

Malden CPC/Conservation Commission Procedure for Open Space Acquisition

Issue: The CPC is requesting guidance from the Conservation Commission to help prioritize funding to acquire individual parcels of open space for conservation purposes.

Action Request: For each site that is under consideration by CPC, CPC asks that the Conservation Commission submit an assessment of the value of the parcel for purposes of conservation. The following matrix was created to provide criteria that the Conservation Commission use to score a parcel's value.

REVIEWER NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PARCEL NAME/ADDRESS: _____

Score	4	3	2	1
Location	Parcel is located in a neighborhood that is currently deficient in access to open space	Parcel is located in a neighborhood that has moderate access to open space	Parcel is located in a neighborhood that has ample open space and is highly accessible	Parcel is located in a neighborhood that has ample open space and will not contribute to increasing open space access
Expansion of Existing Open Space/ Connections	Adjacent to existing conservation or recreation parcel and contributes to greenway connection	Adjacent to existing open space but does not contribute to greenway connection	Not adjacent to existing open space but contributes to greenway connection	Does not expand existing open space or contribute to greenway connection
Wildlife Habitat	Parcel could be restored to create native habitat	Parcel contains habitat for native flora and fauna	Parcel could be partially restored to a natural state but would provide limited habitat value	Parcel contains no current or potential habitat value

Water Resources	Parcel provides necessary flooding protection or stormwater recharge, greatly enhances existing or creates new riparian corridor, provides excellent access to surface water, etc.	Parcel provides some flooding protection or stormwater recharge, somewhat enhances existing or creates new riparian corridor, provides some access to surface water, etc.	Improvements to water access or resource protection can be created at site	Parcel provides no value with respect to water access or resource protection
Topography	Parcel provides strong opportunity for ADA accessible passive recreation	Parcel provides limited opportunity for ADA accessible passive recreation	Parcel's topography will not allow for ADA accessible access for passive recreation	Parcel's topography will not allow for any safe access for passive recreation
Threat	High likelihood of development threatens natural resources	Moderate likelihood of development or development poses moderate threat to natural resources	Parcel could be developed given prohibitively expensive and destructive alterations	Parcel cannot be developed.
Active Recreation	Parcel can contribute high priority space for active recreation facilities	Parcel can contribute space for active recreation facilities (low priority)	Parcel can contribute to a strategy to rebalance active and/or passive recreation sites	Parcel does not contribute active recreation potential.
Historical Significance	Parcel contains archeological resources, artifacts, or structures of historical significance	Parcel is significant to Malden's history but does not contain any artifacts or structures	Parcel may contribute to awareness of Malden history.	Parcel has no significance to Malden history.

Contamination	Acquisition of parcel presents an opportunity to remediate existing contamination and return to natural state.	Parcel has no contamination.	Contamination may be remediated but would require impermeable cap	Presence of contamination may present a significant liability for the City.
Management / Maintenance	A “friends group” exists or commitment of formation of group exists which commits to proactively managing the site for conservation and passive recreation	There is interest/potential to establish a “friends group” to manage the site	There is limited or no potential to establish a volunteer group to care for the site.	The project is located in an area where it is likely to be vandalized or misused.
Funding	Multiple sources of outside funding have been committed or secured for this project (including grants, private fundraising or price reduction by seller).	Multiple sources of funding have been identified and applications are pending/in progress.	The project is potentially eligible for other sources of outside funding but no action has been taken to obtain funding	The project is not likely eligible for any funding source outside of City of Malden/CPA.
Public Access	Parcel has unencumbered access from a public way (or easement over private land) with plentiful public parking for cars and bikes, as well as opportunity for signage in multiple languages promoting its passive use as conservation land, as well as contact	Parcel has unencumbered access from a public way (or easement over private land), opportunity for signage, and minimal parking for cars and bikes.	Parcel has encumbered access to the site, minimal parking for cars or bikes, and minimal opportunity for signage.	Parcel has restricted access to the site, has little to no nearby public parking for cars or bikes, and/or little opportunity for public signage

Commented [Mc1]: should this comment be swapped with the first box? this qualifier seems more important to me...

Commented [Mc2]: i like this idea... let's discuss further tomorrow after spot pond.. thanks!

	information to report issues				
Other Criteria (Please Explain)					
Total Score					

Total Scores of 24+ will be considered as a more valuable acquisition by the CPC. Projects with a total score of 24 or below may still be considered.

Con Comm Summary Notes:

