

Article 28
Guideline for Preservation of
Public Access to Open Space

Article 28: Guideline for Preservation of Public Access to Open Space

Proposed Motion: Petitioner moves that the Town take affirmative action on Article 28 as set forth below:

WHEREAS the Town desires that reasonable public access to Concord's trails, forests, fields, rivers, and other **public natural** open spaces **that are owned or controlled by the Town of Concord** should be preserved and, where possible, expanded or created, so long as such public access is consistent with 1) the preservation and protection of natural resources and the environment, 2) the legitimate interests, **rights, and responsibilities** of the Town, and 3) the legitimate interests **and rights** of private property owners **and does not infringe on private property rights,**

THEREFORE the Town urges the Select Board and Town Manager to adopt policies to **encourage** Town Officials, Committees, Boards, and Departments to use this principle as guidance and consider it **one of their** priorities in their actions and deliberations, including any policies, decisions, approvals, negotiations, recommendations, regulations, **and daily operations** that would or could affect public access to **Concord's Town-owned or controlled public** open spaces.

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“When we walk, we naturally go to the fields and woods: what would become of us, if we walked only in a garden or a mall? . . . My vicinity affords many good walks; and though for so many years I have walked almost every day, and sometimes for several days together, I have not yet exhausted them. An absolutely new prospect is a great happiness, and I can still get this any afternoon.”

~ H. D. Thoreau, “Walking”