

MASCOMA LAKESIDE PARK ~ FACT SHEET

Location: Mascoma Lakeside Park includes two parcels of land (Enfield Map 32, Lots 44 and 46) totaling approximately 2.5 acres with over 1,200 feet of shoreline. Both parcels consist of open land on a public lake adjoining the Northern Rail Trail, making this area unique anywhere within the State of New Hampshire.

History: The NH Department of Transportation (NH DOT) purchased the old motel (Lot 46) prior to rebuilding of Shaker Bridge, to use as a staging ground for its construction equipment.

Following completion of the bridge, the Town entered into a management agreement with NH DOT to use the staging area (Lot 46) and adjacent parcel (Lot 44) for a public recreation area. In January 2015, Plan NH conducted a charrette to create a vision of possible ways the lakefront area could offer recreational opportunities to Enfield and surrounding communities. In spring 2015, the Enfield Selectboard appointed a taskforce to explore ways the vision of the charrette might be realized.

The taskforce, now called the Mascoma Lakeside Park Committee (MLPC), includes representatives from Enfield Village Association, Enfield Selectboard, Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, Mascoma Lake Association, Mascoma Sailing Club, NH Lakes Association, Upper



Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and interested local residents. In 2017, the committee raised funds in excess of \$12,000 to purchase signs, picnic tables, install an information kiosk, and construct a non-motorized boat ramp.

Fundraising Campaign: The MLPC is seeking to raise funds to cover the purchase of Lots 44 and 46, as well as pursue various improvements to the

properties. NH DOT has declared these properties “surplus” and is in the process of completing an environmental review and appraisal of the parcels. When this process is complete, the properties will be put up for sale at a price determined by a legislative committee. The Enfield Selectboard has determined it will not commit Town funds to purchase these properties. Instead, at the 2018 Town Meeting, Enfield residents will be asked to authorize the Town to purchase the property using privately raised funds. Tax deductible contributions collected for purchasing these properties are already being obtained and deposited into a dedicated Trust Fund in anticipation of the future sale. A matching challenge in the amount of \$75,000 has been offered by the Byrne Foundation. If the Town’s efforts to purchase the properties are not successful for any reason, all raised funds will be returned to the donating parties.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Why is this property considered unique? This land abuts the Rail Trail and is one of the largest remaining tracts of undeveloped land on Mascoma Lake suitable for recreation purposes. It is also the gateway to historic Enfield Village.

Why now? The two lots have been declared 'surplus' by NH DOT. These properties will be put up for sale in the near future. The Town of Enfield will have the first option to purchase. If the Town does not purchase them, then the land will be sold to a private party and public access will likely come to an end.

Why are private funds being raised to purchase these parcels? Funds are being raised to purchase the two lots so that the Town of Enfield might enjoy improved access to Mascoma Lake for ALL its citizens and the greater Upper Valley region, while at the same time avoiding the need to use Town funds (tax \$) for acquisition/improvements.



What are the future plans for the park? In the short-term, we envision the park continuing to support the passive recreation uses it has been supporting in recent years. It will be up to the Enfield voters to decide what kind of additional programs/uses and enhancements, if any, will be pursued.

What costs are involved with maintaining the park? The Town has been maintaining the park since it took over management of the area from NH DOT. This has involved mowing grass, plowing the parking area, and sharing one third of the cost of a porta potty in the summer months with the Rail Trail Alliance and Sailing Club. Operating costs of \$4,000 are budgeted in 2018. No significant increase in these costs is anticipated if the Town assumes ownership of the properties, and the Town is actively partnering with local organizations to help defray some of the anticipated operating expenses.

Who can use the park? The Mascoma Lakeside Park is enjoyed by hikers, Rail Trail users, anglers, snowmobile enthusiasts, canoeists and kayakers, sailors, picnickers, sunset watchers, wading children, and many others! Town acquisition of the land helps ensure the parcels remain open to the public.

Will the Town lose tax revenue if we own the land? No. The NH DOT is a tax-exempt entity and does not pay property taxes on the land they own. As such, if the Town takes over ownership of the parcels, there will be no reduction in property tax revenue currently being collected.

What benefits will the park offer to the Town? Parks provide a wide range of benefits. They improve quality of life for all, bring tourism to the Town, stimulate economic development for local businesses, build sense of place and cohesiveness within a community, and add value to local real estate.

What will happen to the bypass road that runs through the park? When NH DOT was completing Shaker Bridge, a temporary bypass road was constructed to enable vehicles to access properties that would be cut off when the bridge was under construction. That temporary road has now been narrowed to 10 feet and was reclassified as a sidewalk by NH DOT, to be used exclusively by emergency vehicles only. The Town intends to continue maintaining the sidewalk for pedestrian use.

Is my donation tax deductible? Yes!