



MUNICIPAL NEWSLETTER

Town of Carlisle

MAY 2024

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH:

May 13th
Annual Town Meeting

May 21st
Annual Town Election

Welcome Greg Jaynes!

We are excited to introduce Greg Jaynes as our newest DPW Heavy Equipment Operator. Greg comes to us from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority as an OMC Laborer/Valve Technician. He also has previous experience as a heavy equipment operator. We're glad to have him join us!



Happy Retirement, Jim Young!



Congratulations Jim Young on his retirement after almost 19 years with the Carlisle DPW!

From Jim Hall, Director of D.P.W.: "I want to personally thank Jim for his service and dedication to the town and residents. He is a valuable employee who was always a pleasure to work with. Best of luck in your future endeavors Jim! You will be missed."

-  @townofcarlislema
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carlislema.gov

Annual Town Meeting is Monday, May 13th!

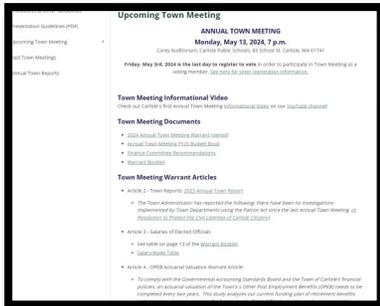
Ryan McLane, Town Administrator

The Annual Town Meeting has been the focus of our office for the past couple months as we prepare information useful to residents for making important decisions about the Town. We hope to see you in the Corey Auditorium on Monday, May 13, at 7pm!

While every decision matters, some key Town Meeting articles including:

1. The FY25 Operating Budget
2. Capital Equipment and Building Requests
3. Borrowing for Replacing Fire Engine 3
4. The Proposed Police Station Renovation Project
5. A Continued Investment in the Town's GIS Program

We hope you will take advantage of our three main information platforms to help inform your vote about this year's important topics:



The **Annual Town Meeting website** includes every level of detail about the proposed articles. Please visit this site to dive as deeply into any topic as you wish. If you do not find your answers, please contact us.

<https://carlislema.gov/259/Upcoming-Town-Meeting>

Our inaugural **Annual Town Meeting Video** appeals to the visual types. Various Town Officials walk residents through each of the warrant articles and explains why your support is necessary.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1UB98IPZp4>



And finally, staff is available in person or online to answer your questions. I continue to hold coffee hours and am willing to meet residents wherever they are comfortable to answer questions face-to-face. If you prefer to speak to a member of our staff about a specific issue, I can also coordinate that meeting for you.

[Email Me](#)

Thanks again for your interest in the Town and I will see you at Town Meeting.

Bike Safety Event a Success!

Director of Recreation Holly Mansfield coordinated a FREE Bike Safety program with the Police Department on April 13th at the Carlisle School Plaza. Carlisle Police Officers reviewed the basic “rules of the road”, hand signals, how to properly wear your helmet, the importance of reflective gear and bike safety checks. About 25 participants attended and then joined the department on a quick bike ride through the center of town to practice what was learned. They hope to make this an annual event!



From the Director of Public Works

Jim Hall, DPW Director

Howdy folks! Happy May! As April showers give way to May flowers, we here at the D.P.W. are planning some upcoming projects for spring and early summer. Along with the usual town wide maintenance and drainage projects, I invite you to visit the D.P.W. section of the town's website and check out the new two-year paving plan! Here you will find all the information about what streets will be paved in the upcoming months. Stay tuned for the new five-year plan coming soon! As always, thank you for your patience and support.

<https://www.carlislema.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5873/Road-Maintenance-Plan-FY25-26>



Road Maintenance Plan 2024-25



Recycling Kitchen Scraps

Tom Bilotta, Transfer Station Action Committee

Kitchen scraps disposed of in the trash represent the largest component of solid waste that is unaddressed. There have been many estimates of the percentage of our solid waste consisting of kitchen scraps. These estimates range from 20-30%. In the case of Carlisle this represents 320-480 tons of our 1600 ton total. Many residents are skeptical of this number, as was I but it has been confirmed by measurements of incoming trash at Wheelabrator (our incinerator company) as well as individual experiences of residents who have started recycling them. This percentage is based on weight, not volume. Kitchen scraps are denser than other trash and contribute more to the weight. Weight is used to determine what we pay for disposal as well as the state DEP tracking of our progress.

Due to the importance of addressing this problem, Carlisle is providing a variety of options to its residents, each of which has a different set of trade-offs relative to convenience, cost and environmental benefit. Home composting has always been an option and remains the option of choice for many residents. Carlisle subsidizes the purchase of a home composter. A few years ago a second option was added. Carlisle residents may bring their kitchen scraps to the Transfer Station. These are picked up by Black Earth company and processed into high quality compost. Unfortunately these two options have not resulted in widespread participation. As a result we are now in process of adding a third option which is curbside pick by Black Earth company. Curbside pickup is offered at \$15.99/month (or \$15/month if paid semiannually). Black Earth will provide a curbside bin which is picked up every other week. In order to start service, Carlisle needs 50 residents to pre-register after which they will be contacted by Black Earth to initiate service. Most other communities have found that curbside pickup is most successful in obtaining widespread participation. Several nearby communities have recently begun service including Acton, Groton and Wellesley. Please consider this service if you are not currently recycling kitchen scraps. You may pre-register using the QR code below.

Eventually it is likely that the state will define kitchen scraps as a banned material and require recycling. They have a stated goal of doing this by 2030 though it is not clear this is practicable. With your help, Carlisle has the opportunity to lead the way on addressing this critical problem.

[Scan or click here to pre-register for curbside pickup](#)



With Gratitude



Environmental Sustainability Committee

The Environmental Sustainability Committee would like to extend a large, heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in, assisted with, and attended Route to Sustainability Day. Once again, the generous soul of our community was evident throughout the preparation and execution of this event - from residents, staff and visitors alike.

The Committee hopes that people garnered useful environmental information that can be applied at home and in everyday life. To help in this endeavor, please consider participating in the Earthwise Community Challenge. Visit the Challenge [webpage](#) to find steps you can take for a more environmentally sustainable life.

Together we can make a positive impact!

Haircuts through Council on Aging and Human Services!

Carol Grueneich, COAHS Director

COAHS offers haircuts for older adults in Carlisle every 6 weeks at Town Hall. Suzanne Hickey and Georgia Scott (pictured here with Carlisle resident Terry Ritz) will cut your hair quickly and elegantly. A haircut costs \$12.00 plus tip.



Benefits of Carlisle Becoming a Climate Leader Community

Environmental Sustainability Committee

There is a new state funding opportunity that is becoming available to municipalities in support of the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan. Referred to as Climate Leader Community, it is a follow-on to the long running Green Communities Grant Program. Over the years, Carlisle has directly benefited from Green Communities grants totaling \$745,617 for a variety of energy efficiency improvement projects. Furthermore, these efficiency improvements have yielded additional benefits to Carlisle in operating cost savings of more than \$1,000,000 to date.

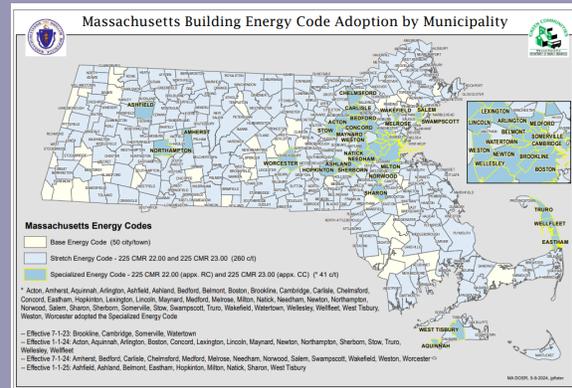
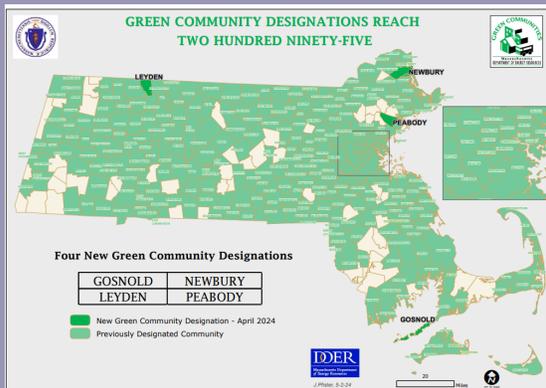
Carlisle is well on its way to meeting the five requirements below for becoming a Climate Leader Community and making it eligible for the associated new wave of grant funding.

- **Being a Green Community in Good Standing** – We are.
- **Having a Body That Advises the Select Board on Energy / Climate** – We do (Environmental Sustainability Committee).
- **Adopting the Specialized Energy Code** – Carlisle has already accomplished this – making us one of only 35 municipalities (35 out of a total of 351 (representing 27% of the state’s population)) that meet this requirement.
- **Plan to Transition the Municipal Light Duty Vehicle Fleet to Zero Emission Vehicles.**
- **25-Year Decarbonization Road Map for Municipal Operations.**

The last two requirements are being developed by the ESC and Town Staff in conjunction with the Select Board for application submittal in July 2024.

Becoming a Climate Leader Community provides access to financial grants and technical assistance from the State that support the environmental stewardship goals in Carlisle’s Master Plan. This has the dual benefit of reducing the tax burden on residents while providing a better environment for future generations.

Eric Balles. ESC co-chair
Submitted 3 May 2024



Be a part of Carlisle’s climate resilient future!

Sarah Wasserman, Land Use and Sustainability Coordinator

In recent years, you may have noticed an increase in certain events such as power outages, flooding, and heat waves. These are all impacts of our changing climate, which is bringing storms of higher frequency, intensity, and precipitation, as well as temperature extremes.

It is very easy to feel powerless.

But—there is action happening here in Carlisle that you can be a part of! Through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, Carlisle residents have the opportunity to work with town staff to understand our bylaws and find ways to improve them with these climate extremes in mind.

Carlisle is partnering with the consulting firm Horsely Witten Group, and they’ve brought their expert analysis to Carlisle’s bylaws. They will be “diving deep” with us in some upcoming meetings! See the poster for upcoming meetings with different Town boards and committees that are open to the public. Beginning with a community forum in February, and the formation of the MVP subcommittee of the Planning Board, Carlisle is well on its way to embedding climate preparedness into our operations.

We encourage you to join a meeting and share your thoughts!

CLIMATE RESILIENT CARLISLE

MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS

The Town of Carlisle is looking for YOUR input!

Join a conversation with Carlisle’s boards and committees as we discuss ways to make Carlisle more climate resilient.

MEETING DATES AND TIMES:

Monday, May 6th, 10:00 am:

- Local Emergency Planning Committee:
 - Police & Fire
 - Council on Aging and Human Services
 - Building & DPW
 - Board of Health
 - School
 - Library

Wednesday, May 15th, 7:00 pm:

- Historical Commission
- Housing Trust

Thursday, June 6th, 7:00 pm:

- Environmental Sustainability Committee

Thursday, May 9th, 6:30pm:

- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Board of Health
- Zoning Board of Appeals

SEE TOWN WEBSITE FOR ZOOM LINKS

For information on language services, or other questions, contact: jmercier@carlislema.gov

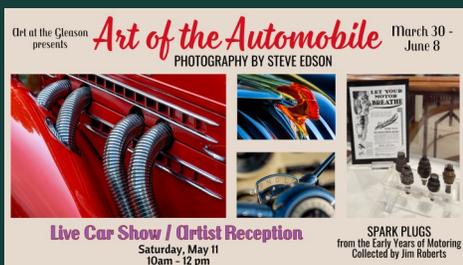
From the Gleason Public Library

Martha Feeney-Patten, Director

Short Story Winners

Congratulations to the Friends of the Gleason Public Library's short story contest winners! The winning stories will be published in the Carlisle Mosquito. This program was supported in part by a grant from the Carlisle Cultural Council. Thank you so much to all of our participants for sharing your creations with us!

- Adult Winner – Dana Meyer
- Middle School Winner (tie) – John Giordano
- Middle School Winner (tie) – Jaclyn Yeyinmen



Art of the Automobile Car Show

Join Art at the Gleason for a car show/artist reception the morning of Saturday, May 11th (rain date if needed May 18th), from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Unique, vintage cars will be on display at the Gleason and Carlisle Public School parking lots. Stylized photos of vintage cars by Steven Edson and an amazing vintage spark plug collection from Jim Roberts will be on display at the Gleason Public Library in Carlisle through June 8th. Read more about Art at the Gleason at gleasonlibrary.org/art.

To Bee or Not To Bee with the Piti Theatre Company

Join us on the Library lawn on Saturday, May 25th, at 1 p.m. to learn about pollinators in this exciting performance complete with puppetry, clowning, dance, live music, and loads of audience participation. "To Bee or Not to Bee" tells Farmer James' comic, environmental and ultimately hopeful tale—Piti Theatre Company created the show to raise awareness about the honeybees' plight and provides both children and adults tools for helping pollinators thrive in our community. For families of all ages. Rain date: Saturday, June 1st at 1 p.m. This program is supported by a grant from our wonderful Carlisle Cultural Council.

Community Focus Groups

The Gleason Public Library is creating a new strategic plan and we would love to hear from you. Anyone can take part in this community discussion facilitated by a library consultant—young, old, library user or not, new in town, long-time resident, or resident of another town who uses the Gleason; we're looking for many perspectives to inform how the Library can support Carlisle's future.

- Tuesday, May 21st, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 22nd, 3 p.m.

RSVPs appreciated at gleasonlibrary.org/events but drop-ins are also welcome. If you are unable to attend one of our focus groups but would like to share your input, please contact Martha at mpatten@gleasonlibrary.org or 978-369-4898.

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From the Affordable Housing Trust

Carlisle Affordable Housing Trust

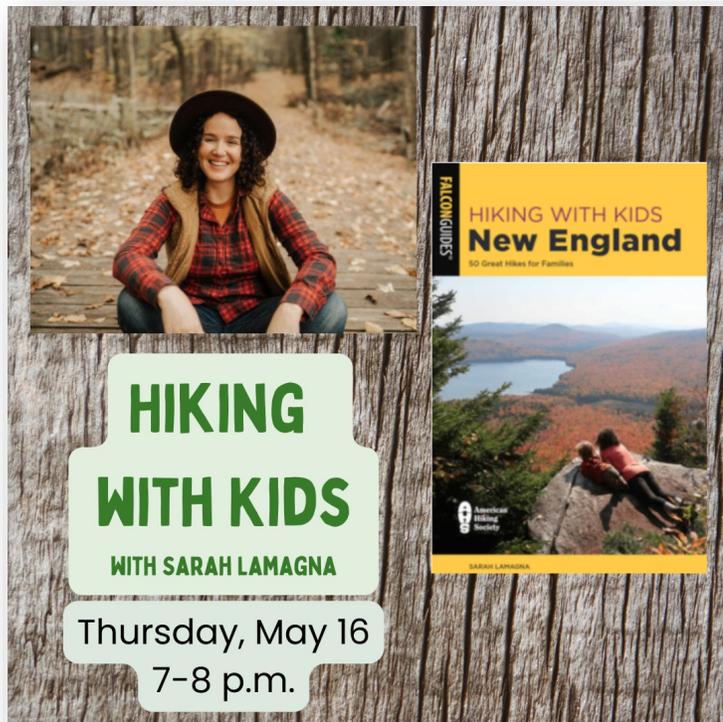
The Affordable Housing Trust requests your support for passage of Warrant Article #18 at Town Meeting, Monday. Twenty Thousand dollars of the administrative expenses in roman numeral one would be used to study utilization of the Bog House for much needed apartment housing for town employees and/or affordable housing. Also, in roman numerals 4 and 5, our seniors requiring rental assistance and/or electronic access to their rental units at Benfield, need your vote to improve their lives. Please don't forget to attend Town Meeting on Monday, May 13th!

Gleason Public Library, Continued from Page 8

Upcoming Library Programs

- Tuesday 5/14, 7 p.m. at the Gleason: Using The Library Telescope & Binoculars for Stargazing with Marc Lamere
- Tuesday 5/14, 8:30 p.m. at Banta-Davis Field: Stargazing Party (with Recreation Department + Library)
- Thursday 5/16, 7 p.m. Hiking with Kids
- Tuesday 6/4, 7 p.m. SpeakOUT LGBTQ+ Panel Discussion

Read more about all of these events and register to reserve your spot at gleasonlibrary.org/events





Cultural Council News May 2024



Carlisle Music Festival @Old Home Day



Featuring the best of Carlisle's music community

Five O'Clock Shadow • Lloyd Thayer • The Response (reunion show) • The Nightflies • Soundbites • Neighborly • Concord Women's Chorus • Red Velvet Slide • Kenny Selcer & Steve Gilligan • Piano Masters: Dale Joachim & Arthur Celestin • The Hansen Brothers • Backbeat Farm Drum and Brass Band • The Conchords • The Soul Soothers

All performers have Carlisle connections

FRIDAY JUNE 21

First Religious Society Yard Tent 6:30–9 PM

OPEN MIC & COMMUNITY SINGALONG

Featuring **THE CARLISLE COMMUNITY CHORUS**

Singalong at 6:30 PM; Open Mic 7–9 PM (sign-up 6:30)

SATURDAY JUNE 22

First Religious Society Yard Tent 10:30 AM–2:30 PM

Family-friendly concert alongside Old Home Day activities

- Showcasing all-vocal groups and more
- Meet the musicians after their performances

**Daily schedules
coming soon!**

SUNDAY JUNE 23

The Big Tent on Spalding Field Noon– 7:30 PM

Family-friendly concert under the tent and on the lawn—Make a day of it!

- Bring a blanket or low chairs
- Bring a picnic or enjoy the food and ice cream trucks
- Meet the musicians after their performances

Produced by the Carlisle Cultural Council and the Carlisle Old Home Day Committee

Upcoming events: Meet the Council

- Carlisle Race Amity Day – June 9
- Old Home Day Country Fair – June 22
- Carlisle Music Festival – June 23



6TH ANNUAL CARLISLE RACE AMITY DAY POTLUCK CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY JUNE 9, 2-5 PM
ON THE COMMON**

**JOIN NEIGHBORS OF DIFFERENT RACES, RELIGIONS, AND VIEWS
TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY**

BOUNCE HOUSE, GAMES AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS!

LIVE MUSIC FROM NEIGHBORLY AND OTHER PERFORMERS!

POETRY READING FEATURING LOCAL POETS!

BRING A PICNIC BLANKET & A DELICIOUS DISH OF YOUR CULTURE

THIS IS A NON-POLITICAL COMMUNITY EVENT & ALL ARE INVITED



ORGANIZED BY THE CARLISLE RACE AMITY DAY COMMITTEE AND CPS DEICAC

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE CARLISLE CULTURAL COUNCIL

VISIT [HTTPS://RACEAMITY.ORG](https://raceamity.org) FOR MORE INFO FROM THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR RACE AMITY

COMMUNITY CLOSET

The new “Community Closet” is a FREE resource for eligible residents of Concord and Carlisle created by the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest in partnership with TriCon Church.



The Community Closet is located at 54 Walden Street, Concord, MA.



HOURS

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm

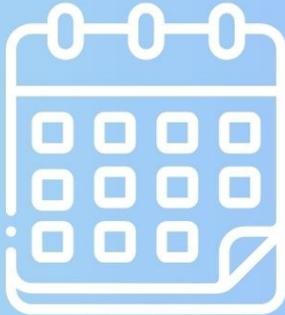
1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

*More shopping hours to be added at a later date

All shoppers must have a voucher from a referring agency. For more information for Carlisle Residents, please contact:

Carol Grueneich, Town of Carlisle, cgrueneich@carlislema.gov

CLIMATE RESILIENCE OFFICE HOURS



Chat with Carlisle's Town Planner and Sustainability Coordinator about planning for Carlisle's climate resilient future!

 Where: Carlisle Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle, MA 01741

 When: 1st Tuesday of the Month, 11am - 1pm

For information on language services, or other questions, contact:

 jmercier@carlislema.gov



Town of
Carlisle
MASSACHUSETTS

Towle Conservation Land

The 112-acre Towle Conservation Land provides wonderful opportunities for walking, cross-country skiing, and nature observation. The extensive trail network offers a number of loop options as well as shorter segments to points of interest. A variety of wildlife habitats, including meadow, forest, meadow/forest margin, streams, wetlands, a pond, and vernal pools, provides many opportunities for bird watching and plant identification. Eight of the vernal pools have been certified with the State's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).



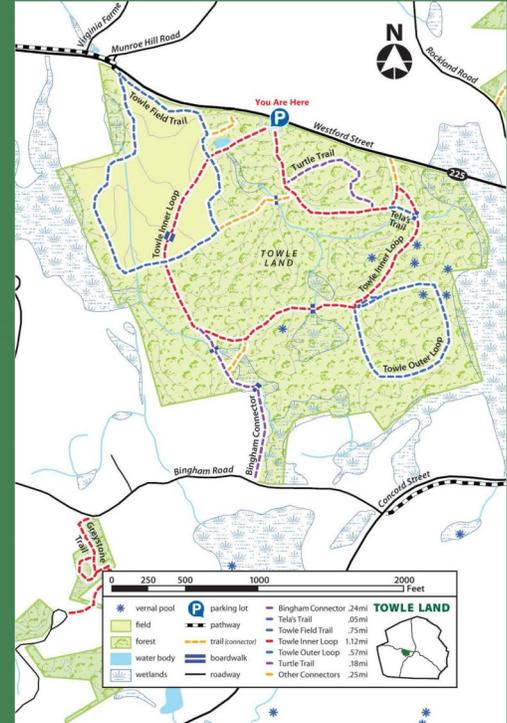
Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

In the past, the field was mowed in early June and late in the growing season. The current mowing protocol focuses on improving grassland habitat for pollinating insects, animals, and birds. It calls for sections of the field to be mowed in rotation every third year after the first hard frost. More frequent edge mowing may be required to control invasive plants. This mowing protocol will be regularly reevaluated. From 2001 to 2003, an experimental intensive sheep grazing program was used to control invasive plants and poison ivy. The nest boxes throughout the field are used by bluebirds, tree swallows, and other species. In the 1970's Boy Scouts planted sugar maples around the edge of the field and along the stream in the field. In recent years these trees have been tapped for maple sap with demonstrations open to the public.



Jack-in-the pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

In 1968 Dr. George Towle sold about 83 acres of the land to the Town of Carlisle for conservation and recreation. By 1979 the town had acquired the remaining 29 acres by purchase and gifts from abutters. Not much is known about the early history of Towle Land. Native Americans probably held ceremonies near some of the rock formations and bodies of water (see the Turtle Rock Trail on the map). Cut stone remnants were found in the woods and historical reports indicate that stone was quarried in parts of Towle Land. An old irrigation canal forms part of the southeastern boundary. There are several old stone boundary markers on the property. An old cow tunnel leads from the former Towle farmhouse under route 225 to the Towle grazing pasture.



Visiting

- Stay on designated roads and trails
- Do not collect or gather
- Hunting is prohibited
- No motorized vehicles without permission
- No fires or camping without a permit
- No metal detecting
- No drones without permission
- No alcoholic beverages
- Clean up after your dog
- Keep dogs under control
- Ticks and poison ivy are present. Take precautions to protect yourself, children, and pets. Information on ticks and poison ivy can be found at www.mass.gov/dph



Pearl crescent (*Phyciodes tharos*)



Gray treefrog (*Dryophytes versicolor*)



Bramble mason wasp (*Ancistrocerus adiabatus*)

The 2018 edition of the booklet, *Trails of Carlisle*, is available at Town Hall and Ferns Country Store. If you have comments or questions about this property, contact the Conservation Office at 978-369-0336 or through the Conservation Commission website (QR Code below)



Carlisle Conservation Commission



OPDM



Carlisle Trails Committee



Towle Land Map



Woolly bear (*Pyrrharctia Isabella*)



New York aster (*Symphyotrichum novi-belgii*)



Cherry-faced meadowhawk (*Sympetrum internum*)

Map reproduced with permission from the Carlisle Trails Committee

Photos by Julie Durrell

Foss Farm Conservation Land

The 55.7-acre Foss Farm Conservation Land provides wonderful opportunities for walking, jogging, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and nature observation. The extensive trail network offers a number of loop options as well as shorter segments to points of interest. The property is bordered by Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and the Concord River to the south and east. A popular trail leads across the Refuge and connects with Greenough Conservation Land. There is also a trail connection through the Refuge to the Woodward Conservation Land.

There are many opportunities for wildlife observation and plant identification. Several state-listed species call Foss Farm home. These include blue-spotted salamanders, Blanding's turtles, several species of tiger beetles, and numerous varieties of plant species. Be mindful of these special creatures when using these lands.

On the property are two pony rings, two agricultural licensed fields, and a community garden area. Stone fences border the property. A documented Native American site also exists on the property. Permits are required for certain activities such as gardening, dog training, after-sunset activities, and group horse activities.

How did Foss Farm get its name?

The land was purchased from Mr. William Foss who lived on his 61.3 acres farm for 61 years and grew asparagus. After he ceased operating the farm, he leased fields to another farmer to raise feed corn. On the remaining portions of the land, Mr. Foss generously allowed the people of Carlisle and neighboring towns to use the property for passive recreation and other activities. In 1971, Mr. Foss sold the property to the Carlisle Conservation Commission.

Did you know?

Foss Farm includes a variety of wildlife habitats, most notably the increasingly rare *sandplain grassland* which supports many unique species. The herbaceous state-listed New England Blazing Star was planted at Foss Farm beginning in 2019. Use the QR code to read more about the Liatris program. In September 2020, Orange Milkweed (Butterfly Weed) was added to the planting area.



New England Blazing Star
(*Liatris novae-angliae*)

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- No drones without permission
- No fires or camping without a permit
- No alcoholic beverages
- Clean up after your dog
- Keep dogs under control including no digging
- Keep off agricultural areas
- Metal detecting is allowed only on agricultural fields with a permit
- Ticks and poison ivy are present. Take precautions to protect yourself, children and pets. Information on ticks and poison ivy can be found at www.mass.gov/dph

The 2018 edition of the booklet, *Trails of Carlisle*, is available at Town Hall and Ferns Country Store. If you have comments or questions contact the Conservation Office at 978-369-0336.

Map reproduced by permission of the Carlisle Trails Committee

Photographs by Judy Asarkof, Alan Ankers, and Julie Durrell



American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)



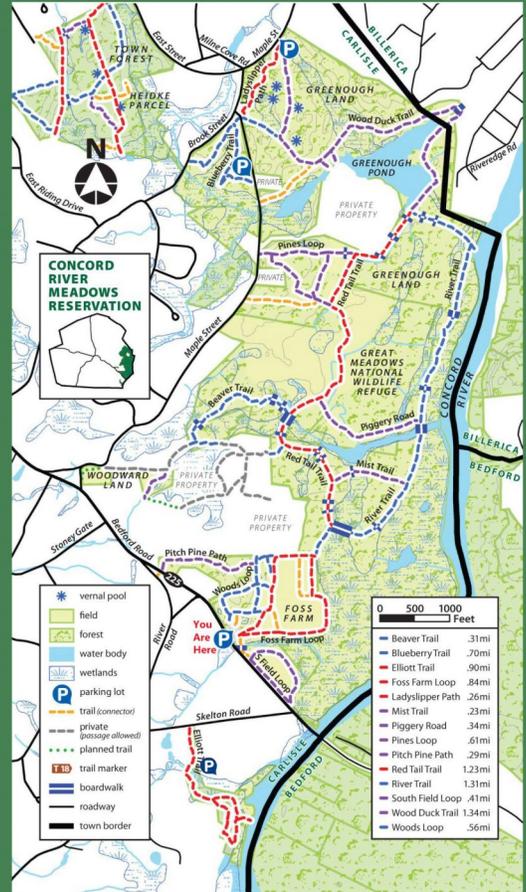
Blue curl (*Trichostema dichotomum*)



Unbanded wolf spider (*Hogna baltimoriana*)



Common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*)



Plume moth (*Geina sp.*)



Great Meadows NWR Map



Carlisle Conservation Commission



OPMD



Carlisle Trails Committee

COFFEE HOUR

with the Town
Administrator

Town Administrator Ryan
McLane will be available
for conversations and
coffee!



CHECK FACEBOOK OR
INSTAGRAM FOR
UPCOMING DATES!



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[@townofcarlisle](https://www.instagram.com/townofcarlisle)

