

Chapter 4 – Hopes and Fears, Opportunities and Constraints

Early on in the study process, interest groups were invited to make presentations at Policy Committee meetings in order to understand the ways in which their groups used the study area and help identify planning or communications needs. Several groups presented including the Maine Army National Guard, the Recreation Advisory Committee, the Andy Valley Sno Gypsies, the Auburn Suburban Little League, the Taylor Pond Association, the Androscoggin Land Trust and several representatives from the area geologic community.

Highlights of these presentations and a list of considerations for improvements to the sites follow.

Maine Army National Guard (MEARNG): John Blais

The need for the study is based on the fact that training areas are critical to the defense of the nation. We need to ensure that all troops (mountain, transportation, aviation, medics) have the proper training and meet qualifications in order to serve in the roles that they have been called on to fulfill. The ability of the military to continue operations at a training area can be impacted by compatibility with other land uses in the surrounding area. (Additional details of training operations are outlined in Chapter 3.)

MEARNG's state and federal mission is to manage the Sustainable Range Program. It is important that MEARNG does not lose the footprint of the existing baffle range. Renovation of the firing range at the Auburn

Training site is planned to make it safer. If a new range is built, environmental impacts will be reduced and the noise footprint will likely be reduced as well.

This training facility is important because all operators need time "behind the wheel" to learn how to operate the equipment safely. It requires a significant time investment to become proficient in the use of this heavy equipment. It was noted that 42% of the training is done at the Auburn facility between July and September.

There is a deficit of land being used as training facilities. The average training facility in Maine is 331 acres. The MEARNG deficit for training land is 6,370 acres statewide. The training land area in Auburn is 154 acres, but it is authorized to have 646 acres, which is a deficit of 492 acres. The Army, at this point, is not willing to give up any more of its training land because acquiring land is not only very difficult and expensive but is limited by federal moratorium. The Army would like to have a firing range built in Maine on a site that has more than 3,200 acres. Maine troops now need to travel to Ft. Devens in Massachusetts or to Vermont for record firing range training. Between 621 and 1,643 troops trained at the facility in the past 7 years. Reduced Federal budgets have since increased the importance of existing training areas.

The MEARNG has concerns regarding liability, particularly around the ballfields. Background on the ballfields is outlined in Chapter 3. Deed research was done in the early 2000s as background work for a land exchange. There are restrictions on some of the city-owned land that limit its use to recreation.

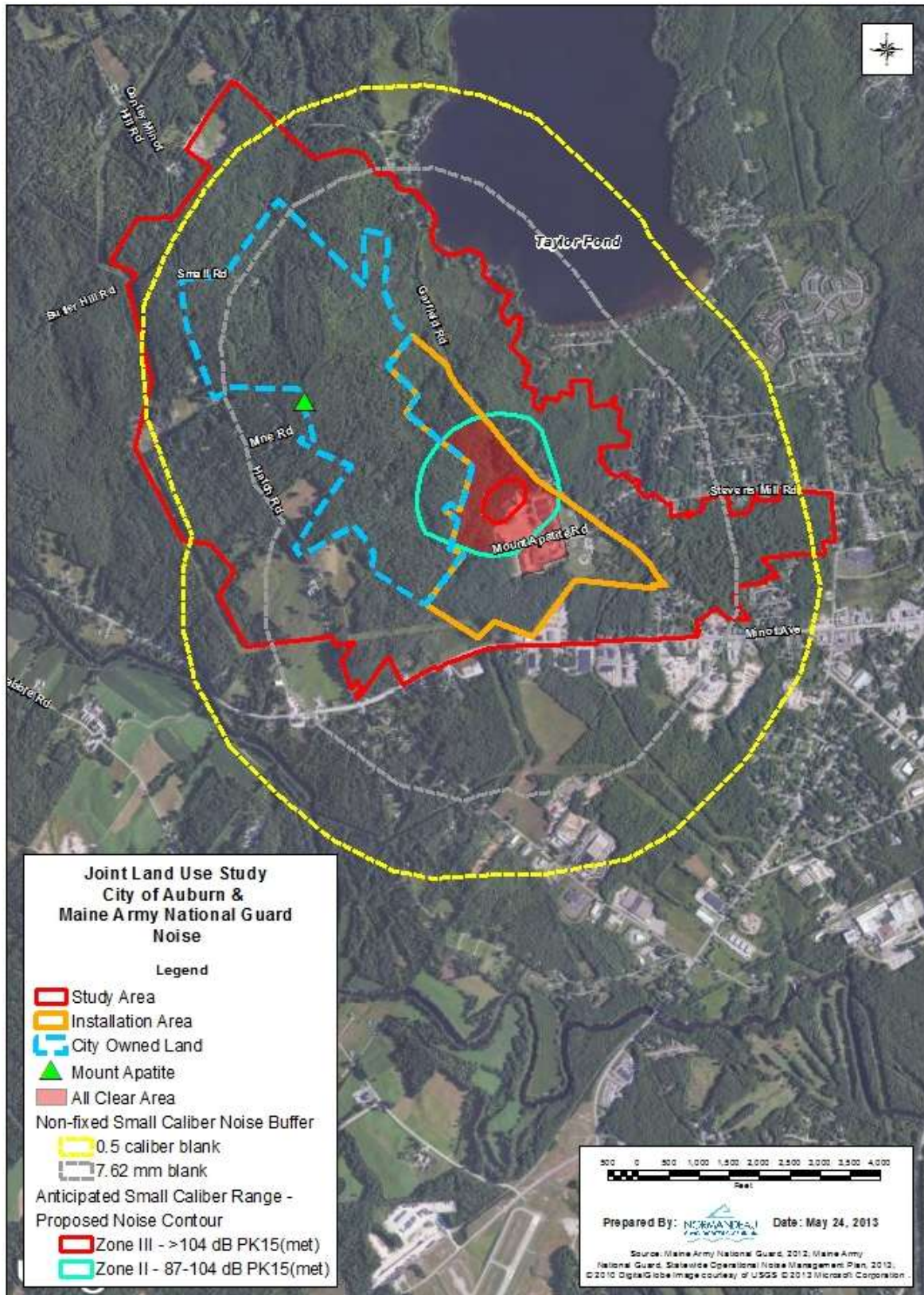


Figure 4.1 Noise contours anticipated with modernization of non-standard small arms range

Figure 4.1 depicts the anticipated noise impact resulting from an upgraded baffled range which is likely to occur in the next several years. The noise contours were derived by overlaying the noise contours developed for the Gardiner Maine training facility. As noted in Chapter 3, the installation has maintained a non-standard small arms range at this site for many years. It was closed several years ago due to necessary upgrades that are pending funding approvals. The two inner-most noise rings shown on the map were interpolated using information from another recently upgraded baffled range in Maine that is similar in size. The smallest (blue) ring is identified as Zone II and shows an area where repeated exposure would be sufficient to cause impaired hearing (87-104 dB) and where hearing protection is required. The next (red) ring (Zone III) shows the area that is likely to be affected by operations that could generate up to 87 dB.

The largest outermost rings depict the areas that, depending on conditions, could be exposed to noise from the use of 7.62mm and .5 caliber blank exercises. The MEARNG anticipates resuming use of its non-standard small arms range in the next several years.

Auburn Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Phil Savignano:

The Board's role is to review existing programs of the Parks and Recreation Department and the planning of revised, supplementary or new programs to meet the present and future needs of the City. The Board also coordinates existing programs and facilities, supported by volunteer and charitable organizations with those of other government facilities and develops recommendations for more

efficient use of the present facilities and personnel. Finally, the Board investigates federal, state and private programs for financial assistance and the development of recommendations regarding participation in such programs.

The development of the 300 acre area acquired by the City has been minimal since its purchase. A \$2,500 grant in 1976 was used for construction of snowmobile trails, a snowmobile shelter and sanitary facilities. The effort was coordinated with the Andy Valley Snow Gypsies snowmobile club because it had an interest in the development of inter-city snowmobile trails.

In 1993 a timber harvest was done. No future harvests are planned at this time. In 2005, the Maine Conservation Corps performed general trail maintenance, culvert repair and applied trail tread material. In 2011, Cub Scout Pack 111 won a National Conservation Award for its work improving a 100 foot section of wet trail with ditching, stone lining and timbers. On-going maintenance of brush cutting, tree trimming and trail maintenance is done by the snowmobile club and volunteers.

The Advisory Committee's main area of concern is access to the Park and how it can be improved. It would like to see the Park used in the same manner it is now: hiking, biking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, walking, etc. The Committee's hope is that these uses will not be inhibited if site improvements are undertaken.

The challenges it has in taking care of the property stem from the fact that it does not have adequate resources to care for the Park and trails. It has relied on volunteers

and the snowmobile club to perform maintenance tasks in the Park. There used to be a fire pit, lean-to and outhouse on Mount Apatite but they were destroyed by vandalism. Only the base of the outhouse remains. There used to be a nice stone sign at the entrance to the Park, but it was destroyed during the hunting season following the fire pit, lean-to and outhouse vandalism. See Figure 4.2.



Figure 4.2 Remains of Entrance to Mount Apatite Park

Andy Valley Sno Gypsies: Kevin Norcross

The group was formed in 1967 and is the oldest snowmobile club in the State. It has 50 members with the average age being 60+. Its goals are to educate members and the general public about safely using snowmobiles, promoting better understanding between snowmobile owners and the general public, encouraging the use of snowmobiles and establishing / maintaining snowmobile trails.

It also promotes a greater respect for the rights of property owners and other winter sports enthusiasts. Some trails travel over hiking / skiing trails in the heart of the Park, but most snowmobile trails are separate. There are six members of the club who maintain approximately 30 miles of trails on

a year round basis. They used to maintain the cross country ski trails for the City for a fee, but the City was unable to maintain that



Figure 4.3 Andy Valley Sno Gypsies Trail Groomer arrangement due to budgetary constraints; as such, the club did not continue to maintain the trails. The club just bought a new groomer for the trails.

Because of its remote location, the clubhouse on Small Road has been the targets of six break-ins in the last two years. Gates on Garfield Road and cement barriers at MEARNG help keep vehicles out of Mount Apatite. In the winter, members of the club use Mount Apatite for snow shoeing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and dog walking.

Trails cross both City and installation land; trails which cross installation land are more recent and have no authorization to do so.

Auburn Suburban Little League: Jeff Benson

Auburn Suburban Little League (ASLL) has been a fixture in the community for over 55 years providing opportunities for boys and girls to play baseball and softball. The 2012 season saw ASLL offer 20 teams for baseball and 11 teams for softball servicing 370 youth.

The facilities at ASLL include:

- Senior Field (Austin Field) is used for baseball by Babe Ruth, 9th, JV and Varsity teams from Edward Little as well as Auburn Middle School, Amateur Athletic Union. Over 30, Twilight League and Legion and also serves as home field for Central Maine Community College. It is the only lighted baseball field in the City.
- Major baseball field (Benson Field) is used by Little League teams.
- Major softball field (Sweetser Field) is used by Little League softball teams, Edward Little, Auburn Middle School and travel teams.
- Minor baseball and softball fields on the north side of the complex, which are owned by the City, is used for baseball and softball. During the fall these two fields have been used as practice sites for soccer and football.

All fields are maintained by ASLL. ASLL has been at the complex since 1990-91. Press boxes at the three fields and dugouts at all five fields add to the value of the fields. See



Figure 4.4: Press Boxes constructed by ASLL

Figure 4.4

Storage areas either under the press boxes or within them are used in the off season. The maintenance garage houses equipment used to maintain the grounds. A large two story building is used for concessions and restroom facilities are on the first floor with storage for equipment and a meeting room



Figure 4.5: Opening Day for ASLL 2013 –
Photo courtesy Gary Haskell

on the second story is the center for all activities during the season.

The fields serve an important role as they function daily for the schools from April through June and for ASLL nightly from April through the first of July. Due to excellent site work, these fields are the first to be played on in the City during the spring. When looking at the impact of the populations that use ASLL from the schools, outside leagues and ASLL itself, over 500 players use the fields. ASLL has a rich history and tradition in baseball and softball in Maine and has hosted state tournaments, district tournaments and charity events.

The parking lot on the south side of Mount Apatite Road accommodates 50-75 cars with room for an additional 25-30 cars near the

minor league fields. Additional parking occurs on both sides of Mount Apatite Road and at the Controlled humidity preservation buildings; at times it spills out into Garfield Road.

Taylor Pond Association: Dana Little

Taylor Pond Association has a Board and hosts an annual meeting in July each year. The Association has been monitoring water quality since 1974. Taylor Pond is most vulnerable to phosphorous caused by poor land management practices from nonpoint source pollution. The Pond is 17' deep (MEAN), 40' at its deepest, great for use, but not as a cold water fishery. Oxygen depletion occurs below 5 meters, making it prone to algal blooms; unpleasant fish kills are possible.

The Association's primary goal is to maintain



Figure 4.6 Dilapidated Signage in Mount Apatite Park

a quality watershed for the Pond through best management practices (BMPs) and to create connections to other open spaces in the City. BMP's for timber harvesting, agriculture and development help preserve the quality of the watershed. Another goal is to improve public knowledge regarding Mount Apatite through park signage, parking and trails. The signs in the Park are

outdated, in poor condition and at times misplaced; they miss an opportunity to convey important orientation and image information to those who use the Park. See Figure 4.6.

The Association laid out trails in the late 1980s; have since improved some trails and expanded others. The Association also is interested in long term protection of land through conservation easements.

Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT): Dana Little

ALT promotes the Androscoggin Greenway for conservation education, outdoor recreation and appreciation of our natural heritage. ALT first came together in 1987 to protect 1,990 acres of river frontage in Turner. Over the next six years ALT secured four grants from the Land for Maine's Future program to create the Androscoggin Riverlands State Park which has 2,675 acres. ALT currently manages over 34 different parcels of land located along the Androscoggin River from Jay and Canton down to Lisbon and Bowdoin.

When the City of Lewiston developed industrial land near the turnpike entrance they had to mitigate filling of a wetland. The Trust received the Garcelon Bog as compensation for the loss of wetlands for the turnpike project and placed it in permanent protection. ALT is currently working on its largest project ever to permanently protect over 1,300 acres of land in Jay and Canton along the River.

ALT raises money primarily through the Land for Maine's Future Fund, willing landowners, private endorsements and individuals. It has also received lands as wetland mitigation compensation in

Auburn, Buckfield, Lewiston and Sabattus. It helps protect the water supply for Lewiston.

ALT currently has no role with Mount Apatite Park. It has been suggested that the prototype wayfinding system they have developed could be a model to address some needs at Mount Apatite Park.

Geology experts: Frank Perham, Geologist with 60 years of mining experience and Wood Thompson, State Geologist, Toby Chadbourne, Oxford Gem and Mineral Club

Mount Apatite should remain open to the public because it contributes to the local economy and is considered by many as a national treasure. Other mining and mineral collecting locations are private and require a fee to access.

Geological features of Mount Apatite contain pegmatites, quartz, feldspar, fluorapatite and mica. See Figure 4.7. It was economically feasible to mine for feldspar because there were large pieces of it. There are also pegmatite rocks, some of which are highly enriched like tourmaline. Mineral deposits have historical significance. Some world class specimens from Mount Apatite can be found in museums and private collections around the world.



Figure 4.7 Photo of Fluorapatite found at Mount Apatite; Dan Levesque photo

Periodically opening overgrown or well-mined areas with heavy equipment may bring more interest to the area. Tourmaline is found in Maine and California; and only a handful of locations in Maine have the mineralization of Mount Apatite. Purple tourmaline from Mount Apatite is the most desirable.

Based on the information received during these presentations, the following needs were identified:

- Find alternative to eliminate foot traffic access across heavy equipment training area.
- Deter use of snowmobile trail through the land navigation area.
- Develop wayfinding in the Park.
- Develop wayfinding to get to the Park and authorized access points.
- Develop new maps of trails.
- Eliminate conflict of ballfields access with military access on Mount Apatite Road.
- Discourage use of Mine Road.
- Retain and improve walking access from nearby neighborhoods.
- Consider Androscoggin Land Trust model for signage.
- Keep vehicles out of the Park.
- Avoid or minimize impacts to the trails in a land swap.
- Find a way to deter vandalism in the Park and at the Sno Gypsies building.
- Find a safe / vandal resistant place for a restroom, picnic and camp fire area.
- Periodically refresh the tailings piles to allow more gem finding.

- Assure adequate parking for Auburn Suburban Little League events.
- Complete a fair land swap or relocate ballfields.
- Increase the buffer to the Training Site and Park.
- Increase awareness around the military installation and its training operations, particularly land navigation areas, the engineer training areas and the planned upgrade of the baffled range and associated impacts. See Figure 4.8.



Figure 4.8: Trail crossing installation land leading to Mount Apatite Trails

Auburn JLUS Facebook Page

The JLUS Facebook page, launched in December 2012 and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/AuburnJLUS?fref=ts>. It was promoted on the City website, on study stationery, mailings and in press releases. The Study Team posted information about meetings, public involvement activities such as the survey and the open house and generally used the page to begin raising awareness of the study and how users might be affected. The page received 17 likes and those who visited the page posted information about how they and others use the Park and what they like about it in addition to what they have seen for wildlife there (woodpeckers, red foxes, etc.). Those who posted information about

how Mount Apatite Park was used inspired the JLUS Mount Apatite Park User Survey.

Auburn JLUS Park User Survey

The purpose of the JLUS Park User Survey was to obtain quantitative and qualitative information about who Park users are, how they use the Park and what access points they use. More than 200 people responded to the survey posted on the City's website in late January 2013. It included 10 questions and utilized a Survey Monkey format. In addition to the City's webpage, notice about the availability of the survey were made on the JLUS Facebook page, the Policy Department 'tweet' account and to myriad interest groups that are regularly part of a City email distribution including the Chamber, service clubs and others. The survey stipulated that respondents had to be 18 years old or older.

The first three questions were focused on town of residence, age and gender. The next questions focused on whether users visited on their own or with others and the frequency and seasonality of their visits. The remaining questions asked the purpose of their visits, their primary access point and the mode of transportation they most often used to arrive at the Park. The survey form may be found in the Appendix; a summary of results follows.

- More men than women responded (56.5% male; 43.5% female).
- **The Park is most attractive to people aged 41 and older.** Most respondents were between the ages of 41 and 50 (29.8%) with the next largest group of responders between the ages of 51 and 60 (24.2%). The third and fourth largest group of

responders was aged 31-40 (21.4%) and over 60 (15.3%). The least number of responders were found in the 18-30 year group (9.3%). Because respondents were required to be at least 18 years old, the number of younger users was not solicited.

- **The park is a family resource.** Most people who responded, use the Park with family or friends and a fair number use the Park to walk a pet.
- **Park users return time and again.** Most responders (46%) visit the Park several times a year, about 20% visit weekly, only about 5% indicated they use the Park daily.
- **The park is a year-round resource.** The vast majority of the responders say they use the Park in summer months, but many of those also use the Park in the spring and fall and a fair number say they use the Park in winter.
- **The Park is used for many purposes.** Most responders use the Park for hiking / walking the dog, snowshoeing and skiing. Others use the Park for mountain biking, snowmobiling and watching or playing ball. A few responders indicated they use the Park for mining or for other activities such as bird watching or photography.
- **Most people use Mount Apatite Road to access the recreation area.** A few people use the Small Road and even fewer use the Mine Road.
- **Most people drive to Mount Apatite Road.** Nearly 80% of responders say they drive to Mount Apatite but nearly 13% walk to the Park. Others said they ride bikes or snowmobiles to the Park.

JLUS Open House held May 29, 2013

Community members who provided feedback were split on whether to relocate the ballfields or leave them where they area. In addition, those members who provided comments indicated that they preferred to not reduce the size of the park land by transferring some of it to MEARNG in exchange for the ballfields. Most people who provided comments said they favored exploration of a permanent parking and trail access point from Minot Avenue in the vicinity of the CMP transmission line crossing. A few commented that they would be disappointed if the MEARNG resumed use of the firing range but otherwise were comfortable with the training operations.

Compiling and Conceptualizing the Solutions:

In order to see the needs and potential solutions at a glance, the study team prepared the following set of illustrations. The illustrations show the potential access points, how pedestrians, cyclists and drivers should be accommodated (by sidewalks, shoulders, parking, signage and brochures) and informed as to the authorized access points for the Park. They also show what parcels would be swapped in order to address the issue of the ballfields location on the MEARNG installation and as a result, which segments of trails would be discontinued, relocated or newly made.

The illustrations that follow form the basis for the preliminary recommendations which are outlined in Chapter 5 of the JLUS.

Figure 4.9 identifies the existing (whether authorized or not) access points as well as

alternatives that were explored by the Policy Committee. That figure suggests that in addition to the MEARNG training site access points, other affected property owners should be approached to see whether they have an interest in formalizing the locations where trails currently connect across their properties. In addition, if the property owners have an interest in working with the City, the figure identifies improvements to the land including signage and small to mid-size parking areas. Additional signage locations to help drivers find their way to authorized parking areas would be needed. Those are shown in several locations for illustration only; actual locations should be determined on consultation with traffic management personnel. Finally, Figure 4.9 also suggests locations where sidewalks and / or striped shoulders should be added to improve the safety of park visitors be they pedestrians or bicyclists.

Figure 4.10 identifies the parcels under consideration for a land swap between the Maine Army National Guard and the City of Auburn. The one hatched in dark purple is where the ballfields exist and that parcel is recommended to be transferred to the City unless the City determines that it prefers to relocate these sports fields. If the City chooses to obtain the ballfields, it will likely be required to transfer some of its abutting park land to the MEARNG. It is not certain at this time, whether the Army Corps of Engineers who is appraising the value of the ballfields for a swap will determine that the land swap can occur at a 1:1 ratio or greater. For purposes of discussion, this figure identifies several parcels that might be considered by the City for transfer. Those parcels are identified in a bright green or aqua hatch pattern. The green parcels are

portions of the Park that were acquired by the City without deed restriction.¹

The aqua hatched parcel is made up of 3 parcels that are in private ownership but currently leased to the MEARNG. It is suggested that these should be the highest priority for City acquisition and ultimate transfer to MEARNG.

The portion of MEARNG / DoD land that is highlighted in a solid purple line represents a strip of land along the existing boundary that should be acquired by the City for purposes of creating a multi-use trail to serve all park users as the main trail into Mount Apatite Park.

Figure 4.11 is essentially the same as figure 4.10 except that it shows how the potential land transfers might affect existing trails or how those parcels might affect environmental resources that traverse them.

¹ The City acquired 300 acres in several transactions; one parcel (shown in pale purple hatch on Figure 4.10) was restricted for recreational use, another was deed restricted for public use (shown in pale yellow hatch) and the remainder was left unrestricted (pale green hatch).

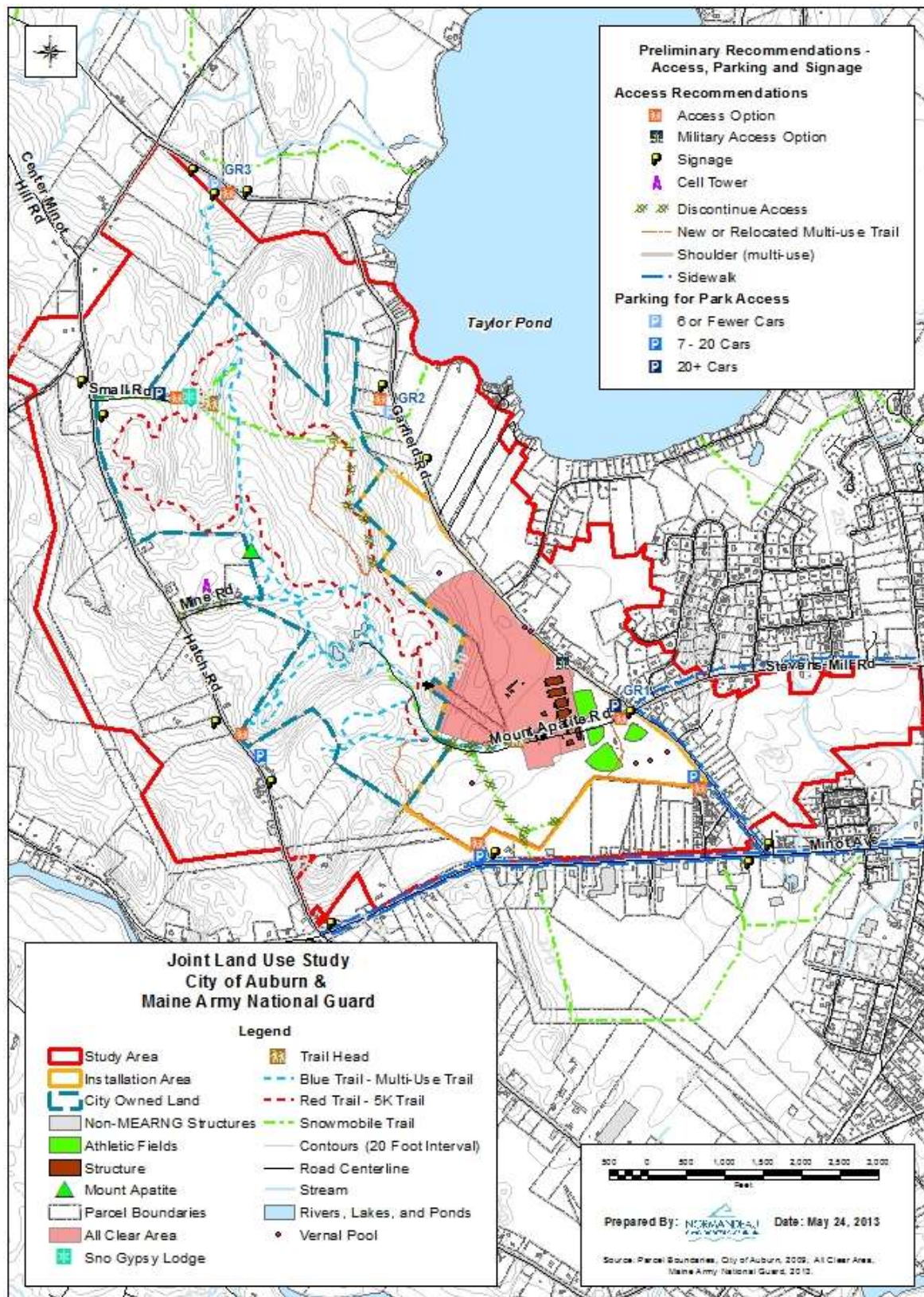


Figure 4.9 Safety: Access, Wayfinding and Parking considerations

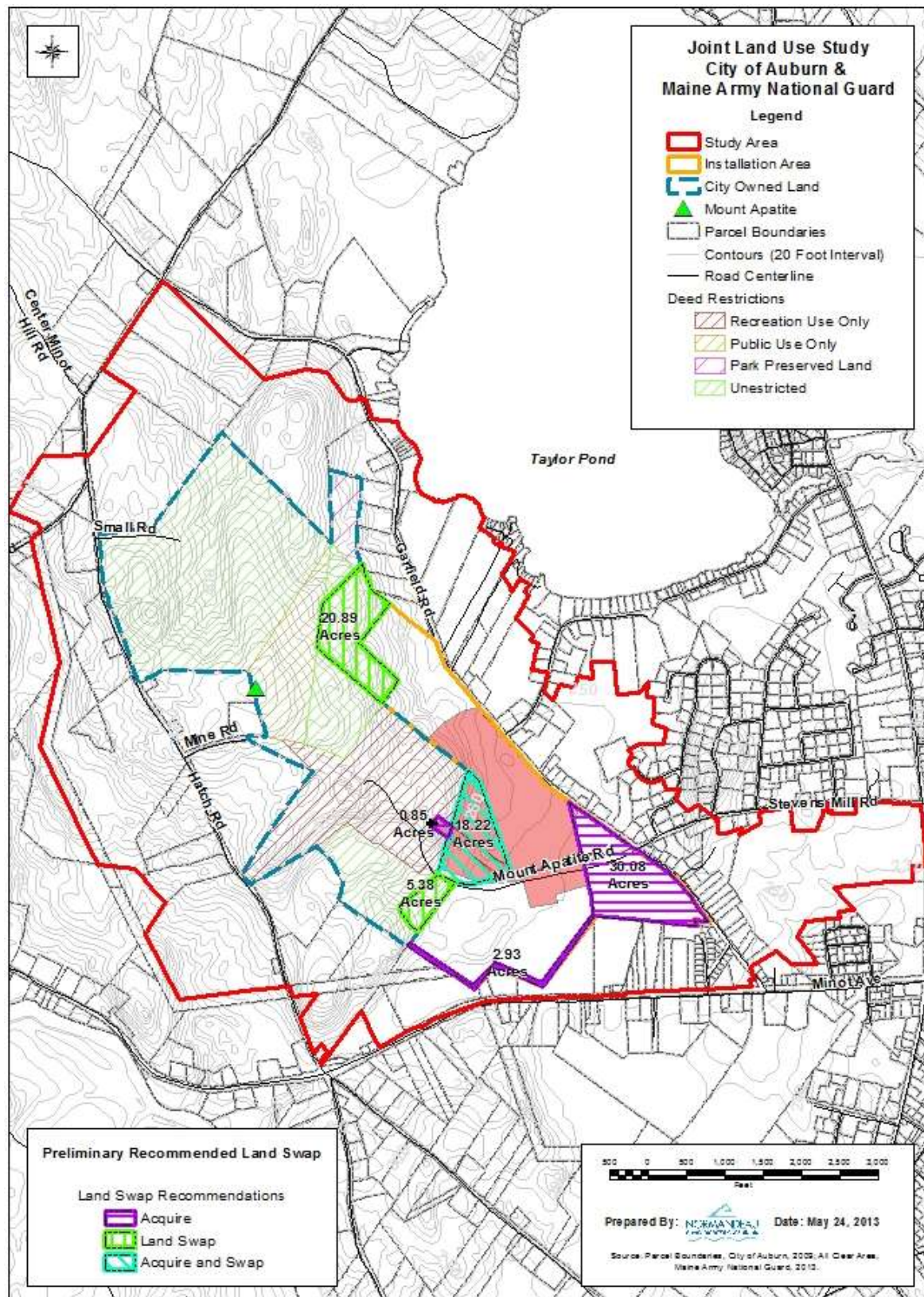


Figure 4.10 BUFFERS: Possible Land Swaps

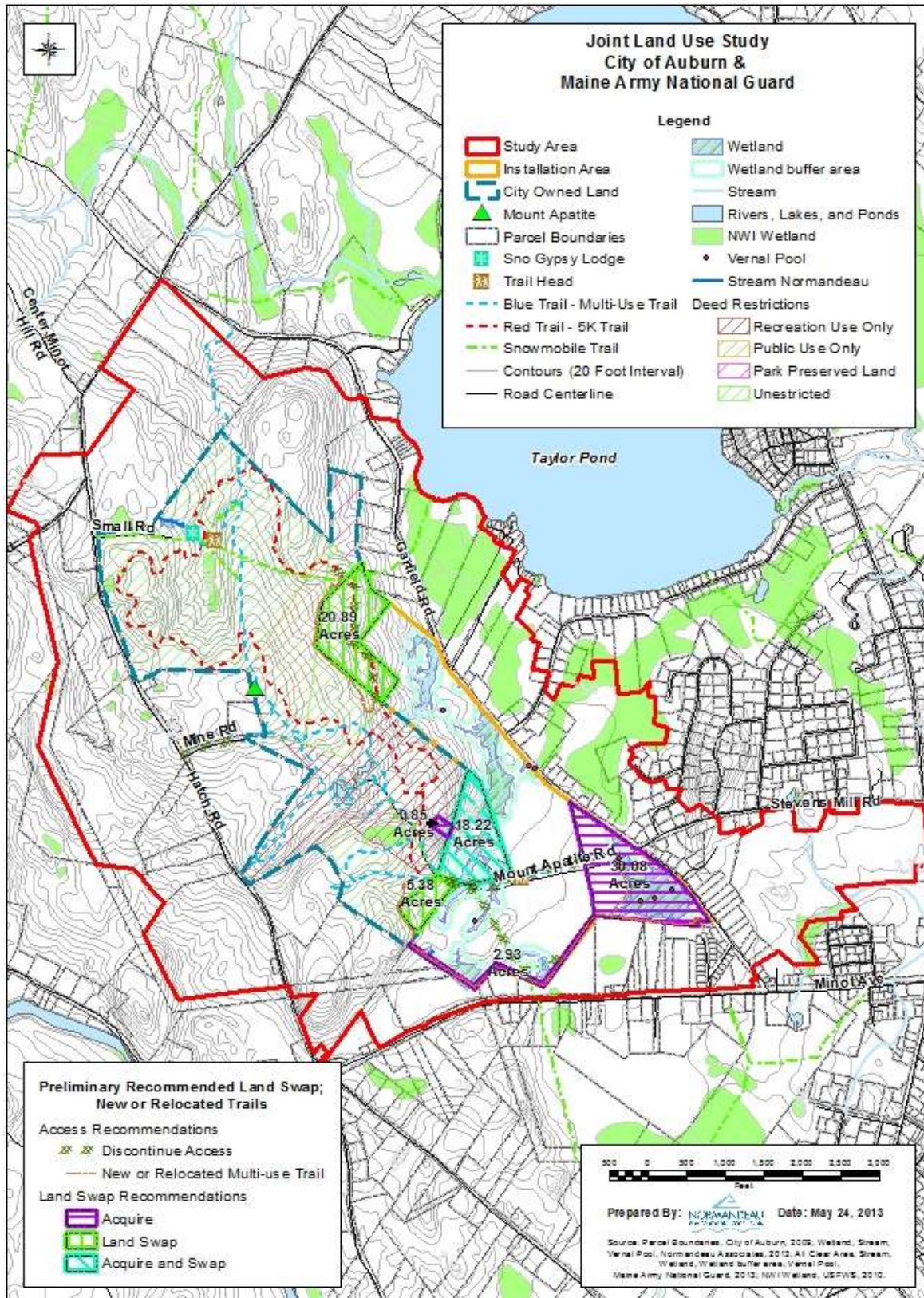


Figure 4.11 BUFFERS: Impact of Land Swaps on Trails, Habitat and Water Resources

As such, if all of the identified land transactions were to occur, the trail impacts would likely be:

- Discontinue
 - existing trail through Engineer training area
 - snowmobile trails through Land Navigation area
 - portion of 5K trail that passes nearest to MEARNG's northwest boundary
 - Mine Road as public access point
- Build new
 - Multi-use trail along MEARNG south boundary for all users and
 - Extend it onto City Park land so that it does not travel over the parcel marked '5.8ac' (which may be transferred to MEARNG)
 - 5K trail just west of existing location on City Park land

discussions with property owners are pending City Council authorization.

Before trail work is done, environmental impacts would need to be assessed.

The Policy Committee also explored the possibility of eventually expanding the park and thereby the buffers between developed land and the MEARNG training site. The Committee, with assistance by study consultants, did so by reviewing all parcels that currently abut the park or across which trails currently pass from or to the Park. The information provided to the Committee considered size, existing use, and land characteristics in terms of buffer land for MEARNG operations or for trail and park access purposes. No determinations were made. As noted, Figure 4.9 shows the parcels affected by existing or potential future access. Only those affected property owners who are on the Policy Committee have been approached to date. Additional

Chapter 5 – A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE - RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended strategies that follow are preliminary. They were derived through the use of good planning principles including data collection, discussion at Policy Committee meetings and with City and MEARNG staff along with input from interest groups as well as responses to a user survey conducted over several months beginning in January 2013.

Not all recommendations will necessarily find their way into the final document. This JLUS focuses on recommendations that have at least some affect on the operational mission of the MEARNG training site. It is also anticipated that additional / optional recommendations not yet identified may be brought up at the upcoming public meetings and events and could be preferred over the ones listed. The discussion that follows includes the category and sub-category of recommendation, an overarching problem statement, possible recommendations and related pros and cons. Once all recommendations are identified, the degree to which a given recommendation affects stakeholders, whether or not it meets JLUS objectives and its implementation priority, will be rated. Impact and priority ratings are defined as follows:

IMPACT:

- H - High = affects community at large and all users of both the training facility and recreation area
- M - Medium = affects community at large and some users of the training facility and recreation area
- L - Low = affects no users of the training facility and some users of the recreation area

PRIORITY:

- Near Term = Implement within 2 years of adoption²
- Mid Term = Implement within 5 years of adoption
- Long Term = Implement 5-10 years from adoption

Recommended strategies have been organized into four categories. Some categories are further divided into sub-categories because they address various somewhat distinct considerations under the broad category heading. The categories include:

- A. SAFETY: Access, Parking, Wayfinding and New or Relocated Trails
- B. BUFFERS: Land Swaps and Future Land or Easement Acquisitions
- C. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE COMPATIBILITY: Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Implications
- D. ONGOING MANAGEMENT: Communications, Friends, Other

A. SAFETY – ACCESS, PARKING AND WAYFINDING AND NEW OR RELOCATED TRAILS

Problem Statement:

Safety concerns are of paramount importance to the City and MEARNG. Based on years of past practice, careful consideration must be given to the several user groups who require access to the training site or Mount Apatite Recreation Area. These users include Army National Guard trainees, residents who walk from nearby neighborhoods to enjoy either the

² These strategies will include a proposed time line in Chapter 6, the Implementation Plan.

recreation trails or the ballfields at the training site entrance. In addition, we must consider those recreators who drive to / along Mount Apatite Road whether they are cyclists, hikers, snowmobilers, skiers, ball players and fans or others who enjoy any number of leisure activities in the Park from rock hunting to bird watching.

Whether driving, riding or walking to Mount Apatite Road, there are numerous opportunities for conflict between recreation and military activities. Mount Apatite Road, a two lane graveled road, dead ends at the training site. It is the only vehicular access to the training site for military vehicles of all types used by the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. At the same time, it is the only access point for Auburn Suburban Little League facilities and the primary access to Mount Apatite Park for residents within walking distance of or who drive from points east. As such, the mix of traffic on Mount Apatite Road from the Garfield Road intersection includes large military and smaller non-military vehicles, foot traffic and non-motorized traffic of all types.

Recreators who wish to access the trails at Mount Apatite Park from this road have two options. They must trespass through the engineer training area or through an unauthorized snowmobile trail south and west of the ballfields on DoD land currently being used for land navigation training by MEARNNG. The primary 'pathway' to the Park is more dangerous than through the snowmobile trail and land navigation training activities are disrupted by those who use the unauthorized snowmobile trail.

Along Garfield Road, the DoD owns roughly 3,600' feet of road frontage; 563' of which

exists south of the Mount Apatite Road intersection. If no access for users of Mount Apatite Park were allowed at Mount Apatite Road, and MEARNNG did not permit access across its road frontage, pedestrians would need to walk from the Stevens Mill Road intersection nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north toward Perkins Ridge / Hatch Road before reaching private land where the landowner has expressed interest in formalizing an existing pathway access into the Park. If walking southerly along Garfield Road, the nearest opportunity beyond the installation would be roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the intersection; no property owner in this area has been approached for providing access to date.

The best, albeit not the most direct or expedient, way to resolve these potential safety conflicts is to separate military from non-military traffic whether motorized or non-motorized. Residents from the Stevens Mill and Garfield Road neighborhoods will continue to expect pedestrian access to Mount Apatite Park in light of their proximity to this long standing recreation resource. At present, neighbors must walk along roads which have no shoulders, sidewalks or crosswalks, exacerbating community safety issues.

Several mountain biking groups currently use the Park; trails are becoming known for their high value in this regard. No bike lanes exist on any approach roads to the Park. Cyclists who drive to the Park currently use Mount Apatite Road or Small Road for access. Because bicycles allow for easy access, cyclists may readily enter the Park at designated or non-designated locations. Mountain biking is fast becoming a popular sport.

Most snowmobilers and skiers who drive to the trails at Mount Apatite Park use the Small Road access point where the Sno Gypsies snowmobile club is located. This is a remote and underused access which has previously been affected by vandalism.

The existing trail heads from Mount Apatite Road meander from DoD to city land. Once on city land, trails do not pass over installation land holdings.

For those recreators wishing to access the Auburn Suburban Little League complex of ballfields, few convenient or affordable options exist. This question is discussed separately under BUFFERS: Land Swap and Future Land or Easement Acquisitions.

Sub-category A.1: Recommended Strategies for Safe Pedestrian Access

1. **Mark MEARNG Installation Boundaries and 'Clear Zone':** This area is one where only military personnel would be permitted to enter; no others may enter unless authorized and / or accompanied by military personnel See Figures 3.11 and 4.1.

- Pros / Cons: This is a benefit to both the military and recreators who use the area. The vast majority of users access the Park from the eastern neighborhoods. Installing and marking the boundaries and the clear zone would raise park user awareness of how the installation interfaces with park property. There is no 'con'.

2. **Temporarily Re-route Pedestrians Once at Installation:** Relocate MEARNG

installation gate from its current location to one that is at the westerly edge of the ballfields and the easterly edge of the CHP facilities. Place a sign / kiosk with a map at the relocated gate directing park users to head in a southerly direction from the south side of Mount Apatite Road to the existing unauthorized snowmobile trail from which the full Mount Apatite Trail System can be accessed. The kiosk map should include Mount Apatite Recreation Area trails, MEARNG and City boundaries and MEARNG clear zones.

- Pros / Cons: This strategy removes pedestrians from the engineering training area but re-routes them into the land navigation area over an unauthorized trail. While this solves the more hazardous conflict, its temporary nature is less than ideal because it will require re-training recreators to another new trail head / system at some point in the future. In addition, overflow parking in front of the CHP facilities would no longer be accessible for ball games.

3. **Permanently Re-route Pedestrians at Mount Apatite Road:** Create a sidewalk, or multi-use shoulder along Garfield Road, or a new trail on DoD land abutting Garfield Road heading toward Minot Avenue to a new multi-use trail head near the south boundary of the MEARNG facility. Once here, a multi-use trail (walking, snowmobiling, skiing, bicycling and related activities) would follow MEARNG's southern boundaries, with an appropriate offset to account for

hydric soils, wetlands, vernal pools and other resources, until it reaches city-owned land that is now part of Mount Apatite Park. This option should consider the merits of a small parking area here versus one near Mount Apatite Road.

- Pros / Cons: This strategy removes pedestrians from Mount Apatite Road and places them either at the edge of the Garfield Road right of way (R / W) or just off the R / W in a strip parallel to the Road on DoD land. This adds 0.2 miles to the walk from Stevens Mill Road to a point where a new trail would direct walkers to Mount Apatite trails. This option would be a permanent solution provided that the City acquires an easement from DoD. The land in this area is somewhat wet and evaluation has determined that a vernal pool could be impacted. While increasing the cost of trail development, boardwalks could be used for walkers and cyclists to traverse the wetland areas. See strategy 7.
- Multi-use trails may create some conflict among users on occasion, but this would be no different than on a highway system where all users must 'share the road'. Once inside the Park, trail types may diverge provided that users stay on marked trails and are discouraged from trespassing onto installation land.
- This option allows reasonable access to the Park from the east

with the least disruption to military installation.

4. Install Crosswalk; Improve Shoulders and Add Sidewalks:

Install a crosswalk at the intersection of Garfield, Stevens Mill and Mount Apatite Roads. Unless sufficient pavement width exists to allow for two travel lanes and two 3-5' shoulders, build and stripe shoulders where sufficient R / W exists beginning at Stevens Mill Road intersection and traveling north along Garfield Road to Hatch Road and down Hatch Road to Minot Avenue. Add a sidewalk on the east side of Garfield Road and on the north side of Stevens Mill Road; stripe a shoulder on the south side. Consider adding sidewalks and shoulders on Minot Avenue to create a 'complete street'³.

- Pros / Cons: Walkability and pedestrian safety are high priorities for the City. Acknowledging this policy demarcates a 'safe walking zone.' This strategy has no effect on increasing the attraction of pedestrians to Mount Apatite Park.
- Making it safer for hikers and cyclists to get to the Park and encouraging their use of the established or official trail network along with clear communication of "off limits" areas would benefit both the City and MEARNG. Redirecting pedestrians and mountain bikes

³ A complete street is one that accommodates all users – private and commercial vehicles as well as public transit, pedestrians, wheel chairs, cyclists and emergency responders.

to approved official trail heads would deter them from trespassing in unauthorized areas. Hikers and mountain bikers would access the Park in the same manner as snowmobilers and other users; if accessed across MEARNG land, all users would be contained within one easement area.

- The crosswalk, in particular, would have a positive impact on the installation because it would alert military drivers of potential recreator activities as they approach or drive away from Mount Apatite Road.

Sub-Category A.2: Recommended Strategies for Safe Vehicular Access and Parking

5. **Mount Apatite Road Recreator Access / Relocated Military Access:** Use Mount Apatite Road for civilian access only; and relocate the MEARNG driveway to the north on MEARNG land where safe site distance exists in both directions.⁴

- Pros / Cons: This change removes military vehicle conflicts with recreator vehicles and presumes the ballfields are transferred to the City. However, moving the military access to a point north of the existing CHP facilities may create engineering and security concerns that make this option

⁴ While natural resources are not likely to present a constraint to such relocation, and turning site distances are adequate, MEARNG has indicated that setbacks from structures are required; this indication was made available on April 4, 2013 and thus the evaluation of this concern is not yet available.

inadvisable for MEARNG; a 108' setback from any portion of the CHP buildings is required for a travel way. A more formal evaluation will be made in terms of setbacks, security, and public cost before a final determination about the feasibility of this strategy can be made.⁵

6. **Mount Apatite Road Civilian Access for Ballfields Only:** Retain ballfields and related access but limit parking to baseball / softball related activities; re-route other users to Small Road or other locations on Garfield Road, Hatch Road or Minot Avenue.

- Pros / Cons: While attempting to limit user access, this strategy would be difficult to enforce. Otherwise it would reduce degree of recreator / military conflict on Mount Apatite Road and at existing trail access points.

7. **Garfield Road Access 1:** Relocate ballfields to a different site⁶, discontinue Mount Apatite Road as a public easement and transfer the fee ownership of the roadway to the DoD for use as a driveway (thus changing its name⁷). This option should consider the creation or retention (by easement or

⁵ The City has agreed to evaluate the sight distance and turning radius; MEARNG has indicated the required setback and mapping has shown that such a new location would be feasible.

⁶ This action is reflected in a policy in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and would negate the need for swapping land for the ballfields but not for the unauthorized trail.

⁷ Even if Mount Apatite Road is not conveyed to the DoD as a driveway, an option is to change its name to reduce its attraction.

transfer) of a parking area nearer the Garfield Road intersection or at the new trail head further south on Garfield Road (see strategy 3) to accommodate Park visitors who must drive to the Park from eastern locations not close enough for walking. This option could be designed to require non-military vehicles to pull off Garfield Road at a new driveway without entering Mount Apatite Road provided that wetland impacts are minimized.

- Pros / Cons: This strategy eliminates recreation and military conflict both from the ballfields and pedestrian traffic through the training site. There is a cost involved which has yet to be quantified and this solution would continue to depend on the use of some portion of DoD land for access to the multi-use path described in item 3.

8. **Garfield Road Access 2 (@ Little Property):** Increase use of a currently informal trail head by providing signs and creating a small (up to six vehicles) parking lot and formalizing trail connections into the Park north of the MEARNG installation.

- Pros / Cons: Evaluation TBD (Site distance; topography; land owner agreement needed; cost). This option could be in addition to or in lieu of access across the edges of MEARNG land; as such, it does add roughly ¾ mile from Stevens Mill Road for those who access on foot.

9. **Garfield Road Access 3 (@ informal trail heads near Perkins Ridge / Hatch Road Intersection):** A snowmobile trail terminates on Garfield Road in this area.

- Pros / Cons: Evaluation TBD (Site distance; Topography; Land owner agreement needed; Cost)

10. **Small Road Access:** Through a wayfinding sign system direct all private vehicles who wish to access Mount Apatite Park to the Small Road at the snowmobile club to access Mount Apatite Park. (This includes hikers, snowmobilers, skiers, mountain cyclists etc.). Improve parking lot at Small Road.

- Pros / Cons: This option removes recreator vehicles from conflict with military vehicles on Mount Apatite Road but would require citizens from all points to drive an additional distance to access the Park and the City would need to improve Small Road and the parking area which are currently unpaved.
- The parking area on Small Road at the Sno Gypsies snowmobile club is substandard and would require re-design and construction. It is possible that MEARNG could provide assistance with improving the roadway and parking area to offset some of the cost. From a hiking / skiing perspective, the distance from the parking lot to the quarries is roughly equivalent to the current pathway. The drive / walk from points east is greatly increased.

11. **Deter Vandalism:** Monitor increased activity to see if it has an impact on vandalism and if necessary install web cams at the Snow Gypsies snowmobile club to deter vandalism.

- Pros / Cons: Once increased activity occurs at the site, the likelihood of vandalism will decrease. If vandalism continues, the cost to install and maintain / protect web cams would need to be assessed.

12. **Mine Road Access:** This access should be discontinued due to unsafe sight distance. If adjacent land were to be acquired by the City, should it become available, a relocated access may be considered at that time. Alternatively, a way to minimize a user's tendency to access the Park at this location would be to rename the road or discontinue it as a public street.

- Pros / Cons: This strategy is important because the site distance to the north from this Road is well below standard and would be considered unsafe. The Road serves four abutting property owners at this time; access to two residences, one that abuts Mine Road, but uses Hatch Road for access, and one that provides access for a communications tower. Discontinuing the street or changing its name will have minimal impact on abutters as those with larger land holdings have direct access from Hatch Road.

13. **Hatch Road Access:** Explore the potential of constructing a small parking area near the existing trail head that exists south of Mine Road. This area would likely be used predominantly by those who desire direct access to the quarries for mining purposes. This option may require obtaining an easement from an abutting property owner in order to construct an adequately sized parking area with safe entrance and exit⁸.

- Pros / Cons: This option moves vehicular access away from Mount Apatite Road and would require a willing property owner's cooperation. It is possible that an existing owner may find mutual benefit in this option, but no formal conversations have occurred to date. Topography at this trail head is challenging and parking on the roadway at this location is unsafe due to a horizontal curve affecting sight distance in both directions. Any off-street parking would need to access the parcel north or south of the trail head at a safe location and would require some amount of level land to manage drainage, erosion etc. Constructability and estimated cost have yet to be outlined.

14. **Minot Avenue Access:** Explore whether Minot Avenue land owners near the power transmission line crossing would

⁸ A private property owner abutting City land on Hatch Road has proposed partnering with the City to provide parking and other limited accommodations for recreators and miners to access the Park from her land in exchange for mining rights.

allow a parking area to be constructed for Park users. This option would include pursuing discussions with Central Maine Power to co-locate the snowmobile trail and hiking trails at a point where they could enter the Park; some encroachment on the southwesterly DoD boundary may be required and would necessitate an easement.

- Pros / Cons: Such an access option is not likely to be attractive to business or utility owners due to encroachment and use of high value property (with access to utilities) by recreators who may not have a need for associated business activities. But this strategy does reduce dependence on military land for access to the Park. Conversations with affected land owners and cost have not been evaluated to date. In such a scenario, economic development options may also be possible. For example, a bike shop could open near the trail head. Another possible 'con' is the creation of a new access point on a high-speed transportation corridor; any new access point creates another friction point and increases the opportunity for collisions.

Sub-Category A.3: Wayfinding

15. **Internal Wayfinding:** Create a wayfinding signage system within the Park modeled after the Androscoggin Land Trust signage system that includes a main entrance kiosk and large map of the Park and its related official access

points highlighting the preferred main access point for the Park, the MEARNG installation and its 'clear zones'. The kiosk should include a donation box and small trail maps to guide access and use of the trails. The wayfinding system should also include a consistent system of trail blazes on trees, boulders and other land marks that clearly depict which trail a user is on in order to avoid confusion and to minimize 'short cutting' across MEARNG land.

- Pros / Cons: Wayfinding is critical to assuring that park users understand where to go (or not go) and, once there, how to use the Park for their own safety and so that MEARNG's installation is not impacted. These systems minimize short cutting. There is a cost to developing and maintaining this system of signs but cost is outweighed by the value of directing users away from installation land.

16. **External Wayfinding:** Install official business directional signs or a similar Auburn-based system, on roadways surrounding the Park to guide travelers to approved / official access points.

- Pros / Cons: Many people indicate that they have had difficulty finding the Park and its optional access points. This puts pressure on Mount Apatite Road where conflict with MEARNG operations is potentially most severe. Wayfinding systems on the highway network require a different standard of size, construction, installation and

maintenance than such systems within a park network. Decisions need to be made as to where the signs should be installed, at which point the number of signs can be determined as well as an estimated cost. (Sample locations have been identified but these may not be the optimal ones.)

17. **Provide Wayfinding Map on City Website and in Brochure:** Post the park system and MEARNG installation map clearly showing related access points on the City (and other) web site(s). Create a brochure with a map that identifies enforceable park rules, trail systems and MEARNG installation boundaries, along with their respective histories / purposes, and distribute widely through the City Recreation Office, Suburban Little League, Sno Gypsies snowmobile club and other sources.

- Pros / Cons: This is good public service and would help to avoid problems at Mount Apatite Road for those who are unfamiliar with the new access system. This would benefit the military as it would minimize users' tendency to look for access through Mount Apatite Road.

Sub-Category A.4: New or Relocated Trails

18. **Adjust or Move Trail Locations with Respect to Installation Boundary:** Review existing trail locations and adjust to provide adequate clear zones and buffers relative to installation boundaries. The three existing trails that are most likely to be affected are

the segment from Mount Apatite Road through the engineer training area into the Park, the unauthorized snowmobile trail south and west of the ballfields and the portion of the 5K loop that is closest to the installation boundary.

- Pros / Cons: Relocating two of the three trails is discussed in strategies 3 and 7. The third trail (i.e. the portion of the 5K trail nearest the installation boundary) will require relocation only if the City and DoD enter into an agreement to swap land in that area. See Category B.

B. BUFFERS – LAND SWAPS AND FUTURE FEE OR EASEMENT ACQUISITION:

Problem Statement:

The installation consists of 176 acres, including 16 acres of leased land abutting city park land. This is substandard for the type of training undertaken at the site when the average MEARNG training site is 331 acres. An ideal training site size for the type of operations conducted in Auburn is 650 acres. Of those 176 installation acres, roughly 28 acres are unavailable for military use because they are being used by the City and Auburn Suburban Little League as ballfields. When they were built, it was the City's intent to replace the installation's lost land. Due to environmental issues affecting the ballfields, the land swap did not occur. Non-military facilities exist on DoD land without legal authorization.

The City owns roughly 300 acres known as Mount Apatite Park. Of those acres nearly 79 acres are deed restricted for recreation use only. An additional nearly 31 acres are

restricted for public purposes only and the balance of the acreage has no restrictions. See Figure 4. 10.

Completing a land swap to satisfy DoD real estate criteria may require a greater than 1:1 ratio based on appraisals. MEARNG has requested a real estate review by the DoD's Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) which is expected to be completed by mid-summer. In addition, private land that exists at the periphery of the City Park has been evaluated for its current use and suitability for potential future growth. In order to expand buffers around the installation and manage growth the City may wish to consider key acquisitions around the Mount Apatite Recreation Area.

Sub-Category B. 1: Recommended Strategies for Land Swaps

19. Land Swap - Option 1: The City and MEARNG should pursue the land swap discussion with the USACOE which serves as the real estate agent for the DoD. Priority parcels for MEARNG include those that are currently being leased by them in addition to 'Park Parcels' that are NOT restricted to Recreation Use only.

- Pros / Cons: MEARNG installation size is well below standard for operational utility. There is no license or agreement allowing the City / ASLL to occupy the area of the ballfields. Ballfield use has exacerbated conflicts for the training site. If the ballfields are transferred to the City, the USACOE will require other land to fill the gap; the ratio of transfer is not known to date.

20. Relocate Ballfields - Option 2: The City should conduct an assessment of the cost to relocate the ballfields so that a land swap is not necessary. As such the ballfields could be freed up for MEARNG use. If this option is pursued, the City and MEARNG should consider negotiating for a small parking area with a separate access point on Garfield near a new relocated trail head. See strategy 7.

- Pros / Cons: Relocating the ballfields would be consistent with city policy to consolidate all athletic fields. Opting for this approach would greatly reduce the impact on MEARNG operations – except in consideration of a parking lot and trail easement described in strategies 3 and 7 – and allow the Park to remain intact as no (or less) land within the current Park would need to be transferred to MEARNG. The con to this is that the military may find that this portion of its installation is less valuable for training purposes because of its proximity to the road, developed properties and possible infringement of a parking lot and trail at the edge of MEARNG land.

Sub-Category B. 2: Recommended Strategies for Increasing the Compatible Use Buffer between MEARNG and Adjacent Land Uses:

MEARNG is a 'good neighbor' to Mount Apatite Park. However, as the City grows, the City and Army National Guard want to

assure that neither facility is negatively impacted by future development conflicts.

21. Restrict for 'Recreational Use Only' any Currently Unrestricted City Land Within the Park:

- Pros / Cons: While deed restrictions may be removed by a court of law, the intent of the City should be clear. Such an act would also discourage future decision makers from selling off land for development, thus negatively affecting the operational utility of the installation and further affecting the Park.

22. Explore the Feasibility of Purchasing Additional Land at the Borders of the Park and MEARNG:

- Pros / Cons: Strategic acquisition of abutting land would increase the compatible use buffer adjacent to the MEARNG installation and discourage encroachment by recreator activities. At the same time, the additional land would increase the size of the Park and would offset lost land that may be required in a land swap discussed in strategy 20. The federal government has a grant program that may be helpful in assisting with costs associated with increasing compatible use buffers adjacent to military installations.

23. Obtain Right of First Refusal for Key Parcels that Abut the Park: Once

acquired, restrict them to conservation or recreational use.

- Pros / Cons: This recommendation goes hand in hand with strategy 22 and would allow the City to consider such purchases over time. Once privately owned parcels for which the City has a right of first refusal are ready for market, the City would have to decide whether the time is right or whether that particular parcel represents the highest and best option for expanding the Park and related buffers to the military operation. If the City decides not to pursue acquisition at that time, the parcel would be placed on the open market and could be developed for any purpose allowed by city policy or ordinance.

C. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE COMPATIBILITY – COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND ZONING IMPLICATIONS

Problem Statement: Current zoning is fairly restrictive; future land use plans maintain that restriction. A substantial portion of the undeveloped land in the area is affected by wetlands and phosphorous management rules affecting development in the Taylor Pond watershed would also limit the intensity of future development.

Sub-Category C.1: Recommended Strategies for Minimizing Future Land Use Conflicts Between MEARNG and Abutting Lands

24. Option 1: Adopt a policy that creates a military operations overlay zone:

- Pros / Cons: MEARNG has had a presence as a major landowner in this area since 1926 making it a long term and unique land use in the community. A military overlay zone would alert prospective land owners of the installation's presence and avoid or minimize future "not in my backyard" or NIMBY reactions to ongoing and future military operations.

25. Option 2: Amend the 2010 Comprehensive Plan: Amend the Plan to include information about the MEARNG facilities in the inventory section, incorporate the JLUS and its recommendations, and re-name the relevant Future Land Use area (from *Conservation / Open Space*) to *Public Use and Conservation / Open Space*

- Pros / Cons: This strategy acknowledges the presence of the military installation as well as the Park and thus provides a more accurate understanding and treatment of the area. Amending the Plan would make the JLUS formal city policy authorizing City and MEARNG staff to begin its implementation including development of relevant ordinance amendments.

D. ONGOING MANAGEMENT – COMMUNICATIONS, FRIENDS AND OTHER

Problem Statement: Except through this JLUS process there has been no formal mechanism for City and MEARNG personnel to collaborate and solve problems or to bring interest groups together with the City and Army National Guard to discuss conflicts involving use of both facilities. Without such a mechanism the ability to create an aggressive awareness and outreach program is hampered. In addition, Mount Apatite Park has little to no capital improvement program or maintenance budget. Many public recreation areas have non-profit organizations to assist with fund raising and management activities.

Sub-Category D.1: Recommended Strategies to Improve Coordination and Communication Between City and MEARNG

26. Develop emergency access and response protocol between City and MEARNG:

- Pros / Cons: In the event of an emergency at the installation or within the Park, there may be a need for emergency personnel to access the Park in a way that impacts the installation and vice versa. Creating a communications and access protocol for such potential events would allow for more efficient and effective response by both the City and MEARNG.

27. The City and MEARNG should meet at least quarterly to discuss progress on implementing the JLUS or other issues / concerns that may arise:

- Pros / Cons: These meetings could ensure that progress is

maintained in implementing the Plan and could provide a venue that promotes increased awareness of MEARNG and city operations or policy discussions affecting the area.

28. MEARNG and the City should collaborate to undertake an aggressive public awareness and outreach program: The program would emphasize engineer and infantry training as well as anticipated noise from military small arms activities in proximity to residential, recreational and commercial activity centers.

- Pros / Cons: The quarterly meetings could ensure that actions to promote the increased awareness of MEARNG and city operations are addressed as they arise. This could be a standing item on the quarterly meeting agendas.

29. Except as may be affected by operational security regulations, MEARNG should communicate with the City when it intends to undertake physical improvements, planning efforts (such as the Integrated Cultural Resources Plan) or major changes in operations at the facility:

- Pros / Cons: This strategy would provide an opportunity for the City to obtain a full understanding of the potential impacts those improvements or planning efforts may have on the adjacent Park and surrounding area. Once impacts have been understood, the City could work

with MEARNG to communicate possible changes to the public.

30. The City should inform MEARNG whenever planning efforts are undertaken that may affect operations at the training facility:

- Pros / Cons: This would provide MEARNG an opportunity to obtain a full understanding of the potential impacts those planning and development efforts may have on the installation. Once impacts are understood, MEARNG could work with the City to solve problems and avoid unreasonable impact on the operations of the installation.

31. At least once annually, the City and MEARNG should bring interest groups together for a briefing session on changes by any party and to hear concerns or needs:

- Pros / Cons: This strategy would provide a good neighbor approach to meeting with affected parties informally or formally to solve problems and promote agreed upon changes.

32. The City should create an implementation committee or assign to an existing committee the charge of overseeing implementation of the JLUS:

- Pros / Cons: Such a committee would be made up of citizens with MEARNG and city representatives where the JLUS is the focus and all parties are

working together to implement it.

37. Replace signage around the quarries to alert recreators of potential hazards.

Sub-Category D.2: Recommended Strategies for Implementing the JLUS:

33. The City should pursue grant opportunities to assist with implementing the JLUS:

- Pros / Cons: Grants are one way to assist with funding capital improvements outlined in the JLUS. However, grant applications require personnel to write and administer an application; once a grant is received, Grant management is required, but this is comparable to the City allocating resources to undertake a project.

34. The City should explore creating a “Friends” group or collaborate with existing non-profit groups with an interest in Mount Apatite Park:

- Such groups could assist with fund raising for maintenance and capital needs especially around relocated trails, trail and wayfinding signage and on and off-site maintenance.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS with less direct effect on MEARNG installation:

35. Pursue ATRC funding for improving HCL at Garfield and Minot

36. Review mining rules and amend as needed to respond to public desires for more mineral finding opportunities

Chapter 6 – Roles and Responsibilities - Implementation Plan

This chapter will be completed after the public input process beginning June 25 and ending July 26, 2013.

APPENDICES

- A. Link to Auburn JLUS Natural Resources Report
- B. Mount Apatite Park User Survey
- C. Community Attitudes about MEARNG Survey (Pending)
- D. Decibel levels of common sounds
- E. Summary of Public Comments
 - D.1 Open House
 - D.2 Public Forum
 - D.3 Comments or questions from interested citizens

APPENDIX A – NATURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Full Report available at

<http://www.auburnmaine.gov/Pages/Government/Auburn-Maine-Joint-Land-Use-Study>

APPENDIX B – PARK USAGE SURVEY QUESTIONS FOR AUBURN JLUS – JANUARY 2013

The Policy Committee for the Auburn Joint Land Use Study is exploring ways to improve the effectiveness of both the Maine Army National Guard Training Facility and the Mount Apatite Park Areas (i.e. ball fields, trails and quarry sites). The Committee wants to understand who uses the Mount Apatite Park Areas and for what purpose(s) as well how park users travel to and enter the area. This short 10-question survey is designed to help the Committee and Study Team gain some insights into these questions. **If you are 18 years old or older**, please take a few minutes to respond to this survey:

1. Where do you live? (street / neighborhood and Town) _____
2. Are you?
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
3. Are you?
 - a. Between 18 and 30 years old,
 - b. Between 31 and 40 years old,
 - c. Between 41 and 50 years old,
 - d. Between 51 and 60 years old,
 - e. 61 years old or older
4. When you use the park, are you
 - a. Alone (including with a pet)
 - b. With family
 - c. With friends
 - d. With Others
 - e. All of the above
5. How often do you visit the Mt. Apatite Recreation Area? choose one:
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. Monthly
 - d. Several times per year
 - e. Only visited once or twice
 - f. Never
6. Do your visits occur predominantly in the (choose one)
 - a. Spring (March 21 – June 20)?
 - b. Summer (June 21 - September 20)?
 - c. Fall (September 21 – December 20)?
 - d. Winter (December 21 – March 20)?
 - e. Year Round
7. What are your purpose(s) for using the Mt. Apatite Area? (choose ALL that apply)
 - a. Hiking
 - b. Biking
 - c. Snowmobiling
 - d. Skiing/Snowshoeing
 - e. Mining
 - f. Walking the dog(s)
 - g. Playing ball or watching ball games
 - h. Other (please specify) _____

8. From what access point do you most often enter the Mt. Apatite Area?
- a. Mount Apatite Road
 - b. Mine Road
 - c. Small Road
 - d. Other (please specify) _____
9. How do you usually get to the Mt. Apatite Area?
- a. Walk
 - b. Passenger vehicle
 - c. Bicycle
 - d. Snowmobile
 - e. Other (please specify) _____
10. How did you become aware of this survey?
- a. Thru the Newspaper
 - b. Thru Radio / TV Public Service Announcement
 - c. Thru City notice
 - d. Thru Chamber, Service Club or other Private Club / Organization (Please identify)

Additional

Comment:

Provide Email address if you wish to be included in a **drawing for a \$50 gift certificate** to an eatery in Auburn. (Two drawings will be held – one on May 1, 2013, the other on August 1, 2013). Only one entry per email address, please. Enter email address here: _____

APPENDIX C – COMMUNITY ATTITUDES REGARDING MEARNG SURVEY – PENDING

APPENDIX D: Decibel levels of common sounds – Source: Internet

Painful Acoustic Trauma	140	Shotgun blast
	130	Jet engine 100 feet away
	120	Rock concert
Extremely Loud	110	Car horn, snowblower
	100	Blow dryer, subway, helicopter, chainsaw
	90	Motorcycle, lawn mower, convertible ride on highway
Very Loud	80	Factory, noisy restaurant, vacuum, screaming child
Loud	70	Car, alarm clock, city traffic
	60	Conversation, dishwasher
Moderate	50	Moderate rainfall
Faint	40	Refrigerator
	30	Whisper, library
	20	Watch ticking
	dB levels	

APPENDIX E– SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

E.1 Comments from public open house held May 29, 2013

E.2 Comments from public forum held June 25, 2013

E.3 Comments or questions from interested citizens

Name	Resident of	Summary of comment