

Hopkinton Open Space Committee

Selection Criteria Abbreviated Checklist

Purposes Checklist

To qualify for selection a property must meet ALL of the following criteria.

- The property is located in or partially in the Town of Hopkinton, or has direct benefit to the Town of Hopkinton.
- The property protects the natural heritage and rural character in the best interests of the Town.
- Permanent protection for the parcel is assured.
- The property meets one or more goals identified in the Hopkinton Master Plan (particularly Chapter IX, *Conservation, Preservation and Open Space* and other sections addressing appropriate and desired uses of natural resources).
- Conservation of this property supports careful stewardship of important land and water resources.
- The owner of the property is willing to participate in the transaction.

Resource Value/Public Benefit Checklist

To qualify for selection a property must meet several of the following criteria (listed alphabetically). There is a strong preference for properties that meet multiple criteria.

Expansion, Buffers or Linkages

- Buffers, expands, or adds other conservation value to existing conservation land
- Provides greenways to connect other protected or potentially protected lands
- Provides travel corridors for wildlife species
- Provides publicly accessible open space in a part of town that doesn't have much or any

Habitat for Wildlife and Native Plant Species

- Contains important wildlife habitat, rare plants or animals, vernal pools or exemplary natural plant communities

Large Blocks of Land

- Contributes to the formation or expansion of large blocks of protected land (which may be owned by single or multiple landowners)

Outdoor Recreation

- Is suitable for low impact public recreation such as trails for walking/hiking/cross country skiing and enjoying nature
- Has been traditionally used by the public for recreation
- Provides important linkages to existing or planned greenways, including in and around Hopkinton and Contoocook villages
- Protects the rail corridor

Public Access

- Will be made available for public access
- Provides public access to waterways for fishing, swimming or low impact boating
- Increases opportunities for townspeople to access public conservation lands by foot from their homes

Rural Character

- Preserves iconic parcels, roadside stone walls, and open fields along major traveled routes in town (entrances to and roads connecting the villages)
- Retains distinctions between villages and rural areas

Scenery

- Protects scenic view observation points
- Provides scenic views visible from roads and public ways

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Water Resources

- _____ Contains aquifer recharge areas, wellhead areas, surface waters, or other lands valuable for the protection of drinking water supplies
- _____ Contains river frontage, shorelands, riparian corridors, floodplains, or important wetlands
- _____ Contains lakes or ponds

Working Landscape

- _____ Is actively and well managed for agriculture
- _____ Is actively and well managed for forestry
- _____ Has soils with important agricultural value (regardless of present use)

Other Benefit

- _____ Provides other significant public conservation benefit in the best interest of the town, describe _____.

Other Criteria Checklist

These additional criteria may affect the town's interest in a given property and its priority for acquisition.

Donation Opportunities

- _____ The property may be acquired by donation or below appraised value.
- _____ The property has a high resource value as compared to the purchase price.

Leverages Funding

- _____ The project has high probability for additional funding from sources other than municipal funds.

Potential for Conversion

- _____ The property has potential for immediate change out of open space.

Feasibility Checklist

Properties must also meet the following general feasibility criteria.

- _____ The property is large enough to be significant for its purpose.
- _____ The property contains no hazardous waste or other contaminants, or clean-up of any such materials can be accomplished at a reasonable cost.
- _____ The property is not infested with undesirable and/or invasive species that could interfere with the primary reason for protecting the property.
- _____ There are no unusual or difficult management considerations associated with this property.
- _____ Adjacent properties are not being, and are not likely to be, developed in a manner that would significantly diminish the conservation or public values of the property.
- _____ The landowner does not insist on provisions that would seriously diminish the property's primary conservation or public values or the town's ability to enforce an easement and/or manage the land.
- _____ There are no ethical or image problems associated with project.
- _____ If the property is part of a development proposal, the overall project has a beneficial impact on conserving resources.
- _____ Clear title to the property can be acquired in a timely fashion.
- _____ This project is otherwise in the best interest of the town.

Refer to the *Hopkinton Open Space Committee Background, Procedures & Policies* for a complete description of these criteria and authorizing language. This checklist is abbreviated for easier use in the field.