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Preserving Our Town's Rural Character

Two New Parks For Plympton



Churchill Park at Jones River Brook & Cato's Ridge Conservation Area

The Open Space and Conservation Committees are sponsoring two proposals to create Churchill Park at Jones River Brook and Cato's Ridge Conservation Area, a total of 87 acres in the heart of town.

The Vision:

Churchill Park at Jones River Brook, a 10-acre parcel off Main Street, will provide non-motorized recreational access to some of the richest natural areas and historical features in Plympton. In Churchill Park, a level trail with occasional benches will circle through the woodlands and connect to a short boardwalk and observation area at Jones River Brook. The Town will partner with volunteers to create a parking area and informational kiosk.

Churchill Park will provide direct access to Cato's Ridge Conservation Area, a 77-acre town-owned parcel that is currently landlocked. Future plans call for improving this connection with a more expansive boardwalk. Visitors to Cato's Ridge will be able to explore the area using existing 100-year-old cart paths that spread throughout the property as well as newly created walking trails.

The Proposals:

- Acquire the 10-acre parcel off of Main Street to create Churchill Park at Jones River Brook
- Transfer the 77-acre town-owned parcel to conservation status to create Cato's Ridge Conservation Area

How Much Will It Cost?

The cost for acquiring the Main Street property for Churchill Park is approximately \$45,000. Expenses include land and environmental surveys, a required conservation restriction to be held by Wildlands Trust, and modest amounts for materials and labor to build the walking trails. CPA funds will completely cover the cost of this acquisition. No general town funds will be used.

There are no costs associated with transferring the 77-acre town-owned parcel to conservation status.

How Will The Land Be Managed?

The Conservation Commission will become the oversight agency of Churchill Park and Cato's Ridge. As in other towns, a Friends Group will be formed to partner with other organizations and to help with stewardship, educational, environmental, and historical activities.

What Is Your Role?

Town meeting approval is required for each of these proposals. The Churchill Park warrant article will be presented by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and requires a majority vote.

The Cato's Ridge warrant article will be presented by the Conservation Commission and requires a 2/3 majority vote. Transferring the town-owned land to conservation status will protect the land from development and make it eligible to receive donations and grants for recreational and educational purposes.

Vote At Town Meeting: May 16, 2012

If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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Providing Plympton Residents With Opportunities For Recreation And Environmental Education.

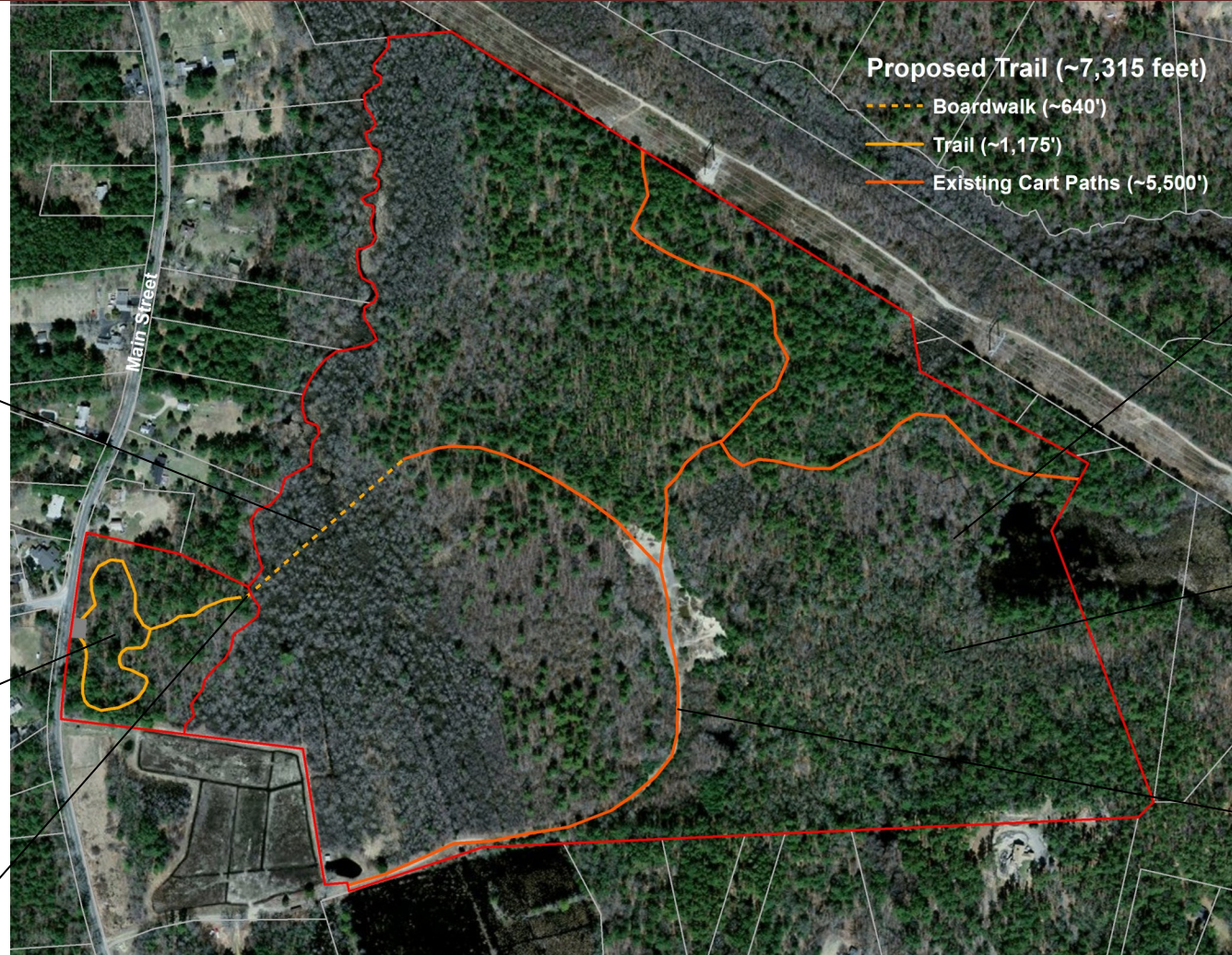
Plympton is one of only two towns in the Commonwealth with less than 2% of its land designated for conservation. In a 2007 survey of town residents, preserving Plympton's rural character by protecting open space was rated as the top priority. Creating this new park and conservation area would be a major step toward this goal.



From Churchill Park, a future boardwalk over wetlands will provide public access to Cato's Ridge Conservation Area, the 77-acre town-owned parcel that is currently landlocked.



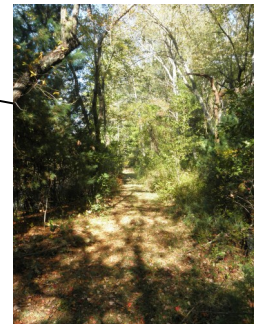
The Churchill Park property has historic significance. The property's ownership dates back to the Churchill family and their descendants, who have lived in Plympton since the Revolution.



Cato's Ridge covers part of the Plymouth-Carver Sole Source Aquifer. The Town's two watersheds also meet in this area.



Residents may feel they have been transported to northern New England because of the large old trees and scenic vistas from the 130-foot high Cato's Ridge.



The established network of 100-year-old cart paths makes this an ideal area for non-motorized recreation.



Jones River Brook, a tributary of the Jones River, travels through central Plympton at the rear of the proposed Churchill Park.



The wetlands and forests in this area are home to many important plant and wildlife species.



Cato's Ridge has historic significance. The Ridge is named after Cato, a former servant of the Loring family, who is believed to have lived on the Ridge in the Pre-Revolutionary period. Signs of Native American activities also have been reported in this area.