

# Salem Conservation Commission

## Announces New Open Space Task Force - April 2025

Salem's Conservation Commission is excited to announce the formation of an OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE (OSTF) to review and update the Town of Salem's Open Space Plan.

Our open spaces - from forested, natural areas to recreation trails and parks - have an important role in keeping Salem a vibrant place to live, work, and play. Having a plan to best protect and enhance those open spaces is essential to expanding and protecting them. The OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE's (OSTF) work is being done in conjunction with the Master Plan Update and the Recreation Committee Survey, all happening now.

### Goals

The goal of the OSTF is to collect current data about our natural resources, create a blueprint for protecting needed ecological functions, and ensure the community's priorities are best served when actions to protect open space are taken by the Town of Salem. To that end, the OSTF will:

- Update current GIS maps and data reports to accurately identify the location, detail, and proximity of key natural resources and environmental hotspots within Salem.
- Develop criteria for evaluating the benefits of protecting areas of open space that are not currently protected.
- Create an informational toolkit to assist the Conservation Commission and other Town committees to take action on recommendations developed through the Open Space Plan update.

### Who We Are

The OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE is a collaboration between the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Town Council. The OSTF will also feature several members of town staff and local stakeholders.

Our efforts will be facilitated by the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). The RPC will provide process management, GIS data support, and facilitate all public meetings.

### Process

We will hold regular meetings between April and August of 2025, all of which are open to the public. At these meetings we will review data, develop prioritization criteria, and make recommendations for updating the Open Space Plan. Once finalized, presentations will be made to the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Town Council in early fall.

Residents are encouraged to attend any of our meetings and follow along with the process. All upcoming meeting information and projects are available on the town website (see below).

<https://www.salemhnh.gov/1140/Open-Space-Task-Force>

