



CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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MAINSTONE FARM

Mainstone Farm is the largest remaining piece of undeveloped open space in Wayland and one of the few of its size in the region.

On April 12, 2017, the Hamlen Family sold a perpetual Conservation Restriction to the Town and SVT for \$15 million. Wayland voters committed \$12 million towards acquisition from Community Preservation funds and SVT raised \$3 million.

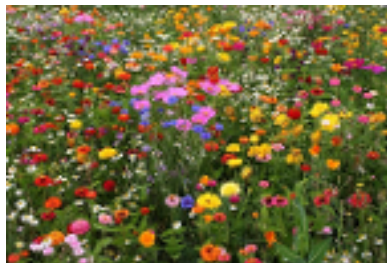
Under the CR, which is jointly held by the Town and SVT, the current and future owners will be permitted to farm and conduct woodland management activities, and they will continue to pay property taxes. Trails, connecting to adjacent conservation land, are open for passive, public recreation. The CR is a legal document that protects Mainstone's scenic landscape and ecological values while allowing for active agriculture and public access to designated trails.



WILDFLOWER GARDEN

The Community Gardens have been in use by residents of Wayland and surrounding towns for many years. Depending on the weather, the gardens open in April and close in October.

Recently, wildflowers were planted in the tilled plots that are not rented. The wildflower garden is a natural habitat for pollinators. A pollinator garden was also planted on the east side of the gardens next to the bee hives. Please do not pick the flowers.



COMMISSION DUTIES

The Commission administers the State Wetlands Protection Act and the local wetlands protection bylaw as well as the Stormwater and Land Disturbance Bylaw. In addition to permitting, the Commissions responsibilities include enforcement, education, and maintenance of Open Space parcels. The Commission also manages the Community Gardens. It's composed of seven members, each for a term of three years, and one Associate member, for a term of one years.

The Commission typically meets twice a month at Town Hall on Thursday evenings.

More information can be found on the Conservation Department's web page or in the Conservation Office in Town Hall.

EVENTS

Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 5:30pm Common Nighthawk Walk

At Heard Farm Conservation Area, we will meet in the parking lot located at the end of Heard Rd. There is an easy half mile walk, which overlooks where the nighthawk walk takes place
RAIN DATE: Sunday August 27th
@5:30p.m. Heard's Parking Lot

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Land Manager and Seasonal Employees were able to plant native plantings at the Wayland Public Library, 246 Stonebridge Road, and the Community Gardens.

Bike racks were installed at Heard Farm and Rocky Point Conservation Areas for public use.

Volunteers are always welcome!

MOWING SCHEDULE

Our Land Manager and Seasonal Employees work daily to maintain the properties controlled by the Conservation Department. During the Spring and Summer seasons, the properties listed below are mowed, each with their respective mowing time line. Although our Land Management team strives to regularly mow our properties, the time line listed below is subject to change.

Community Gardens: Weekly

Cow Common: 3 Weeks

Greenways: 3 Weeks

Lee Road: 4 Weeks

Lower Snake Brook: 2 Weeks

Michael Road: 4 Weeks

Newbury Property: 4 Weeks

Pod Meadow: 4 Weeks

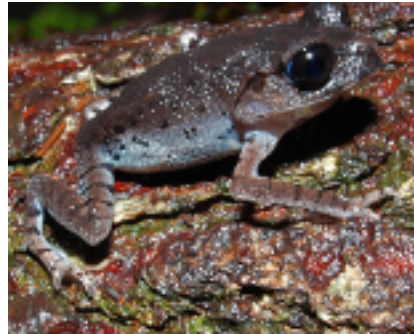
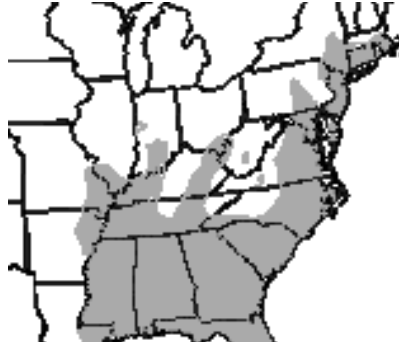
Rowan Hill: 4 Weeks

Sedge Meadow: 3 Weeks

Timber Lane: 2 Weeks



EASTERN SPADEFOOT TOAD



Natural Heritage recently discovered a small population of eastern spadefoot toads living in Wayland. Currently, eastern spadefoot toads are considered rare in Massachusetts, threatened by the loss of habitat due to development and urbanization.

Eastern spadefoot toads are plump, with smooth skin and scattered, tiny warts. They range in color from olive to brown to black. Two irregular yellow stripes on the back may form a vase-shaped pattern or resemble the outline of a misshapen hourglass. Unlike most frogs and toads in North America, which have round or horizontal pupils, spadefoot toads have almost vertical pupils. They can be distinguished from other toads by a black, sharp-edged, spade-like projection on the underside of each foot.

The protection of vernal pools and other temporary water bodies will help many of Massachusetts amphibian species. Pools located near sandy soils or dry, open areas are of particular importance to spadefoot toads. Learn to identify these special habitats so they can be noted and protected.

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