



# Greenbelt Gazette

November, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

• **Attention Great Pond Boat Rack users.** All boats must be removed from the racks by **December 3, 2023.**

• **Stay on the trail.** Many greenbelt trails abut private property. Private property owners often partner with us on trail projects and generally support responsible public trail use. Follow the greenbelt signs and stay on the trail to avoid trespassing onto private property.

• **Cross Hill trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee is working on significant trail surface improvements that will make the trail accessible to a wider range of users. Most surface improvements were identified in the 2020 Trail Assessment and tentatively scheduled for completion in 2024/2025.



## What's Happening?

• **Cape Community Arena Group Opening Night December 7<sup>th</sup>** – The kick-off for the Cape Ice Rink's second season will be held on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the ice rink at Gull Crest, from 5-8pm.

• **Village Green Tree Lighting December 8<sup>th</sup>** – The Cape Courier will hold a tree lighting event at the Village Green (next to Town Hall) on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm. Santa will arrive on a Cape Elizabeth Fire Department truck, and hot chocolate and treats will be provided.

•**Winter Solstice Lantern December 21st.** The kick-off event to celebrate the installation of the Thomas Memorial Library's grant-funded Community Art Boxes project will be a winter solstice evening parade around the Town Center on December 21<sup>st</sup>. A final lantern making workshop will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the Thomas Memorial Library, followed by a parade around the Town Center beginning at 6:00 pm with stops at the Town Hall, the Village Green, Police Station and Community Center. Check out the Library website for more information.

•**Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk decking debris.** Many trail users have noticed the new decking installed on the Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk. The old decking has been stockpiled on the north side of the boardwalk. One half has been removed by the Department of Public Works and the remaining portion will be removed once the ground is solid enough to support equipment. Thank you Public Works!





# Greenbelt Gazette

October, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**No motorized vehicles on town trails.** Trail users are reminded that ATVs are prohibited by town ordinance on town greenbelt trails.

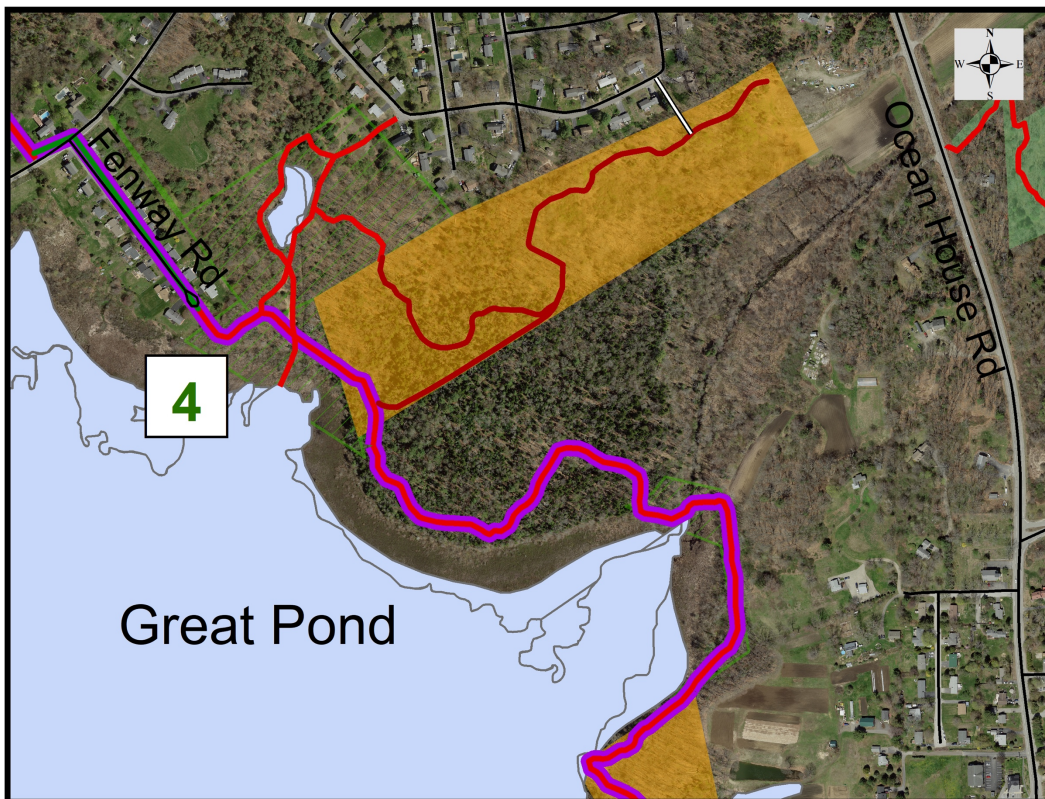
•**Hunting Season.** While deer hunting season is the most well known, there are a variety of hunting seasons underway as regulated by state law. On the town's more remote open spaces, such as Winnick Woods and Gull Crest, hunting is allowed (per state law). Trail users in these areas should consider wearing blaze orange, and stay on the trails. Anyone who wants to erect a deer stand on town open space is required to obtain a permit from the police department. A stand must be set back a minimum of 10 yards from a marked greenbelt trail.

•**Great Pond joyrides.** Permit holders please note that there have been a few instances of unknown persons removing boats from the Great Pond boat racks and failing to replace them on the racks. The terms of the town easement that permits the boat racks also requires that boats must only be stored on the racks. Please also note that the all boats must be removed from the racks by **December 3, 2023**.

•**Events on town open space.** Do you have an idea for a great community event that you want to hold on town open space? Contact the town planner, [Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org), for information on how to obtain approval from the Conservation Committee for your event.

## What's Happening?

•**Coyote trapping next to Great Pond Trails.** Greenbelt trails often abut or are hosted on private property and trail users should respect private property owners by staying on greenbelt marked trails. This includes pets. In particular on Great Pond trails, trail users and their pets should stay on the trail, as the abutting property owner will be trapping coyotes. If your pet cannot stay on the trail, it should be on a leash.



•**Updated Town Greenbelt Trails map.** Months in the making, the Conservation Committee is releasing an updated Greenbelt trails map in November. Updates include better mapping in Winnick Woods/Cross Hill, and Gull Crest, and new information from CELT. Maps will be available in the ACP Office, Town Hall. Mapping posted to the town website will also be updated. Updated signage will also be installed at Winnick Woods/Gull Crest.



# Greenbelt Gazette

September, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Prime trail volunteer season.** Are you enjoying the greenbelt? Fall is a great time to make some trail improvements (cooler temperatures, less bugs!). If you, your “gang” or your neighborhood is looking for a service project, please contact the town planner ([Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org)) and attend a Conservation Committee meeting. We have a project that is just your size.

•**Community Boat available for reservation.** Call the Town Hall at 799-1619 to reserve (free!) the community boat, stored on the Great Pond racks and outfitted with oars and life vests.

## What's Happening?

•**Invasives removal at Gull Crest.** The Conservation Committee has approved an invasives project removal at Gull Crest. Andrea Southworth will lead a group of CELT volunteers to remove by mechanical means invasive trees, mostly glossy buckthorn, and invasive shrubs and vines (barberry, invasive honeysuckle, multiflora rose and bittersweet). The main goal of the event is to stop the spread of buckthorn trees onto CELT’s Runaway Farm Preserve and in Gull Crest. Glossy buckthorn is extremely detrimental to habitats and to wildlife, including birds, and is listed as *Severely Invasive* by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

•**Invasives information.** For more information about invasive plants in the State of Maine, visit the website:



[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/invsheets.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invsheets.htm)



# Greenbelt Gazette

June, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**MCC at Gull Crest.** The Maine Conservation Corps is again working in Cape Elizabeth at Gull Crest, making trail improvements. The Team will be at Gull Crest from June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> and will be relocating trails and building boardwalks. The Conservation Committee has determined the work program. Trail users are asked to not impede the trail work, to consider using trails at other locations, and to respect trail closures and reroutes.

•**Stop Rogue Trail building.** No one should be building trails on property they do not own without the permission of the property owner. The Town has been working with private property owners to close trails cleared by unknown persons in the Cross Hill/Winnick Woods area. Please consider not only the disrespect to property owners, but also the diversion of resources to close trails that otherwise can be directed to trail improvements. If you have an idea for a trail on town property, consider attending a Conservation Committee meeting to talk about your project, and learn what is already underway. (For more information, contact the town planner at 799-0115)

•**Community Boat available for reservation.** Would you like to paddle around on Great Pond? Don't have a boat or a storage slot? Call the Town Hall at 799-1619 to reserve (free!) the community boat, stored on the Great Pond racks and outfitted with oars and life vests.

## What's Happening?

•**Gull Crest Trail rerouting.** If you're an explorer on the Gull Crest Trails, then you know that over time some trails are now chronically wet and with significant tree root exposure. In two locations, trails will be rerouted to higher ground, both to improve the trail experience and to allow the lower trail locations to recover. Please DO NOT reopen closed trails. (Closed trails will be clearly marked) Try the new route, send us a picture,



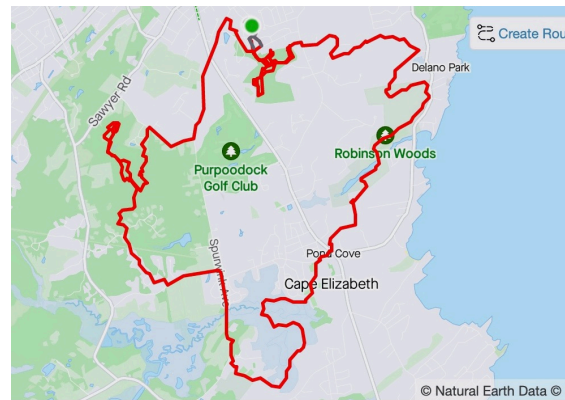
and let us know what you think. New trail rerouting will be occurring on the Outer Loop trail adjacent to the Fowler Road Connector and at the eastern edge of the trail.

•**Open Space event programming.** The Conservation Committee has approved the following events on town open space for the 2023 season.

**NEMBA Mountain biking rides:** Annual event, Wednesdays 5:30 -7:30 pm, limited to 25 riders per event, includes NEMBA guide and cancelled in wet conditions: April 26, May 10, May 24, June 7, June 21, July 19, August 2, August 16, August 30, September 6, September 20.

**Tiny Trails 5k run.** The race will be held at Gull Crest on August 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and limited to 100 participants.

**Maine Pops Village Green Concert:** This is the second year the Maine Pops Concert Band will perform at the Village Green in the Town Center. The 1 ½ hour concert will be held **August 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 p.m.** Free and open to all.



2022 Maine Pops Concert on the Village Green





# Greenbelt Gazette

May, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Solar Power and trails at Gull Crest.** The Town has achieved another milestone with the Planning Board site plan approval of the proposed solar field to be installed on the landfill cap at Gull Crest. Portions of the cap provide trail connections. Existing trails will be rerouted to the fenced edge of the solar field to preserve trail connectivity.

•**Community Boat available for reservation.** Would you like to paddle around on Great Pond? Don't have a boat or a storage slot? Call the Town Hall at 799-1619 to reserve (free!) the community boat, stored on the Great Pond racks and outfitted with oars and life vests.

•**Thanks Chickadeeds.** CELT partnered with Chickadeeds to perform invasive plant management at Runaway Farms and Gull Crest. Thanks go to the Chickadeeds volunteers, CELT, and the Cape Elizabeth Public Works Department that assisted with disposal.

## What's Happening?

•**Maine Conservation Corps Returns!** The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) will send a team to perform trail improvements at Gull Crest starting **June 26<sup>th</sup>**. Trail work will include new boardwalk construction and trail rerouting, under the direction of the Conservation Committee. Some of the most problematic trail sections will be closed/replaced. We are asking trail users to (1) respect closed trail efforts by leaving materials in place and cease use of that portion of trail, and (2) enjoy using the new trail alignments. Trail work continues implementation of the Town wide greenbelt trail assessment completed by the Conservation Committee in 2020.

•**Open Space event programming.** The Conservation Committee has approved the following events on town open space for the 2023 season.

**NEMBA Mountain biking rides:** Annual event, Wednesdays 5:30 -7:30 pm, limited to 25 riders per event, includes NEMBA guide and cancelled in wet conditions: April 26, May 10, May 24, June 7, June 21, July 19, August 2, August 16, August 30, September 6, September 20.

**Maine Pops Village Green Concert:** This is the second year the Maine Pops Concert Band will perform at the Village Green in the Town Center. The 1 ½ hour concert will be held **August 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 p.m.** Free and open to all.

**Tiny Trails 5k run.** The race will be held at Gull Crest on August 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and limited to 100 participants.





# Greenbelt Gazette

March, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Sharing the Lawn.** Some of those very important little greenbelt trails that connect neighborhoods to public open space are located on the lawns of adjacent property owners. In order to preserve the lawn, please dismount and walk your bike over the lawn portion of the trail.

•**Mud Season.** This is just a reminder to think about seasonally wet trail conditions and consider visiting some of the drier trails for the next few weeks.

•**Leased In the Parking lot.** Parking lots adjacent to our destination open spaces are often bustling with a diverse group of open space and other users “to ing and fro ing.” For this reason, all dogs must be leashed in and within 10’ of a parking lot, as well as on the connector trail at Gull Crest.



## What's Happening?

•**Signage should stay.** The Conservation Committee is always working on better, more accurate signage. The Conservation Committee is updating the trails map, with a focus on Cross Hill/Winnick Woods and Gull Crest. Once the map is updated, better signage will be deployed as needed on trails. We appreciate your support in not removing greenbelt signage.

•**New Great Pond Boat Rack.** Thanks go to the Sprague Corporation for granting permission to install a third boat rack at Great Pond, which was completed just before

the 2023 boat season. Boat rack capacity expanded from 32 to 50 canoe and kayak slots. This year, 180 applications were submitted, up from the standard 130 in the last few years. Permits are quickly being picked up by the lucky lottery winners and any unclaimed permits will be reassigned from the original lottery pool. For those not so lucky to get a slot, the town will again host the Community Boat program, where you can borrow a boat on the rack by reserving it through the ACP Office, 799-0115. Happy 2023 boating season.



# Greenbelt Gazette

February, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Sharing the Mud.** Most trails are still frozen and many are covered with snow. As temperatures moderate, however, mud season will be here. Some greenbelt trails are more resilient in changing seasons, but we can all think of trails that are seasonally muddy. As spring temps take hold and the ground thaws, please think about avoiding the muddiest trails until the season dries out a bit.

•**Priority trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee invites all trail user groups to consider taking on a trail improvement. The committee has identified their priority trail improvements and is eager to partner with volunteers to make trail improvements. Please contact the town planner to obtain the priority report and learn about next steps. Below are examples of trail locations needing boardwalks.



## What's Happening?

•**Great Pond Boat Rack Lottery now taking applications.** The Town Conservation Committee annually issues 32 permits to store a canoe or kayak at Great Pond for the season. Applications are now available on the [town website](#) or at the ACP Office, Town Hall and due March 20<sup>th</sup>. A lottery drawing will be held March 21<sup>st</sup> to issue the permits.





# Greenbelt Gazette

December, 2022  
January, 2023

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Nordic Trail grooming at Gull Crest.** Now that we have snow, some of the trails in Gull Crest may be groomed for Nordic Skiing. Please respect grooming efforts by walking on the edge of the trail, including four legged companions.

•**Trail access and snow banks.** It is wonderful that greenbelt trails provide 4-season outdoor recreation. Many of the greenbelt trail heads are adjacent to roads where snow banks are inevitably piled. Please be respectful of abutting property owners and do not trespass on private property to get around snow banks to access the trail. Thank you to those proactive folks who clear out a path through the snow bank to the trail. May you enjoy your stroll on our snow covered trails.

## What's Happening?

•**Winter Solstice Concert at Gull Crest!** On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Town of Cape Elizabeth hosted a winter concert by the group Vigorous Tenderness at Gull Crest. It was a cold, starry night where approximately 400 attendees walked the frozen, twinkling lit trails to enjoy non-traditional classical music by underrepresented composers. The evening culminated with a piece that includes a burning piano. (Only a piano that cannot be repaired is used in the piece). To accommodate the performance, both the Cape Elizabeth Public Works Department (bus parking and facility lighting) and the Cape Community Arena Group (ice rink lighting) agreed to turn down the outdoor lighting. Both the performers and attendees enjoyed the open space at Gull Crest.





# Greenbelt Gazette

November, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Leave Trail signs in place.** The Conservation Committee supports an ongoing trail signage program combining the classic sign shown above with colored diamonds, Cross Town Trail signs, and trailhead signs. The signs are installed to balance needed guidance for trail users with a natural trail experience. When signs are removed, trail users have become lost, especially in seasons when the trail surface is obscured by fallen leaves or snow. Please share your favorite trail with a new user and do not remove trail signage.

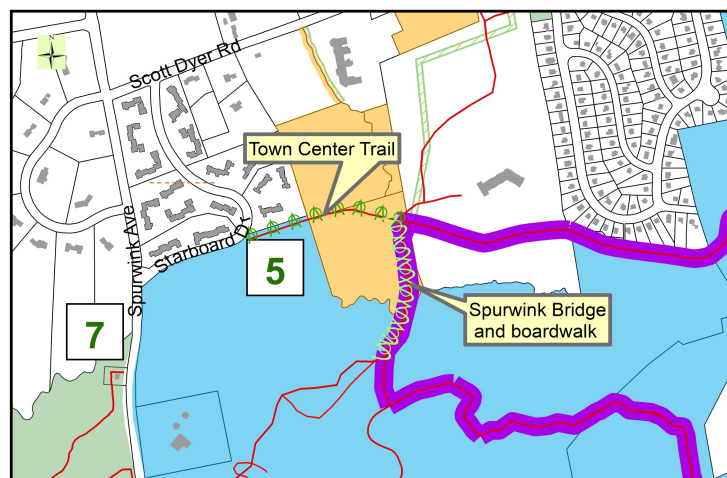
•**Hunting Seasons.** Hunting is allowed on the larger town open spaces, as required by state law. Please consider wearing orange when in the woods.

•**Volunteers welcome.** There are lots of specialty groups that enjoy the Cape Elizabeth Greenbelt trail network. Please consider donating some time to help maintain the trails. The Conservation Committee will be “making their list” of the most compelling projects and welcomes volunteers willing to lend a hand. Please contact the town planner if you are interested, [maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org), 207-799-0115.

## What's New?

### •Town Center Trail Reopens.

The Town Center Trail section located between Starboard Drive and Willow Brook is now open to pedestrian traffic. The Spurwink River Bridge and Boardwalk redecking project is also complete.



•**Gull Crest Boardwalks.** Another section of boardwalk in Gull Crest, “Big Wood,” that badly needed repairs has been completed. That section should be stable for a few years. Conservation Committee member Chris De Vries received a lot of help from Hester and Teagan from the Bissell Brothers Brewing “Green Team.” Thank you Hester, Teagan, and Chris!



•**Leave no trace on trails.** This is just a reminder that when your trail and open space excursion ends, please take any fishing tackle or whatever is left from your community gathering with you.



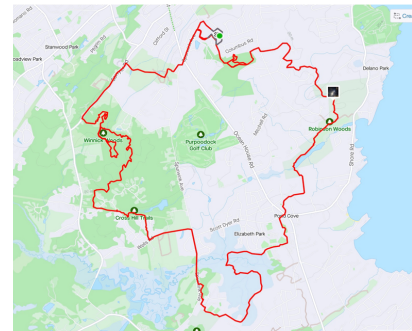
# Greenbelt Gazette

October, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

•**Memorials and Dogs.** When dogs visit the cemetery, they should leave nothing but footprints. A bereaved relative observed a dog owner with 2 dogs on leash allow the dogs to “do their business” on a headstone and a grave. It is disappointing that folks need to be reminded that the primary purpose of the cemetery is as a final resting place. Even when you think no one can see, gravestones and monuments are installed as a remembrance and should be treated with respect.

•**Riding on Town trails.** The New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) has been approved to offer four rides (20 person limit) on October 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 am with an estimated end time of 12:30 pm. Riders will share the trails with pedestrians.



•**Dogs not under voice control.** We continue to receive reports of dogs off-leash and not under voice control. Dogs that have not mastered coming when summoned must be on leash on town open space because you are sharing that open space with other trail users. If your dog does not return when called, you may be notified by the Police Department that off-leash privileges may be revoked. Trail users are limited to no more than 3 off-leash dogs at a time. With more than 3 dogs, all dogs must be on leash. [Dog Ordinance](#)

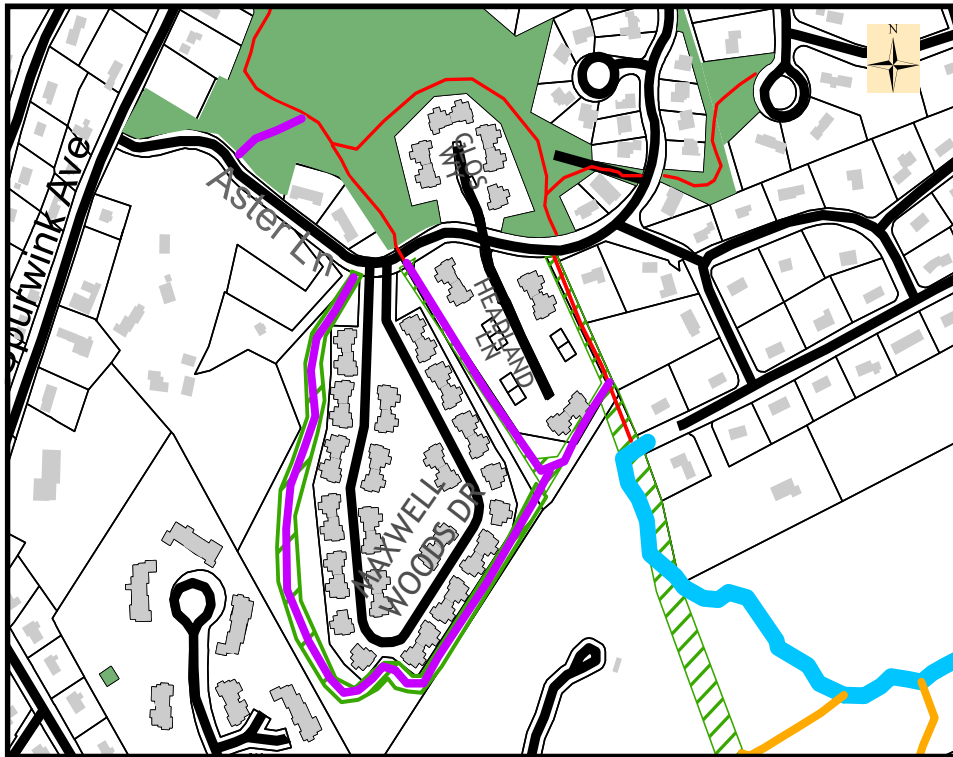
## What's New?

•**Maxwell Woods.** With the Maxwell Woods development nearing completion, the trail system included in the project design (shown in purple)





has been installed and signed. Residents are encouraged to walk these low to moderate difficulty trails both to enjoy another addition to the greenbelt and to help the trails “wear in.” The trails are located within a public access easement, so users should stay on the trails.



• **Community Boat program popular.** The Conservation Committee’s Community Boat program operating at Great Pond has been well received. Two dozen reservations have been made to take out the canoe stored on the boat racks at Great Pond. The boat program will remain available through the month of November. To reserve the canoe, oars, and life preservers, please contact the ACP Office, Town Hall, 799-0115.







# Greenbelt Gazette

September, 2022

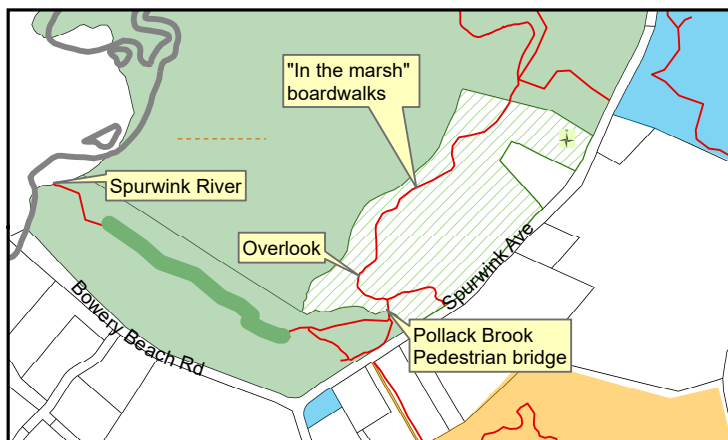
## Multi-user Mantras

•**Sharing Great Pond with the Community Boat Program.** Over 2 dozen reservations have been made to use the canoe at Great Pond provided by the Conservation Committee. If you would like to get on the water at Great Pond, contact the ACP Office, Town Hall, 799-0115, to reserve a time. The boat is outfitted with 2 oars, 2 adult and one child life preserver, and will be available until the first Saturday in December.



## What's New?

•**Town Farm Boardwalks.** The largest boardwalk projects at the Town Farm Trail have now been completed. The Conservation Committee sends a shout out/thank you to Mitch Wacksman, who completed most of the work and is a past Conservation Committee member and Chair. Mitch was joined current committee member



Chris De Vries and a few volunteers. The Town Farm Trail offers an “in the marsh” experience that connects to vistas over Spurwink Marsh, the Pollack Brook pedestrian bridge, Riverside Cemetery (dogs must be on leash) and terminating at the Spurwink River.



# Greenbelt Gazette

August, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

• **Town Center Trail Remains Closed.** The Town Center Trail from Starboard Drive to the Spurwink bridge connector is closed during replacement of the Willow Brook culvert. Replacement of the deteriorated metal corrugated culverts is the highest priority in the Cape Elizabeth Culvert and Habitat Assessment Study. The culverts are located 400' away from the Spurwink Marsh and provide support to 2 large sewer pipes that carry about 500,000 gallons of treated and untreated wastewater. Failure of the culverts and rupture of the sewer lines would be an environmental catastrophe. The culverts will be replaced with an open bottom concrete box culvert that restores the original width of the brook and allows unrestricted tidal flow. Majority funding of the project has been provided by a Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program grant. Trail users should plan to avoid the area during construction, with an estimated reopen date of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## What's New?

• **Great Pond Community Boat available to reserve.** Maybe you are one of the 100 folks whose application was *not* drawn in the Great Pond Boat Rack lottery? Maybe you have walked the trails at Great Pond and wondered what the view looks like from the water? Maybe you have never been in a canoe? This is your chance! The Conservation Committee is offering free use of a canoe at Great Pond. The canoe is on the racks, outfitted with 2 oars, 1 child sized life preserver and 2 adult sized life preservers, connected by a locking cable. Just call the town ACP office (during office hours), **799-0115**, to get instructions to reserve the canoe. If you send us a picture of your canoe outing, you may be featured in next month's Gazette.

• **Greenbelt improvements.** Fall is a good time to make some greenbelt trail improvements, as temperatures cool. The Conservation Committee has a multi-year list of improvements and welcomes volunteer assistance. Look for future announcements of trail improvement events and consider joining an event.



# Greenbelt Gazette

July, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

• **Village Green Maine Pops Band Concert.** The Maine Pops Band will perform a concert on the village green (located next to town hall) on **Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m.** The concert will last 70 minutes and conclude just as the sun sets at 8:09 p.m. Attendees should park behind the Town Hall, or the adjacent lot (see below). Check the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com), for more information.

• **Town Center Trail Closed.** The Town Center Trail from Starboard Drive to the Spurwink bridge connector is closed during replacement of the Willow Brook culvert. Trail users should plan to avoid the area during construction, with an estimated reopen date of November 1<sup>st</sup>.



## What's New?

• **Great Pond Community Boat "Launched".** The Conservation Committee's pilot program to make a canoe available for use at Great Pond is now available. To reserve the canoe, contact the ACP office, town hall, 799-0115. This free program is provided on the honor system. The canoe will be outfitted with 2 adult life preservers, 1 child life preserver, 2 oars and a locking cable.





# Greenbelt Gazette

June, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

• **Leash Dogs at Riverside Cemetery.** The interconnectedness of the greenbelt is achieved by sharing open spaces with multiple uses. Riverside Cemetery is one of those places where the primary use, the final resting place for Cape residents, can be complimented by trail walkers. Per Town ordinance, dogs in the cemetery *must* be on leash. Please be especially respectful when in the cemetery.

• **Village Green Maine Pops Concert.** The Maine Pops will perform a concert on the village green (located next to town hall) on **Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m.** The concert will last 70 minutes and conclude just as the sun sets at 8:09 p.m. Attendees should park behind the Town Hall, or at the School campus. Check the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com), for more information closer to the performance date.

• **Turtles on the move at Great Pond.** Turtles are making moves at Great Pond and both people and pets should take care to share the trails.

## What's New?

• **Town Farm Trail Boardwalk.** The Conservation Committee made a great start at boardwalk construction on the Town Farm Trail. More boardwalk construction and wood placement are needed, and volunteers are welcome to help. Past Conservation Committee Chair Mitch Wacksman is leading the way as the first section has been completed.

• **Town Center Trail Temporary Closure.** The Town Center Trail entrance on Starboard Drive will close mid-July to all users while Shaw Brothers Construction replaces the Willow Brook culvert. This is a significant infrastructure improvement consistent with resilience and environmental improvement goals. Please explore other trails until the trail opens at the end September.



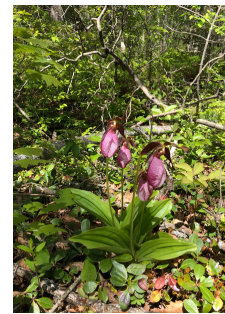


# Greenbelt Gazette

May, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

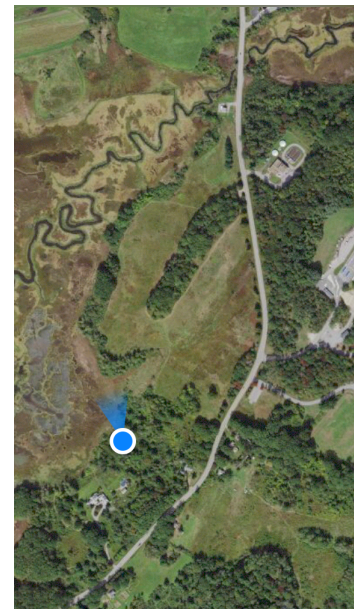
• **Dogs on Trails.** On a late May visit to the Great Pond trails, there was one yellow plastic bag and one small pile of dog waste observed. Overall, dog owners are doing well cleaning up after their pets. Please remember to clean up after your dog, and take those plastic bags with you. If you or your dog lose track of each other off-leash, please keep your dog on leash and out of private yards.



• **Dyer Pond Road trail entrance.** Many trails connect neighborhoods to preserved open space. That's why they are walkable. When walking that first 100'-200' of the trail adjacent to the neighborhood, please be considerate of abutting private property and keep you and your pet on the trail. The trail at the end of Dyer Pond Road is a designated ON-LEASH ONLY trail between the road and CELT open space. Failure to observe trail rules may result in loss of off-leash privileges on town trails.

## What's New?

• **Town Farm Trail Boardwalk build June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.** The Conservation Committee is sponsoring a trail improvement event on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the **Town Farm Trail**, located on the west side of Spurwink Ave across from the athletic field parking lot. Trail users know that this trail is chronically muddy and new boardwalk will improve conditions for users and the adjacent open space. Volunteers are needed to move lumber *a short distance* and to assemble 220' of boardwalk. Dress appropriately for muddy conditions, bring gloves and impact drivers if you have one. Check the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com), for updated information.







# Greenbelt Gazette

April, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Events on Town trails.** Town trails are here for the public to enjoy, and sometimes we enjoy meeting friends to enjoy the outdoors together. Events to be held on town open space (not including Fort Williams and town athletic fields) must first be reviewed by the Conservation Committee. The committee has approved a monthly (May thru September, 2022) bike ride hosted by GPNEMBA (Greater Portland New England Mountain Bike Association,) to be held the second Tuesday of the month from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. and capped at 20 riders (sign-up is required). Event is subject to cancellation in wet conditions.

## What's New?

- **Stonegate bridge replacement.** There's a lot of boardwalk work needed in the Stonegate trails and town resident Dan Chase has volunteered to replace bridge #2-35. Contact Dan or the town planner if you are interested in helping out.

- **Town Farm Trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee's top priority for trail improvement this year is the Town Farm trail (#1-49 and 1-50). The Conservation Committee will be taking on the project and scheduling the workday for some time in **June**. All trail users who would like to volunteer are welcome. After completing 900+' of boardwalk replacement last fall with the help of the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) and many volunteers, the committee hopes that 200' of boardwalk construction, and a much, much shorter carry-in of materials, will be done before the summer heat sets in. Watch for the gazette and the town website, [www.capeelizabeth.com](http://www.capeelizabeth.com), for more information on the date.



*Volunteers at Gull Crest in 2021.*



# Greenbelt Gazette

March, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Mud Season Pause.** Depending on the temperature and the weather, some of your favorite trails which are more prone to muddy conditions should be allowed to rest. Please consider visiting trails with firmer surfaces, local beaches and Fort Williams Park. At this time, a seasonal trail closure is not proposed.
- **Calling all kinds of trail users!** The Conservation Committee has a long list of trail improvements and is welcoming volunteers to pick your favorite “worst trail section.” Odds are that section is on the list for improvements. Perhaps your neighborhood would like to take on a project? Contact [Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org) to volunteer.
- **Avoid Town Open Space encroachment.** The Conservation Committee is responsible for managing town open space for all users. This includes preserving natural areas in compliance with deed restrictions. If your property abuts town open space, take special care to keep your property improvements on *your* property. Vegetation clearing, storing of equipment or dumping yard debris (leaves, brush, old Christmas trees) onto town open space should be avoided. No alterations to town open space should occur without prior approval of the Conservation Committee, and many activities are not allowed. Preservation of town open space is a community-wide benefit.

## What's New?

- **Great Pond Community Boat.** Look for more information *next month* about how to borrow the community boat at Great Pond. The Conservation Committee will be setting up a pilot program where a canoe will be available for use at no charge.
- **Cross Hill Open Space monitoring.** The Town and the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust are conducting the second round of site visits with property owners to mitigate potential encroachments onto town open space. Now is a good time to address encroachments, resulting in vegetation recovery over the summer before next fall’s annual inspection.



# Greenbelt Gazette

January, 2022

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Spurwink bridge and boardwalk closed!**

We are thrilled that contractor Brian Alexander is now working to replace the decking on the bridge and boardwalk. Please show consideration for his efforts and avoid the trail until the repair is complete.

- **Nordic trails at Gull Crest.** New signs are installed at Gull Crest reminding trail users to walk on the edge of trails groomed for skiing.

- **Open space alterations.** Most town open spaces are protected by deed restrictions and/or conservation easements that prohibit removal of vegetation, alteration of the land or installation of structures. In particular, abutting property owners should make sure their sheds, zip lines, yard debris, etc. are on their property.



## What's New?

- **Great Pond Boat Rack Permit applications.** The ACP Office in Town Hall will begin accepting boat rack applications in February. Permit applications are available on the town website and at town hall and will be accepted through March 11<sup>th</sup>. The drawing for 32 boat rack slots will take place March 14<sup>th</sup>.

- **Volunteers welcome.** The Conservation Committee has completed permitting for many trail improvement projects at Gull Crest, Cross Hill, Winnick Woods and Stonegate, which means projects are now ripe for construction. Volunteers interested in taking on a project should contact the Conservation Committee ([Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org)). In the next few months, the committee will be deciding on project priorities, has funding for materials, and is eager to partner with trail user groups.



# Greenbelt Gazette

November, 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Hunting Season.** Hunting season continues and trail users should consider wearing blaze orange. By state law, hunting is allowed on town open spaces like Winnick Woods and Gull Crest. Installation of a deer stand on town property requires a permit from the Police Department.

- **Nordic trails at Gull Crest.** Snow may soon be falling on town trails. The trails in Gull Crest east of Spurwink Ave and north of Dennison Drive were designed for challenging Nordic skiing. When there is fresh snow, Cape Nordic and the town groom the trails. If you are not on skis, please stay to the edge of the trail when snow is soft. This applies to trails users on foot, snowshoes, fat bikes, snowmobiles, and paws.

## What's New?

- **Gull Crest Outer Loop Progress.** The 900'+ boardwalk is within **10 boards** of completion, due in large part to the dogged effort of Conservation Committee Chair Mitch Wacksman to complete the project before he leaves the committee at the end of the year. The committee remains grateful to the volunteer groups who are still offering to help. We need to carry out portions of the old boardwalk, so keep those offers of help coming!

- **Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk decking replacement.** It's been on the to do list, and it looks like the decking on the Spurwink Bridge and Boardwalk will be replaced starting in December.



Conservation Committee Chair Mitch Wacksman (R) and committee member Chris DeVries (L) reaching the end of the boardwalk replacement at Gull Crest.

Try to avoid this critical boardwalk connection during the construction period.





# Greenbelt Gazette

October, 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

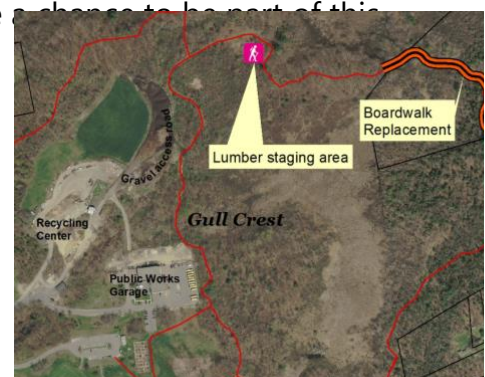
- **Hunting Season.** Trail users are reminded that with Fall comes hunting season. By state law, hunting is allowed on town open spaces like Winnick Woods and Gull Crest. Installation of a deer stand on town property requires a permit from the Police Department. Trail users should consider wearing blaze orange.

- **Events on town trails.** Do you want to hold an event on town open space? Before you make that announcement, town ordinance requires that you obtain permission. The process is simple and proportional to the size of the event. The Conservation Committee has reviewed and approved several events that align with town open space values and expand opportunities to enjoy town trails. For information on next steps, contact the town planner (contact info below).

## What's the Same?

- **Gull Crest Outer Loop Progress.** Approximately 130' of boardwalk awaits replacement following the project concluding on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Committee is continuing to work on completing the project and asking the community to turn out for this largest of greenbelt trail improvements. If you missed out on the earlier efforts, you still have a chance to be part of this project!

- **Extending the Public greenbelt.** The Conservation Committee remains available to talk to property owners who are interested preserving their land, hosting a new trail or managing an existing "casual" trail. The committee has successfully worked with several land owners to bring





neighborhood trails under the Greenbelt umbrella  
*and* curtail off-trail encroachments. Contact the  
town planner for more information,  
[Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:Maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org), 207-799-  
0115.



# Greenbelt Gazette

September 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Hunting Season.** Trail users are reminded that with Fall comes “hunting season.” By state law, hunting is allowed on town open spaces like Winnick Woods and Gull Crest. Installation of a deer stand on town property requires a permit from the Police Department. Trail users should consider wearing blaze orange.

- **Respect in Riverside Cemetery.** Cemeteries are often *shared* open spaces. Dogs are required to be on-leash in Riverside Cemetery. Trail users should remember that a cemetery is the final resting place of loved ones and both visitors and their pets should behave respectfully within the groomed areas of the cemetery.

## What's New?

- **Gull Crest Outer Loop Progress.** Approximately 200’ of boardwalk remains to be replaced following the project concluding on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Committee will be meeting October 12<sup>th</sup> to plan for completion of the project, and will likely ask the community to turn out for this largest of greenbelt trail improvements. If you missed out on the earlier efforts, you still have a chance to be part of this project!



- **Town Farm Trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee thanks eagle scout candidate Jake Goodwin for constructing boardwalk on the Town Farm Trail. This trail is the highest priority for boardwalk installation and the Conservation Committee is partnering with multiple eagle scout candidates to get the boardwalks built.

- **Bench missing.** An eagle scout bench installed on the trail extending from Riverside Cemetery to the Spurwink River has been removed. We want the bench back.



# Greenbelt Gazette

August 2021

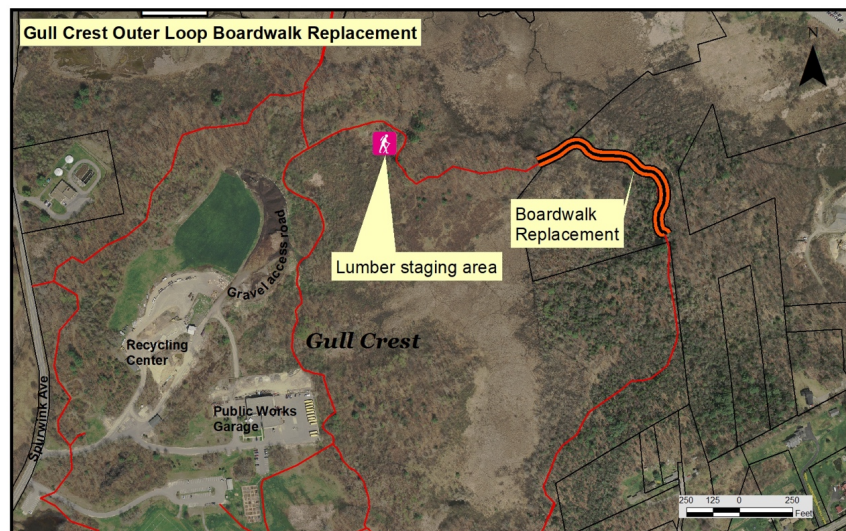
## Multi-user Mantras

• **Share the Trails.** As summer winds down and residents shift to recreating closer to home, just a reminder that the Cape Elizabeth greenbelt is a multi-user trail system. Folks out for a gentle stroll may be on the same trail as someone seeking a rustic and physically challenging work out. And that's ok.

## What's New?

• **Gull Crest Outer Loop Closed after Labor Day.** The Conservation Committee, the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) and town volunteers will be working to replace 900' of the Outer Loop Boardwalk in September. Volunteers are sought to help carry in wood from September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup>. The MCC crew arrives September 13<sup>th</sup> for a week of boardwalk construction. The more lumber placed by volunteers prior to September 13<sup>th</sup>, the better the odds MCC will be able to complete the boardwalk replacement and the trail will be reopened. Volunteers willing to work with the MCC crew are also needed. Contact the town planner, 799-0115 or maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org.

Let's get this done! The group that moves the most lumber will be awarded a \$100 gift card for your next event.





# Greenbelt Gazette

July 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

• **Skill building at Winnick Woods.** The Bicycle Coalition of Maine has been granted permission by the Conservation Committee to hold two skill building events, limited to 6 participants, at Winnick Woods. The sessions will be held on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. If you are interested, registration is through the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. Trails will remain open to all trail users during the event.

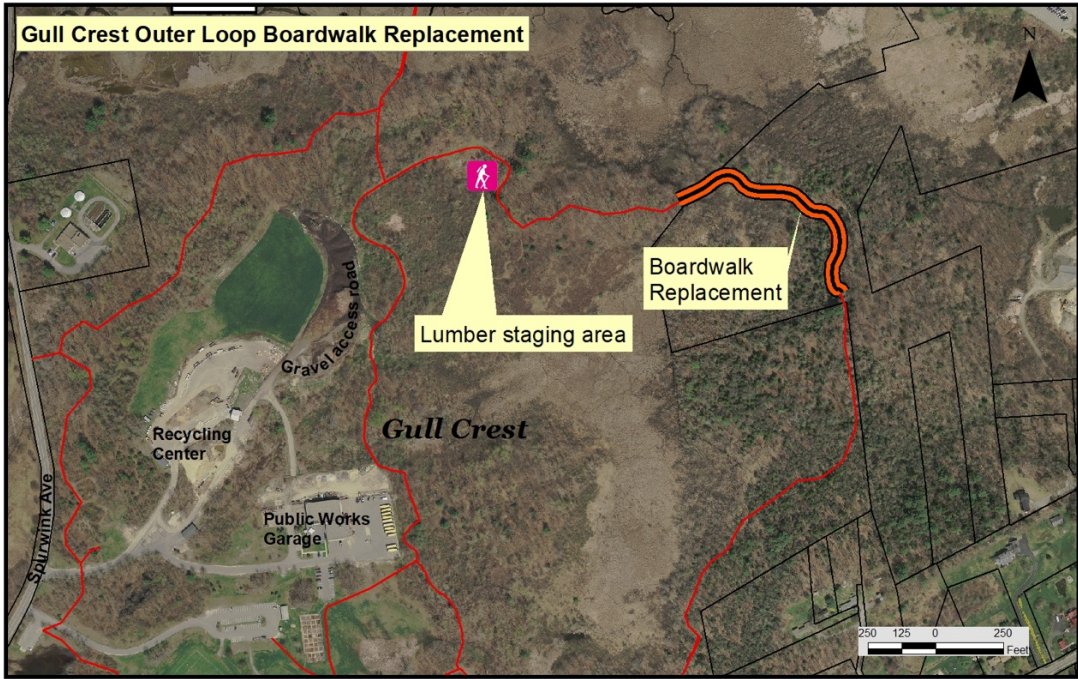
## What's New?

• **Gull Crest Outer Loop Boardwalk Challenge.** Does your neighborhood association or community group yearn for local fame and bragging rights? Would you like to boost the food budget for your annual meeting with a prize \$100 gift card? The Conservation Committee is seeking volunteer groups to sign up for a session walking in lumber at Gull Crest from September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup>. The group that moves the most lumber will receive a \$100 gift card to fund your next gathering.

The Conservation Committee is working to preplace lumber along 900+' of boardwalk to be replaced the week of September 13<sup>th</sup> by a crew from the Maine Conservation Corps. The more lumber placed, and boardwalk removed, prior to September 13<sup>th</sup>, the better the odds the crew will be able to complete the boardwalk replacement. Volunteers willing to work with the MCC crew are also needed.

For more information, please contact the town planner, 799-0115 or [maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org).









# Greenbelt Gazette

June 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

- **No ATVs on town greenbelt trails.** ATVs are NOT included in the range of user groups that share town trails. Town ordinance prohibits operation of ATVs on town trails. Incidental use of an ATV, only with explicit authorization of the Conservation Committee for a *specific and limited* trail improvement event, has been allowed on rare occasions. ATVs on town trails should be reported to the Police Department.

- **Be alert for hornet ground nests!** We are currently treating a hornet nest located underneath the Fowler Rd connector boardwalk. Last year we dealt with a nest under the Cottage Brook boardwalk. Please be mindful of stinging insects that do not want to share boardwalk space.

- **Walk on the Fowler Rd connector lawn.** Located near the intersection of Fowler Road and Fenway Rd, the Fowler Road Connector is an important trail connection from Gull Crest to Great Pond. A portion of the trail sits on a private lawn and trail users are asked to dismount and walk their bike across the lawn.

## What's New?

- **Boardwalk construction at Town Farm.** Anyone visiting the Town Farm trail has encountered a muddy trail surface. The Town is finalizing necessary permitting and, with the leadership of eagle scout candidates and their intrepid "packs", will be building new boardwalk starting in July.

- **Boardwalk construction at Gull Crest/Walk-in challenge.** The Conservation Committee will be partnering with the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) to replace 900+' of boardwalk in Gull Crest the week of September 13<sup>th</sup>. In order to optimize the work accomplished by the 6-person MCC team, volunteers are needed to preplace lumber. 300 10' foot long boards need to be walked 10-20 minutes into the work site. The Conservation Committee is asking community organizations and neighborhood groups to put forth a team for a "walk in challenge" and an award is in discussion for best efforts. More information will

be available closer to September 1, 2021, with questions directed to the town planner, [maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org), 799-0115.

- **Fenway path.** As part of the repaving of Fenway Road, the contractor volunteered to pave the path that extends from the road to the Great Pond Trail system.



# Greenbelt Gazette

May 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Riverside Cemetery Dogs on Leash.** On the doorstep of Memorial Day weekend, it is especially appropriate to remind folks that dogs *must* be on leash in Riverside Cemetery. The Town, with the help of some eagle scouts, have been able to finesse trails to connect to Riverside Cemetery on the Spurwink Marsh. These connections between the cemetery and the greenbelt are another opportunity to practice multi-user courtesy. Always remove any dog waste.
- **Check for Ticks!** It's great weather for enjoying greenbelt trails. Ticks think so too. Check yourself and your pets for ticks.

## What's New?

- **Tower Construction at Gull Crest.** Trail users at Gull Crest have probably noticed that trails that connect to the new telecommunications tower site have been temporarily closed. Once construction is complete, the area will be reopened and rerouted trail connections will be in place. Thank you for your flexibility during this needed improvement to town emergency service communications.
- **Sea View Ave/Glen Ave parking changes.** Visitors to Cliff House Beach Park should note that new parking rules are in effect. Only cars with a Municipal Recycling Center Sticker may park on Sea View Ave and Glen Ave from May 1 to October 1. No parking is allowed the northwest side of Sea View Ave or on east side of Glen Avenue from the intersection with Sea View Ave to Shore Road. Bike racks are on order and will be installed soon.
- **Photo monitoring posts.** A CELT intern project will provide photo monitoring posts at Pond Cove, Spurwink Marsh pedestrian bridge, Willow Brook and Town Farm near the Marsh. Uploaded photos will be used to document water level/potential climate changes.



# Greenbelt Gazette

May 2021

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Riverside Cemetery Dogs on Leash.** On the doorstep of Memorial Day weekend, it is especially appropriate to remind folks that dogs *must* be on leash in Riverside Cemetery. The Town, with the help of some eagle scouts, have been able to finesse trails to connect to Riverside Cemetery on the Spurwink Marsh. These connections between the cemetery and the greenbelt are another opportunity to practice multi-user courtesy. Always remove any dog waste.
- **Check for Ticks!** It's great weather for enjoying greenbelt trails. Ticks think so too. Check yourself and your pets for ticks.

## What's New?

- **Tower Construction at Gull Crest.** Trail users at Gull Crest have probably noticed that trails that connect to the new telecommunications tower site have been temporarily closed. Once construction is complete, the area will be reopened and rerouted trail connections will be in place. Thank you for your flexibility during this needed improvement to town emergency service communications.
- **Sea View Ave/Glen Ave parking changes.** Visitors to Cliff House Beach Park should note that new parking rules are in effect. Only cars with a Municipal Recycling Center Sticker may park on Sea View Ave and Glen Ave from May 1 to October 1. No parking is allowed the northwest side of Sea View Ave or on east side of Glen Avenue from the intersection with Sea View Ave to Shore Road. Bike racks are on order and will be installed soon.
- **Photo monitoring posts.** A CELT intern project will provide photo monitoring posts at Pond Cove, Spurwink Marsh pedestrian bridge, Willow Brook and Town Farm near the Marsh. Uploaded photos will be used to document water level/potential climate changes.





# Greenbelt Gazette

April 2021

Many of you have volunteered time to Earth Day activities, which seem especially poignant one year into a global pandemic. In the spirit of Earth Day, consider picking up some trash on your next greenbelt trail walk. Cape trails are generally free of trash (with the exception of doggie waste bags!) and that's due to the responsible stewardship of trail users like you.

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Personal responsibility.** There have been some serious incidents in the region where off-leash dogs not under voice and sight control have attacked humans and pets. Some communities are considering mandatory leash requirements. Cape Elizabeth is emphasizing active management of town open space, but this relies on support from responsible pet owners. Please do your part.
- **Seasonal Trail sensible use.** Town trails were not closed this year during "mud season." Thanks to all who supported this decision by avoiding the muddiest trails!

## What's New?

- **Town Farm Trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee will be building new boardwalk on the Town Farm Trail this year. The local Resource Protection Permit has been submitted to the Planning Board for consideration at the May 18th meeting. Once state and local approvals are in hand, the Conservation Committee will be taking this on as a volunteer project, some time after July 1, 2021.
- **Gull Crest Trail improvements.** The Town's application for assistance from the Maine Conservation Corps has been accepted to replace 900+' of boardwalk in Gull Crest. This work is scheduled for August, 2021. In order to optimize the work that can be accomplished by the 6-person team in one week, the Conservation Committee will be asking for neighborhoods, civic groups and others to volunteer to carry in lumber for preplacement. Watch for more information, sign-up sheets, and potential prizes.



# Greenbelt Gazette

March 2021

Happy Spring greenbelt trail users! Trails are dry, wet, muddy, and frozen, and all on the same trail. There will be no seasonal trail closure this year. Try to avoid wet trails when you can, and wear footwear suitable for walking right through the mud, so that damage does not encroach off-trail.

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Parking lot=Leash.** All dogs must be on a leash within 10' of a parking lot or parking area used to access a greenbelt trail. Many trail user conflicts occur within this area, especially at the beginning of a walk.
- **Dog Poop bags.** Used dog poop bags should NOT be left on greenbelt trails, but rather taken home and disposed of with your household trash.
- **All pets are important.** Trail users and their dogs should take especial care to stay on the trail and not harass pets that live on abutting private property. Can't stop your dog from chasing the neighbor's cat, dog, whatever? Put your dog on a leash for that portion of the trail.

## What's New?

**Great Pond Boat Rack Lottery.** Over 150 applications were submitted for this year's lottery to award 32 seasonal boat rack slots. All permits have been awarded for this season. Didn't get a boat slot? Visitors are welcome to visit Great Pond and carry in/carry out boats. Applications are accepted each February with a drawing in mid-March, so mark your calendars for next year.

**Coyote hunt.** Trail users near Great Pond should leash their pets and stay on the trail as the abutting land owner is conducting a coyote hunt consistent with state law to address damage to agricultural activities.

**Trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee is initiating permitting for trail improvements at Stonegate, Gull Crest, Cross Hill and Winnick Woods. Calls for volunteers will be posted late spring through the fall.



# Greenbelt Gazette

February 2021

We hear from greenbelt trail users all the time that the town's 18+ miles of trails are treasured by Cape residents. In an effort to improve the trail experience, we are experimenting with a monthly newsletter to share news and promote best practices.

## Multi-user Mantras

- **Epod litter.** Please do not drop ecigarette litter. The spent pods contain chemicals harmful to environment and to pets and wildlife that may consume them.
- **Dog waste bags.** Thank you for picking up after your pets. Please do not leave the doggie waste bag behind, but rather dispose of it similar to household trash.
- **Frisky pet=leash.** Most town trails are available for off-leash walks, however your dog must be under voice and sight control at all times. If your dog's joy of the outdoors overwhelms its ability to keep some distance between people and other dogs, then a leash should be used.

## What's New?

**Town Farm Trail improvements.** The Conservation Committee is planning to install new boardwalk on the Town Farm Trail after years of efforts to stabilize the often muddy surface. Permitting is in the works. In order to stretch greenbelt trail funding, the committee will be calling for volunteers to install board walk this spring/early summer.

**Boat Rack Lottery.** We are now accepting applications for a slot on the boat storage racks at Great Pond. Applications are online and due **March 12th**.  
<https://www.capeelizabeth.com/Great-Pond-Boat-Storage-Permit-Application>

## Featured Trail of the Month

For the next Gazette, this section will include a description of the delights of a Town trail submitted by a reader. Send your mini-essay, including the trail location, and your name to [maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org](mailto:maureen.omeara@capeelizabeth.org). Looking forward to hearing from you by March 8th.