

Orleans Open Space Acquisition History: 1982 to 2021

In 2021, the Orleans Open Space Committee (OSC) assembled a spreadsheet of Town open space acquisitions from 1987 to 2020. The updated compilation below reaches back to the Windmill Park Conservation Area added in 1982 and 1985, and forward to 66 Portanimitcut Road, added late in 2021.

Over this period, over \$23,168,117 was spent to acquire 253.16 acres. This amount was defrayed by State grants or private gifts of \$4,864,032, reducing the Town's net outlay to \$18,304,085. Importantly, the Town's land investments have amounted to a modest \$72,302 per acre of undeveloped land for natural enjoyment and protection.

The list documents the Town's continuing land conservation, with very few years since 1982 lacking an acquisition. From 1987 to 2005, the Orleans Land Bank supported most Town purchases, and was supplanted in 2005 by the Community Preservation Act (CPA). CPA is funded each year by a 3% surcharge on resident property taxes, to which the State has added a "match" of some percentage. Since 2005, that "match" has resulted in an average of forty-seven cents of State subsidy for each dollar of Town surcharge.

The history often displays the Town's interest in linking abutting properties. When a new acquisition abuts a previously purchased parcel, it "deepens" an area, lengthens trails and habitat corridors, and improves the natural experience for residents and animals alike. For example, the 47 acres of the John Kendrick Woods combines four parcels acquired over 4 years. At the Peck Conservation Area, two parcels at Peck were purchased in 2005, and the latest addition was 12 Peck's Way in 2020. Additionally, Town open lands often abut private lands preserved by the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT). For example, the 2021 purchase of 66 Portanimitcut abuts the Town-owned Christian property to the East, and OCT parcels to the West and North, and stitches together protected lands for a more expansive "wild" experience.

When taken together, these natural acres offer fresh air, scenic trails, wetlands, a rare Atlantic White Cedar swamp, meadows and a vernal pool for both residents and animal habitat. These conservation acquisitions reinforce the Town's semi-rural village heritage, protect the Town's water supply, limit Orleans' residential buildout, and preserve Orleans' land for the use and enjoyment of all Orleans residents for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Cunningham
Chair, Open Space Committee

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Project Title	Fee Simple or CR	Access Notes	Acreage	Date	Tot. Amt	Grant/Gift	Net Town Cost	\$/acre	Notes
Windmill Park Conservation, Lot 2	Fee Simple	Park	1.00	1982	\$143,000	\$100,000	\$43,000	\$43,000	State Self Help Grant
Windmill Park Conservation, Lot 1	Fee Simple	Park	1.20	1985	\$210,000	\$164,800	\$45,200	\$37,667	State Self Help Grant
Window on the Cove Park (76 Main St)	Fee Simple	Park	1.00	1987	\$390,000	\$0	\$390,000	\$390,000	
Crystal Lake/Dickinson	Fee Simple	Beach	1.00	1987	\$235,000	\$148,050	\$86,950	\$86,950	
Pah Wah Point (0 Namequoit Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	11.50	1987	\$1,600,000	\$360,000	\$1,240,000	\$107,826	
Sea Call Farm (82 Tonset Rd)	Fee Simple	Gardens	6.30	1987	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$253,968	
Baker's Pond (80 Baker's Pond Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	15.65	1988	\$1,456,165	\$839,500	\$616,665	\$39,404	State Self Help Grant
Kent's Point (39 Keziah's Lane)	Fee Simple	Trail	27.70	1988	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$1,800,000	\$64,982	
Tar Kiln/Poor (610-616 S. Orleans Rd)	Fee Simple	No	10.50	1989	\$680,000	\$0	\$680,000	\$64,762	
Skaket Beach/Alemian	CR	Beach	4.00	1994	\$300,000	\$156,000	\$144,000	\$36,000	Land Bank: \$134,180
Rachia Heyelman, (251 Rock Harbor Rd)	Fee Simple	Bike Trail Parking	1.67	1994	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Donation
Skaket Beach/Hamilton	Fee Simple	Yes	0.90	1997	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Donation
Namequoit Bog, (160 Namequoit Rd)	CR	Yes	22.50	1998	\$185,000	\$85,000	\$100,000	\$4,444	Open Space
Skaket Beach/Gavigan	Fee Simple	Beach	1.90	1998	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000	\$184,211	
Skaket Beach/Gavigan	Easement	Beach	1.00	1998	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$0	\$0	Sea Path Grant from State
Christian Property,(80 Portanimitic Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	7.85	1999	\$345,000	\$148,200	\$196,800	\$25,070	Land Bank: \$196,200
Meadow on the Cove, (29-31 South Orleans Rd)	Fee Simple	Park	2.40	1999	\$650,000	\$0	\$650,000	\$270,833	All Land Bank
Furst, Intertidal land, (nr 27 Beach Plum Lane)	CR	Walking Access	0.00	1999	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	NA	LB: \$25k; non LB: \$50k
White Cedar Swamp, adjacent to the Christian property	Fee Simple	Swamp	8.90	2000	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	Land Taking by Eminent Domain
Well #5/Sparrow, (340 & 360 South Orleans Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	10.82	2000	\$575,000	\$0	\$575,000	\$53,142	All Land Bank
Well #7: Gullquist, (56 & 60 Quanset, 33 Portanimitic, 2 Indian Fort Hill Lane).	Fee Simple	Trail	25.31	2001	\$1,665,452	\$0	\$1,665,452	\$65,802	All Land Bank
Earle Property, (389 South Orleans Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	8.68	2002	\$465,000	\$0	\$465,000	\$53,571	All Land Bank
Sparrow Property, (353 S. Orleans Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	12.00	2002	\$773,500	\$0	\$773,500	\$64,458	All Land Bank
Sparrow Property (Completes John Kendrick Woods) 61 Namequoit Rd	Fee Simple	Trail	20.31	2003	\$2,200,000	\$134,180	\$2,065,820	\$101,714	Land Bank: \$134,180
Meadow Bog Pond Headlands Sarah's Pond, (162 Quanset Rd).	CR	Trail	6.60	2005	\$865,000	\$665,000	\$200,000	\$30,303	Conservation Commission for \$200,000
Pecks Parcels on Arey's Pond, (20 & 16 Pecks Way)	Fee Simple	Trail	7.86	2005	\$1,800,000	\$500,000	\$1,300,000	\$165,394	Land Bank: \$1,300k; non LB: \$500k
Sparrow Property(58 Namequoit Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	6.45	2007	\$1,275,000	\$0	\$1,275,000	\$197,674	CPA funds
Fleck/Twinings Pond (22 Twinings Rd)	CR	Trail	1.86	2010	\$480,000	\$420,000	\$60,000	\$32,258	\$420k OCT; \$60k CPA
Putnam Farm: 50 Bridge Road	Fee Simple	Gardens	14.20	2010	\$360,000	\$140,000	\$220,000	\$15,493	Owner gift for CROS and agr.
Fleck/Twining Pond	CR	Trail	2.66	2014	\$240,000	\$0	\$240,000	\$90,226	CPA Plus OCT funds
John Kenrick Woods, (61 Namequoit Rd)	Fee Simple	Trail	1.96	2016	\$275,000	\$200,000	\$75,000	\$38,265	\$200k Snow Gift; \$75k CPA
141 Portanimitic Road	Fee Simple	Shore Front	2.50	2016	\$500,000	\$253,302	\$246,698	\$98,679	Toop: \$16,109; CPA: \$237,193
Hannah Beach/Meadow, (Nauset Spit)	Fee Simple	NA	1.00	2018	\$125,000	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000	Town Payment (Acreage est.)
12 Pecks Way, Aveys Pond	Fee Simple	Trail	2.54	2020	\$775,000	\$0	\$775,000	\$305,118	All CPA
66 Portanimitic Road	Fee Simple	Trail	1.44	2021	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$173,611	
Totals:			253.16		\$23,168,117	\$4,864,032	\$18,304,085	\$72,302	