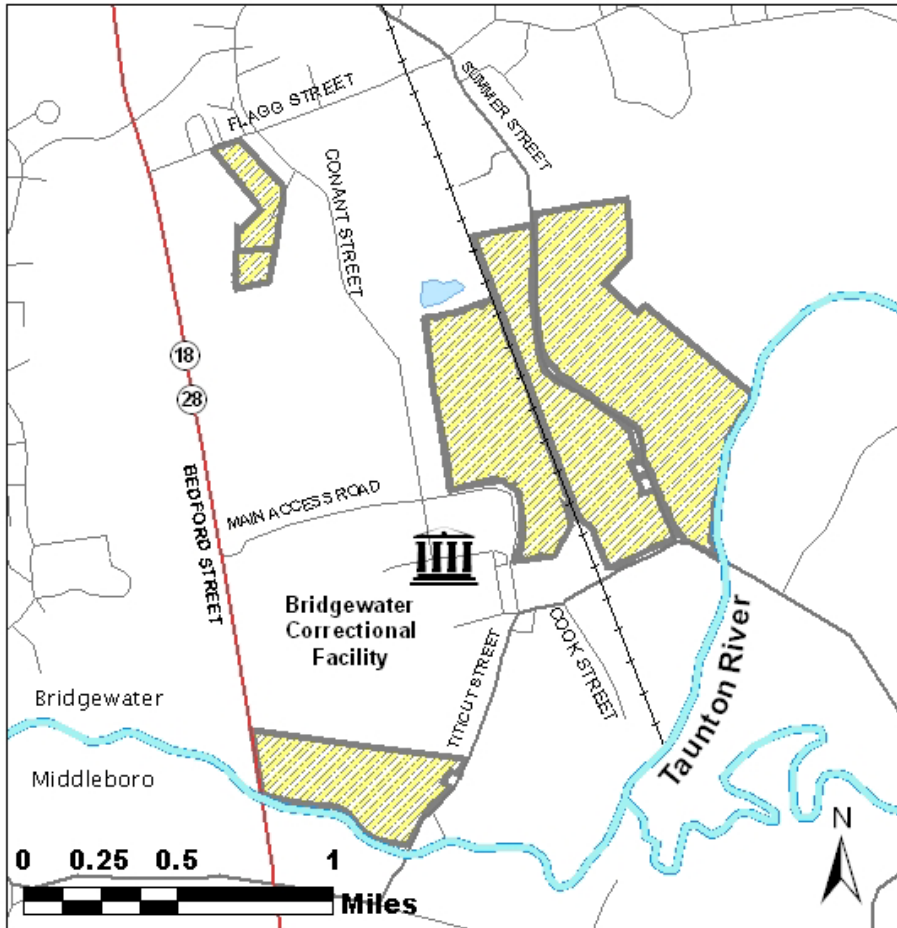


P.O. Box 15
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We are a local grassroots nonprofit committed to Natural Resource Conservation

Old State Farm Protected!



Thanks to some help from unexpected sources, our Old State Farm Bill H-616 was the very last bill to make it out of the Massachusetts 2003-2004 legislature and be placed on Governor Romney's desk for signing. The Governor did sign it into law, zoning **425 acres** of forests, agricultural fields and undeveloped land along scenic Summer Street, Bridgewater, as Conservation Land. The shaded areas in the map to the left show the approximate land area to be protected. The photo below was taken at the dedication ceremony on August 8th by Shirley Krasinski.

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Old State Farm (continued)

This unique project took six years of meetings and negotiations between members of the NRTB who pioneered the initial discussions, the State Department of Corrections, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and the State Department of Agriculture Resources to convince the State to allow this property to be used in perpetuity for conservation, open space, agriculture, and passive recreational purposes offered in Article 97 of the State Constitution – the Environmental Bill of Rights.

Rezoning this property as Article 97 Conservation Land satisfies mandates in the Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Plan and in the Community Master Plan. It also fulfills preservation objectives found in the Taunton River Stewardship Plan - newly endorsed by all 11 communities along the Taunton River.

After Rep. David Flynn got the measure through the House, and Sen. Marc Pacheco steered it through the Senate, it languished when one additional state agency raised unanticipated questions. Then just eight hours before the legislative session ended, Sen. Theresa Murray contacted Rep. Flynn to say that she had resolved the issue with the department involved. The bill was quickly approved and sent to the Governor for signing.

This is a great environmental win for Bridgewater, and for the Taunton River Greenway Corridor as the whole Taunton River is under consideration for inclusion into the National Park Service's Wild & Scenic River System. This awesome property – owned by the Commonwealth and once an agricultural farm for new immigrants – is the largest parcel to be thus protected in recent history and will remain under the administration of the Department of Corrections. Please follow the Old State Farm story in upcoming issues of the NRTB newsletter – *The Trust* – as we share information regarding ongoing management.

Transition of NRTB Board Members

Two terrific directors, Pete Fuller and James Hayes-Bohanan, completed their second three-year terms on the board and thus according to our corporate bylaws, need to step down for at least one year. Many thanks to them for the endless hours spent in helping NRTB successfully grow. Each will continue to work actively with the organization, with Pete leading the Cherry Street Development Committee, and James working with the Town River Landing Committee.

We welcome Hank Estabrook back to the board for a final three-year hitch, and new directors Scott Lussier and Dick Lombardi as they begin their first experience on the NRTB BOD. Scott has extensive experience as an environmental analyst in the state government and nonprofit arenas. Dick has belonged to other organizations and is familiar with serving on nonprofit boards; he is especially willing to help with organizational capacity building.

Taunton River Nominated as Wild & Scenic, to be placed under the National Park Service

Last spring, the Towns and Cities of Raynham, Bridgewater, Halifax, Somerset, Taunton, Berkley, Dighton, Freetown, Fall River and Middleboro ALL voted unanimously in favor of endorsing the Taunton River Stewardship Plan as presented by the federal study committee, and to nominate this river for a federal WILD & SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION, placing it under protection of the National Park Service!

To learn more about what this means, please visit the website below and download the Stewardship Plan.

<http://www.tauntonriver.org/stewardshipplan.htm>

Local Rotary Club Joins with NRTB to Build Canoe Launch Sites

During the past several years, many organizations and individuals, NRTB being the lead group, have worked together to address the most effective plans and practices for land use management in the three Bridgewater, especially focused on balancing and harmonizing the respective interests of development and preservation. A very exciting partnership has emerged to establish three canoe launch sites, one in each of the Bridgewater.

Working together with The Bridgewater Rotary Club Centennial Project Committee, NRTB will coordinate the design and building of universally accessible canoe launches. Rotary International is celebrating 100 years of service to communities throughout the world. This project is the anniversary contribution of the local group.

The team for **Bridgewater** includes Bob Frederick (NRTB), Elizabeth McMullin (Rotary), Rick Krane (Conservation Commission) and David Paccia, lead Steward at the Titicut Conservation Parkland on the Taunton River. The **East Bridgewater** team includes Bob Frederick (NRTB), Bruce Marquis and Tom Warren (Rotary), Craig Windsor (Conservation Commission) and John Haines, Steward at Sachem Rock on the Satucket River. For **West Bridgewater**, Skip Copeland (NRTB), Beth Smith (Rotary), Lee Anderson (Conservation Commission) and Warren Turner, representing the Town River Stewards; their chosen site is near the Scotland Bridge on the Town River.

These local residents will work with those responsible for the Towns' Open Space & Recreation Plans, the Towns' Master Plans and with the liaisons to the Taunton River Stewardship Council and the Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Public Access Board to develop ADA accessible canoe launches this year.

The project will be implemented and paid for entirely by the volunteer organizations. In addition to bringing new passive recreational opportunities to these communities, this process will serve as a model for other communities, especially those wishing to improve public access along the major Taunton River and its tributaries. Additional information is available from Frances Jeffries, FrancesJeffries_1@msn.com or 508-697-1029.

Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it.

-Norman Maclean

Bridgewater Open Space Plan Update Rejected

The Bridgewater Master Plan Implementation Committee has learned that the draft "OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN" sent to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Department of Conservation Services last Spring has been rejected. A spokesperson for DCS stated that the plan as submitted does not meet the format or content requirements needed for approval. Bridgewater has been without an Open Space Committee for 8 years, and the current plan expired in 2001. The town is ineligible for consideration for many grant opportunities without this public planning document in place.

NRTB is outraged that this known condition continues to exist, and urges residents to contact the Board of Selectmen asking them to immediately appoint an Open Space Committee.

Community Preservation Act Passed in Bridgewater

The Community Preservation Act is a law that provides state matching funds to Massachusetts communities that implement a surcharge on property taxes, for the purpose of supporting affordable housing, historic preservation, and open-space protection. The funds are generated by fees applied to all land-title transactions in the Commonwealth, but the funds are only returned to those communities that implement the surcharge on annual property taxes. The surcharge is estimated at about \$40 per year for a home with an average assessed value of \$278,000. When combined with the funds provided by the Commonwealth, it is estimated that this fund will provide \$278,000 per year for the town. By statute, these funds must be spent on open space, historic preservation, *and* affordable housing. An appointed committee will recommend projects each year, with final approval to be decided by Town Meeting vote.

Details of the Act and its implementation are available on the town web site at www.bridgewaterma.org/CPA/. This site includes an explanation of the surcharge, the excluded value of properties, and the exemption for low-income families and seniors.

I look forward to an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty, which will protect the beauty of our natural environment, which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past and which will build handsome and balanced cities for our future.

-John F. Kennedy

NRTB T-Shirt Order Form

Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
NRTB Logo Long-sleeve T-shirt	Adult M		\$20.00	
NRTB Logo Long-sleeve T-shirt	Adult L		\$20.00	
NRTB Logo Long-sleeve T-shirt	Adult XL		\$20.00	
			Total	

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____



Town River Landing, Canoe Launch & Pedestrian Bridge

One of the NRTB's most exciting initiatives is the work we are doing on the proposed Town River Landing. In 2004, with NRTB's leadership, the town of Bridgewater renamed the driveway that provided access to the former Spring Street highway barn. It is now known officially as Town River Landing, in anticipation of the exciting potential of that area as a center for community activity. In the past year, we have formed a Town River Landing steering committee, which is working both energetically and carefully to involve various stakeholders in what could be some very exciting changes there. This steering committee includes Kitty Doherty, Fran Jeffries and James Hayes-Bohanan from NRTB, Sue McCombe and John Plouffe from the College & Community Relations Council at Bridgewater State College, Jim Ross and Angelo D'Emilia from the Taunton River Stewardship Council, and Jamie Fosburgh from the National Park Service.

Last spring this group met with several neighbors of the property and with state officials, both on-site and at Bridgewater State College facilities. Discussion centered on the short-term prospects for developing a canoe launch at the site, and on longer-term prospects to develop a foot bridge across the Town River that would provide access to the trails at the Stiles & Hart parkland. These improvements, combined with the careful redevelopment of the highway barn and neighboring projects, will create a focal point for various aspects of community enjoyment, including both outdoor recreation and the performing and visual arts. In combination with the parkland system and other amenities, this project fits into a comprehensive vision of Community Greenways.

The steering committee has been greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of various stakeholders so far. As we go to press with this newsletter, the Bridgewater Selectmen have signed an Agreement with the state Public Access Board to begin the design phase for the canoe launch, and we are waiting to hear if the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails Conservation Assistance Program will partner with us on the bridge

Take a Hike!

All of Bridgewater's municipal Parklands are beautiful spots ... just down the road ... waiting for you to enjoy them. NRTB is very proud of them. Come see why.

- Iron Works Park
- Stiles & Hart Conservation Area
- Tuckerwood Conservation Area
- Wyman Meadow Conservation Area
- Titicut Conservation Area
- Carver's Pond Conservation Area

Visit NRTB.org to get directions and more information

Carvers Pond Management Plan Complete

As part of its mission to encourage passive recreation and use of Bridgewater's Conservation Parkland System, NRTB has created site-specific Management Plans for 6 town-owned properties. Carver's Pond Management Plan is the latest document in the series and has been accepted by the Conservation Commission as the basic guidance document for that parkland. In it you will find an outline of the natural, archeological, and historic interests of the conservation area around the pond, current and suggested uses, information regarding the vulnerability of the town's well fields, and information regarding the current vulnerability of the pond itself. This parkland is used as an Outdoor Classroom by the college and public school system and connects via walking trails to the college campus and to the Town River Landing.

Your Donations are Appreciated!!

The NRTB is an entirely volunteer run organization. Many residents give donations, in the form of time and money. If you would like to assist us in protecting the natural environment of Bridgewater and abutting towns, your presence is always welcomed.

Some Other Ways for Members to Help

- Send a Check
- Attend an Event
- Volunteer Some Time
- Talk Us Up to Neighbors and Friends
- Join a Friend Up

Recap of Spring Biodiversity Events

May 7, 2005 was the day a springtime Nor'easter walloped Southeastern Massachusetts with wind, rain, chilly temperatures and pounding waves. It was also the day of NRTB's annual Vernal Pool Exploration at the Tuckerwood Conservation Area (off of High Street). There were no pounding waves at Tuckerwood, but gusty, chilly winds and heavy rain were abundant. About 8 adults and as many children showed up despite the nasty weather.

The vernal pool inhabitants were a little less willing to brave the elements. Tricia Cassady, an NRTB member and wetlands expert, did her best to find the frogs, salamanders, and other creatures that are normally in abundance. But they stayed out of sight -- burrowed in the mud. So humans and critters all agreed that it was not the best day for a field trip. Nonetheless, it was an educational experience - the humans learned what frogs and salamanders do during such weather!

The June 8 Carver Pond event enjoyed bright sunshine and warm temperatures. Carver Pond Steward Maura Chappelle organized the educational outing for about 10 home-schoolers and half as many parents. Dr. Kevin Curry, a Bridgewater State College Biology Professor, introduced the group to the biodiversity of Carver Pond. As Dr. Curry described the day:

" We proceeded to the North Shore Beach and looked at several Dot-tailed whiteface dragonflies and freshly emerged Blue Dashers and Eastern Forktails. Everyone got to look at the skins (exuvia) left in the plants along the shore from Common Baskettails that had emerged the previous day. We sifted the water with an aquatic dipnet and found crayfish, and nymphs of spreadwings of the Eastern Pondhawk as well as some small bluegills and tadpoles. Our final adventure was to seine the area in front of the beach where we discovered several large Pumpkinseed sunfish.

Who knew? And right here in Bridgewater! There's a whole world out there for curious kids and their parents to discover. All that's needed is a little environmental education and some time spent outdoors.

Join us next year for 2006 Biodiversity events!

Check Your Mailing Labels!!

As part of an effort to inform our members as to when their membership has expired, we will now be including the expiration date on the bottom right corner of your mailing label. If your membership has expired, please renew your membership at your earliest convenience.

Mr. John Muir
Sierra Club Drive
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Membership Expires: 12/15/05

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!!

National Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Standards Being Reviewed by NRTB

This year in anticipation of changes in IRS requirements, Land Trusts have been tightening their organizational structures, thereby increasing the organizations' credibility and effectiveness. One way to accomplish this is to formally adopt the National Land Trust Alliance's 12 Minimum Standards. NRTB adopted the LTA Standards & Practices as its own Standards of Excellence in 1998, and over the past 6 months, the NRTB Board of Directors has been carefully and systematically reviewing each standard. The goal is to keep these standards as part of our normal operating procedures. Our review is nearly complete. Look for more details on these standards in the next *Trust* Newsletter.

Highlights from the NRTB Strategic Planning Meeting

Strategic planning was the topic on hand at Bridgewater State College on August 18th. The directors reviewed NRTB's goals for the coming year, and completed a plan of accomplishing them. Some of the common themes included raising organizational awareness and focusing on building organizational capacity (i.e. fundraising and marketing.) This year's priorities will be to:

- ✓ Increase Ongoing Organizational Capacity (i.e. get more folks involved)
- ✓ Maintain Organizational Momentum (i.e. keep doin' what we're doin' - between the Old State Farm and the Conservation Parkland System, NRTB has preserved and protected about 642 acres thus far!)

I want to get involved in the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater!

- I am enclosing my tax-deductible membership dues, payable to 'NRTB'
- I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to the 'NRTB Land Preservation Fund'

Membership Categories

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15/year | Name: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25/year | Address: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker \$50/year * | City, State: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100/year * | Phone: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$250/year * | e-mail: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me. | |

* Membership includes an NRTB T-Shirt.

Please indicate size: Adult M Adult L Adult XL



NRTB
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02324

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Email:
info@nrtb.org

Land Conservation Now
—
For the Future

What to expect next...

(Watch the www.nrtb.org website for details)

- October Committee Night
- NRTB Holiday Lights Events
- Winter Conservation Training Programs
- Silent Auction Fundraiser in March
- Annual Meeting in March

As part of its Annual Meeting in March, NRTB has been holding silent auctions to raise funds for the organization. If you are a craftsman and would like to donate one of your masterpieces to raise money for a good cause, let us know. Any other object of value that you could part with will also be gratefully accepted for this good cause.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.nrtb.org

Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater
P. O. Box 15
Bridgewater, MA 02324

