

Draft  
Open Space Criteria for identification  
of Key Parcels

The Future Open Space Preservation Committee (FOSP) has been charged by the Cape Elizabeth Town Council with identifying property in Cape Elizabeth that is a high priority for preservation as open space. FOSP has identified the following criteria to select key parcels for preservation. The criteria is listed in order of priority.

**1. Agriculture**

Undeveloped lands that have been used for agriculture within the last 5 years or that support the economic viability of agriculture. Economic viability shall include lands for accessory buildings directly related to agriculture or accessory activities necessary to perform agricultural activities, but shall not include residential uses.

Information sources: inventory of existing farms, prime farmland soils, land under agriculture tax program

Optional: Woodland

**2. Greenbelt trails**

Land that adds to the town greenbelt trail system by providing links between existing open space or adding open space to an underserved area of town consistent with the Town Greenbelt Plan and lands that expand recreational opportunities or provide water access.

Information Sources: Town and Land Trust open space and trails, Greenbelt Plan, river, stream and pond frontage.

Optional: Public access, Scenic viewsheds, hilltops, unique natural features

**3. Wildlife Habitat**

Undeveloped lands that provide a habitat for wildlife, or have the characteristics that are suitable for wildlife habitat, land that links at least two wildlife habitat areas, or land immediately adjacent to a preserved area that can be combined to improve the wildlife habitat value through

1 contiguous open space. These areas provide habitat in particular to  
2 endangered or threatened wildlife.

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4 Information sources: Beginning with Habitat Wildlife habitat data, Zoning  
5 Map, RP1 and RP2 wetlands.

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7 Optional: Endangered or threatened plants, shellfish beds

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9 **4. Historic and Cultural**

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11 Land and buildings that uniquely represent historical or cultural features  
12 which significantly contribute to community character.

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14 Information sources: National Register properties, archeological sites

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16 Optional: Local historic structures inventory

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18 Other optional criteria not included above: floodplains, water quality protection,  
19 avoidance of town services, preference of type of acquisition of fee or  
20 easement.  
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