

WILSON'S LANDING PRELIMINARY REPORT

The Hanover Conservation Commission has undertaken a study of Wilson's Landing with the intention of preparing a management plan for the area to accommodate multiple uses. We have convened two public listening sessions, gathered the comments and suggestions of neighbors, and heard from the general public. The Commission has assembled these comments, and we have studied the previous plans and approvals, air photographs, and environmental studies. We have initiated discussions with NHDES and the Corps of Engineers about regulatory issues involved with any modifications to Wilson's Landing. The following is a preliminary outline of the Management Plan:

1. CONTEXT AND PLANNING

A. Property Location & Description

B. Property History

C. Goals & Objectives

- Water-based Recreation
- Land-based Recreation
- Access, Parking & Safety
- Natural Resource Management
- Operation, Maintenance & Administration

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Base Mapping

- Previous plans and surveys
- Surveys for FOHC
- Air photography
- Field Measurement

B. Local information

- Usage data and observations
- Abutter's information
- Public meetings

C. Regulatory

- Agencies and jurisdictions
- Previous permits and conditions
- Monitoring and control

D. Existing Uses

- Rowing practice and events
- Canoeing, kayaking, boarding
- Boating, fishing, swimming
- Sitting, picnicking, bird watching
- Dog exercising
- Temporary parking, lunch breaks
- Social activities

E. Existing Infrastructure and Features

- Boat launching & docks
- Parking, entrance road, NH Route 10
- Site features and amenities

- Signage and information
- Drainage, erosion, and flooding
- Emergency access and services
- Sanitation, refuse removal
- Public transit, shuttle services
- Disabled accessibility

F. Natural Resources:

- River morphology, topography
- Wetland and upland natural communities
- Wildlife and Habitat
- Vegetation management and invasive plants

G. Abutting property features

- Residential dwellings, yards, and docks
- FOHC Facility and parking
- Dartmouth Organic Farm and Fullington fields
- Trail Easement
- NH Route 10

3. RECOMMENDATIONS BY MANAGEMENT AREA (See Preliminary Plan for locations)

A. Entrance Road:

- Provide traffic calming with water bars (needed for drainage) and narrowing the causeway with a culvert. This restoration of aquatic passage and removal of fill will offset the fill for the proposed picnic area expansion.
- Make the highway entrance safer with improved signage, sight distance clearing, and a paved apron.

B. Boat Ramp/Emergency Access

- Keep the trailer boat ramp and fire access. Provide a dry hydrant for fire trucks. Make a better launching place for kayaks and canoes.

C. Parking Area

- Provide a designated boat trailer parking area on the east side. Relocate the portable toilet, provide a guard rail and signage. Limit the number of trailers, provide possible off-site parking at the Fullington gravel pit area (with permission from Dartmouth College).
- Provide car parking on the west side, provide guard rail to protect grass areas.

D. Town dock

- Remove the creosote wall bulkhead. This restoration of the original shoreline will prevent accumulation of debris and sediment downstream at the rowing dock area, and will offset the fill for the proposed picnic area expansion.
- Repair the rock shore for erosion control and safety of water users. Remove the large honeysuckle shrub for more room.
- Provide a sitting area with benches and/or gazebo.
- Provide an information kiosk with life safety equipment.

E. Rowing Dock

- Consider more accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- Maintain a clear path for rowers with bollards or signage to prevent cars from blocking the access.

F. Grass and Passive Recreation Area

- Extend the previous fill and provide grass and trees to approximate the original plans.
- Provide a guard and sitting rail to keep out cars and trailers, and to prevent plowing of gravel in the winter.
- Provide amenities such as picnic tables, benches, overlook or pavilion, toilet, etc.

G. Natural Areas

- Maintain the river shoreline while still providing access for water-based recreation.
- Improve the backwaters by providing aquatic passage under the causeway.
- Protect the wetlands, monitor for invasive species.
- Keep the north shrub area (off-property) as a natural sanctuary. Monitor invasive plants.

H. Off-site Areas

- The FOHC facility is subject to many use restrictions imposed as part of the approval process.
- Maintain the easement trail south along the river bank with frequent mowing and brush removal.
- Coordinate with Dartmouth Organic Farm & Fullington Field for overflow parking and pedestrian access.
- Coordinate with NHDOT for signage improvements and other safety measures.

4. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

A. Administration

- Responsible agencies and organizations
- Permits and Approvals
- General schedule

B. Implementation

- Table of Action Items by Management Area
- Purpose and Need
- Proposed Action
- Implementation
- Detailed Schedule

C. Costs and Budget

5. APPENDIX

- A. Maps and Plans
- B. Photographs
- C. References