

## NORWELL OPEN SPACE CRITERIA

The Open Space and Recreation Committee defines "Open Space" as including, but not limited to, land protecting the quality and quantity of the town's water supply including existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas; land protecting natural communities to support wildlife and biodiversity; land to preserve other natural resources such as forests, salt water marshes, wetlands rivers, streams and ponds; land to protect scenic vistas and unique and historic resources such as agricultural land, grasslands, fields; and land for active and passive recreational use such as bikeways, walking trails, bridle paths, athletic fields, access to the North River and other recreational needs of the community.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee has developed the following checklist of natural resource and community functions, and created a point-based ranking system. Other criteria such as cost, development pressures, partnership opportunities, and subjectivity will be evaluated on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

<b>Ground Water Supply (including Hanover, Scituate, and Cohasset)</b>	
Existing Zone 1 ( identified as potential ground water supply)	3 points
Existing Zone 2 ( mapped recharge area surrounding ground water supply)	2 points
Existing Zone 3 (within watershed of ground water supply)	1 point
No existing or potential function as water supply	0 points
<b>Surface Water Supply/Quality/ Soil Erosion (including Scituate, Hingham and Cohasset)</b>	
Parcel would protect a Class A water (within 400 ft. of surface water supply & 200 ft. from tributary to surface water supply)	3 points
Parcel would protect a Class B water (within half mile of surface water supply	2 points
Parcel would protect a Class C water (within watershed of surface water supply)	1 point
Parcel is not proximate to any surface waters	0 points
<b>Maintenance of Biological Diversity or Wildlife Habitat</b>	
Parcel is within Core Habitat, Supporting Natural Landscape, and certified and potential vernal pools in the NHESP Biomap	3 points
Parcel is identified as Natural Resources Priorities in the Master plan	2 points
Parcel is identified as local natural communities or is contiguous to existing habitat	1 point
Parcel does not provide significant habitat functions	0 points
<b>Buffering Conflicting Uses</b>	
Site buffers public site or large scale private site from conflicting adjacent land uses	3 points
Site buffers small scale private sites from conflicting uses	2 points
Site buffers sites that are not sensitive to adjacent uses	1 point
Site does not serve a buffering role	0 points
<b>Recreational Value</b>	
The parcel is recognized as a destination for recreational activities including potential bikeway, athletic fields and pedestrian network as outlined in the master plan and/or Open Space & Recreation Plan	3 points
The parcel meets criteria identified in the Master Plan and/or Open Space and Recreation Plan for recreation/open space	2 points
The parcel is not identified in the Master Plan and/or Open Space and Recreation Plan but provides recreational opportunities	1 point
The parcel does not provide recreational values	0 points
<b>Scenic Views</b>	
The parcel provides a distinctive landscape view from a public way or provides a vista from which to view significant and distinctive landscape qualities.	3 points
The parcel is associated with an identified visual element of the town including scenic roads.	2 points
The parcel provides distinctive views but is not readily accessible to the public	1 point
The parcel does not provide scenic qualities	0 points
<b>Landscape/Greenways Context</b>	
The parcel is contiguous to existing protected open space and recreation lands AND is identified as a greenway corridor between open spaces	3 points
The parcel is located in the "Protective River Corridor" as identified in the NSRWA's <u>North River Mapping Project</u>	3 points
The parcel abuts existing open spaces and recreation lands	2 points
The parcel does not abut open space but is identified with a greenway corridor between existing open spaces	1 point

The parcel is remote and does not abut any existing open space	0 points
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	