

An aerial photograph of a residential area with yellow property lines overlaid. A white rectangular box highlights a central area. The text 'THE MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA' is written in large, bold, red serif font across the center of the box. Below it, in a smaller red serif font, is the text 'Accessibility Upgrades through Mass in Motion Mini-Grants'. Street names 'Catherine Dr', 'Metacomet S', 'Bay Rd', and 'Sarah Ln' are visible. The number '314' is also present in several locations.

THE MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA

Accessibility Upgrades through Mass in Motion
Mini-Grants

Getting to Construction & Beyond

MiM CHII Needs Survey

Physical & digital surveys and touring focus groups

Top preferences include:

Install signage with maps in English, Spanish, and braille.

Enlarge parking lot & level entryway to fields

Create/maintain path

Install benches

Accessible Signage Design

Coordinated with Stavros, BJC, Pathfinder Vocational High School, the Senior Center & Library

Utilized visual arts intern to develop color palette

Implemented grant to design accessible signs with Collaborative for Education Services

MiM CHII

Mini-Grant Results

Expanded the parking area & created accessible hard-packed trail at main field

Maintain mowed walking trail around the site

Install ADA-accessible signage & bench

Prepare site for community garden (tilled), raised beds & native

foraging area

Future Improvements

Pathfinder's horticulture program designing native foraging area fall 2022

Wood has been donated & Pathfinder's woodworking program constructing raised beds by spring 2023

Assign community gardens & raised beds in spring 2023

MiM CHII Needs Survey

Data from the survey and focus groups showed that the top preferences were:

- Install signage with maps, directional signs, and information about natural history & features
- Signage should be in English, Spanish, and braille.
- Enlarge the parking lot
- Create a level entryway to the grass, maintaining a pathway around the perimeter, installing benches, and creating a clustered gathering area with tables and benches
- Create a clustered gathering area with tables and benches.
- Materials describing conservation areas, trail maps and trailhead locations need to be more easily accessible to all





THE MEADOWS

BELCHERTOWN CONSERVATION AREA

Welcome to The Meadows Conservation Area!

This 23-acre former hayfield provides habitat for many species, especially migratory and song birds. The trees dividing the three fields are windbreaks that help increase the diversity of wildlife.

An ADA-accessible trail with rest areas and native plantings make this space enjoyable for all.

Songbirds and other ground-nesting birds are particularly vulnerable as their habitat gets developed or when field harvests coincide with their breeding season.

Did you know?

By practicing delayed mowing, the Town of Belchertown helps protect wildlife.

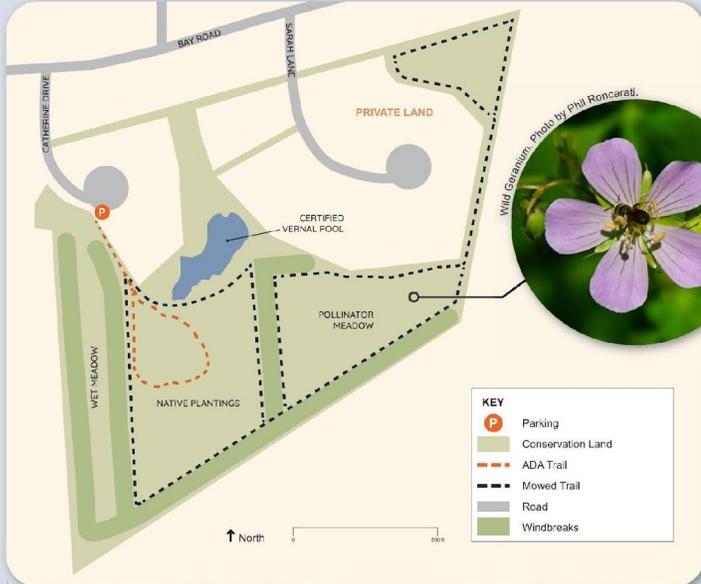


Eastern Painted Turtle. Photo by Phil Roncarati.

Can you find?



American Goldfinch. Photo by Phil Roncarati.



Managing invasive vegetation, such as autumn olive and bittersweet (pictured) provides space for native plants to flourish.



Wild Geranium. Photo by Phil Roncarati.



UFP BELCHERTOWN, LLC



Scan for more information. Escanea para más información.

SCAN QR CODE ABOVE

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Accessible Signage

Color palette ideal for those with several types of color-blindness

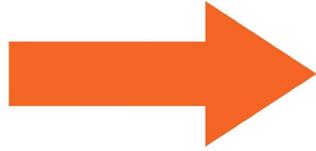
Clear map of the conservation area and its trails

Information about site conditions and interesting flora and fauna

Braille on sign directing people to scan the QR code which takes people to the Town's website on this conservation area within audio information and English & Spanish written information

MEADOWS CONSERVATION AREA

ORANGE TRAIL



Additional Signs
Designed for The
Meadows and use on
other conservation areas

BELCHERTOWN CONSERVATION AREA

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Belchertown Conservation Areas are open from dawn to dusk and may be used for passive recreation, including but not limited to: hiking, fishing, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, mountain biking, bird watching, photography, picnicking.

No motorized vehicles.



Campfires and/or overnight camping **allowed only with prior written permission and with the presence of an adult chaperone.**



No fishing or hunting where posted.



No defacement of property nor harvesting of natural products without permitting or licensure.



No alcohol or illegal substances.



Dogs allowed on leash only.
Pet waste must be properly removed.



Carry out trash.



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conservation@belchertown.org

BELCHERTOWN CONSERVATION AREA

SAFETY DURING HUNTING SEASON

BE SAFE, BE SEEN

- A brightly colored orange vest or hat will help you stay visible. Hunters are often active during the early morning and late afternoon when animals are most active.
- Keep pets leashed and visible. Place a blaze orange vest or bandana on your pet to keep it visible.
- Know when and where hunting is allowed. BCC allows hunting on its conservation lands as long as all other state & federal laws are followed unless specifically posted on the BCC property.
- Make your presence known. Talk loudly or whistle to identify yourself as a person. If you see someone hunting or hear shots, call out to them to identify your location.
- Be courteous. Once you've made your presence known, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb wildlife or hunting. Hunter harassment is against state law.

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**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
CONSERVATION LAND BOUNDARY**
PRIVATE PROPERTY BEYOND

Trail Construction

- Accessible trail was mowed and excavated to a depth of 12 inches
- Soil was compacted and an underlayment was placed
- Crushed Gravel was placed & compacted over underlayment to create stable walking trail
- Excess loamy soil that was excavated was tilled into the ground in the center of the accessible loop trail
- DPW will also place millings over the crushed during next street repaving



Parking Lot Improvements

- Trail from parking area to main fields was mowed and excavated to a depth of 12 inches
- Soil was compacted and an underlayment was placed
- Crushed Gravel was placed & compacted over underlayment to create stable walking trail
- Angular Stone was added to expand the parking area









Future Designs

Pathfinder's horticulture program designing native foraging area fall 2022

Wood has been donated & Pathfinder's woodworking program constructing raised beds by spring 2023

Assign community gardens & raised beds in spring 2023

Top-seed with pollinator species in pollinator field



Any questions or comments?

Erica N. Larner

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