



Open Space

OPEN SPACE

Total Open Space	3,109 acres
Permanently Protected Open Space	3,066 acres
Lands with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction	966 acres
Chapter 61, 61A and 61B lands	1,817 acres

OPEN SPACE DESTINATIONS

TROUT BROOK CONSERVATION AREA

665 acre parcel with public facilities that include a lodge, soccer fields, trails, and picnic space

WINTHROP OAKS

25 acre park with a playground

EAGLE LAKE TOWN BEACH

Summer time destination for swimming, canoeing, and other outdoor sports

MASS. DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

450 acres with trails and permitted hunting

Mass Central Rail Trail

Partially completed 104 mile rail trail that passes through Holden

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture contributes to Holden's economic base and community character.

- *506 acres* of land have an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR), which permanently protects these lands from development.
- *895 acres* of land are enrolled in the Chapter 61A program, which restricts the use of the land to agricultural or horticultural use in exchange for significant reduction in taxes.
- Over *950 animals* in 2015: Beef Cows (311), Chickens (277), Horses (137), Swine (60), Goats (54), Turkeys (36), Dairy Cows (31), Waterfowl (30), Sheep (25)
- At least seven farms and orchards with "for-sale" products



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.holdenmasterplan.com

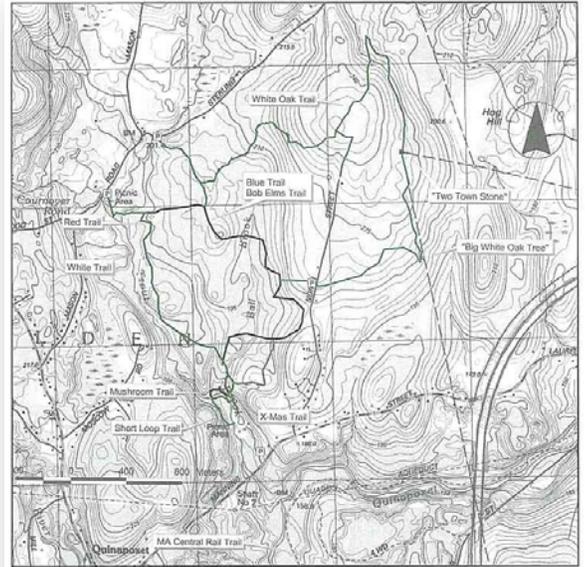
Town of Holden Master Plan Committee



CURRENT OPEN SPACE INITIATIVES

Trail Systems

- Expanding the Trail System to create an interconnected Town-wide system
- Improving public access to ponds, streams, and watershed protected areas for recreational use
- Increasing markings and signage for trails especially around Eagle Lake and Trout Brook areas
- Provide a comprehensive trail brochure
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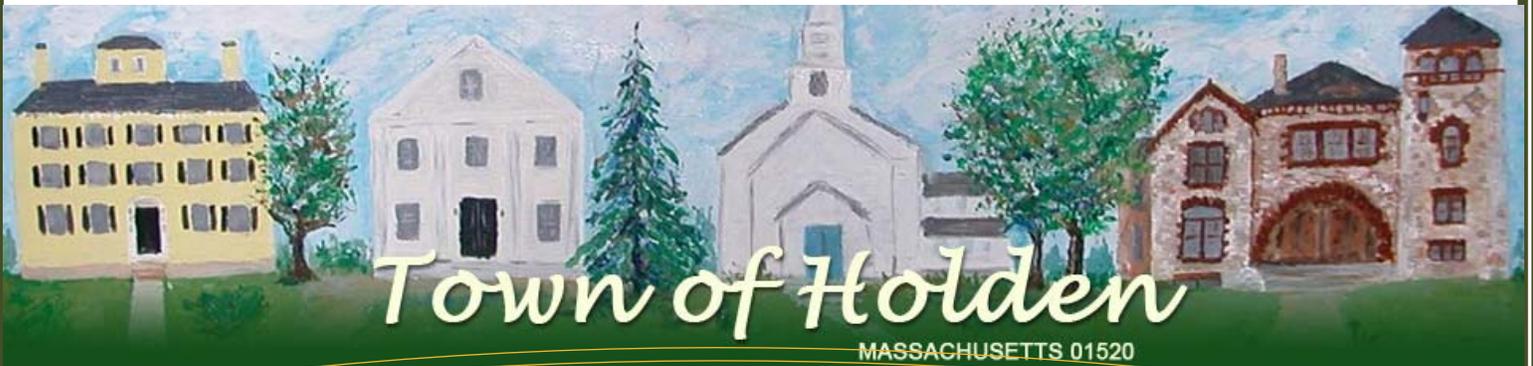
Short Trails

The Christmas Tree Trail (1 1/3 mile) leaves the combined Red, White and Blue Trails to navigate an old field last plowed in the late 60s and left with furrows still in place. It is maintained as an open meadow to provide habitat diversity.

The Short Loop (1/4 mile) leaves the combined trails and follows the scenic west bank of Trout Brook to the remains of an old mill dam. It traverses the hillside and returns to the picnic area.
The Mushroom Trail (1/8 mile) crosses the top of the dam and loops back to rejoin the combined trails.

SCENIC LANDSCAPES

Holden is characterized by a wide number of scenic landscapes including the downtown historic center, Hancock Common, well-preserved and active farmland, the protected areas of the reservoir system, and beautiful Eagle Lake.



CONSULTANT TEAM

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