

PROPOSED TEXT CHANGES – OSP Page 22

Secondary Priority

• **Water Company Lands** – Approximately 2,400 acres of land in Prospect is held by water companies. While this extensive acreage throughout Prospect is perceived as open space, these lands are **not** protected as open space. At this time, there are no immediate plans for the water companies to divest these holdings since the land is needed to protect water supplies.

Currently, there are approximately 2200 acres of Class I and II lands, which, in all probability, will remain committed as such for the foreseeable future.

However, should that ever change, Prospect could lose a significant amount of its perceived open space. **The approximately 237 acres of Class III lands, however, would be of higher priority for acquisition by the Town.** The State does give local communities the right of first refusal when water company lands are disposed; this plan strongly supports the acquisition of such lands.

It is recommended that the Town should stay in close contact with the water companies, maintain a representative from Prospect on the SCCRWA board and take advantage of every opportunity to acquire water company lands when they become available.

• **Southeast Corridor: Route 69 South** – This area encompasses parcels along Route 69 from the Center of Town to the Bethany border. Much of this area is located in a Public Water Supply Watershed area and has significant value for open space protection.

The linkage potential for wildlife corridors and recreation is noteworthy due to proximity to Canfield and Caplan Parks, Fusco Field and large tracts of water company owned property. Opportunities exist to link this area via a greenway to the Roaring Brook priority area.

• **Farmlands** – With the loss of farms across the region and the state, maintaining active farming is important from an open space and economic perspective. The continuation of working farms, such as through the purchase of development rights, should be explored.

This plan also supports the exploration of other creative farming options to rejuvenate or expand existing farms such as community gardens or cooperative farming.