

## Section 12: Appendices

### Appendix A: Letters of Support

**TOWN OF GILL**  
M A S S A C H U S E T T S



www.gillmass.org

Date: 12/27/2011

Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
278 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

RE: 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Praus:

The Gill Selectboard has reviewed the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Please accept this correspondence as confirmation that we support the goals of the OSRP and will continue to work toward those goals. Providing good stewardship of the Town's natural and recreational resources is important in maintaining Gill's unique character. The OSRP provides the Town guidance in preserving its resources.

The Gill Selectboard is pleased to give our full support of the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan and feel that this plan is an important tool in planning for Gill's future.

Sincerely,

Telephone 413-863-9347

325 Main Road, Gill MA 01354  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Fax 413-863-7775

TOWN OF GILL  
MASSACHUSETTS



www.gillmass.org

Date: 1-12-12

Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
278 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

RE: 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Praus:

The Gill Planning Board has reviewed the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Please accept this correspondence as confirmation that we support the goals of the OSRP and will continue to work toward those goals. Providing good stewardship of the Town's natural and recreational resources is important in maintaining Gill's unique character. The OSRP provides the Town guidance in preserving its resources.

The Gill Planning Board is pleased to give our full support of the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan and feel that this plan is an important tool in planning for Gill's future.

Sincerely,

Telephone 413-863-9347

325 Main Road, Gill MA 01354

Fax 413-863-7775

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
TOWN OF GILL  
MASSACHUSETTS



January 20, 2012

Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
278 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

RE: 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Endorsement

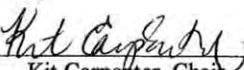
Dear Ms. Praus:

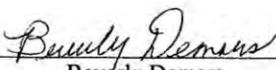
The Gill Historical Commission has reviewed the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Commission fully supports the goals of the OSRP and will continue to work toward those goals. Good stewardship and proactive planning are important in preserving Gill's natural, recreational, historic and archaeological resources.

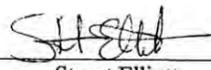
The Gill Historical Commission is pleased to support the 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan. We feel that this plan provides important guidance for preserving the essential character and resources of the town.

Sincerely,

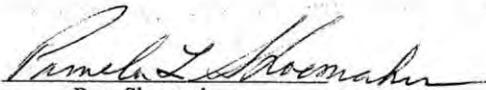
Gill Historical Commission

  
Kit Carpenter, Chair

  
Beverly Demars

  
Stuart Elliott

  
Lynda Hodsdon Mayo

  
Pam Shoemaker

January 9, 2012

Ms. Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Government  
278 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

RE: Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Mary Praus:

The Gill Agricultural Commission (AgCom) has received the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Please accept this correspondent as confirmation that we support the goals of the OSRP and will continue to work toward its goals. The Gill AgCom feels maintaining our natural and recreational resources is vital to keeping the town's unique character. The OSRP provides the Town guidance in preserving its resources.

The Gill AgCom is pleased to give our full support to the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan and feels this plan is an important tool in planning for Gill's future. Kudos to all involved, especially Gill Open Space Advisory Committee.

Your Friends,  
Gill Agricultural Commission  
Steve Damon, Chairperson  
Roger Augustine  
Kathy Litchfield  
Gary Stevens  
Dick French  
Bruce Yukl

# TOWN OF GILL

MASSACHUSETTS



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

Date: 1-27-12

Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
278 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

RE: 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Praus:

The Gill Recreation Committee has reviewed the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Please accept this correspondence as confirmation that we support the goals of the OSRP and will continue to work toward those goals. Providing good stewardship of the Town's natural and recreational resources is important in maintaining Gill's unique character. The OSRP provides the Town guidance in preserving its resources.

The Gill Recreation Committee is pleased to give our full support of the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan and feel that this plan is an important tool in planning for Gill's future.

Sincerely,

*Nathan H. Suda*  
Gill Rec Chair

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# FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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425 Main Street • Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301-3313  
Telephone 413-774-3167 • Fax 413-774-3169 • [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org)  
Executive Director • Linda Dunlavy

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December 21, 2011

Town of Gill  
Board of Selectmen  
Members of the Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee  
325 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354

Dear Board of Selectmen and Members of the Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee:

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is extremely pleased to support the submission of the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for review and approval.

As you know, the plan was developed by the members of the Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee with technical assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments' Planning Department. The 2011 Gill OSRP represents many months of planning, data gathering, and mapping in the areas of cultural, historical, scenic, archaeological, and natural resources and contains goals and objectives for long term planning concerning these resources. Throughout the planning process, public input in the plan development process was actively encouraged.

The detailed Seven-Year Action Plan, numerous maps and other information contained in the plan provide Town officials and volunteers with an invaluable resource that they can consult to inform decisions regarding land use, recreation and open space. Once approved by the State, this plan will make Gill eligible for land conservation and recreation project funding and help make Gill more competitive for many other types of State grants. In addition, the Town will be better able to collaborate with neighboring towns, local land trusts, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and others to plan for growth and development that is protective of Gill's treasured cultural, historical, scenic, archaeological, recreation and natural resources.

Congratulations on completing this project! We look forward to receiving updates from you as the town works to implement the Seven-Year Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kimberly N. MacPhee

Kimberly Noake MacPhee, P.G.  
Land Use and Natural Resources Program Manager

# TOWN OF GILL

M A S S A C H U S E T T S



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
278 Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

RE: 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Endorsement

Dear Ms. Praus,

The Gill Conservation Commission has reviewed the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Please accept this correspondence as confirmation that we support the goals of the OSRP and will continue to work toward those goals. Providing good stewardship of the Town's natural and recreational resources is important in maintaining Gill's unique character. The OSRP provides the Town guidance in preserving its resources.

The Gill Conservation Commission is pleased to give our full support of the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan and feel that this plan is an important tool in planning for Gill's future.

Sincerely,

Chris Polatin  
Acting Chair  
Gill Conservation Commission



36 State Street, P.O. Box 450  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
phone: (413) 625-9151  
fax: (413) 625-9153  
www.franklinlandtrust.org

December 27, 2011

**Officers:**

*Charlie Cohn, President  
(Shelburne)*  
*Thomas Luck, Vice President  
(Leyden)*  
*Paul Cooper, Treasurer  
(Hawley)*  
*Norma Coli, Clerk  
(Charlemont)*

**Board of Directors:**

*Michael Abbate (Leverett)*  
*Mark Allen (Montague)*  
*Cris Coffin (Bernardston)*  
*Nina Coler (Ashfield)*  
*Robert Dane (Heath)*  
*Ruah Donnelly (Conway)*  
*Michael McCusker (Buckland)*  
*Jaap Molenaar (Deerfield)*  
*Elizabeth Sillin (Sunderland)*  
*Timothy Smith (Shelburne)*  
*Alan Swedlund (Deerfield)*

**Staff:**

*Richard Hubbard  
Executive Director*  
*Linda Alvord  
Membership Services*  
*William Sloan Anderson  
Land Steward*  
*Florence Hebert  
Bookkeeper/Office Manager*  
*Alain Peteroy  
Director of Land Conservation*  
*Mary Lynn Sabourin  
Director of Development*  
*Amy Dryansky  
Communications Coordinator*

*Sam Talbot  
Americorp Member  
Land Steward*



non-profit preservation of farmland, open space and rural character since 1987

Mary Praus  
Land Use Planner  
Franklin Regional Council of Governments  
278 Main Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Re: Town of Gill 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Praus:

I am writing to voice the Franklin Land Trust's enthusiastic support for the Town of Gill's 2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

I was struck by the thoroughness of this excellent plan. It represents an incredible community resource that will serve Gill well as it moves ahead to conserve the town's most critical open space resources.

FLT supports the OSRP's goals, and we look forward to assisting the Town of Gill in its implementation.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Hubbard  
Executive Director

## Appendix B: Public Involvement and Advertising

**C2** The Recorder Saturday, June 18, 2011

### **Interest in open space sought**

GILL — The town is looking for more members to serve on a committee working to update the town's open space and recreation plan.

The update is to help make decisions for the current and future open space and recreation needs of the town. The plan represents consensus on the most important community and natural resource needs in town and on the best solutions for addressing them. The five-year action plan, when carried out by the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee and other town boards and commissions, will successfully implement the town's open space and recreation goals and objectives.

In order for the new plan to accurately reflect residents' goals for their town, more citizen involvement is important. Residents interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to contact Administrative Aid Ray Purington at the Gill Town Hall at 413-863-9347.

In September, the committee will do a public survey to get public input. In October, it will host a public forum. Ideas and information gathered throughout the planning process will be incorporated into the plan and reflected in the new open space and recreation plan.

To see a copy of the 2005 plan, go to [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org) or stop by the Gill Town Hall, 325 Main Road.

### **GILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Newsletter October 13, 2011*

#### **Gill Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Public Survey**

As part of the Gill Open Space and Recreation 2011 Plan update, the Town is seeking public input to help identify goals for open space and recreation in Gill. An on-line survey is available at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/GillOSRP2011PublicSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GillOSRP2011PublicSurvey)

or at [www.gill.org](http://www.gill.org) - click on "Take a Survey to help update Gill's Open Space & Rec". Paper copies of the survey are available at the Town Hall. All surveys should be completed online or returned to the Gill Town Hall by **Friday, October 28, 2011**.

This plan is being developed by the Gill Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee with technical assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Funding is provided by a District Local Technical Assistance Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Housing and Community Development. For more information, please call Ray Purington, Town of Gill Administrative Assistant, (413) 863-9347.

**Also - mark your calendar! The Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Forum will be held on November 2 at 7pm at the Gill Town Hall with refreshments provided.**

## Appendix B: Public Involvement and Advertising (cont.)

### Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2011

**What is an Open Space and Recreation Plan?**  
An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) helps provide a long-term vision for the Town and its residents. Public participation is a critical element in developing an OSRP that reflects the goals of Gill's citizens.

**Why do we need an updated Plan?**  
An OSRP can provide an accurate and thorough basis for decision-making involving the current and future open space and recreation needs of the residents of Gill. Many communities use OSRPs to budget capital improvements and to help determine priority lands for open space preservation or recreational use.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is assisting the Town of Gill in updating their 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The planning process, including a public forum and survey, is taking place throughout the fall of 2011.

**How can you participate?**  
**Attend the Public Forum!**  
**November 16**  
7pm at the Gill Town Hall  
Free refreshments



For more info, contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, at (413) 863-9347 or [administrator@gillmass.org](mailto:administrator@gillmass.org)

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
 Kick Off Committee Meeting  
 May 24, 2011  
 Sign In Please

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Best Time to Contact You
Dick French	planning board	samwells 77@comcast.net	963-9446	Sippen
Jeff Kocsis	Citizen	jkocsis37@gmail.com	863-5109	Eve
Roy Purington	Admin	admin@townofgillmass.org	863-9347	work day
Mary PRAUS	FALCO	M.PRAUS@FALCO.ORG		
		assessors@gillmass.org Lynda Hauldon May (is also Town Clerk townclerk@gillmass.org)		



**Open Space Advisory Committee  
 AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
 May 24, 2011 @ 7:00pm  
 at the Gill Town Hall**

Call to Order

Introductions

Purpose/Role of Open Space Plan and Open Space Advisory Committee

Timeline, Process, and Meeting Schedule

(please bring your calendars, hopefully we can schedule the next 2-3 meetings)

Overview of 2005 OSP

Review of Sections 3, 4, & 5 (time permitting)

Section 3 – Community Setting

Section 4 – Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Section 5 – Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Things to work on for next time

Old Business

New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

**Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)**

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
 Committee Meeting  
 June 29, 2011  
 Sign In Please

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Best Time to Reach You
Jeff Kocsis		jkocsis37@gmail.com	863-5109	Even
Roy Purinton	Town of Gill			
Dick Tesoro				
Wendy Parris	PROCS	wparris@procs.org		



**Open Space Advisory Committee**  
**AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE**  
**June 29, 2011 @ 7:00pm**  
**at the Gill Town Hall**

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

Progress Update, Info from Committee Members

Continue Review of 2005 Open Space & Recreation Plan

Begin Discussion of Survey Questions

Things to work on for next time

Old Business

New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
 Committee Meeting  
 August 17, 2001  
 Sign In Please

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Best Time to Reach You
MARY PEARS	FRICOL	MPEARS@FRICOL.ORG		
DICK FRENCH	PLANNING	DFRENCH@TIC.COM		
JOFF KACISIS		JKACIS140@HOTMAIL.COM		
RAY PURINGTON	Gill Admin			



**Open Space Advisory Committee  
 AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
 August 17, 2011 @ 7:00pm  
 at the Gill Town Hall**

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

Progress Update, Info from Committee Members

Continue Review of Updates to Open Space & Recreation Plan

Discuss Survey Questions, Plan for Conducting Survey

Things to work on for next time

Old Business

New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
 Committee Meeting  
 September 14, 2011  
 Sign In Please

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Best Time to Reach You
RAY PUMINGTON	Town of Gill			
JEFF KOCSIS	Town of Gill			
DICK FRENCH	planning dept			
MAY PEALS	FRCOG			



*Open Space Advisory Committee  
 AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
 September 14, 2011 @ 7:00pm  
 at the Gill Town Hall*

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

Progress Update, Info from Committee Members

Continue Review of 2005 Open Space & Recreation Plan

Begin Discussion of Survey Questions

Things to work on for next time

Old Business/ New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
 Committee Meeting  
 October 12, 2011  
 Sign In Please

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Best Time to Reach You
RAY RULINGTON	Town of GILL			
MARY PRANS	FRCOG	M.PRANS@FRCOG.ORG		
David				



**Open Space Advisory Committee  
 AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
 October 12, 2011 @ 7:00pm  
 at the Gill Town Hall**

Call to Order

Public Forum on Open Space & Recreation Plan

Discuss Survey Results

Review of Minutes

Progress Update, Info from Committee Members

Continue Review of Open Space & Recreation Plan

Things to work on for next time

Old Business

New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

**Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)**

Gill Open Space Committee		11/9/11
Ray Purington	OSRP Comm/Town Admin	
Mary Pram	FRCOG	
Jeff Kocsis	OSRP Comm	
John French	OSRP	



**Open Space Advisory Committee  
AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
November 9, 2011 @ 7:00pm  
at the Gill Town Hall**

Call to Order

Review of Minutes

Progress Update, Info from Committee Members

Final Review of Updated Open Space & Recreation Plan

Discuss Next Steps – Approval/Acceptance of Plan, Future of Open Space Advisory Committee, etc.

Old Business

New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
Public Forum  
November 16, 2011  
Sign In Please

Name	Town Affiliation	Email	Phone	Would you like to serve on a future OSRP committee?
RAY PURINGTON	ADMIN ASST.	ADMINISTRATOR@GILLMASS.ORG	863-9347	☺
Jeff Kocsis	Open Space	jkocsis17@gmail.com	863-5105	
Nate Duda	Gill Rec	NDuda@gillmass.org	572-3209	
Rose Levesque	Gill Rec	TLLevesque@Comcast.net	863-4249	
Paul Freund	OSRE		863-9446	yes

Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011  
Committee Meeting  
November 30, 2011  
Sign In Please

Name	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Best Time to Reach You
MARY PEARS	PECOG	MPEARS@PECOG.ORG		
DICK FRENCH	OSRP	sandds77@comcast.net		
RAY PURINGTON	OSRP	on file		
JEFF KOCSIS	OSRP	on file		
Nate Duda	Gill Rec	NDuda@gillmass.org		

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)



*Open Space Advisory Committee  
AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
November 30, 2011 @ 6:00pm  
at the Gill Town Hall*

Call to Order

Progress / Process Update from the FRCOG

Review final Action Plan

Things to work on for next time

Old Business/ New Business

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

## Appendix C: Meeting Sign-Ins and Agendas (cont.)

### Final meeting – December 14, 2011 Sign In

Those present:

- Dick French, Gill Planning Board & Open Space Advisory Committee
- Ray Purington, Gill Town Administrative Assistant & Open Space Advisory Committee
- Jeff Kocsis, Gill Open Space Advisory Committee

### December 14, 2011 Agenda



*Open Space Advisory Committee  
AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE  
November 30, 2011 @ 6:00pm  
at the Gill Town Hall*

Call to Order

Letters of Support from Various Town Boards

Brainstorm Ways to Implement the OSRP

Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.

Adjournment

## Appendix D: Public Survey and Public Forum

### Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011: Public Survey

Survey is also available online at [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)



#### **Welcome!**

Welcome to the Town of Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey. Your answers to this survey will help in the update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and will help the Town as it continues to plan for future growth and protection of our natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources - all the things that make Gill a special place to live.

All responses are anonymous. We greatly appreciate your feedback and participation in this survey.

Please note that the Gill Open Space and Recreation Committee will be hosting a public forum in October of 2011. More information on the public forum will be available in the coming weeks.

#### **What is the Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan?**

The Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan establishes goals and objectives to help guide the Town in its decisions regarding land use, open space, and recreation. It is NOT a legally binding document. It can, however, help the Town qualify for federal and state funding and matching grants for the purchase and protection of recreation and open space land. And it can be used to preserve our heritage, protect our natural and scenic resources and ensure space for recreation while allowing growth and development to occur that maintains the character of our community.

## Land Use and Land Preservation

### More of Gill's land should be used for

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Residential including single-family, multi-family, senior and low-income housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commercial (stores and offices)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Industrial (manufacturing)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife habitat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>		

### Which of the following types of land should the Town **PRIORITIZE** to permanently protect? (choose your top three)

- Agricultural lands
- Flood plains
- Forested lands
- Historic sites
- River and stream banks
- Scenic areas
- Wetlands
- Wildlife habitat
- Other

## Land Use and Land Preservation (Continued)

**To permanently preserve open spaces in my town, I would be willing to (check all that apply):**

- Donate money for the Town to buy land
- Donate some of my land to the Town
- Purchase land to protect from developers
- Sell my land at a discounted price
- Sell or contribute a conservation restriction to limit future development on my land
- Not sure. Would like more information on preserving land options.
- Other

**For more information on Agricultural Preservation Restrictions and Conservation Restrictions, visit <http://www.franklinlandtrust.org/questions.html> or contact Franklin Land Trust at 413-625-9151.**

**Open space land in Gill should be protected by (check all that apply):**

- Federal government
- Land trust or other non-government agency
- Private land owners
- State
- Town
- Not sure. Would like more information.
- Other

**For more information on land preservation and the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership, visit <http://www.nqpartnership.org/> or call 978-248-2118.**

## Open Space and Recreation

### I and/or my family pursue the following recreational activities in Gill and elsewhere:

	Pursue in Town	Pursue elsewhere
Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boating, non-power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boating, power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geocaching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golfing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseshoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting/target shooting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice skating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jogging/running	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor exploring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic driving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snow shoeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowmobiling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

**Open Space and Recreation** (Continued)

**I and/or my family use the following recreation areas or programs:**

	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never
Barton Cove	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connecticut River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gill School nature trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gill School playground	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mount Hermon facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My own land	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riverside Municipal Bldg (Green School)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stacy's Ferry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Forest	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**I and/or my family use the Connecticut River for the following activities:**

	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never
Boating, non power	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Boating, power	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fishing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water skiing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Are Gill recreational areas and programs well-publicized?**

- Yes
- No

**Are Gill recreational areas well-maintained?**

- Yes
- No

Comment:

**I would like the following recreational facilities or programs in Gill:**

**Open Space and Recreation** (Continued)

**Should a system of recreational trails be developed in Gill?**

- Yes, for hiking
- Yes, for walking, biking and rollerblading
- Yes, for cross country skiing
- No, I don't think trails are needed.

**Please share any additional comments you may have about open space and recreation in Gill:**

**To encourage ongoing Town efforts concerning open space and recreation planning, I would:**

- Support an ongoing open space and recreation committee
- Would like to serve on an open space and recreation committee
- Do not think we need an open space and recreation committee

If you would like to serve, please provide your name, phone or email here (or contact the Town Hall for more info)

## A Little about You

### I've lived in town

- Less than five years
- Five to ten years
- Ten to twenty years
- Twenty to fifty years
- Longer than fifty years
- I don't live in Gill

### I currently

- Rent my home
- Own my home

### Total acres of land I own in Gill:

- 0-2 acres
- 2-10 acres
- 10-50 acres
- More than 50 acres

### My age is

- 18 years old and under
- 19 to 25 years old
- 26 to 40 years old
- 41 to 55 years old
- 55 to 74 years old
- 75 years old and over
- Would prefer not to answer

### Total number of children in my household

0-5 years old

6-12 years old

13-18 years

### Total number of adults in my household including myself

19 to 25 years old

26 to 40 years old

41 to 55 years old

55 to 74 years old

75 years old and over

## Thanks!

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey.

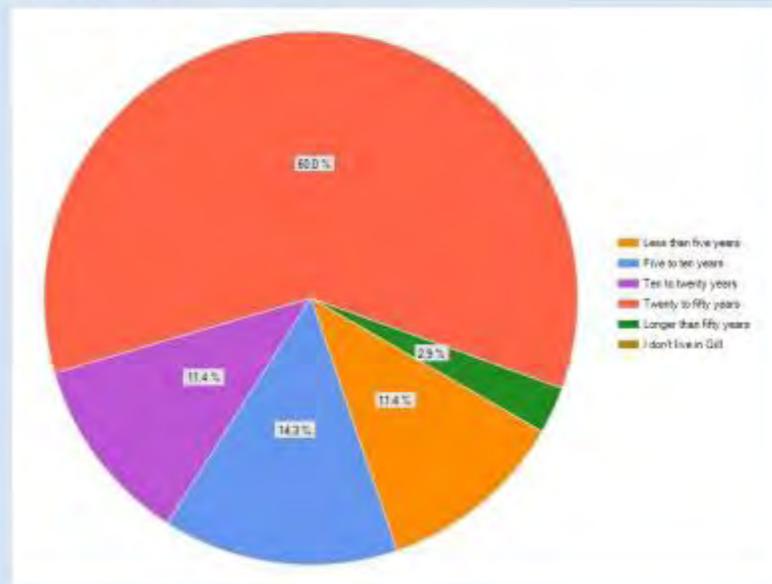
We hope to see you at the Open Space and Recreation Plan public forum on October 19, 2011!

## Appendix D: Public Survey and Public Forum Survey Results (cont.)

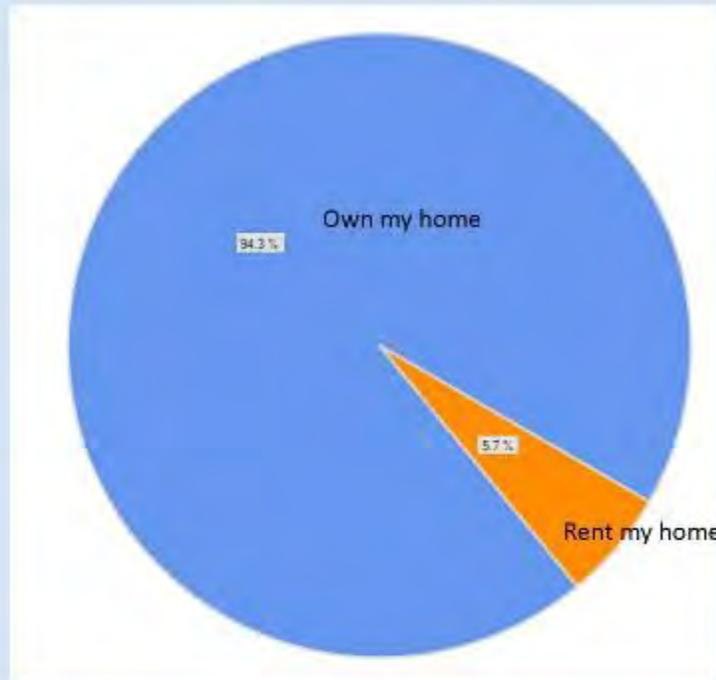


### About the 36 respondents:

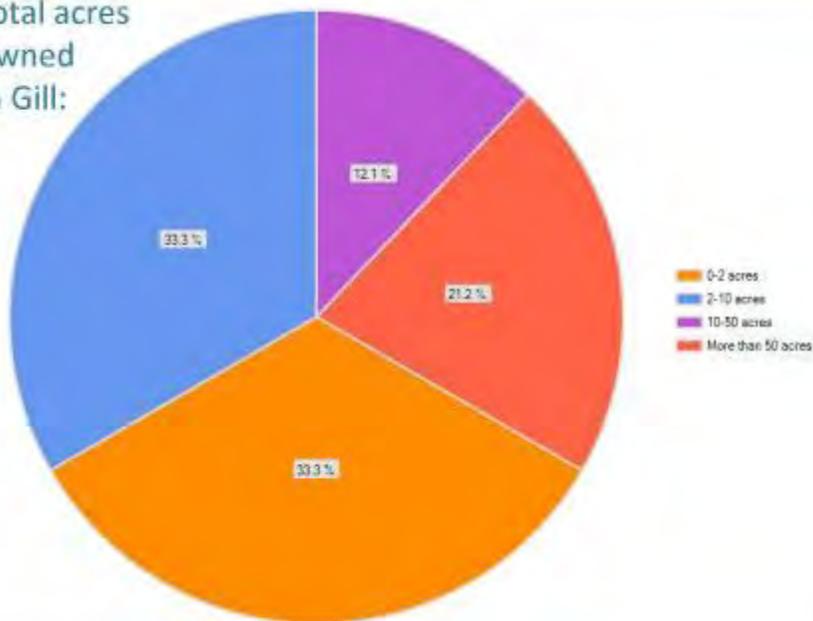
Have lived in town:



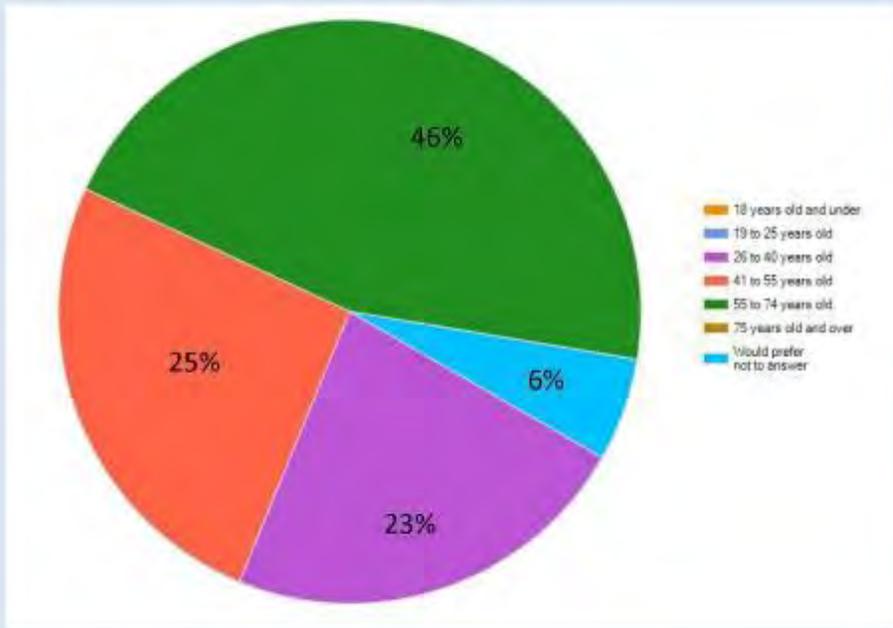
Home ownership:



Total acres owned in Gill:

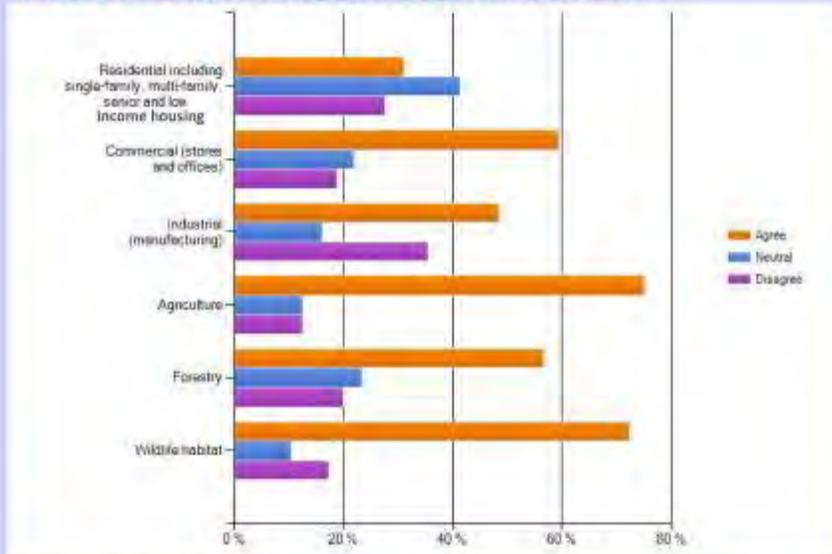


Age:



About open space:

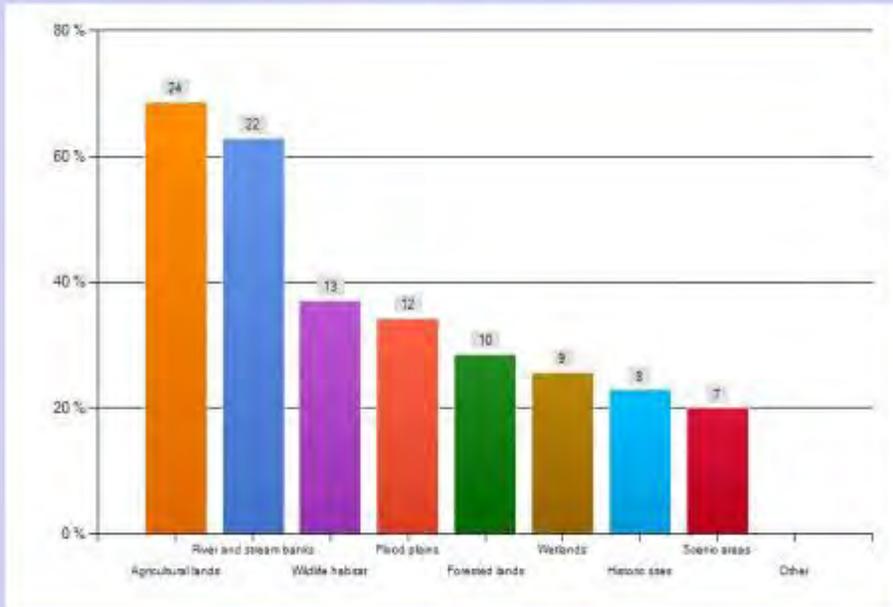
More of Gill's land should be used for:



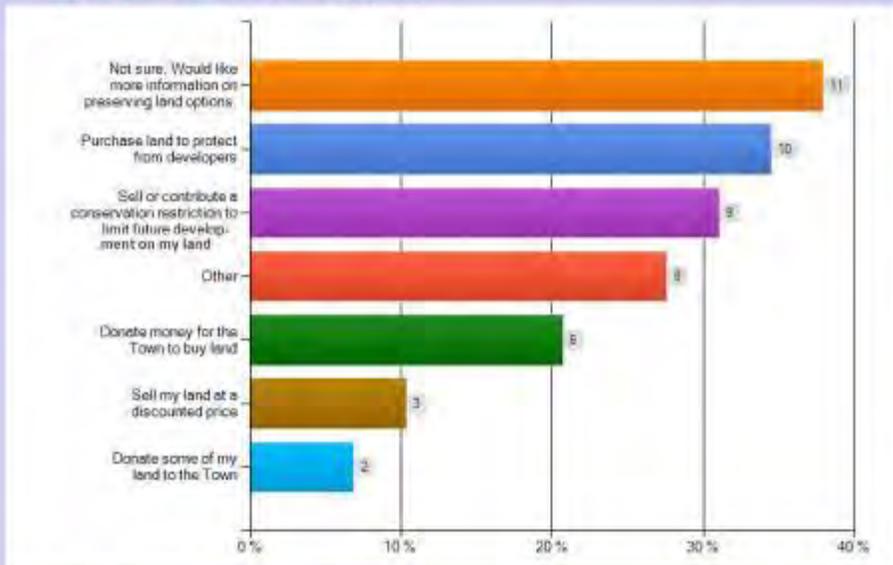
Other responses include:

- Some industrial would help if strategically located, but does not impair our rural charm. Same with commercial.
- Agricultural should be encouraged.
- Industrial - depends on environmental impact from plant.
- Recreational [4-wheeling, snowmobile, walks, cross country skiing]

Which of the following types of land should the Town PRIORITIZE to permanently protect? (choose your top three)



To permanently preserve open spaces in my town, I would be willing to (check all that apply):

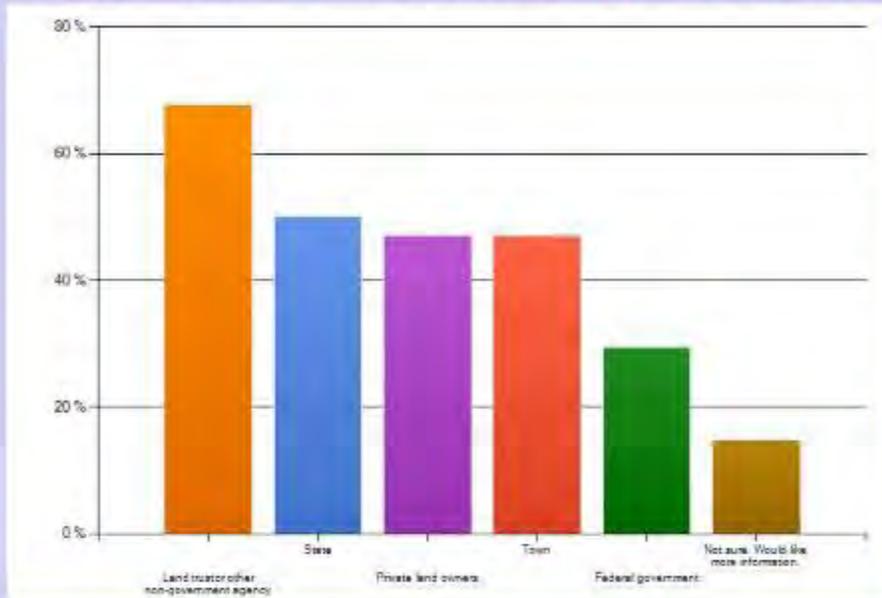


**Other responses include:**

- Nothing...we are already too land locked!
- Enough preserving, lets get a tax base
- Would not do any of the above.

- Donate \$ to a land preservation agency.
- I would donate if I approved of the purchase.
- Work with land trusts to achieve these actions.

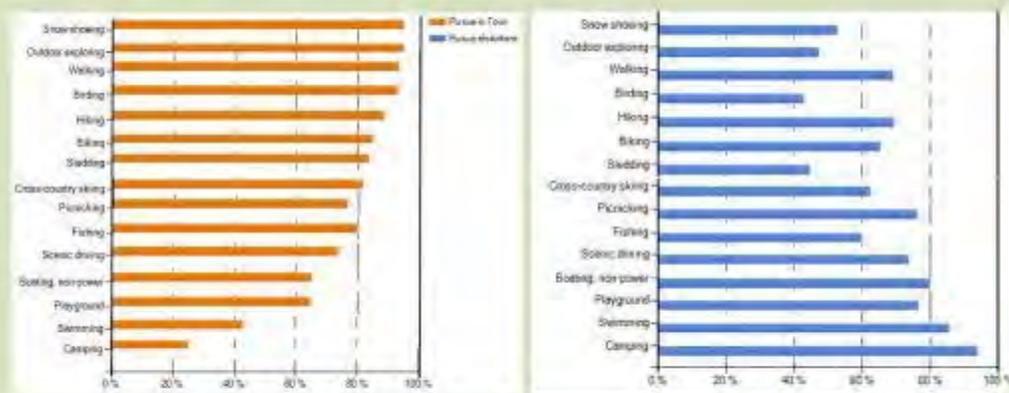
## Open space land in Gill should be protected by (check all that apply):



**Other response :** I don't believe we need any land protected.

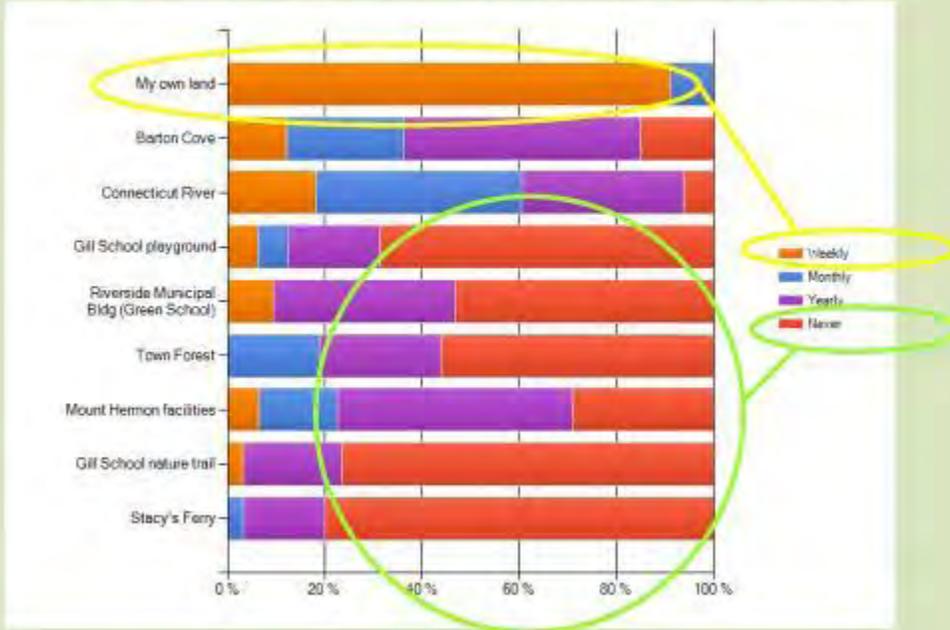
## About recreation:

I and/or my family pursue the following recreational activities in Gill and elsewhere:

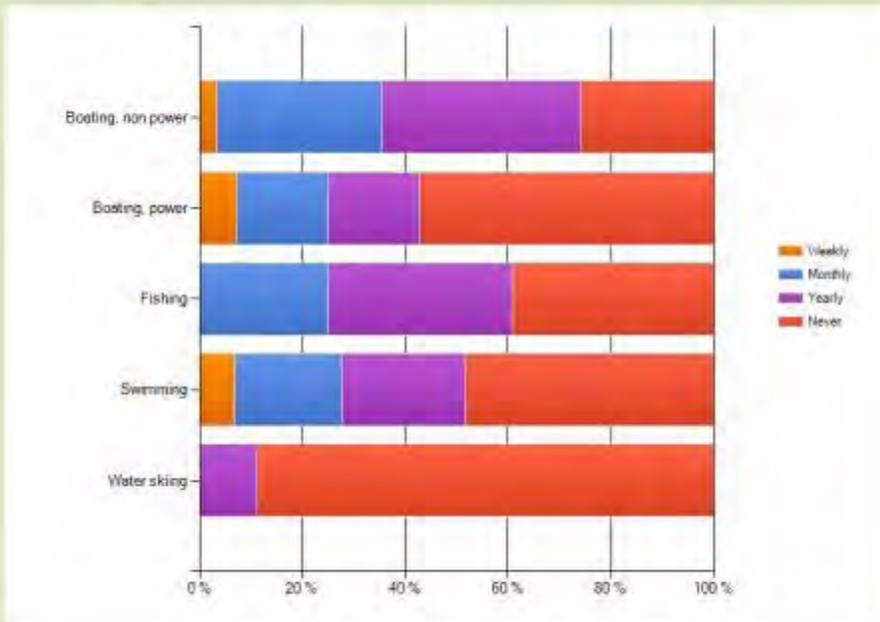


**Other response :** Gill is fantastic for dog walking, because of its extensive off-road trail systems (much across private land, with owner's permission). We're spoiled here in terms of our access to local agricultural products, and to undeveloped land for non-motor-powered recreation. Let's keep it that way!

I and/or my family use the following recreation areas or programs:



I and/or my family use the Connecticut River for the following activities:



Are Gill recreational areas and programs well-publicized?

**NO: 45**

**YES: 55**

Are Gill recreational areas and programs well-maintained?

**NO: 3**

**YES: 97**

**Other responses:**

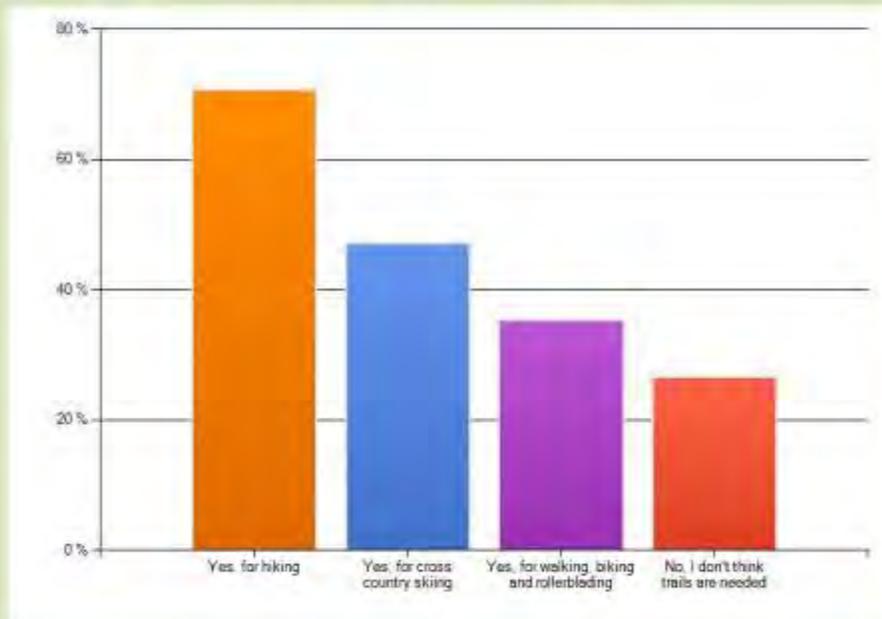
•Not sure

•Most people do not know much about the town forest. Is the conservation area next to the school maintained?

I would like the following recreational facilities or programs in Gill:

- Cross country skiing and biking and we need to have cross country skiing without snowmobiles ruining the trails.
- Zumba
- Gym for the Gill Elementary School so we wouldn't have to work around NMH schedule...Swimming/pool area, a place to play basketball, path for walking, biking, cross country skiing or snow shoeing
- Good maps for cross-country skiing/ hiking
- Red Sox trip

## Should a system of trails be developed in Gill?

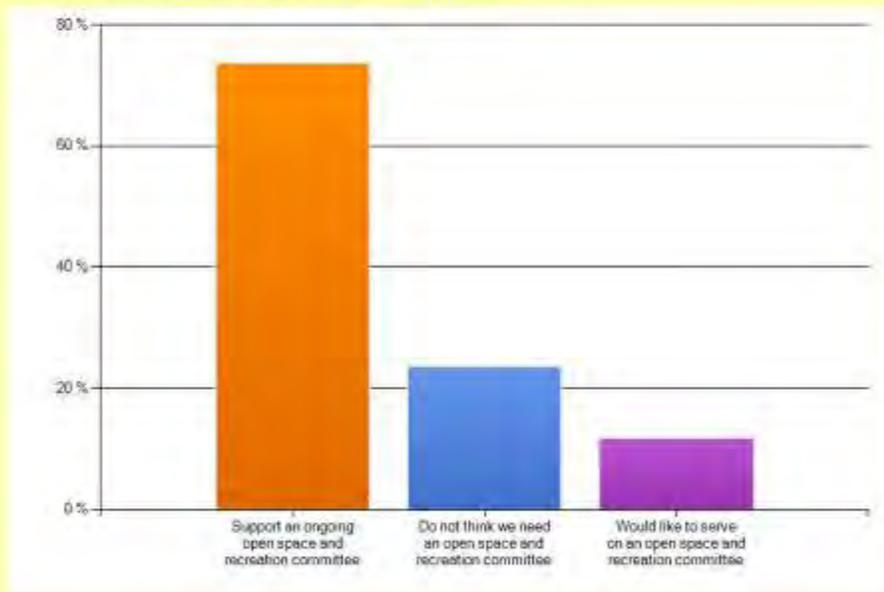


## About open space and recreation:

Please share any additional comments you may have about open space and recreation in Gill: (excerpts)

- We have enough (protected land) tied up already, NO more!
- Please have a committee to bring some business into town
- Regarding the trail system: it would be good to have some formal connectors for x-country ski trails (and a map?).
- I do not believe more open space is needed. I strongly feel that we need more business revenue in the town.
- We have enough open space and developing trails costs money.
- Getting permission to hike through someone's corn field makes for the best hike.
- I believe the town should provide much more focus on developing business in our community.
- How awesome it would be to have a booklet with everything in it. It would be nice if residents had access to the Falls River.
- Existing snowmobile trails already provide great access for cross country skiing, at least in the Main Road, West Gill Road, and River Road vicinity.
- I would like to see a little more caution exercised in regards to the amount of land that is set aside for open spaces. We need to see some sort of industry brought into this community.

To encourage ongoing Town efforts concerning open space and recreation planning, I would:



## Goals and Objectives

<i>GOAL #1</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Ensure that the Town of Gill maintains or improves the integrity of streams and wetlands, wildlife habitats, farms and forestlands and other agricultural resources, the diversity and integrity of native fauna and flora, drinking water, clean air, scenic views, geological resources, and historical and archaeological sites, structures, locations, and landscapes ("natural and cultural resources") through the conservation of locally important natural and open space resources.
	Prioritize areas with significant "natural and cultural resources" so that town officials and residents can act efficiently when a parcel of land becomes available for protection.
	Encourage landowners interested in protecting their land from development to work with local land trusts, with state and federal conservation agencies, and with the Town.
	Be responsive to the needs of farm and forest landowners and other agricultural businesses in town. Consider ways that the town might support agricultural operations as they would other commercial or industrial businesses in town.
	Use the annual Biodiversity Days as a means for building a comprehensive biological and geological inventory in Gill using community volunteers.
	Support the training of local volunteers in vernal pool certification.
	Explore revisions to Gill's zoning bylaw that would result in greater protection of valued "natural and cultural resources" to ensure any land development provides benefits that reflect the town's natural resource conservation goals.
	Explore the potential for developing a private conservation land trust or fund for Gill.

<i>GOAL #2</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Ensure that the Town of Gill maintains or improves the quality and accessibility of all its recreational facilities and programming.
	Evaluate the needs of all municipal recreational facilities and properties.
	Explore the feasibility of developing recreational facilities and uses that are in demand.
	Promote existing and future recreational facilities and services by developing a guide to facilities, programs, and trail systems in town, based upon needs expressed during OSRP planning process and the 2011 OSRP Survey.
	Continue to cooperate with private entities in town such as Northeast Utilities, Gill-Montague School District, The Nature Conservancy, and Northfield Mount Hermon School that provide recreational facilities used by Gill residents.
	Support the development of multi-use and limited-use trail systems, which can be accessed from publicly owned land or private lands with permission.
	Identify recreational needs of residents of all ages and develop new programs and facilities as appropriate.
	Evaluate the needs of all municipal recreational facilities and properties.

<i>GOAL #3</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Ensure that the Town of Gill residents and Town officials successfully work together and with others to guide the conservation of open space and recreation resources.
	Cause the town to constitute a permanent Open Space Advisory Committee that would have the responsibility of implementing the 2005 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan.
	Explore opportunities to partner with local, regional, and statewide land conservation organizations and agencies to better leverage limited town dollars and volunteer hours towards the conservation of priority resource areas.
	Explore opportunities for partnering with the open space committees of surrounding towns on land conservation projects that protect landscape-scale resources like contiguous forests, aquifers, core habitat areas, and trail systems.

## Goals and Objectives

<i>GOAL #4</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Identify ways to balance open space preservation in Gill with commercial and industrial development to ensure an adequate tax base to support the Town.
	Provide support to individuals wishing to start new commercial or industrial businesses in the form of public outreach and education.
	Establish a working committee to identify suitable areas to pursue additional commercial or industrial businesses in Town.
	Identify businesses needed in town through public outreach.



## Appendix E: Publications, Resources and Other Supporting Documents (cont.)

### Support Gill's Farms!

The following are a list of farms that sell products or services that can be purchased either directly from Gill farms or indirectly through local merchants.

#### SONGLINE EMU FARM

owned by Stanley & Geri Johnson, Dee Dee Mares  
66 French King Highway 863-2700

Emu meat, emu oil and emu oil-based health and beauty products. Buy at farm store on-site.  
Open 12-5PM, Thursday and Friday.  
[www.songlineemufarm.com](http://www.songlineemufarm.com)

#### UPINNGIL

owned by Clifford Hatch  
411 Main Road 863-4431

Fresh milk, cheese, PYO berries, corn, fruits, honey, grains, vegetables and flowers. Buy at farm store and stand on-site.  
Open 8AM-7PM, 7 days a week.

#### LAUGHING DOG FARM

owned by Danny Botkin and family  
398 Main Road 863-8696

Goats, gourmet herbs, veggies, fruits, and flowers grown organically and by hand. CSA shares available. Buy at Gill farmers' market. [dbotkin@valinet.com](mailto:dbotkin@valinet.com)  
[www.laughingdogfarm.com](http://www.laughingdogfarm.com)

### Gill's Farm History

Gill has a rich history of agriculture that has contributed to the town as we know it today. Today some 3,819 acres—42% of Gill's land—are associated with agricultural use. When Gill farms are supported, they can thrive and continue, keeping fields open and used by animals. Your support of Gill farms helps ensure that the beauty and rural character of our town will be present for generations to come.

#### How can you support Gill farms and farmers?

- Purchase products from Gill's farms at the locations identified in this brochure.
- Teach your children about the importance of Gill's farms.
- Talk to local farmers and learn what issues affect them.
- Vote and participate in town government in ways that support our farmers.
- Visit the Gill Historical Museum and see first-hand the rich farming history of our town.

# Gill Farms



A guide to buying Gill products and supporting agriculture in our community

2011-2012

Gill Agricultural Commission  
Gill, Massachusetts

[agcom@gillmass.org](mailto:agcom@gillmass.org)



## Appendix E: Publications, Resources and Other Supporting Documents (cont.)

### Gill Farms - Inside

#### ASHVANA STABLES & OPENING GATES THERAPEUTIC RIDING CTR.

operated by Erika Heilig & Sarah Rury  
401 Main Road 863-2676

Riding lessons, boarding, leasing, therapeutic riding lessons.  
eheilig@ashvanastables.com  
srury@openinggatestrc.org

#### NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON FARM

operated by Richard Odman  
Mt. Hermon Station Road 498-3467

Maple products, raspberries, raspberry jam, milk, cheese, asparagus, ice cream, cider, and lavender products. Email to inquire about regular milk purchases. Other products sold on-site at farm store on NMH campus.  
rodman@nmhschool.org

#### ROLLING RIDGE SUGARHOUSE

Jacob Rau  
432 Main Road 834-8111

Maple Syrup.  
Call Jacob to visit "The Sugar Cube."

#### VISION QUEST FARM

Neil & Debby Dargis  
79 South Cross Road 522-1918

Sheep, yarn, and organic compost.  
To purchase products or visit, call the farm.

#### CROSS ROAD FARMS

Timothy Vielmetti - Proprietor  
15 Cross Road 863-2897

Heirloom tomato plants, rhubarb, and blueberries.  
Open during the spring. Call farm for hours.



#### DRY BROOK FARM

Roger & Kathy Augustine  
124 North Cross Road 863-2212

Beef sold in quarters and halves.  
To purchase products, call the farm.

#### MALCOM EGGS

Malcom Crosby  
Find our eggs at Upinngil Farm stand

#### BASCOM HOLLOW FARM

75 Bascom Road 773-3830

Fresh eggs, seedlings, vegetables, honey, pastured pork. Call or email [tomc@bascomhollowfarm.com](mailto:tomc@bascomhollowfarm.com).

#### RAY STEELE, FARRIER

Ray Steele dba Horseshoes Unlimited  
521 Main Road 863-2443

Farrier and horseshoeing work, general blacksmithing and farrier supplies.  
[www.horseshoesunlimited.com](http://www.horseshoesunlimited.com)

#### GIRARD'S VALLEY VIEW FARM

Dick Girard - Farmer  
119 River Rd. 508-397-4304

All types of vegetables. Find our produce at our farm stand, local restaurants, & Gill farmers' markets.  
[girardsvalleyviewfarm@comcast.net](mailto:girardsvalleyviewfarm@comcast.net)

#### HIPPY HILL FARM

Chloe Castro-Santos  
362 Main Road 863-4235

Organic, free-range eggs. Find our eggs at Upinngil!

#### FLAGG FARM

Danny & Kathy Flagg  
451 Main Road 648-0207

Cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, winter greenery.  
Visit the farm stand to buy our produce.

Illustration: Design by J. Barry Van 2009

#### STUMP HILL FARM

Gary Stevens  
57 North Cross Road 863-0216

Find our vegetables at Foster's Supermarket and Upinngil Farmstand.

#### COLD SPRING FARM

Tim & Doff Storrow  
73 River Road 863-8452

Beef, lamb, hay, and organic grain.  
Call or email the farm to purchase our produce.  
Email - [timstorrow@comcast.net](mailto:timstorrow@comcast.net)

#### SOUTH CROSS ALPACAS

David A. Balise  
4 South Cross Road 863-4122

Alpaca fleece and products, available after autumn of 2011. To purchase fleece or products, call the farm.

#### GILBRAE FARM

Dave Galbraith  
15 River Road 522-9247

Vegetables.  
Call to visit this experimental "Sloping Hill" farm.

#### THE GILL GREENERY

Seay & Becky Minor  
123 Center Road 863-8733

Find our sprouts throughout western New England!



## Appendix E: Publications, Resources and Other Supporting Documents (cont.)

### Potential Funding Related to Route 2 Scenic Byway Designation

#### Federal

##### *Scenic Byway Funding*

Within the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) leads The National Scenic Byways Program. The Program is a grassroots, collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as America's Byways®—All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways—based on one or more archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic intrinsic qualities.

The Secretary of Transportation makes grants to states and to Indian tribes to implement projects on scenic byways. Federally designated, state-designated, and tribally designated scenic byways are all equally eligible for these grants, with no order of priority. Up to \$43.5 million was authorized for the 2009 fiscal year. FHWA eligibility criteria favor large-scale, high-cost projects that provide strategic benefits to the byway and the byway traveler.

Projects submitted for consideration should benefit the byway traveler's experience, whether to help manage the intrinsic qualities that support the byway's designation, shape the byway's story, interpret the story for visitors, or improve visitor facilities along the byway.

There are eight categories of eligible project activities:

- State and Tribal Programs
- Corridor Management Plan
- Safety Improvements
- Byway Facilities
- Access to Recreation
- Resource Protection
- Interpretive Information
- Marketing Program

Applicants must first consult the State Byway Coordinator about eligibility questions and steps for submitting an application. State byway coordinators establish specific criteria and procedures for making eligibility decisions, prioritizing projects and submitting applications to the FHWA division office. Some state programs set application due dates that are earlier than those set by FHWA. Some programs also limit the amount of funding for which each applicant can apply.

National Scenic Byways Program funds are provided on a reimbursement basis. The maximum federal share is 80 percent. Private, local, Indian tribe and state funds may be used as the match share. Applications are available on the National Scenic Byway website at [www.bywaysonline.org](http://www.bywaysonline.org). Applicant organizations must also be registered with Grants.gov. The details of this registration process can be found on the Grants.gov website at [http://grants.gov/applicants/organization\\_registration.jsp](http://grants.gov/applicants/organization_registration.jsp).

## **Appendix E: Publications, Resources and Other Supporting Documents (cont.)**

### Conservation Tax Incentive

In 2006, Congress passed a law amending 26 US Code 170(h) to expand tax incentives to landowners who choose to donate a conservation easement on their land to a land trust, government agency or publicly supported charity that will permanently protect important conservation land. The 2008 Farm Bill included a 2-year extension of the conservation tax incentives, which now apply to easements donated between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2009. A conservation easement limits the uses of the land for current and future owners. It is an agreement between the donor and the land trust, agency or organization, and can allow for certain uses to continue (such as farming) but may limit other types of development (such as residential or commercial) in the future. Public access may or may not be granted. The incentive:

- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30 percent of his or her income in any year to 50 percent;
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100 percent of their income; and
- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

Appraisal of the land must be done by a qualifying appraiser and the land must meet certain conservation purposes to qualify. It is important to note that this incentive is due to expire at the end of 2009. The Land Trust Alliance, a national conservation organization, is working with other interested parties to make the changes permanent and provides additional up-to-date information on the conservation tax incentive on their website at [www.lta.org/policy/tax-policy](http://www.lta.org/policy/tax-policy).

### Federal Historic Tax Credits

Federal income tax credits are available for income-producing residential and commercial property owners for qualified historic restoration projects. An owner's personal residence is not eligible. Under the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Incentive Program, owners of a property that is listed on the National Register or is within a National Register Historic District may deduct 20 percent of the cost of a major restoration project on their taxes. Restoration must be significant, exceeding the greater of the adjusted basis of the buildings or \$5,000, and work can be phased over a five-year period when there are architect's drawings and specifications prepared for the work. Restoration work must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The program is administered through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). A 10 percent tax credit is available for buildings that are not listed in the National Register but were built before 1936.

## Appendix F: Source Water Assessment Report

### Connecticut River Watershed 2003 Water Quality Assessment Report

Following is Segment MA34-02 only. A complete copy of the Report is available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/watersheds/wqar/ma34-02.htm>

#### CONNECTICUT RIVER (SEGMENT MA34-02)

Location: Route 10 bridge, Northfield, to Turners Falls Dam, Gill/Montague

Segment Length: 11.2 miles

Classification: Class B, Warm Water Fishery

This segment is on the 2006 Integrated List of Waters in "Category 5"- *Waters Requiring a TMDL* because of priority organics, flow alteration, and other habitat alterations (MassDEP 2007).

This segment of the Connecticut River (MA34-02) is entirely contained within the 22-mile Turners Falls Power Pool. Bank erosion caused by a complex interaction of multiple factors is a significant problem in this reach of the Connecticut River. In addition to flood flows, boat wakes, overland flow, and groundwater seeps, pool fluctuation resulting from operation of one of three hydroelectric generating facilities directly impact the day-to-day hydrodynamics of the Turners Falls Power Pool. The Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project is located within this segment. The joint operation of the Turners Falls and the Northfield projects has affected the daily flow regime of the river in this pool, resulting in larger and quicker pool fluctuations than would naturally occur (Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee 1999).

The Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project is located about five miles upstream from the Turners Falls dam. It consists of an upper reservoir and an underground pumping and generating plant, which uses reversible pump turbine units. The Project also relies on the Turners Falls Pool to serve as a lower reservoir. During periods of low electrical demand, the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility pumps water from the lower reservoir to the upper reservoir using the pump turbine generators. The water is then released during periods of high electrical demand, again through the pump turbine generators. In this way, the project is able to generate a maximum of 1,080 megawatts of electricity. The increase in dam height over time, from 163.9 feet in 1867 to 185.5 feet in 1970 (21.6 feet in 103 years), has significantly altered the hydrodynamics of the reach. The joint operation of the Turners Falls and the Northfield projects has also significantly changed the daily flow regime of the river in the Turners Falls Pool, resulting in larger and quicker pool fluctuations. Typically, pool fluctuations may average as much as 3.5 feet per day, and much higher fluctuations (9-10.5 feet) may occur over the weekly cycle (Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee 1999).

#### WITHDRAWALS AND DISCHARGES

##### WMA (Appendix H, Table H1)

Four Star Farms, Inc., Northfield (9P210621703)

##### NPDES (Appendix H, Table H2)

Northfield Mount Hermon School, Gill Facility (MA0032573)

First Light Hydro Generating Company (MA0035530)

#### FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC)

Project Name	Owner	Project #	Issue Date	Expiration Date	River	Kilowatts
Northfield Mountain Power Station	First Light Hydro Generating Company	2485	14 May 1968	30 April 2018	Connecticut River	1,080,000

#### USE ASSESSMENT

##### AQUATIC LIFE

##### Habitat/Flow

Three hydroelectric generating facilities directly impact the day-to-day hydrodynamics of the Turners Falls Power Pool: Vernon, VT, Turners Falls, and Northfield Mountain. The banks of the Connecticut River in the Turners Falls Pool section are often twenty or more feet above the water level, and are characterized by slumping and mass wasting of huge sections of streambank. Trees and other riparian vegetation frequently fall and slide into the water (Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee 1999). Evidence of extreme erosion prompted the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to carry out a series of 319-funded bank stabilization projects implemented

## Appendix F: Source Water Assessment Report (cont.)

between 1996 and 2007. These Connecticut River Watershed Restoration Projects included: Phase I (96-03/319); Phase II (00-04/319); and Phase III (03-07/319). Eroding sites in this segment of the Connecticut River were inventoried and prioritized according to factors including severity of the problem and feasibility of stabilization; and selected for restoration via design and installation of bioengineered bank. Over 2,500 linear feet of eroded bank have been stabilized by these three projects using a variety of bioengineering techniques.

### Biology

The Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge has led an effort to control *Trapa natans* populations in the Connecticut River Watershed. They have reported isolated patches of this non-native aquatic macrophyte in this segment of the Connecticut River along the shoreline upstream from Barton Cove near the end of Barton Cove Road and near the Turners Falls Rod and Gun club (Boettner 2007).

Note: Three non-native species (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, *Cabomba caroliniana*, and *Potamogeton crispus*) have been observed on surveys and are known to occur in Barton Cove (MA DCR 2005). Impairments due to the presence of these non-native plant species are reported under segment MA34122 Barton Cove.

### Toxicity

#### Ambient

Water was collected from the Connecticut River, approximately 400 yards upstream from the Northfield Mount Hermon School WWTP discharge, for use as dilution water in the facility's whole effluent toxicity tests. Between August 2000 and September 2007, survival of *C. dubia* exposed (48-hours) to the Connecticut River water has been  $\geq 95\%$  (n=14). River water hardness ranged from 28 to 52mg/L (n=14).

#### Effluent

Whole effluent toxicity tests have been conducted on the Northfield Mount Hermon School treated effluent. Between August 2000 and September 2006, 13 valid tests were conducted using *C. dubia*. The LC<sub>50</sub>s were all  $\geq 100\%$  effluent (n=13).

### Chemistry - water

DWM conducted water quality sampling downstream from Fourmile Brook in Gill (Station 02A) on this segment of the Connecticut River between July and September 2003 (Appendix B and E). All measurements were indicative of good water quality conditions.

### Chemistry- fish tissue

The Connecticut River Fish Tissue Contaminant Study (2000) was a collaborative federal and multi-state project designed to provide a baseline of tissue contaminant data from several fish species and learn what threat eating these fish poses to other mammals, birds, and fish (Haltner 2006). This study reached the following conclusions: mercury poses a risk to fish-eating wildlife, DDT homologs (chemical physical and biological breakdown products of the parent compound) pose a risk to fish-eating birds, coplanar PCBs pose a risk to fish-eating mammals and fish-eating birds, and dioxin constituted a risk to fish-eating wildlife.

This segment of the Connecticut River is assessed as support with an Alert Status for the *Aquatic Life Use*. This decision is based upon the good survival of test organisms in toxicity tests and the good water quality conditions. However, this use is identified with an Alert Status due to the regulated flow regime; severe bank erosion issues; the isolated presence of non native plant species; and the risk that fish tissue contaminants pose to fish-eating wildlife. At this time there is insufficient evidence of a negative impact to in-stream biota to result in the impairment of this use.

### **FISH CONSUMPTION**

The following site specific fish consumption advisory is recommended by MA DPH for the mainstem Connecticut River:

*"(All towns between Northfield and Longmeadow)... Children younger than 12 years, pregnant women, and nursing mothers should not eat any fish from the Connecticut River and the general public should not consume channel catfish, white catfish, American eel, or yellow perch because of elevated levels of PCB"* (MA DPH 2007).

## Appendix F: Source Water Assessment Report (cont.)

Because of the site-specific fish consumption advisory for the Connecticut River due to PCB contamination, the *Fish Consumption Use* is assessed as impaired.

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CONTACT RECREATION AND AESTHETICS

DWM collected *E. coli* samples from left bank, right bank, and center stream of the Connecticut River downstream from Fournile Brook in Gill (Station 02A) between April and November 2003 (Appendix B). The geometric mean of these samples was 20 cfu/100ml.

DWM personnel made field observations at Station 02A during the surveys conducted between July and September 2003. No objectionable deposits or water odors were recorded, but pollen or dust blankets were noted as being present on the water surface on three occasions. Water clarity was noted as clear or slightly turbid at this station (MassDEP 2003).

The *Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation and Aesthetics uses* are assessed as support based upon the low bacteria counts and the lack of objectionable deposits, odors, or oils. However, these uses are identified with an Alert Status due to the turbid conditions, regulated flow regime and severe bank erosion issues identified in the upstream segment.

Connecticut River (Segment MA34-02) Use Summary Table

Designated Uses		Status
Aquatic Life		SUPPORT*
Fish Consumption		IMPAIRED Cause: PCB in fish tissue Source: Unknown
Primary Contact		SUPPORT*
Secondary Contact		SUPPORT*
Aesthetics		SUPPORT*

\* Alert Status, see details in use assessment

### RECOMMENDATIONS

*Didymosphenia geminata*, otherwise known as Didymo or "rock spot", is considered an invasive algae and has been found in the Connecticut River in Vermont and New Hampshire. Infestation and nuisance blooms of Didymo can produce thick mats that blanket stream and river substrates, causing a loss of habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. Didymo blooms can make fishing, swimming, or boating undesirable or impossible (MA DCR 2008). Although it is currently not known if Didymo will colonize and/or bloom in the Massachusetts section of the Connecticut River, every effort should be made to prevent the spread of this nuisance algae in the mainstem Connecticut River and its tributaries. MA DCR recommends the Check-Clean-Dry protocol be followed when exiting waters that may be infested with Didymo. For more information visit: [http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/lakepond/hot\\_topic.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/waterSupply/lakepond/hot_topic.htm).

Field determined that 20 percent of the bank length has been protected by rock armor. Field recommends using new approaches for subsequent bank stabilization work, as continued reliance on armoring could lead to increased erosion elsewhere (Field 2007).

Water quality testing, especially TSS and turbidity, should continue to be monitored to assess the impact of the severe bank erosion upon the *Aquatic Life Use*.

## Appendix F: Source Water Assessment Report (cont.)

The First Light Hydro Generating Company NPDES permit should be reissued with appropriate limits and monitoring requirements. Special consideration should be given to best available cooling water intake structure technologies that minimize fish impingement and entrainment.

Continue to monitor for the presence of invasive non-native aquatic vegetation and determine the extent of the infestation. Prevent spreading of invasive aquatic plants. Once the extent of the problem is determined and control practices are exercised, vigilant monitoring needs to be practiced to guard against infestations in unaffected areas, including downstream from the site, and to ensure that managed areas stay in check. A key portion of the prevention program should be posting of boat access points with signs to educate and alert users to the problem and their responsibility to prevent spreading these species.

## **Appendix H: ADA Self Assessment Report**

### **TOWN OF GILL ADA INVENTORY OF TOWN PUBLIC ACCESS LAND**

The general public in Gill uses one town-owned property, the Gill Elementary School and adjoining nature area. A brief assessment of the site's resources follows. Since the 2005 OSRP, the Town Forest was established. To date, no plans have been put in place to

This inventory employed standards used by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services that are based on state and federal guidelines. The inventory was completed by Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department staff experienced in assessing parks and playgrounds for their level of accessibility.

#### **Gill Elementary School Playground and Adjoining Nature Area**

The Town of Gill Elementary School is located east of Boyle Road, which runs north south. The school is perched on a hill with level parking on the north end of the school as well as directly in front of it. The land in back of the school slopes west towards the nature area, which straddles Ashuela Brook. The paved area north of the school contains two basketball nets. There is one handicapped parking space directly in front of the school. In back of the school, there is a large grass-covered hill that slopes to a level area, which contains a soccer field between two baseball diamonds. There is one large wooden play structure with wood chips as a playground surface. Surrounding this is uneven lawn. There are four small climbing and riding play structures nearby the large play structure. On the southern end of the playground at different points on the sloped lawn and on more level areas are a small swing set and several climbing structures. The nature area to the east contains paths through high grass. The nature area is inaccessible from the handicapped parking space in front of the school.

It is suggested that a path made with TR7, a stone dust material, be created from the paved handicapped parking space to a level area in front of the school. A handicapped-accessible picnic table could be constructed between the trees. An accessible play structure could also be developed there. When packed down, the TR7 material can provide an adequate surface for anyone with mobility challenges.

#### **Gill Town Forest**

The Gill Town Forest is located in the northwestern corner of town. The 162.5 acre parcel has frontage and access from Bascom, Hoe Shop, and Dole Roads, with a primary access point and informal, roughly graded parking area off of Hoe Shop Road. Dole Road is a paved road, and Bascom and Hoe Shop Roads are gravel.

The property is subject to a Conservation Restriction which is held by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. The site is primarily wooded, with hemlock, oak, and pine the dominant species. The Falls River forms the western boundary of the Town Forest. The northeastern corner of the property features Otter Pond, which is a glacial kettle hole pond,

## **Appendix H: ADA Self Assessment Report (cont.)**

as well as several impressive glacial eskers. There are several abandoned beaver ponds which add to the habitat diversity of the Town Forest, and provide ample breeding grounds for mosquitoes!

The property was donated to the Town in September 2009, and is under the control of the Town's Conservation Commission. A Town Forest Task Force has been established, and is charged with gathering input on desired and suggested uses for the property, drafting recreation and stewardship plans, establishing trails, marking boundaries, and seeking grants and other funds.

The Task Force has not yet discussed possible ADA uses for the property that would be allowed by and compatible with the Conservation Restriction.

## Appendix H: ADA Self Assessment Report (cont.)

**TOWN OF GILL**  
MASSACHUSETTS



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**This notice is provided as required by the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).**

The Town of Gill does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or operations of its programs, services, or activities. The Town of Gill does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding the ADA may be forwarded to the following designated ADA Coordinator:

Name: Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Title: Town Clerk  
Address: Town of Gill  
325 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354  
Phone: (413) 863-8103  
MA Relay (800) 439-2370  
Email: [townclerk@gillmass.org](mailto:townclerk@gillmass.org)  
Days/Hours Available: Monday – Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Other hours by appointment.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication with respect to programs and services of the Town of Gill are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Coordinator.

This notice is available in alternative formats.

Telephone 413-863-9347

325 Main Road, Gill MA 01354

Fax 413-863-7775

## Appendix H: ADA Self Assessment Report (cont.)

### TOWN OF GILL MASSACHUSETTS



[www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org)

#### SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

This Grievance Procedure has been established to meet the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in employment practices and policies, or in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Gill.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Complaint forms are available in the Selectboard Office, located on the main floor of the Gill Town Hall. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the alleged violation to:

ADA Coordinator: Lynda Hodsdon Mayo  
Town Clerk  
325 Main Road  
Gill, MA 01354  
Phone: 413-863-8103  
MA Relay: (800) 439-2370

Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the above named ADA Coordinator, or her designee should she be unavailable, will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or designee will respond in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant. The response will explain the position of the Town of Gill and, where possible, will offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator or designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may submit a written request for a hearing with the Selectboard within seven (7) calendar days of the transmittal of the written response of the ADA Coordinator.

The hearing shall be held not later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the receipt of the request. The ADA Coordinator shall be advised of the hearing. The Selectboard shall issue a written decision to the complainant and other parties as appropriate no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the hearing. If the vote of the Selectboard is not unanimous, a minority report may be included in the decision.

The Chair of the Selectboard will inform the complainant that he/she has the right to pursue the complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination or the courts at any time and shall provide the addresses and phone numbers of such agencies. All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the Selectboard and responses, will be kept by the Town of Gill for a period of at least three years.