

Weston Conservation Field Assessment 2020

Current Field Management (for the last 20+ years):

- Mow most fields once per year (Cat Rock/80-ac field and Ash Street Reservoir mowed 2x/yr.)

Conservation Field Goals

- Create open vistas
- Manage for passive recreation
- Manage for pollinator habitat & wildlife
- Manage for farming and agriculture

Meadow Management Challenges

1. Invasive Plants
2. Field Edge – jungle of invasive plants
3. mowing around tree Islands
4. Rock walls covered in invasive plants
5. Intense storms = downed trees!
6. Field boulders (aka: New England potatoes)

Field Assessment 2020 Criteria

- **Ecological assessment**
 - Invasive spp. present?
 - Flowering plant diversity
- **Management Assessment**
 - Overgrown tree islands
 - Edge shrubs taking over
 - Field Size
- **Important public qualities**
 - Field trail
 - Scenic viewshed
 - Recreational area (dog walking)

2020 WESTON FIELD SURVEY RESULT OPTIONS

- Fall mow - select ecologically rich fields to mow later in the season for pollinator & wildlife habitat enhancement
- Summer mow – control the spread of swallow-wort & other invasive plants by mowing before plants go to seed.
- Manage certain fields for people/dog access
- Abandon

MEADOW MANAGEMENT OUTCOMES

1. Select ecologically rich fields to mow later in the season for pollinator & wildlife habitat enhancement (> Oct. 1st)
 - a. Old Brush Dump field
 - b. Blaney aquifer field
 - c. Glen Road field
 - d. Blaney Field
 - e. Coburn meadows
 - f. Case Estates (partial)
 - g. Paine & Burnes Field
 - h. Clancey Gift
2. Control the spread of swallow-wort and other invasive plants by mowing impacted fields early July (while leaving patches of milkweed)
 - a. 153 Church Street
 - b. Miller's Field
 - c. South Field
 - d. Sears Driveway
 - e. Melone House Lower Field
 - f. Jennings Field
 - g. Sunset Corner
 - h. Nolte Fields
 - i. Town Line Field
 - j. French Field
 - k. Field North of College Pond
 - l. Case Estates (partial)
3. Ensure agricultural fields remain in agriculture
 - a. Green Power Farm
 - b. Wellington Farm (500 Wellesley St)
 - c. Potato Field/Onion Field
 - d. 40-acre field
 - e. Community Gardens

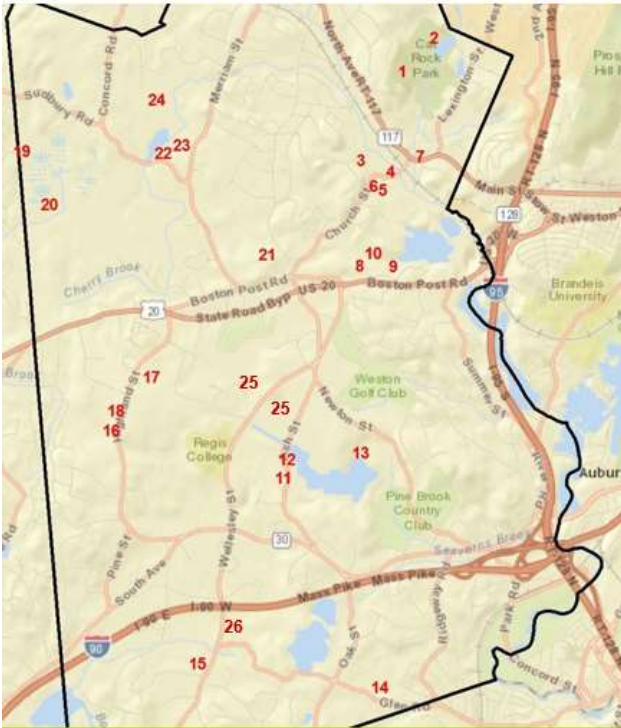
4. Continue to manage certain fields for passive recreation/dog walking (mow 2x/summer)
 - a. 80-acre field
 - b. Ash street reservoir
 - c. Apple Orchard (depending on harvest dates and Volunteers ability to manage)
5. Ensure previous field restoration projects continue to be managed
 - a. Coburn Meadows (2017-2019): \$25,000
 - b. Case Estates (2016-2020): \$60,000
 - c. Apple Orchard (2016-2020): volunteers (Rees!!)
6. Continue to control invasive vegetation growing on select rock walls
 - a. Case Estates Rock Wall: \$10,000 (2020)
 - b. Coburn Meadows: \$5,000 (2019)
 - c. Potato Field: volunteers (2015-2020)
 - d. Wellington Farm (500 Wellesley St): \$10,000 (2020)
7. Actively manage select patches of knotweed in fields (3 years then monitor)
 - a. Sunset Corner
 - b. Case Estates (b/w Wellesley & Ash St)
 - c. 40-acre Field
8. Continue to push back invasive plants along **field edges & tree Islands** where previous management has occurred
 - a. Field North of College Pond (2015, 2020): \$7,500
 - b. Green Power (2016, 2020): \$10,000
 - c. Community Gardens (2015): \$15,000
 - d. Case Estates (2016-2020): (already described)
 - e. Ash Street Reservoir (2020): \$5,000
 - f. Glen Road (2012): \$15,000
9. Consider new priority field restoration project – Millers Field (funding dependent)
10. Abandon management of 3 small low ecological quality fields (due to budget constraints)

PROPOSED FY21 MEADOW SPENDING FOR CURRENT FUNDING YEAR (NUMBER REFLECTS OUTCOME DESCRIBED ABOVE)

Total FY21 Field Management Budget: \$49,500 (needed): Allocations to use: \$32,000 - field mowing account (M); \$10,000 - Case Estates Account (CE); \$2,500 Community Gardens Account (CG); (Land Management \$5,000)

- #1-3 Annual field mowing): **\$22,000 (completed) (M)**
- #5: Coburn Meadows Restoration – clear near Church Street, tree islands; rock wall (Outcome 5): **\$1,500 (M)**
- #5-6 Case Estates: **\$10,000** (Outcome 5 & 6) – (1) Remove storm damage branches in nose: \$2,000; (2) Clear Rock Wall: \$3,000; (3) Clear away invasive plants and downed trees in Parcel 9: \$5,000 **(CE)**
- #6: Wellington Farm: **\$2,000** (already completed) **(M)**
- #7: Actively manage select patches of knotweed in fields: **\$3,500** (FY21 already completed) **(LM)**
- #8: Field North of College Pond (eastern edge and tree island clearing): **\$1,500 (M)**
- #8 Green Power western field edge and tree island clearing **\$1,500 (M)**
- #8: Community Gardens clearing eastern access road **\$2,500 (CG)**
- #9 **NEW** Restoration and preservation of Millers Field (Rt 117 Field)– **(2 days: \$5,000) (LM and M)**

Conservation Land Fields at a Glance



#	FIELD NAME
1	Cat Rock
2	80 Acres
3	Webster Road
4	The Coburn Meadow
5	171 Church Street
6	153 Church Street
7	Miller's Field
8	South Field
9	Sears Driveway
10	Melone House Lower Fields
11	Ash Street—West Side
12	Ash Street—East Side
13	Cooper's Cove

14	Jenning's Field
15	Blaney Field
16	Sunset Corner
17	Paine & Burnes Fields
18	Nolte Field
19	Town Line Field
20	French Field
21	Clancey Gift
22	Concord Road Orchard
23	Old Brush Dump
24	Field North of College Pond
25	Case Estates
26	500 Wellesley Street

Total Field Acreage: 90 acres