

# **Benefits of Partnerships:**

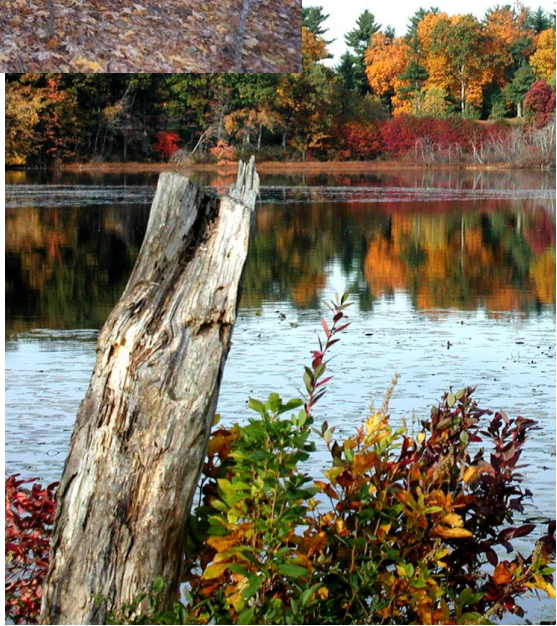
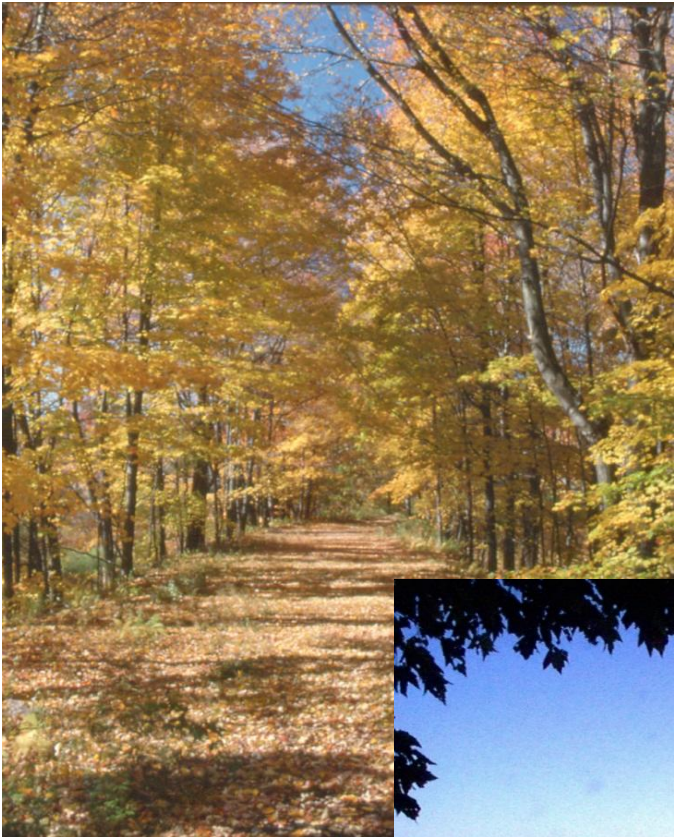
**Sharing Capabilities to Protect  
Land & Watersheds**

# Town of Westborough





# Town of Westborough



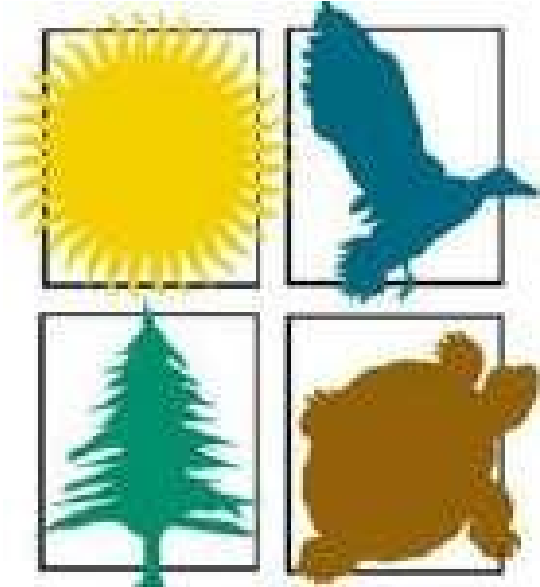


# Westborough wasn't always conservation friendly



- The town rejected gifts of open space land
- The town had never purchased land purely for open space
- The Board of Selectman had rejected in the mid-1970's a proposal from the town planner to build a trail network
- The Open Space Preservation Committee had stated there was no place left to build trails

# The Westborough Community Land Trust



The trust was started by the town's Open Space Preservation Committee to act on efforts the community was rejecting.

# The Westborough Charm Bracelet Trail



A stealth land preservation effort by building a town trail network to introduce people to the land we wished to protect.

# Town advantages

- Access to town land is a given
- Some state funding must be through towns
- Can hold hearings
- Able to do tax takings
- Some state agencies, such as MWRA and MassDOT only deal with towns





# Land Trust Advantages



- Can move faster than town government
- Some grants only available to non-profits
- More flexible on land deals



# Planning - Introductions

- Having someone who knows the land owner do an introduction is the best way to get an easement for a trail or to start land acquisition
- Be patient but persistent



# Planning – Zoning

- Zoning can encourage useful open space
- Minor changes can make trail easements easier to get





# Planning – Land Protection

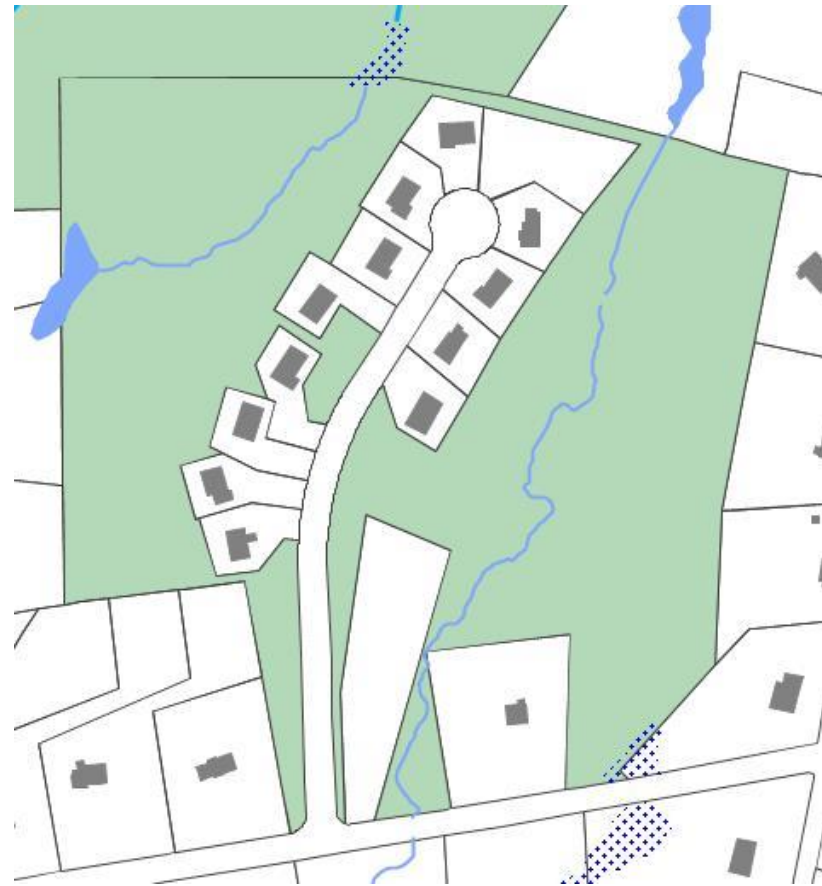


- Get an open space bylaw that allows designation of the land to a local land trust
- Be active in the planning process to ensure you get good land



# Planning – Pitfalls

- Watch out for problem open space such as:
  - Too many abutters
  - Weird configurations
- Keep on top of the legal paperwork
- Don't let the town think of you as town committee



# Planning - Pitfalls



- Keep on top of the project
- Do not assume the plans won't change
- Expect mistakes as the project is built

# Planning - Easements



- Explain why you need the trail
- Ask for the minimum easement you need
- Be flexible



# Planning - Trails

- It is possible to have the developer build the trail
- This is best done when it adds value to the development
- Make sure maintenance and access are spelled out



# Planning - Parking



- Parking can be one of the most challenging items for a property or a trail
- Planning Board can ask for dedicated parking spaces
- Planning can dictate street configuration on new streets

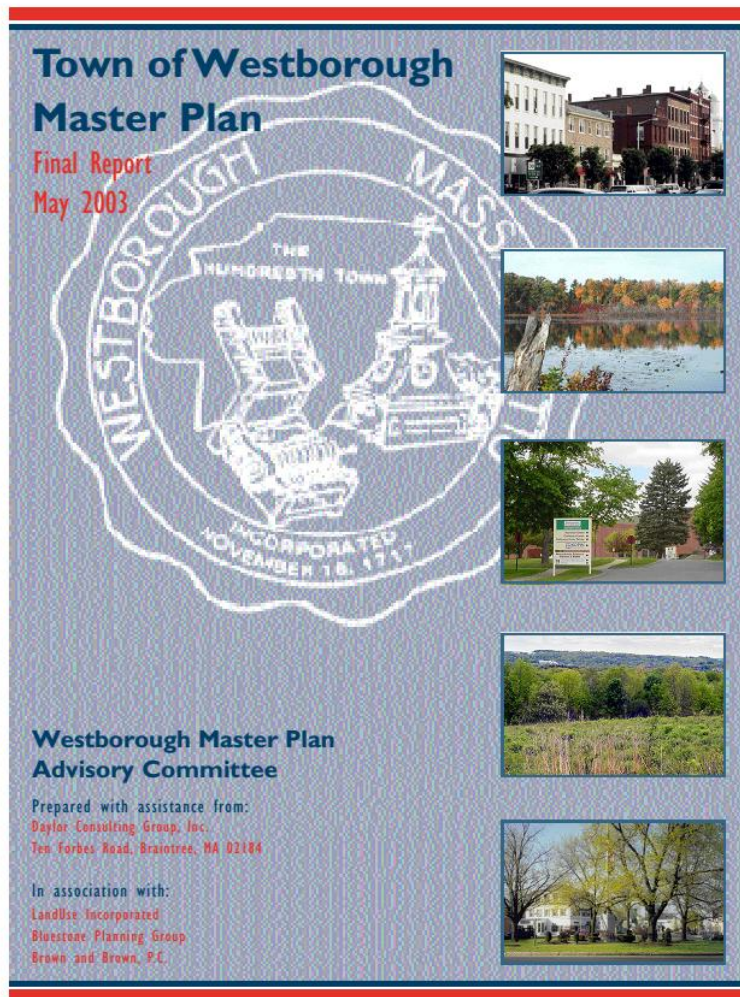


# Planning - Parking





# Planning – Master Plan



- Get your trusts efforts into the town's Master Plan if possible.

# ConsCom – Blanket NOI



- Propose a blanket Notice of Intent for your trail or property efforts
- Work with the town's DPW on the ConsCom since it will save the town money

# ConsCom – Trail Agreement

- Start early on an agreement with the Commission for trail building on Conservation Land





# ConsCom – OSRP

- The Open Space and Recreation Plan can be your guidebook to land for a trail route
- Encourage making the open space inventory as complete as possible
- Get the trail network into the plan

Town of Westborough



Open Space and Recreation Plan  
2003 Update

Prepared by the Open Space Preservation Committee

# DPW – Materials





# DPW – Work

- DPW can help you with work that otherwise may be challenging
- Understand that DPW is event driven. You can't just expect them to work at a given time





# DPW – Crosswalks



- If you are building a trail it is going to cross roads, so you need crosswalks
- Every town is different on who has to approve a crosswalk

# Board of Selectmen ...

- Get an endorsement
- The town may have “junk land” that is of value to the land trust
- Have an agreement for trails on town property



# Recreation Department

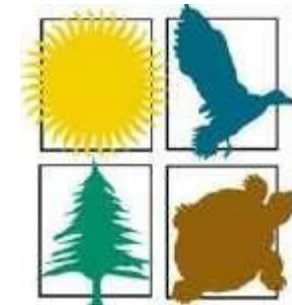


- Trail walks
- Printing trail maps



# Land Trusts

- Your community may have more than one land trust
- Partner with the other trusts for land protection
- Be sure to let the other groups know when you are going for a property



# Economic Development Committee (EDC)

Westborough Walks!

50+ Miles of Trails



[town.westborough.ma.us](http://town.westborough.ma.us)

- EDC's can promote your trails and your properties
- EDC's are another source of introductions to landowners
- Marlborough MA EDC found trails were the #1 amenity desired by businesses

# Board of Health



- Can help with trash problems
- Investigate healthy lifestyle programs



# School Department



- A great path for publicity – offer to talk or lead walks
- Can be a large landowner, so if you are building a trail network get to know them

# Civic Organizations

- Can provide funds for the trust
- Are another source of volunteer labor
- A great way to reach additional people in the community



# Boy Scouts



- Looking into getting a troop to adopt a property
- We will reach 100 Eagle projects for our trust soon
- Be sure to offer a variety of projects to scouts



# Girl Scouts

- The projects are more individually oriented
- Trail blazing
- Kiosk content work
- Post maps at trailheads
- Nature walk for smartphone



# Thank you



Contact Data

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