

Montgomery Town Land Concept

The members of the Montgomery Conservation Commission (MCC) would like to share a vision for the Town Land, located at 251 Fuller Bridge Rd. This approximately 34-acre parcel was a generous bequest from Gordon Jewett and has been under Town ownership since January of 2000. The land has a long history of agricultural use, and was most recently leased as a cornfield; the lease was not renewed in 2022. In addition to the 15 acres that has been cultivated, there is 5 acres of forest, 4 acres of hay field, and the water source for Montgomery Village.

A number of important questions have been raised: What is the best use of this land while taking into consideration the floodable tendencies and balancing the needs and desires of the community? Could this be the future site of: a harvest festival, a memorial space, a fruit/nut orchard, a bird sanctuary, walking trails, a compost site, food plots for community farming, and/or other uses? In essence, could this be a place where we co-create a balanced new community-centered space?

In an effort to help answer these questions, a recent soil assessment was completed as well as a historical imagery analysis to identify the natural tendencies of the land (mainly to determine where it is wet and where it tends to flood more). This mapping shows areas which are most conducive to wetland habitat and riparian functions.

Based on this initial assessment, a draft "Future Vision Concept Plan" was then developed as a starting point in planning. Clearly, this vision/plan will evolve with the help of input from members of the community as well as other knowledgeable partner organizations. It is exciting to consider the idea of this new endeavor and the benefits it could provide for Montgomery, including the natural community!

For those who are interested in reviewing more details re: the assessment and draft vision, there is a PowerPoint document available on the Town's website titled "Town Land Concept". Please feel free to review that if you would like. Any questions, ideas or other input are welcome as we move forward.

We recognize that - as with other community resources, we can create the intention and define the space with vegetative structure to encourage play and appreciation, but it will be up to our community and the natural community to define the "Essence of Montgomery." The hope is that this will be another great resource in this special place that we call home. Thank you.

The MCC can be reached at montgomeryconservation@gmail.com