Management Strategies

Goal #5: Actively manage open space to benefit all citizens of Falmouth.

Education

Invasive Plants

Water Quality

Wildlife

Trails

Wood Products

Water Quality

- Acquire wetlands, river corridors.
- Preserve large tracts for groundwater recharge.
- Avoid disturbance in buffer zones:
  - Trails skirt wetlands; bridge streams.
  - Trails built to minimize erosion.
  - No cut zones near wetlands, vernal pools.

Management Issues

- Keeping 4-wheelers off our trai system.

- Maintain or promote buffers at the edge of wetland areas.

Education

- Get people out on these properties to see, experience and learn.
  - Organized hikes
  - Events
  - School activities

Saw- Whet Owl Birdbanding:

Suckfish Brook Conservation Area

Join Bio-Diversity Institute biologists for an informal open house at Suckfish Brook where we will be conducting Saw-whet Owl surveys. Guests will have the chance to observe mist netting and if all goes well observe the capture, processing, and release of one or more owls.

Leader: BRI Staff
Location: Suckfish Brook Conservation Area
(Meet in parking area off Upland Way)
Date: Wednesday, October 9
Time: 6:30-8:30pm
Fee: FREE! (Pre-registration REQUIRED)
Session: 11257.2B
Min: 4 Max: 10

River Point BioBlitz

Management Issues

- How do we get more people of all ages to participate in scheduled events and activities?
- How do we make a better connection with Falmouth schools?

History

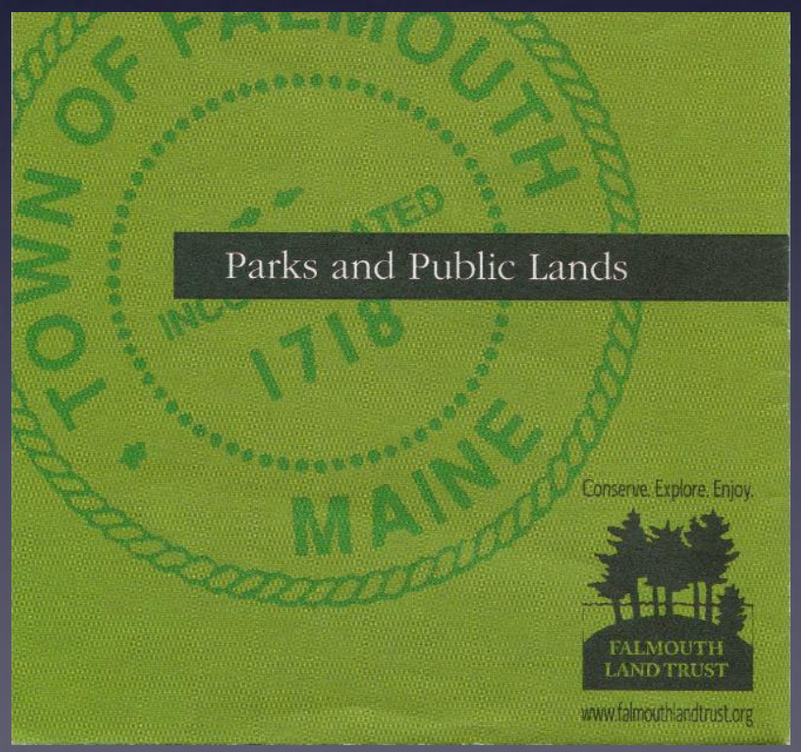
Historic Falmouth

Interurban Railroad

Scan the QR code above to learn about the history of this location.

Recreation

- Provide access information:
  - Signs, kiosks, parking areas.
  - Trail maps - paper and electronic.
- Build trails.



Management Issues

- Heavy usage - trail maintenance.
- User conflicts - hikers, bikers, hunters.
- Winter access - where to park?
- Unleashed dogs - some users fear them, wildlife impact.
- No handicapped accessible trails.

Wildlife - Natural Resources

Goal: Protect the full array of plant communities [habitats] found in Falmouth, from salt marshes and fields to early and late successional stage forests.

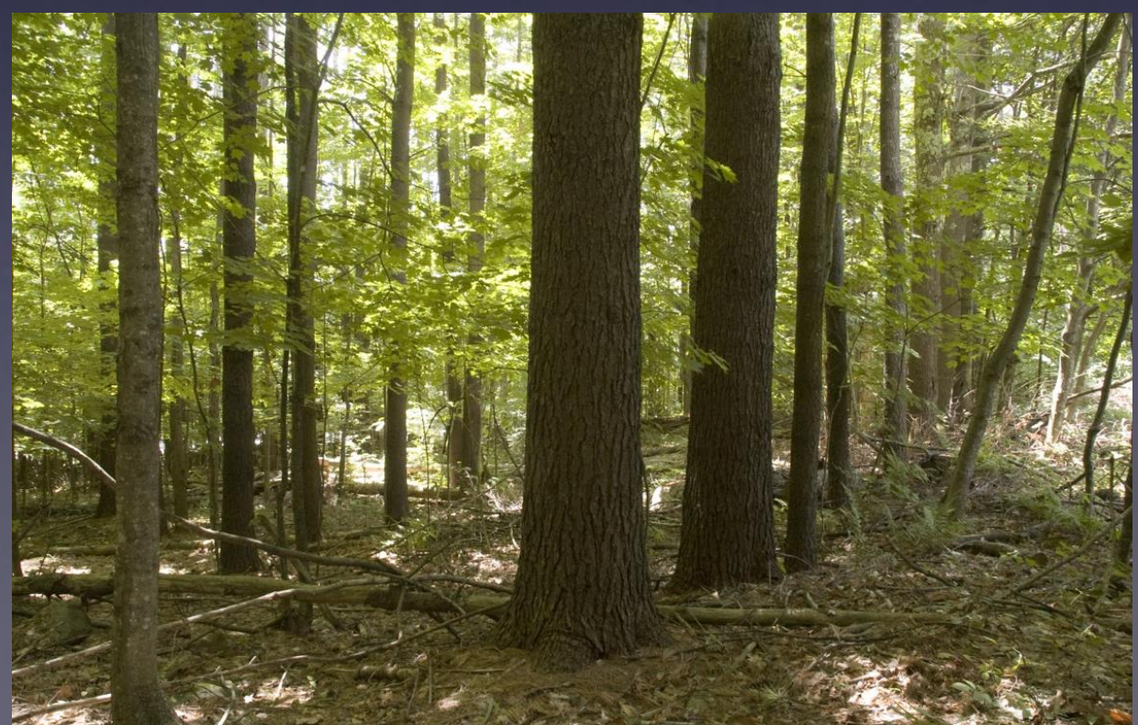
- ☑ Acquire parcels that collectively encompass the various plant communities found in Falmouth.

- ☑ Prevent habitat degradation by controlling invasives.

- Mow / burn fields to retard plant succession.

- Harvest trees to create varied forest habitats and maintain forest health/vitality.

- Designate some parcels as “forever wild.”



- Provide nesting boxes.

- Support research projects.

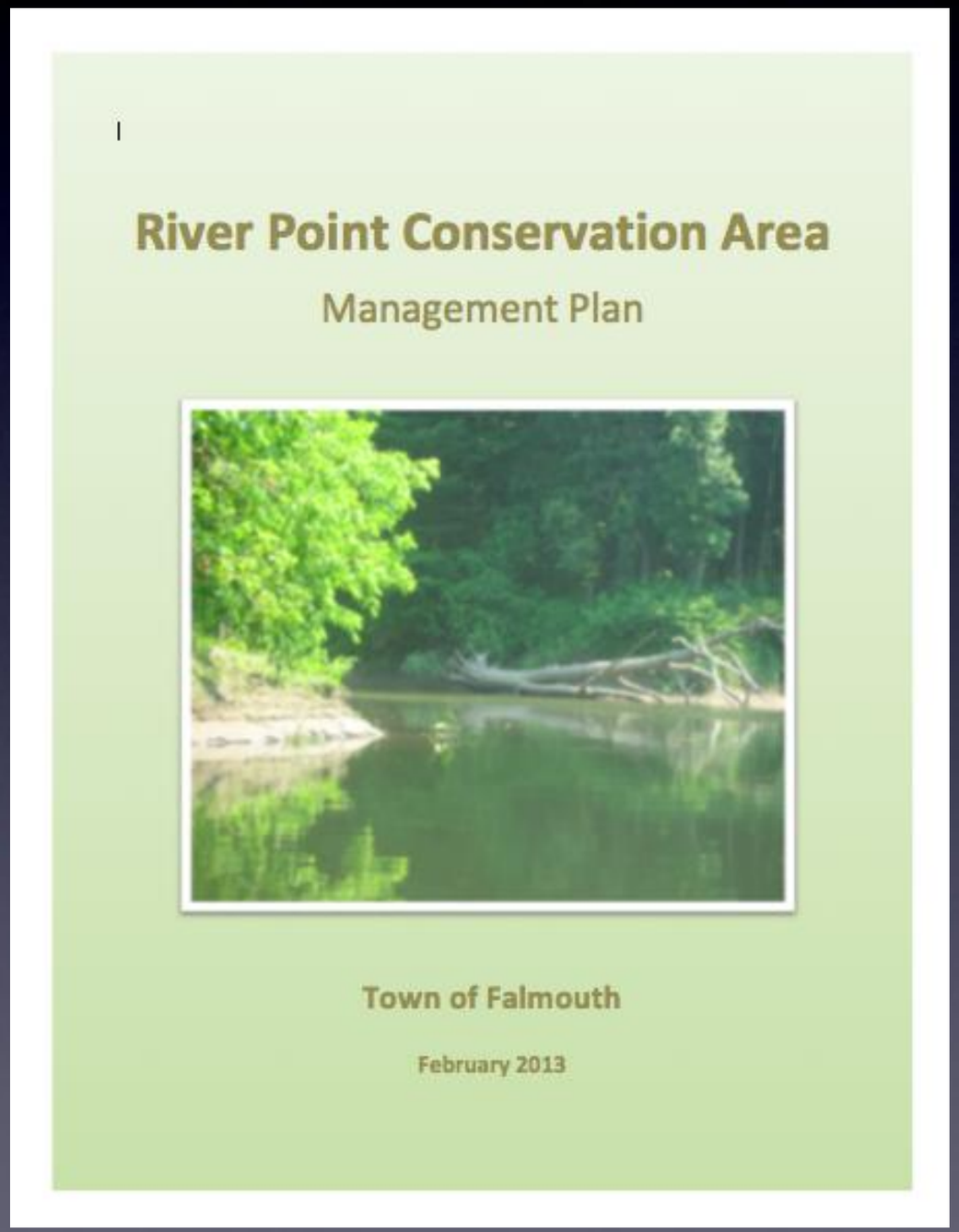
- Model effective stewardship practices.

Management Issues

- Diverse public opinion regarding land management practices, particularly forestry.
- Unleashed dogs, especially during breeding / rearing season.
- Fighting invasives on the scale required to really have a long term impact.
- What are we managing for: longterm habitat diversity / viability or short term aesthetics?

This generation or this & future generations?

Management plans exist for all major town open space properties.



These plans, developed by the Ombudsman, informed by natural resource specialists, and approved by LMAC, drive the management work being done on these properties.

Falmouth Conservation Corps

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What is the Council’s role in overseeing the management of town conservation lands?

Forest Type Representation (Current)

Current Forest Type Distribution				
	Acres			
	Early Successional	Mid Successional	Late Successional	Total
N. Falmouth	100	174	0	274
Blackstrap Hill	13	221	0	234
Hadlock	10	282	0	292
Town Forest/ Community Park	0	62	0	62
East Branch	0	55	0	55
Suckfish Brook	0	47	0	47
River Point	20	4	0	24
Woods Rd	0	161	0	161
Nature Preserve	0	83	0	83
All Other	14	84	0	98
Total =	157	1173	0	1,330
Percent =	11.8%	88.2%	0	

Forest Type Representation if Management Plans are Adopted

Proposed Forest Type Distribution				
Acres				
Early Successional	Mid Successional	Late Successional	Total	Forever Wild
100	125	49	274	49
30	204	0	234	0
10	202	80	292	80
35	0	27	62	27
0	0	55	55	55
0	32	15	47	15
25	4	0	29	0
0	40	121	161	121
0	0	83	83	83
0	0	98	98	98
200	607	528	1,335	528
15.0%	45%	40%		40%

If our management plans are implemented, the town-wide change of forest type would be …

- ☑ 53 more acres of early successional forest (+23%);
- ☑ 566 fewer acres of mid-successional forest (-23%);
- ☑ 529 more acres of “forever wild” forest (+36%).

Figures do not include the other ±1,500 acres of conservation land held by the Land Trust or other entities that are largely unmanaged.