

Town Meeting Members,

The Needham Conservation Commission strongly supports the Town's acquisition of the Castle Farm parcels as a vital addition to our open space conservation and passive recreation assets.

The Conservation Commission and the Town have been active for more than 40 years in efforts to expand the 353-acre Ridge Hill Reservation, the town's largest open space. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to add 34 pristine acres achieves this goal while providing a key link between Ridge Hill and the Charles River and preserving the view along the scenic Charles River Street.



Adding conservation land is a wise investment in our future. There is a limited amount of undeveloped land in Needham. As sprawl increasingly fragments what remains, protecting open space ensures that all Town residents will have access to the health and recreation benefits. Preserved open space increases biodiversity, improves air and water quality, and protects plant and wildlife habitats. And the investment further pays off by making Needham a more attractive place for families and businesses.

Needham is fortunate to be surrounded by the Charles River, and the Castle Farm enhances this special asset. The meadow there is perhaps the most beautiful and serene of all our riverfront areas. Let's protect this resource.

We urge you to support the Town's endeavors to acquire this valuable conservation parcel by voting in favor of Article 16 at the October 30th Special Town Meeting.

Thank You.
Needham Conservation Commission