

Executive Summary

The Cape Elizabeth Town Council established the Open Space and Greenbelt Management Committee, comprised of the Conservation Commission and Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan, to prepare for Town Council consideration a management plan for town open space.

The Conservation Commission acts as an advisor to the Town Council on town owned open space where no specific group has otherwise been established (ex. Fort Williams Advisory Commission). In that role, the Conservation Commission is the steward of the Greenbelt Trail system and is guided by policies and decisions made by the Town Council. Increasingly, however, there have been gaps between the issue specific decisions made by the Town Council and broad responsibilities of the Conservation Commission. This management plan attempts to establish written open space use and management policies that have been adopted by the Town Council and can guide Conservation Commission stewardship.

This is a **management** plan, not a plan for future open space preservation. Many of the properties included in this plan do not have any restrictions that limit their use to open space. Nothing in this plan establishes restrictions on town owned land that do not already exist. Land without deed restrictions that is managed for open space today may be put to a different use by the Town Council at any time.

The open space inventory includes land and easements owned by the Town of Cape Elizabeth and selected Cape Elizabeth Land Trust properties that relate to town holdings. This plan is applicable *only* to Town of Cape Elizabeth holdings.

In order to advance management objectives, many town parcels have been assigned names in this plan. Naming eases reference to parcels for management purposes and improves the public's knowledge of land that is available for open space today. The names proposed in this plan are subject to Town Council approval and in no way are intended imply or suggest restrictions that do not otherwise already exist.

The most significant part of this plan are the management policies which establish town goals for a minimum standard for trails and state how Town open space should be used by the public. These policies are a starting point and will