corridor.
- Parcel contains unusually large trees or old-growth forest.
- Parcel is part of an unfragmented forest area over 10 acres in extent.
- Parcel is part of an unfragmented forest area over 100 acres in extent.
- Parcel includes Estimated Habitat of Rare Species as identified by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.
- Parcel includes Priority Habitats for State Protected Rare Species as identified by the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.
- Parcel part of Core Habitat under Massachusetts Biomap program.
- Parcel part of Supporting Natural Landscape under Mass. Biomap program.
- Parcel contains a Zone I or II of a public water supply well.
- Parcel contains a Zone III of a public water supply well.
- Parcel contains Prime Farmland soils or soils of local significance.
- Parcel is part of a Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
- Parcel contains or abuts a pond greater than 1 acre.
- Parcel contains or abuts a pond greater than 10 acres.

Cultural Resources

- Parcel contains important historic site or structure identified by the Upton Historic Society or Massachusetts Historical Commission.
- Parcel contains active or potential working farmland.
- Parcel currently in farm ownership and/or part of larger block of agricultural land.
- Parcel contains important scenic views or vistas.
- Parcel contains a special place that would likely be lost through development.
- Parcel contains a recognized heritage landscape.
- Parcel is included in potential or existing historic district.

Recreational Opportunities

- Parcel has been identified as an important hunting, or trapping site.
- Parcel provides existing or potential public access to fishing site.
- Parcel provides existing or potential public access for boating.
- Parcel has been identified as possible link in town-wide trail system.
- Parcel contains part of an existing or priority town trail.
- Parcel has been identified as possible ball field site.
- Parcel presents other recreational opportunities: _____

Connectivity

- Parcel is part of a designated open space focus area.
- Parcel is important link in a planned open space corridor.

- Parcel will link, extend or infill existing protected areas.
- Parcel is in the town center or in a well-traveled area.
- Parcel is accessible to residents.
- Parcel identified as a priority in town planning documents.

Level of Threat

- Parcel is temporarily protected by chapter 61, 61A or 61B.
- Parcel is not protected.
- Parcel is easily developable with frontage lots.
- Parcel is developable with a subdivision road.

- Parcel has significant constraints to development, including poor soils, bedrock, steep slopes, wetlands, limited road frontage, or difficult access.
- Current use of the parcel makes development, or further subdivision unlikely.
- Development of the site, even for a single home, would likely cause extensive disturbance or habitat fragmentation in an important natural area.
- Development of the site would likely produce an unwelcome change in the existing character of an area, or create an eyesore in a prominent location.

Other pertinent information

- Size of the parcel: _____
- Number of potential house lots: _____
- Preservation assistance available from non-town sources.
- Parcel has potential for other public uses.

Score: Assign 1-10 points for each category

Natural Resources _____

Cultural Resources _____

Recreational Opportunities _____

Connectivity _____

Level of Threat _____

Total _____