

## Open Space Land and their Purpose

Windham has an array of lands dedicated for open space, created as part of the subdivision process or provided as the common area for condominium associations. These non-buildable, protected lands are most frequently privately owned and are regulated differently than conservation parcels, which are publicly owned.

Understanding the use and purpose of open space land and common area for condominium associations can be a challenge because each one is managed by an individual neighborhood association. Regulations for use can vary from parcel to parcel and unless you have reviewed the legal documents for each one, it is not possible to know what uses are permitted or prohibited.

To assist the public in locating the legal documents for these lands, the Community Development Department will be providing a new resource at the end of the month to assist residents with researching this information. Posted on the town website, [www.windhamNH.gov](http://www.windhamNH.gov), after September 30<sup>th</sup>, will be spreadsheet containing information pertaining to all open lands (conservation, open space, and condominium parcels). The inventory will include the acreage of each parcel and references to the filing numbers of the subdivision plans and legal documents for each parcel.

Many permissions and prohibitions exist within the legal documents of open lands including what types of recreation are allowed and who is permitted to access the property. In some cases trails and other amenities are open to the public and in other cases, only private property owners in an association are permitted usage.

You are recommended to take the time to read the legal documents to fully understand the regulations of any parcel in question. If you have any questions regarding the spreadsheets on open space and commonly owned land for condominium associations, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Wood, Community Planner, AICP, [ewood@windhamNH.gov](mailto:ewood@windhamNH.gov), 432-3806.