

# TOWN OF CANTON OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CANNON PROPERTY



Adopted by Board of Selectmen July 9, 2014

## I. Goals and Objectives

The Open Space Management Plan is intended to guide the management and use of the Cannon property for conservation and recreational purposes. The Cannon Property includes the area as shown on a plan entitled “Property Survey prepared for Town of Canton, Cherry Brook and Old Stagecoach Road”, prepared by Alford Associates, Inc., 200 Pigeon Hill Road, Windsor, CT 06095, dated May 28, 2008 with revisions to July 22, 2009 and three additional parcels acquired from the Canton Land Conservation Trust as follows:

1. A portion of 158 Robin Drive Rear (Assessor’s Map 5-12, Lot 39) as shown on a plan entitled “Data Accumulation Plan prepared for the Town of Canton, showing property of Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc. at 156 Robin Drive”, prepared by Post Land Surveying, 250 Town Hill Road, New Hartford, CT, dated November 24, 2010.
2. 156 Robin Drive (Assessor’s Map 7, Lot 4580156).
3. 155 Robin Drive (Assessor’s Map 6, Lot 4580155).

**Goal:** To preserve, protect and manage the Cannon Property.

Objectives:

- Preserve and protect Canton’s water supply, wildlife habitat, scenic views, scenic roads, aesthetic values, and historic sites;
- Maintain Canton’s rural town character;

- Protect and enhance Canton’s natural environment;
- Preserve the purity of the Cannon Property’s natural resources and promote biodiversity;
- Determine property management needs for the Cannon property based on specific characteristics

**Goal:** To provide access to and/ or linkage among open space and recreational sites.

Objectives:

- Provide opportunities for passive recreational activities that require trails or paths;
- Protect migratory paths for wildlife;
- Mark and maintain existing trails and easements, and create new trails where and as necessary;
- Coordinate financial and volunteer resources with the three objectives above.

**Goal:** To enable use of the existing open space for passive recreation. The objectives of this goal are to:

Objectives:

- Encourage town use and awareness of the Cannon Property for passive recreation;
- Encourage diversification of recreational opportunities available to the public.

## **II. Uses of the Cannon Property**

In conformance with the Goals and Objectives of the Town of Canton’s open space land protection program, the purpose of protecting the Cannon property is for passive recreation use. Where environmentally and socially appropriate, passive recreational use by the public should be encouraged. Activities on this property should be accompanied by improved public access and awareness. Where the land is environmentally sensitive or human use may be detrimental, public use should be discouraged and restricted.

The town seeks to match the goals and objectives listed in Section I with the resources available. The town may modify and/or amend this management plan from time to time. State statutes, town ordinances, easement language, or deed restrictions that place protections and restrictions upon the Cannon Property shall apply.

- \* The Cannon Property shall be carry in/carry out. No person shall drop, throw, or place any litter, garbage, or other refuse on town open space lands. Trash receptacles shall not be provided.
- No person shall injure, deface, destroy, remove or carry off any sign, structure, facility, trash receptacle, or other property or equipment under the care and control of the Town of Canton;

- Posters, leaflets, placards or advertisements shall not be distributed or affixed to the Cannon Property without written approval from the Town of Canton;

### **A. Permitted Activities**

As described herein, public access is allowed between sunrise and sunset on the Cannon Property. State statute or town ordinances that place protections and restrictions upon the Cannon property are applicable.

The Cannon Property is subject to all applicable town ordinances.

- Bird watching and nature appreciation;
- Cross country skiing and snowshoeing;
- Dog walking (leashed only);
- Environmental education;
- Walking and hiking.
- Fishing

**B.** The following activities are permitted with prior written approval by the Chief Administrative Officer or his/her designee:

- Parades, games, fairs, carnivals, festivals, bazaars, art shows or solicitations for raising or collecting funds
- Organized events or groups of 30 or more people ;
- Camping.
- Any commercial activity, including display of goods for sale;
- Use of open fires, grills or fuel stoves;
- Digging, disturbing, cutting or removing vegetation, except by written approval from the Town of Canton;
- Any activity not specifically permitted or prohibited by this plan requires prior written approval.

### **C. Prohibited Activities**

- Carrying and or use of alcoholic beverages;
- Littering or disposing of household garbage, trash, or other materials. (The Cannon Property shall be carry in/ carry out only);
- Polluting of any well, brook, stream, or any body of water;
- The disposal of animal carcasses;
- Vehicular traffic, other than that which is specifically necessary for maintenance activities, is prohibited except on designated paved roads authorized for use by the Town of Canton;
- Conduct and activities unreasonably disruptive such as drunkenness, breach of the peace, and disorderly conduct offensive to the general public;

- All motorized recreational vehicles such as mini-bikes, mopeds, snowmobiles, and ATVs are prohibited, except for vehicles used for maintenance and public safety and emergency;
- Use of bicycles except in designated areas as specified in this plan;
- The possession or discharge any firearm, air rifle, bow and arrow, handgun, fireworks, paintball gun, or explosives;
- Disposal of sand gravel, fill, brush, and other household or commercial materials or refuse;
- Harvesting or collection of animals and plants;
- Hunting and trapping;
- Open fires, grills, and stoves, except by the prior written approval of the Town of Canton.
- Horseback riding except in designated areas as specified in this plan.

### **III. Maintenance and Stewardship of the Cannon Property**

#### **A. Physical Improvements**

##### 1. Physical Improvements

Physical improvements or maintenance of the Cannon Property are to be conducted when necessary to promote the goals of the management plan. Development of structures or paved surfaces are to be minimized.

##### 2. Trails and Crossings

Stream and wetland crossings will be monitored and trail improvements will be provided as necessary. In all cases safety, erosion control, and sensitivity of the land will control the creation and closing of trails.

##### 3. Boundary Markers

Town of Canton “Conservation Area” markers will be employed at reasonably placed intervals along property lines that abut private lands. Such markers shall be employed sparingly along those boundaries where the opportunity for trespass or access is reasonably limited.

##### 4. Natural Area Designation

Some or all of the Cannon Property should remain in its natural state without physical changes, routine maintenance, or possibly public access.

#### **B. Maintenance/Stewardship**

The Cannon Property will be maintained and managed consistent with the identified goals of this plan, subject to fiscal and other considerations. Management of the property

will include periodic monitoring in order to identify maintenance needs, safety, and other concerns.

### 1. Fence Management

When use of fencing is determined to be necessary by the Town of Canton the following considerations shall be employed:

- Delineate the perimeter of the open space land and discourage trespassing, thereby maintaining privacy and security;
- Aesthetically match the character of the landscape;
- Facilitate easy crossing by wildlife with minimal risk of entrapment;
- Minimize the number of fences required to achieve their desired functions.

### 2. Forest Management

Forest Management activities shall only be conducted in accordance with CGS Section 23-65f through 23-65q, by a forest practitioner certified by the State of Connecticut.

### 3. Human Activity Management

#### **a. Pets**

Visitors are required to have pets on leashes at all times while on town property.

#### **b. Parking**

Vehicles are permitted to park in designated spaces only.

### 4. Land Management Advisory Committee

The Canton Conservation Commission shall serve as the Land Management Advisory Committee, and will review proposed management projects and plans, provide technical support for management, and generally review the condition and direction of land management for the Cannon property.

Abutting property owners shall be notified in advance of any Conservation Commission consideration of changes to this open space management plan.

### **D. Emergency Response**

The Town's Fire, Police, and EMT personnel shall develop emergency response procedures to be in place for response to emergencies at the Cannon Property. Motorized vehicles are allowed on the property in consideration of public safety and emergency or with prior written permission of the Town of Canton.

#### **IV. Enforcement**

The Board of Selectmen or its designee will enforce the rules and regulations as necessary to preserve the Cannon Property for their intended use, including such fines and restrictions as may be permitted by law.

#### **V. Communication**

Comments, suggestions, requests for permission, and all other communication with regard to this plan should be directed to the Land Use Office.

Town of Canton Town Hall  
Collinsville, Connecticut 06019  
Tel: (860) 693-7892