

**WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE**

Natural Resources Commission, Town Hall, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley, Massachusetts 02482



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To: North 40 Steering Committee  
From: Trails Committee  
Date: July 27, 2014  
Subject: Recommendations for North 40 Land Usage  
CC: Selectmen, Natural Resources Commission, Planning Board

We would prefer to see the land remain as is, with no new development, changes in usage, or alteration of the landscape. The North 40 is part of the open space lands and trails system around Morses Pond and provides the Crosstown Trail along the Cochituate Aqueduct with a woodland buffer between Weston Rd and the railroad. This is a golden opportunity for preserving this open space, and the Town should purchase the 46 acres as conservation land and designate it as protected for passive recreational use. The old adage is truer than ever: When open space is lost, it is gone forever.

If the Town purchases the land and decides to develop it, we recommend retaining at least 50% as contiguous protected open space, kept in a natural state for passive recreational use, and not fragmented with driveways or buildings by:

1. Providing a woodland buffer between the Crosstown Trail and any development along the north side of the trail from Turner Road to the Weston Road electric substation as a visual barrier.
2. Retaining the narrow woodland buffer along the south side of the Crosstown Trail and the railroad tracks.
3. Not constructing new roadways crossing the Crosstown Trail between the Morses Pond Access Road and the Weston Road electric substation to preserve the continuity of the trail corridor.
4. Retaining parts of the existing trails and adding new trails as needed to supplement loss of existing trails. Having at least two trail pedestrian access points from the neighborhoods, one from Turner Road and one from Weston Road (note this is in addition to the Crosstown Trail access from the Morses Pond Access Road and at the Weston Road substation).
5. Retaining the pine forests and mature deciduous treed areas as woodlands.
6. Including the Trails Committee in the planning, layout, design, and construction of new trails or rerouting of existing trails.
7. Providing a small parking area off Turner Rd near the Morses Pond Access Road gate for trail walkers and the many other users of the area.
8. Retaining the community gardens, since it is an intrinsic part of the landscape and provides an important resource for the Town's residents.