TOWN OF WAYNE
Providing for Public Use of

Wayne’s 100-acre Woods

At Town Meeting in June 2019, Wayne voters voted to retain for conservation purposes, a 118-acre wooded parcel at the end of House Road.  The parcel includes steep slopes and about 1,000 feet of fragile shoreline on Wilson Pond.  The Conservation Commission has researched deeds and boundaries to prepare for a boundary survey and is inventorying its natural features prior to developing a management plan.  Detailed information, including maps,  is found at the [Conservation Commission tab](https://www.waynemaine.org/vertical/sites/%7B6E6F3657-7C9A-459F-B24F-3A3F12071EF8%7D/uploads/Wilson_Pond_Lot_values_report_WCC.pdf) on the Town Website.

This parcel is the largest conservation area in Wayne and has four season potential for a variety of non-intensive recreational activities.  In deciding to retain the land, it was with the understanding that investments in the property would be accomplished through fundraising, with minimal expenditure of town funds.

Some public access developments that require raising funds include:

•  A parking lot has been built.  *Most of the cost of the lot was covered, temporarily, by the Town.  We must raise funds to reimburse the Town.*

• Boundary survey. *Before proceeding, we need to raise enough money to demonstrate to the Town that we can raise the necessary funds.  We won’t have a firm cost until the survey goes out to bid.*

• Design and build trails*.  In addition to walking and possibly biking trails, the town is looking into establishing a wheelchair accessible trail.*

• Trailhead amenities.  *Amenities include benches, picnic tables, signage at a kiosk and toilet facilities at the parking lot area.*

• Grants.  *Obtaining grants will be critical for funding many of these purposes: The Conservation Committee is actively working toward submitting proposals for state grants. Eligibility for these grants require up to a 50% match.  Some of the match could be in-kind, but there will be a need for cash donations as well.*

The Conservation Commission has a goal of raising $10,000 by year’s end and $25,000 by the end of February 2021.  This should pay for the parking lot and the boundary survey.  Additional funds will be needed for the other projects.

We are asking for your help in making this plan a reality. The Town unanimously expressed interest in providing open space for all to enjoy, and for generations to come. The time has come to make these wishes a reality. If you prefer to sponsor a bench or other amenity, that would be most welcome as well!

The Town Office maintains a designated fund to accept your donations.

Please send a check payable to Town of Wayne, annotated, “Wilson Pond Lot Fund”.

Thank you in advance for anything you can do for this important project, please don’t hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

The Wayne Conservation Commission