

Information Technology Update

- I.T. Department Overview
- Topic Areas
 - Wireless and Public Access
 - Environment
 - Communications and Information Resources
 - Public Safety and Emergency Planning
 - Efficient Use of Resources
- Questions

I.T. Department Overview

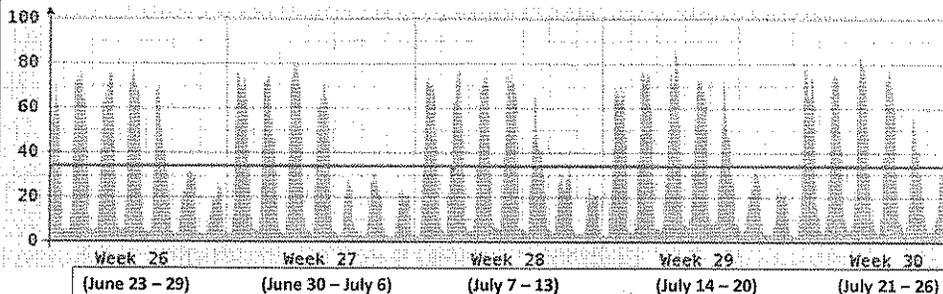
- **Mission Statement**
Develop and maintain efficient and cost effective technology systems that support the Town and Schools in delivering high quality services to the community.
- **Numbers**
 - 3 Entities (Town, pK-8 Schools, Region 19)
 - 3,220 users (staff, students, & volunteers with logins)
 - 2,249 webpages with 2,294,320 annual hits
 - 34 municipal public access terminals and 11 facilities with public wireless

Municipal Wireless & Public Access

- **Locations**
 - Public Library, Senior Center, Community Center, Town Hall, and Transportation Center
- **Benefits**
 - Options for citizens without home access.
 - Supportive environment.
 - Equity of access for online-only resources.
 - Cost effective (shared equipment and Internet connections, BYOD).
 - Encourages use of municipal facilities.

Municipal Wireless Usage

- Average peak of 63 concurrent users per day
- Total daily usage is much higher
- Usage is highest mid-afternoon to evening



	7am	10am	3pm	7pm		7am	10am	3pm	7pm		7am	10am	3pm	7pm
1-Apr	9	50	70	63	1-May	9	46	65	74	1-Jun	9	17	51	24
2-Apr	8	40	66	66	2-May	11	42	58	50	2-Jun	7	53	73	70
3-Apr	7	38	62	70	3-May	8	49	54	46	3-Jun	11	51	84	68
4-Apr	6	38	57	40	4-May	10	18	41	29	4-Jun	11	44	70	72
5-Apr	5	36	48	35	5-May	9	50	79	70	5-Jun	10	42	76	85
6-Apr	5	11	41	26	6-May	10	48	71	77	6-Jun	11	54	76	51
7-Apr	5	38	65	62	7-May	12	53	90	73	7-Jun	8	34	45	32
8-Apr	7	35	69	63	8-May	11	49	70	81	8-Jun	6	14	36	31
9-Apr	7	36	58	60	9-May	12	52	74	56	9-Jun	6	43	74	66
10-Apr	10	41	65	70	10-May	11	35	45	46	10-Jun	8	46	76	77
11-Apr	9	51	60	45	11-May	11	18	30	27	11-Jun	10	48	82	72
12-Apr	8	34	52	32	12-May	11	49	68	68	12-Jun	10	51	85	69
13-Apr	10	18	40	28	13-May	11	43	73	70	13-Jun	10	55	83	50
14-Apr	9	43	71	60	14-May	9	48	77	71	14-Jun	8	30	46	45
15-Apr	13	46	79	70	15-May	7	38	64	64	15-Jun	8	14	37	29
16-Apr	11	36	84	61	16-May	7	48	62	59	16-Jun	8	44	78	72
17-Apr	8	35	63	62	17-May	7	30	39	38	17-Jun	10	54	78	72
18-Apr	8	24	38	37	18-May	4	10	28	23	18-Jun	40	43	73	72
19-Apr	7	24	59	32	19-May	4	44	76	54	19-Jun	8	40	67	59
20-Apr	7	13	28	19	20-May	9	46	73	76	20-Jun	8	47	59	35
21-Apr	7	41	65	60	21-May	12	48	77	67	21-Jun	25	21	25	17
22-Apr	7	43	61	62	22-May	11	44	74	73	22-Jun	5	8	13	13
23-Apr	7	41	75	68	23-May	14	53	69	55	23-Jun	5	41	63	68
24-Apr	6	38	53	68	24-May	10	23	43	35	24-Jun	8	52	89	68
25-Apr	6	37	58	53	25-May	10	16	29	29	25-Jun	9	50	78	72
26-Apr	8	23	67	41	26-May	9	14	32	20	26-Jun	8	48	88	68
27-Apr	9	15	43	34	27-May	9	50	71	84	27-Jun	8	51	71	45
28-Apr	8	44	74	75	28-May	11	49	82	65	28-Jun	7	26	37	35
29-Apr	10	48	75	77	29-May	9	51	81	74	29-Jun	6	11	23	26
30-Apr	11	44	68	76	30-May	11	57	69	44	30-Jun	7	50	84	67
					31-May	7	30	40	43					

Environment

- **Partnerships**
 - Mansfield Recycling Coordinator
 - State Electronics Challenge
- **Strategies**
 - EPEAT Ratings
 - Cloud/Virtual Computing & Thin Clients
 - Repurpose/Reuse/Consolidate Equipment
- **Benefits**
 - Reduced Energy Use & Bulky Waste
 - Reduced Costs

Environment

- **Reductions (12 months)***
 - 738,447 kWh of Energy
(power 58 homes for 1 year)
 - 143 Metric Tons of Carbon Equivalents
(remove 103 cars for 1 year)
 - 10,257 Tons of Solid Waste
(remove 2.5 households)
 - 1,258 lbs. of Hazardous Waste
(weight of 5 refrigerators)
- *Audited by State Electronics Challenge

Communications & Information Resources

- **Benefits**
 - Provides options to contact us & hear from us.
 - Supports 24/7 access from anywhere.
 - Meets public expectations for the use of information tools.
- **MansfieldCT.gov**
 - Ranked #1 by the Yankee Institute (tied)
 - 1,953 webpages, 12,300 pdf files
 - 1,630,298 annual page views (18.7% increase)
 - Top 5 Pages: Homepage, Parks & Rec, Town Depts/Services, Job Openings, Online Services

Online Communication Tools

- Facebook (517 unique viewers per week)
- QNotify (39 email lists)
- CodeRed (4,165 contacts)
- MansfieldCT.org Email (5,000,019 email/yr)
- Audio Conferences (14 conferences/mth)
- Video Conferences (1 conference/mth)
- Channel 13 (43 public meetings/yr)
- Town Council Page (7,390 hits/2yr)
- Council Agendas/Minutes Page (3,140/2yr)

Online Access

- View/Pay Online
 - Tax, Refuse, Sewer, Parking, Recreation, Lunch
- GIS Mapping
- Town Clerk Records
- Parks & Recreation Program Registration
- Public Library Catalogs & Databases
- Coming: CAMA Online
- Coming: Permitting Online

Public Safety & Emergency Planning

- **Supporting the Public**
 - Code Red Reverse 911 System
 - Online Information
(website, SMS, social media, email)
 - Public Wi-Fi and Terminal Access
 - Charging Stations
 - Press Releases
- **Primary Benefit**
 - Access to Emergency Information

Public Safety & Emergency Planning

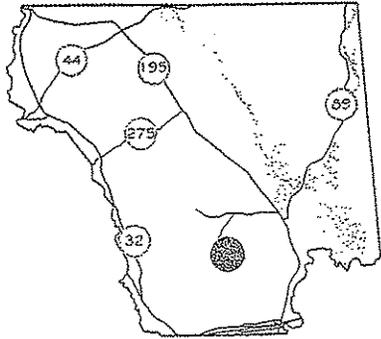
- **Supporting First Responders & Town Staff**
 - Emergency Operations Center
 - Shared Operations Database
 - Backup Communications/Systems
(detailed disaster plans)
 - Partnerships with Town/Regional Depts.
 - Training and Drills
- **Primary Benefit**
 - Reliable & Effective Response Tools

Efficient Use of Resources

- **Grants**
 - 9 grants awarded for \$543,021.74 (FY13-14)
- **Operating Costs**
 - Converted Dog License Renewals to Postcards (1,200 mailings per year)
 - Continued Elimination of IT Manager Position (\$75,163 per year)
 - Conversion of AT&T Leased Lines to VOIP (78 copper lines)
 - Environmental Reductions of Energy/Waste

Efficient Use of Resources

- **Partnerships**
 - Nutmeg Network
(Part of the First 10 Towns; Joined at No Cost)
 - Joint-RFPs/Consortium Contracts
(Towns, Districts, CROGs, RESCs, State, National)
- **Maximizing Labor Results**
 - In-House IT Expertise
(Phones, Virtual, Programming, Repairs, Service)
 - Efficient Processes; Public Self-Service
(Financial, Tax, Town Clerk, GIS, Parks & Rec, Library Databases, Webpages/Docs, and more.)



DIRECTIONS

From the intersection of Route 89 and Route 195, head north on Route 195 for .03 miles. Turn left onto Browns Road. Go .83 miles and turn left onto Crane Hill Road. Go .2 miles to Wolf Rock Parking Area; parking is on right.

11

Suggested Park Activities

-  Hiking
-  Picnicking

Prohibited Park Activities

- Unleashed Dogs
- Mountain / Motor Biking
- Camping / Camp Fires
- Horseback Riding



10 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield CT 06268
860 429-3015 • fax 860 429-9773
www.mansfieldct.org/parksandpreserves/
mailto:preserves@mansfieldct.org

Made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



For up-to-date trail information or to download maps, click on www.mansfieldct.org/trailguides/

Sawmill Brook Preserve

Mansfield, CT

Sawmill Brook Preserve is adjacent to Joshua's Trust's Wolf Rock Preserve. Together, the properties are a total of 188 acres. The Nipmuck Trail extends through these forested preserves from the Wolf Rock entrance on Crane Hill Road to Puddin Lane. The trail ascends easily to Wolf Rock Cliff and then descends steeply to follow Old Blacksmith Shop Road across Sawmill Brook then south along the stream valley.

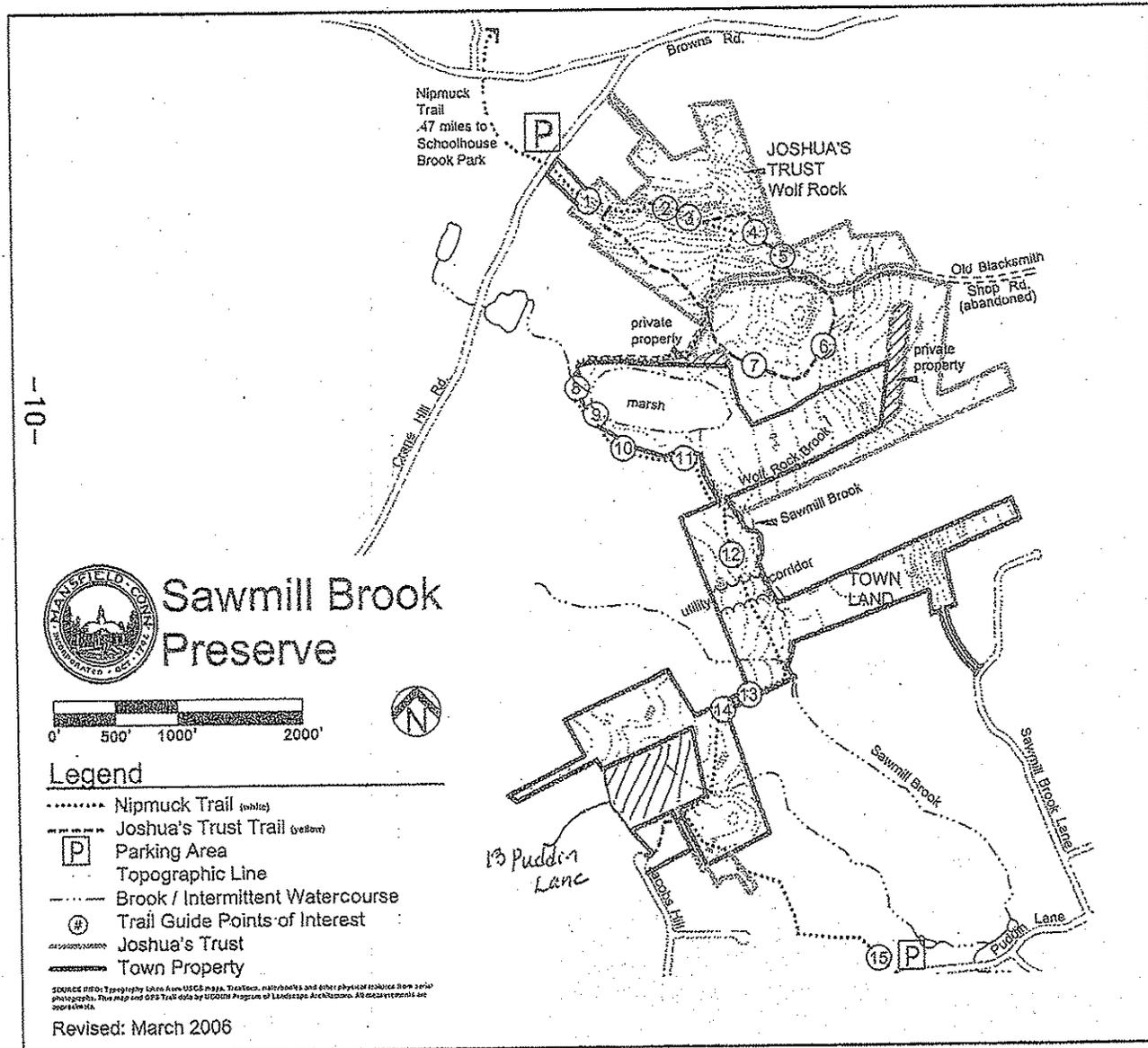


There is a total of 3 miles of blazed hiking trails within the Joshua's Trust and Town boundaries. The Nipmuck Trail (blazed in blue) and Joshua's Trust (blazed in yellow) wind through the following points of interest:

1. **Glacial Remains** - Signs of glacial activity are visibly scattered around the preserve. Many of the rocks were carried by the glacier from regions much farther north and were deposited here over 15,000 years ago.

2. **Wolf Rock** - Approximately 6 feet in diameter, this rock was left perched at the edge of a 40-foot cliff by the glaciers. Today it remains as one of Mansfield's most spectacular landmarks, mentioned in deeds dating back to the late 18th century.
3. **Scenic View** - As you look out south and east over the tree canopy from Wolf Rock, the views are breathtaking. Here the forested valley of Sawmill Brook can be seen, as well as the open fields on the brow of Crane Hill Field. In the distance is the campus of Eastern Connecticut State University.

4. **Rock Ledge** - During the descent down the trail, one of the preserve's many rock ledges can be seen. The bedrock exposed here is a variety of metamorphic rock called Willimantic Gneiss.
5. **Old Blacksmith Shop Road** - This abandoned road once connected Mansfield Center to the Crane Hill area.
6. **Riparian Vegetation** - While the trail winds along Wolf Rock Brook, take note of native water-tolerant vegetation growing here: skunk cabbage, ferns and birches. This palette of greenery will appear in many of the wet areas in the preserve.
7. **Hemlock Grove** - The dominant tree species here is the evergreen hemlock. While these trees are native, the species is currently threatened by a non-native insect called the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.
8. **Invasive Plants** - As you cross over Sawmill Brook, notice the understory vegetation. These invasive species (barberry, multiflora rose, and bittersweet) were introduced as ornamental plants, and have since escaped from cultivated gardens into the wild, replacing native plants.
9. **Beaver Activity** - As the trail winds along the marsh's edge, note the pointed stumps. These are the remains of trees that were felled by beavers. The size of the marsh may be attributed to beaver damming.
10. **Marsh Views** - Sunny, treeless wetlands are called marshes. Phragmites, the tall 'wheat-like' grass seen at the far edge of the marsh, is a common invasive species of this wet environment.
11. **Wildlife View** - A view opens when the trail rounds the end of the marsh. Approach quietly and you may spot a Great Blue Heron.
12. **Utility Corridor** - This area is cleared for power lines and reveals the profile of Sawmill Brook valley, as the land slopes down to the brook, then steeply up the other side to Beech Mountain.
13. **Upland Hardwoods** - As the trail makes a gradual climb, notice the change in tree species. Hardwoods such as oak, beech and maple dominate the forest here.
14. **Old Stone Wall** - In most forests in New England it is common to find spans of old stonewalls used to contain grazing animals and property boundaries.
15. **Nipmuck Trail** - The blue-blazed Nipmuck Trail extends 37-miles from Union, Connecticut to Mansfield Hollow State Park and connects many of Mansfield's town parks. The Nipmuck trail is maintained by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association.



OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Recommendation concerning acquisition of the Stearns property (at Sawmill Brook Preserve)

June 17, 2014

To: Mansfield Town Council, Town Manager

At the Open Space Preservation Committee's June 17, 2014 meeting, the committee reviewed in executive session a 7-acre land-locked property off Jacob's Hill Road that Willard J. Stearns and Sons, Inc. is offering to the Town. The committee reviewed this parcel with reference to its location and to criteria in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Committee members visited the property on June 8, 2013.

DESCRIPTION

The land-locked parcel lies east of Jacob's Hill Road (access by a trail from the east side of the cul-de-sac). On three sides it abuts either Town or Joshua's Trust land (Sawmill Brook Preserve). On the west side it abuts a private driveway. The Nipmuck Trail follows the east boundary of this property. The land rises gradually to the northwest and is forested with the same trees as the adjoining land: mature oaks with a beech understory. Wetlands and a brook cross the property from northwest to southeast.

CRITERIA IN APPENDIX K of POCD

1. A Significant Conservation and Wildlife Resource

The parcel is located in a significant forest area within the Kidder-Sawmill Brook streambelt (see Appendix J).

3. Conserves, preserves or protects notable wildlife habitats and/or plant communities

This parcel is located in the middle of a preserved section of a large interior forest between Crane Hill Road and Puddin Lane. Preservation of this parcel would protect the ecological benefits of this property as well as the surrounding preserved parcels. It would also contribute to the overall protection of this large forest tract.

7. Creates or Enhances Connections

A well-worn trail begins on Town land at the end of Jacobs Hill Road and follows the south edge of the Stearns property to a junction with the Nipmuck Trail, which goes along the east edge. The Stearns property is part of the viewshed from these trails, and it provides a buffer from an adjoining house to the west. A loop trail may be possible on the Stearns property for further enjoyment of this scenic forest area.

RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the Town acquire this property to insure a continuous protected area in this interior forest and to provide a buffer for the Nipmuck and Town trails.

property as well as the surrounding preserved parcels. Preservation would also contribute to the overall protection of this large forest tract.

3. *Creates or Enhances Connections* - A well-worn trail begins on Town land at the end of Jacobs Hill Road and follows the south edge of the Stearns property to a junction with the Nipmuck Trail, which proceeds along the east edge. The Stearns property is part of the viewshed from these trails, and it provides a buffer from an adjoining house to the west. A loop trail may be possible on the Stearns property for further enjoyment of this scenic forest area.

Financial Impact

As stated above, the agreed upon sales price totals \$20,000. There is a sufficient balance in the Town's Open Space Acquisition Fund to cover this cost.

Recommendation

The OSPC and staff recommend that the Town continue to pursue the acquisition of this property. In accordance with the Town's *Planning, Acquisition and Management Guidelines for Open Space, Park, Recreation, Agricultural Properties and Conservation Easements*, the next steps in the process would be to refer the proposed acquisition to the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) for review pursuant to CGS §8-24 and to schedule a public hearing.

If the Town Council supports this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

Move, to refer the proposed purchase of the 9.15-acre parcel located at 13 Puddin Lane to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on July 28, 2014 to solicit public comment regarding the proposed purchase.

Attachments

- 1) Open Space Preservation Committee Report
- 2) Map of 13 Puddin Lane Property in relation to Saw Mill Brook Preserve and Wolf Rock Preserve.
- 3) Appendix J and K of the 2006 Plan of Conservation and Development
- 4) *Planning, Acquisition and Management Guidelines for Open Space, Park, Recreation, Agricultural properties and Conservation Easements*



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MWH*
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant Town Manager; Linda Painter, Director of Planning and Development; Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Kaufman, Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator
Date: July 14, 2014
Re: Open Space Acquisition, Sawmill Brook Lane Parcel

Subject Matter/Background

The 13 Puddin Lane Property is a 9.15-acre parcel offered for sale to the Town by Willard J. Stearns and Sons, Inc. The property was appraised in December 2012 by an appraiser hired by Willard J. Stearns and Sons, Inc. for \$30,000 and for \$9,500.00 in August 2013 by an appraiser hired by the Town. As discussed with the Town Council in executive session as allowed by state statute, the Town and the seller have agreed to a sales price of \$20,000.00.

The land-locked parcel lies northeast of Jacob's Hill Road (access by a trail from the east side of the cul-de-sac). On three sides it abuts either Town or Joshua's Trust land (Sawmill Brook Preserve). On the west side it abuts a private driveway (see attached maps). The Nipmuck Trail follows the east boundary of this property. The land rises gradually to the northwest and is forested with the same trees as the adjoining land - mature oaks with a beech understory. Wetlands and a brook cross the property from northwest to southeast.

Open Space Preservation Committee members visited the property on June 8, 2013 and reviewed this parcel with reference to its location and according to the criteria in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. The following is a summary of the committee's review:

1. *Significant Conservation and Wildlife Resource* - The parcel is located in a significant forest area within the Kidder-Sawmill Brook streambelt (see Appendix J).
2. *Conserves, preserves or protects notable wildlife habitats and/or plant communities* - This parcel is located in the middle of a preserved section of a large interior forest between Crane Hill Road and Puddin Lane. Preservation of the site would protect the ecological benefits of this