

2017 – A Good Year

February 2018

Epping now has a Natural Resource Inventory. This document describes the Town's natural resources with maps and explanatory text to help identify areas of high value for wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation, and other resources. The ECC uses it to help prioritize preservation by taking proactive management steps to insure long-term viability of these resources. Check it out on EppingOutdoors.com/NRI. We are grateful to the Rockingham Planning Commission for their support in this endeavor.

With our first annual Photo Contest, we pursued our goal of enhancing Epping residents' connection to the outdoors. Sixteen photos were submitted and Epping residents voted for the winner. Pictures can be submitted in June-July and the winner will be announced in September. Specific dates are posted at EppingOutdoors.com/photo-contest/. You could start taking pictures right now!

Check out TrailFinder.info to see all the trails in Epping, including those on Southeast Land Trust properties. We are thankful Joel Harris has volunteered to be our first Trail Steward. Additionally, the Select Board approved our plan to construct five short trails for mountain biking (probably most appropriate for kids) at Folsom Park, about 22 acres. Park on Joshua Lane for easy access. We hope to schedule this work sometime in 2018. Thanks to ECC member Todd Hathaway for leading this effort.

We are also reaching out specifically to connect children with the outdoors. Liz Wilson, ECC member, is working with Alyson Bates, Epping Elementary School Fifth Grade Science teacher, to get kids outside and learn about the woods. Three science classes are competing to see which team can develop the best scavenger hunt at Fox Run Park. Check EppingOutdoors.com in late April or May to see the winning team.

Managing and monitoring conserved town lands is also part of the ECC mission. We welcome John Clark as our first volunteer monitor. He loves walking in the woods with his GPS and helping to ensure our conserved lands are in good shape for everyone to enjoy.

Your Conservation Commission is actively working not only to protect land, wildlife and the woods for future generations, but also to generate more ways to enjoy the outdoors today. Special thanks go to John Bennett for keeping you informed via our website. We are looking for more volunteers to help build/maintain trails and monitor conserved properties. If you are interested, please leave a note in our box at Town Hall or email secretary@townofepping.com.