

City of Brisbane, CA

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of the Open Space/Ecology Committee is to make recommendations to the City Council on the implementation of relevant programs and policies of the Open Space and Conservation Elements as well as the environment and natural resources policies of the Local Economic Development chapter of the General Plan. That responsibility includes preparing drafts of the relevant, regular reports called for in the General Plan, such as the annual report on the status of open space. The responsibility of the Open Space and Ecology Committee does not include review and comment on applications submitted to the City under Titles 16 and 17 of the Brisbane Municipal Code unless specifically requested by the City Council.

The function of the Open Space and Ecology Committee shall encompass consideration of the following areas of responsibility.

1. Open space planning, maintenance and monitoring.
2. Ecological issues that affect the natural environment in Brisbane as guided by the principles of ecological sustainability.
3. City practices and programs related to natural resource conservation.

Some examples of specific issues and topics that the Open Space Committee may address include:

1. Water and energy conservation.
2. Annual open space report.
3. Annual evaluation of the HCP.
4. Public information and education on ecological issues.
5. Recycling/solid waste reduction issues.
6. Wetlands preservation and enhancement issues.
7. Preservation and enhancement of the Brisbane Lagoon pursuant to goals and objectives adopted by the City Council.
8. Issues related to pollution, toxic waste and contamination.

In order for the Open Space/Ecology Committee to work expeditiously, its members should receive appropriate education in the tasks before them, pay close attention to timelines and priorities, meet as often as required, keep track of ideas not directly on agenda items for future reference, recognize that open

space and ecological issues are necessarily holistic and connected, and pick a chair who will provide leadership consistent with these principles.

Staff support

The City Manager or his or her designee shall serve as the staff advisor to the Open Space and Ecology Committee and shall give notice of meetings, keep and maintain records of Committee meetings and recommendations, an

Norton, Massachusetts

Open Space 2007 Town Report

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)

The mission of the Open Space Committee includes the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, prioritization and recommendations for the currently town-owned parcels, and involvement in open space projects. Members are appointed for three-year terms. The Conservation Agent, Jennifer Carlino, serves as the staff person for the Open Space Committee and comments/suggestions may be sent to the Conservation Office. The Open Space Committee consists of Jim Hendrickson, Chairman; Patricia MacLeod, Vice-Chairman; Joan Guerrero, and Jean Nardozzi. There are three empty seats on the committee. Regular meetings are held on Thursdays in the Town Hall.

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

The Open Space Committee has begun an extensive wildlife habitat evaluation of the entire Canoe River throughout Norton. All protected properties along the river as well as the river have been evaluated for natural community types and species utilization of the site. As part of the project, the Committee has implemented a public outreach program. Several well attended canoe trips and nature walks were led by Conservation Agent, Jennifer Carlino, during the spring, summer and fall. In preparation for all canoe trips Chairman Jim Hendrickson assisted in clearing the waterways of overhanging brush for under a wetland permit approval. A brief description of the public events is listed below.

Vernal Pool Powerpoint presentation at the Norton Public Library on April 19, 2007 followed by a Vernal Pool field trip to Land Preservation Society of Norton land on Christina Estates on April 21, 2007

A vernal pool Powerpoint presentation to 130 students at the Norton Middle School

A canoe trip to celebrate the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee 20th anniversary Canoe River Awareness Day at Red Mill Rd, Norton near Easton town line on May 12, 2007

Canoe trip of the Canoe River, north of Newland Street near the Water Pump Station on June 2, 2007

Canoe trip of the Canoe River on Newland Street south of Water Pump Station on June 16, 2007

A Bug and Butterfly Walk at Johnson Acres on August 25, 2007

A Bug and Butterfly Walk at the Town Forest on September 15, 2007

A canoe trip of the Norton Reservoir is scheduled for October 6, 2007 to view fall foliage

All natural resource information will be compiled in the next year to produce a wildlife habitat evaluation with maps and species lists. The evaluation will assist towns within the watershed target land for open space protection and wetland permitting. In 2006, the Committee received a \$3,500.00 grant on behalf of the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee from Norcross Wildlife Foundation in order to purchase equipment to assist in the habitat evaluation. A GPS unit, cameras and a laptop for Powerpoint presentations has greatly added to the Committee's ability to perform the evaluation and conduct the public outreach program.

Leo G. Yelle Conservation Area Boardwalk Project

The boardwalk at the Leo Yelle Conservation Area is nearly complete! The project was initiated by volunteer Ginny Weisman and received funding and volunteers from Baker's Landscaping, Home Depot in Mansfield and residents' donations of approximately \$1,800.00 made in honor of Leo Yelle's 100th birthday (2006). Ms. Weisman's team, Jennifer Carlino and the Open Space Committee members did the actual construction. Despite some vandalism in the winter of 2007, the boardwalk has been a major goal of the Open Space Committee. A railing will be added to the portion of the bridge over Great Brook.

The Open Space Committee has drafted the procedure for transferring town-land for specific preservation purposes. The two-page procedure was presented to the Recreation Commission at one of their meetings to assist in preserving land for active recreation uses.

Anyone interested in being on the mailing list (email list) for event notification, please email us at conservation@nortonmaus.com.

Granville Township, New Jersey

The Granville Township trustees have taken the first step toward the possible acquisition of development rights to the Granville Golf Course, an action that would protect it from potential development.

The trustees agreed at their meeting on Wednesday to ask the township's Open Space Committee to evaluate the desirability of acquiring development rights for the 149-acre property using a numerically weighted scoring system.

Scoring the property is the first step in a procedure the township uses to determine whether to pursue acquisition of development rights. If the scoring indicates the property is worth pursuing, the township will order an appraisal and enter into negotiations with the owners.