



# Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan

For properties conveyed to  
the Town of Brunswick from  
Brunswick Naval Air Station

Property Abutters and Public  
Meeting  
June 6, 2013 5:30 PM at the  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Gymnasium

# Meeting Focus

- Stakeholder group role
- Abutters / Public input
- RTOS Management Plan
- Plan Highlights
- Key actions & recommendations
- Integrating public input and changes

## Brunswick Town Council Appointed Stakeholder Group

*Tony Barrett, East Coast Greenway Alliance*  
*Amanda Bunker, Conservation Commission*  
*Dan Devereaux, Brunswick Marine Resources*  
*Gerald Favreau, Councilor, District #5*  
*Catherine Ferdinand, Bowdoin College*  
*Charlie Frizzle, Planning Board*  
*Colleen Fuller, Access Health*

*Kristi Hatrick, Recreation Commission*  
*Bruce Kidman, The Nature Conservancy/Abutter*  
*Fred Koerber, Brunswick School Department*  
*Benet Pols, Councilor-At-Large*  
*Bob Rocheleau, MRRRA*  
*Kurt Stinson, Conservation Commission*  
*Steve Trockman, Mid Coast Hospital*  
*Angela Twitchell, Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust*  
*Steve Walker, Planning Board/Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*  
*Suzan Wilson, Town Council Chair, Councilor, District #3*  
*Jeff Ward, Recreation Commission*

*Denise Clavette, RTOS Project Leader, Town of Brunswick*  
*Anna Breinich, Director of Planning and Development*  
*Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation*  
*Julie Isbill, National Park Service Advisor*



# Recreation, Trails and Open Space

## Management Plan

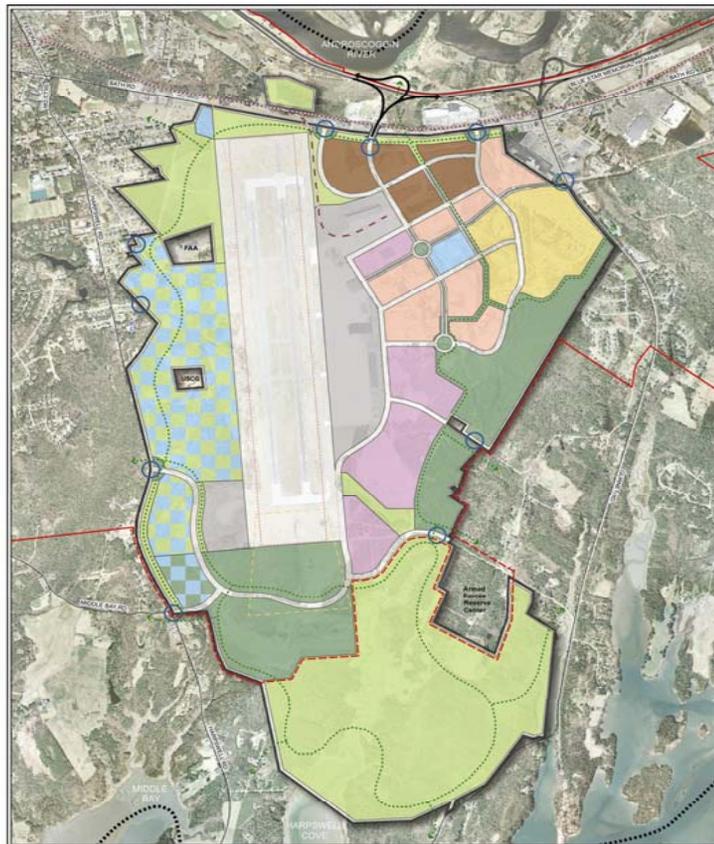
Public benefit conveyance  
lands conveyed to the  
Town of Brunswick

# Purpose of the Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan



**The Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan** is to guide the management of the Town of Brunswick public benefit conveyance lands in a manner that protects the natural and cultural resources in perpetuity and provides passive recreational and educational opportunities. Ecosystem value, traditional land use and stakeholder concerns and abutter / public concerns have been considered.

# History, Process and Property Conveyance



## Proposed Land Use Program

	LAND USE DISTRICTS	SURPLUS ACRES	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Land Development	Airport Operations	500	16%
	Aviation-Related Business	230	7%
	Professional Office	120	4%
	Community Mixed Use	175	5%
	Business and Technology Industries	190	6%
	Education	200	6%
	Residential	215	7%
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>51%</b>
Open Space	Recreation / Open Space	510	16%
	Natural Areas	1,060	33%
	<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>49%</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Notes:

1. Checkered blue-light green area totals 200 acres, of which an undefined 175 acres have been assigned in the table above to Education and 145 acres to Natural Areas.
2. Checkered blue-dark green area totals 30 acres, all of which has been assigned in the table above to Recreation / Open Space; however, Education would be an allowed use, if needed.
3. Checkered light green-dark green (East Brunswick Transmitter Site) area totals 70 acres, of which an undefined 35 acres have been assigned in the table above to Recreation / Open Space and 35 acres to Natural Areas.
4. The Runway Object Free Area provides a 500-foot buffer to the east and west of the two runways. The Airport Operations land use district extends an additional 300 feet beyond the Runway Object Free Area, resulting in a 1,000-foot buffer parallel to the runways.



**Management goals for the Town of Brunswick public benefit conveyance lands are to:**

- Manage and conserve the natural resources of the Town of Brunswick public benefit conveyance lands in perpetuity;
- Manage and conserve the cultural and historic resources of Town of Brunswick public benefit conveyance lands in perpetuity;
- Provide and manage recreational use on the property to enhance the quality of life in the Greater Brunswick area.

## **Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Goals**

### **Public Benefit Conveyance Property**

- Exchange archaeological site information with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to ensure that both the Town of Brunswick and the Commission have complete lists of the archaeological sites and their locations.
- Develop protocols and procedures for any future ground disturbance within the boundaries of the public benefit conveyance land.
- Encourage the Brunswick Town Council to research and potentially establish an ordinance restricting ground disturbance within the boundaries of the public benefit conveyance land.
- Consider creating a Historic Overlay District on the proposed preserve using Maine Historic Preservation Guidelines.
- Proceed in cooperation with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, with a Multiple Properties Heritage District

## Cultural and Historical Significance

### Recommendations for Public Benefit Conveyance Property

- Geological Setting
- Natural Communities
- Significant Wildlife Habitat
- Inland Fisheries
- Rare Animal Occurrences
- Rare Plant Occurrences
- Landscape Context

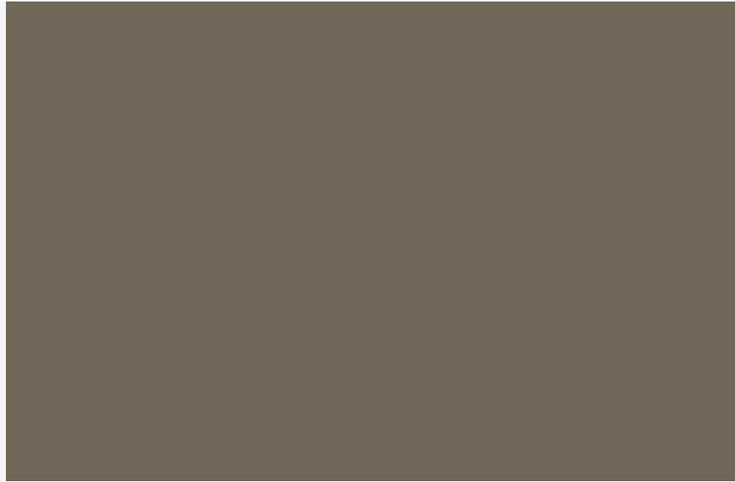
## Natural and Ecological Resources

Public Benefit  
Conveyance Property

- Reuse and rehabilitate existing and abandoned trails.
- New trail construction will be considered for short side trails.
- Trails within the Town's Natural Resource Protection Zone (shoreland zone) will follow vegetation clearing guidelines contained in the Brunswick Zoning Ordinance.
- Minimize trail development in environmentally sensitive areas and areas with environmental contamination.
- Give preference to loops, connections to trailheads, and access to the community.
- Shared-use paths should be focused on the perimeter of the property or to connect to trailheads. Phase the development of trails and plan for a low trail density initially.
- Sections of the roads currently used within the Conservation District, are to be retained for general public motor vehicle use to provide better access to the trail network.

## Trails and Recreation Opportunities

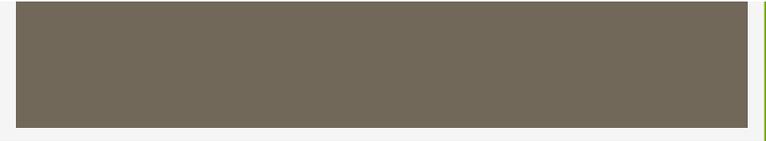
**Public Benefit  
Conveyance Property  
Trail Layout Principles**



**Kate Furbish  
Preserve  
Management  
Plan**

**For Public Benefit  
Conveyance Property  
Known as REC-7**

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# Purpose of the Kate Furbish Preserve Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan

The primary purpose of the Kate Furbish Preserve Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan is to guide the management of the property in a manner that protects its natural and cultural resources in perpetuity and provides passive recreational and educational opportunities. These goals and management principles are intended to direct future management of Kate Furbish Preserve.

# Kate Furbish Preserve Property Map



# Kate Furbish Preserve

- Naming REC-7 Process
- Naming REC-7 Recommendation

# Kate Furbish Preserve Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Goals

Management goals for the Town of Brunswick Kate Furbish Preserve public benefit conveyance lands are to:

- Manage and conserve the natural resources of the Kate Furbish Preserve property in perpetuity;
- Manage and conserve the cultural resources of the Kate Furbish Preserve property in perpetuity;
- Provide and manage passive recreation use and trail resources on the Kate Furbish Preserve property, for their aesthetic and passive recreational values to enhance the quality of life in the Greater Brunswick area.

# Cultural and Historical



The following are recommendations in regards to the cultural and historical aspects of Kate Furbish Preserve:

- Create a map inventory of the Kate Furbish Preserve, maintained by the Planning and Development Department that identifies coordinates of prehistoric and historic sites, in conjunction with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.
- Log coordinates of confirmed Euro American Sites (EAS) within the proposed preserve, as approved by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

## Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations Cultural and Historical

- Create an Archaeological Overlay District for the proposed preserve with supervisory responsibility assumed by a public commission. This commission should establish the protocols and procedures for its charge.
- Establish “No Ground Disturbance” and “No Removal of Debris” policies as components of Kate Furbish Preserve management. Post appropriate signage for guests.
- Cap existing open debris or dump sites.

## Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations

### Cultural and Historical

# Natural and Ecological Resources



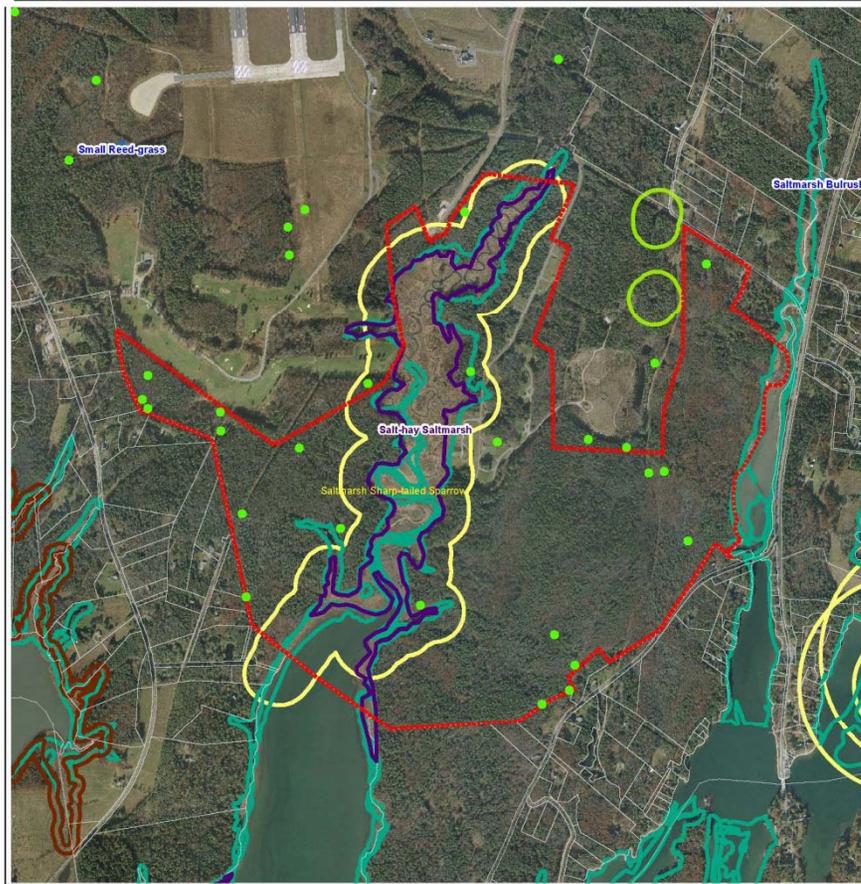
- Vernal Pools
- Tidal Waterfowl and Wadingbird Habitat
- Streams
- Forest Management
- Invasive Species
- Habitat Restoration
- Pertinent Natural Resources Regulations

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve  
Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

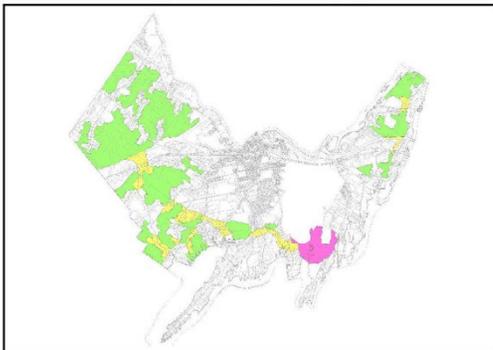
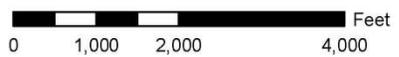
**Natural and  
Ecological  
Resources**



# REC - 7 Significant Plant & Animal Habitats



- REC-7 Boundary
- Rare Animal Species
- Rare Communities
- Rare Plants
- Significant Vernal Pools
- Shorebird Areas
- Tidal Waterfowl/Wading Bird
- Potential Vernal Pool



REC-7 in context with Rural Brunswick Smart Growth unfragmented forest blocks and habitat corridors

# Trails and Access



- Open Soon
- Near-Term Expansion
- Review Within 5 Years
- Future Possible Trails

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve  
Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Recreation Trails  
Layout and Use**

- Finalize an agreement with MRRA that allows permanent public access to the old perimeter road and for the trail that connects the perimeter road/trail to the other existing and recommended dirt road/trail. The agreement should also allow for winter use of the golf course parking lot and for cross-country skiing on the golf course.

## **Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations**

### **Recreation Trails Layout and Use ACTIONS**

- Work with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to acquire all necessary permits to construct the *'Open Now'* and *'Near Term Expansion'* parts of the recommended trail system.
- Investigate National Guard, Seabee, Maine Conservation Corps, volunteers, and other labor sources to begin clearing the flagged trails.
- Apply for Recreational Trails Program and other funding sources for trail construction and signs.

## Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations

## Recreation Trails Layout and Use ACTIONS

# Kate Furbish Preserve Proposed Trail System



- Accommodations for both motor vehicle parking and bicycle and pedestrian access
- Parking areas along Merriconeag Road on the western boundary of the property, along Ordinance Road in the center of the parcel, and along Prince's Point Road at the eastern boundary.
- Each of these designated parking areas will be collocated with trailheads providing the public with immediate access to the property and information regarding its features.

## Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations

### Public Access

# Uses and Management Issues



## **Motorized Recreation**

ONLY allowed for management, emergency, or maintenance activities. Access is not allowed for ATV's, snowmobiles, and golf carts.

## **Bicycles**

Shared use paths will accommodate bicycles. Designated footpaths will not allow bicycles.

Action: Explore options and determine if there are appropriate locations within the Kate Furbish Preserve area to develop designated single-track mountain biking paths.

# **Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations**

## **Uses and Management Issues Actions**

## **Dogs**

Allowed on leash only as per town and state laws and ordinances. Dogs may be restricted from areas designated as sensitive ecological habitats. Dog owners must pick up after their dogs. Educate dog owners about importance of picking up after their dogs. Removing dog waste will make Kate Furbish Preserve more enjoyable for other recreational users, and minimize the potential for pollution. Dogs, other than those used for hunting should remain leashed and not allowed to run in the marsh during the breeding season April 1 to August 30.

## **Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations**

## **Uses and Management Issues**

## **Actions**

## Hunting and Trapping

All hunting and trapping shall take place in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine, the laws and rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and local ordinances.

I. Hunting allowed with restriction to shotgun, black powder and bow hunting only. Trapping allowed only with a permit from the Town for the purpose of wildlife management.

II. Possession and / or use of firearms or weapons is prohibited, except in accordance with State hunting laws and in designated areas.

III. In accordance with State law, no discharge of firearms within 300 feet of a residence.

IV. Work areas and areas with significant public use may be temporarily posted as closed to hunting by park management in the interest of public safety.

V. Baiting of wildlife for the purpose of hunting is prohibited.

VI. No target practice or firing ranges allowed on Kate Furbish Preserve property.

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve**

**Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Uses and  
Management  
Issues**

**Actions**

## **Horses**

No horses allowed.

## **Fishing**

Allowed in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine, the laws and rules of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and local ordinances from shore or as available from hand carry boat access sites.

## **Camping**

Camping is prohibited on the preserve.

Campfires not allowed due to danger posed to natural forest habitat. Any fire rings found will be dismantled and "Kindle No Fires" signs posted. "No Camping" signs will be posted if illegal camping becomes a problem.

Actions: Post "No Camping/No Campfires" sign at proposed parking lot.

## **Kate Furbish Preserve**

## **Management Priorities and Recommendations**

## **Uses and Management Issues**

## **Actions**

## **Hours of Operation**

Open from an hour before dawn to a half hour after dusk. Parking will be allowed only when the preserve is open.

Action: Post signs clearly stating park rules and hours of operation at all public access sites.

## **Hand carry boat access**

While it would be desirable to provide a hand carry boat access location, to date no appropriate site has been identified.

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve**

**Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Uses and  
Management  
Issues**

**Actions**

## Fencing Needs

Most fences should be removed over time. As sections of fence are removed, the abutters / neighbors have option of erecting a fence on their own property. Where necessary, signs could be erected asking the public to respect private property.

### Action:

- Communicate to public that over time, the fences will be removed.
- Remove all barbed wire fencing as soon as possible (except barbed wire attached to top of chain link).
- When chain link perimeter fencing deteriorates beyond its useful life, it will be removed and there will be no replacement.
- Portions of interior chain link fencing may be removed as budget allows to manage access, enhance recreational uses, and improve wildlife connections.

## Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations

## Uses and Management Issues Actions

## **Signage**

Ensuring proper signage for directing and instructing users, displaying park rules and to clearly mark trail locations is critical management objectives.

Action: Develop Signage Plan that clearly outlines locations and content of signs

## **Trash**

Trash will be managed with the "carry-in, carry-out" practice. All trash brought into or created by must be carried out. Trash receptacles will be provided at parking areas.

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve**

**Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Uses and  
Management  
Issues**

**Actions**

## **Native trees and vegetation**

Support and maintenance of natural processes is a primary goal . Staff and volunteer stewards should not cut trees in simply because they are dead. Dead snags support multiple species of wildlife and birds and should be left standing. Dead snags should only be cut if there is a compelling reason related to the safety of visitors.

Fallen trees should be left intact on the ground to support decomposition processes and replenish the soil. Only sections of fallen trees or vegetation blocking trails should be cut.

Removed sections should be carried to a location not readily apparent to recreational trail users. In general, vegetation should not be removed to create vistas or unencumbered views. Additional clearing of vegetation could degrade the natural environment of Kate Furbish Preserve and the biological integrity of the shorefront.

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve**

**Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Uses and  
Management  
Issues**

**Actions**

## **Invasive plants and animals**

Some plant and animal invasions may not be particularly disruptive. However, others can be very serious, threatening the biological integrity of Kate Furbish Preserve. Plants such as Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife and non-native honeysuckles should be considered a serious threat if located. Routine monitoring should be conducted to identify and remove infestations of new invasive plants before they become a major concern. Methods of controlling invasive plants should be researched. Methods demonstrated to be effective with minimal negative ecological consequences should be used. Best management practices should be used in order to minimize pesticide or herbicide applications. However, for some invasive species, herbicides may be the most effective and appropriate method of control.

## **Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations**

## **Uses and Management Issues Actions**

## Structures

Unauthorized temporary or permanent structures are not permitted. Memorials, unauthorized signs and posters, tree houses, forts, and deer stands are examples of structures not permitted. Stewards should remove any unauthorized structures. If warranted, portable toilets and potentially permanent toilets may be placed in the parking area. Structures may also be necessary for trail needs and for communicating park rules, etc. Structures could include kiosks, bridges, benches, picnic tables, signs, etc. Structures should only be constructed after being approved in a comprehensive structures and amenities plan for the property.

- Action: Develop a plan for amenities and structures on the Kate Furbish Preserve land.

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve**

**Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Uses and  
Management  
Issues**

**Actions**

## **Vandalism**

Minimize vandalism using staff and volunteer stewards to conduct routine patrols; report problems to Police Dept., Dept. of Parks and Recreation, volunteer stewards. Vandalism should be promptly eliminated. Parks and Recreation staff, volunteer stewards will make concerted effort to educate public about respectful use.

## **Baseline inventories**

Stewards may conduct baseline inventories to understand natural resource values and maintain data collected in a format readily viewable by interested staff and volunteers.

**Kate Furbish  
Preserve**

**Management  
Priorities and  
Recommendations**

**Uses and  
Management  
Issues**

**Actions**

- Annual inspections and reporting requirements
- Boundary marking
- Updating and amending the Recreation, Trails and Open Space Management Plan

## **Kate Furbish Preserve Management Priorities and Recommendations**

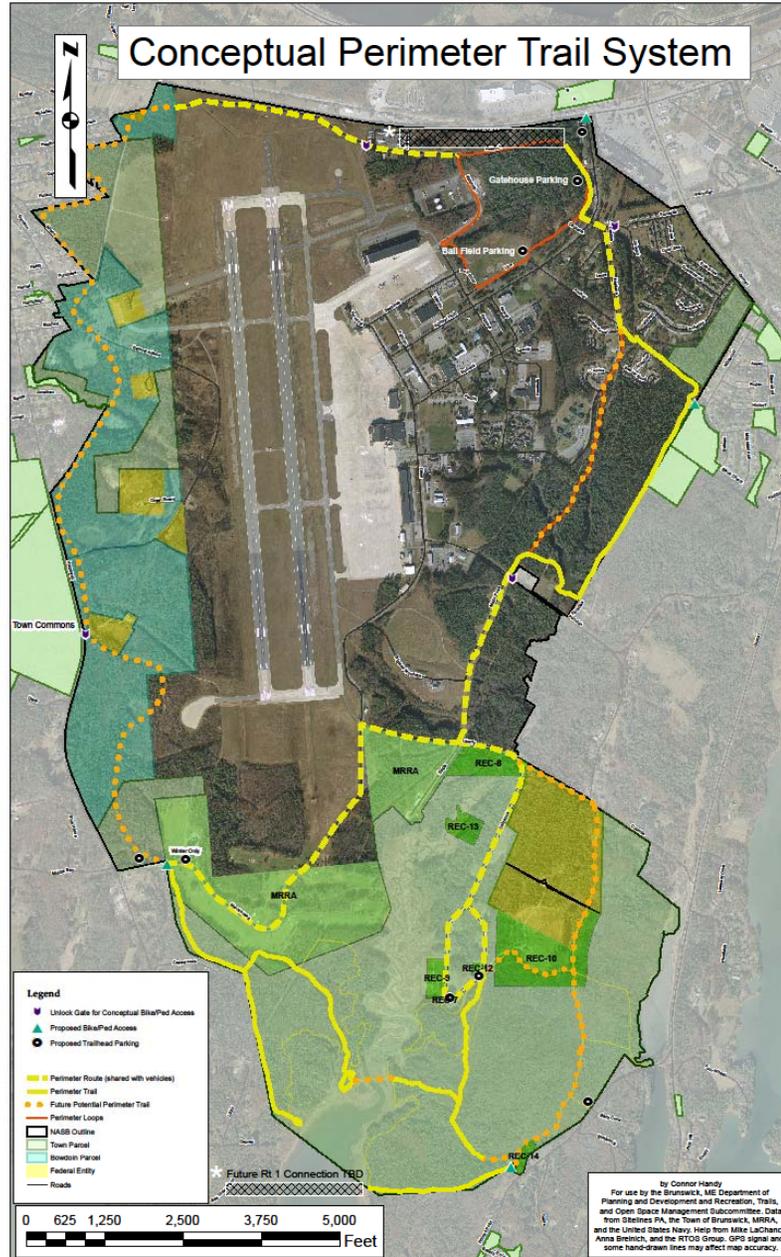
## **Monitoring and Evaluation**



# Perimeter Trail Concept Plan



# Conceptual Perimeter Trail System



- Background
- Near-Term Opportunity
- Description
- Perimeter Trail System
- Shorter Loops for Walkers and Families
- Bicycle / Pedestrian Gates
- Access Points
- Cooperative Management

## Perimeter Trail Concept Plan



**Ongoing  
Management,  
Stewardship and  
Funding**

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- Oversight by the Dept. of Parks & Recreation
- Outreach and Education
- Budget and Funding

## Ongoing Management, Stewardship and Funding



Questions?

**Recommendations  
and changes to the  
Recreation, Trails  
and Open Space  
Management Plan**

**Abutters / Public Input**

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# Wrap up & thank you for participating

