

**Town of Lincoln/Lincoln Land Trust
Open Space Ranking Point System
Explanation of Terms**

Number of points awarded – Each parcel of land will be ranked using the eight listed criteria. Within each of these eight criteria, the parcel of land in consideration will be given a point value ranging from zero (0) to three (3).

Criteria

1. Size of parcel – The total square footage or acreage of parcel being considered. This will be determined from either the deed or the plat card.
2. Groundwater protection – Designations are based on data from RIDEM, division of water resources, and data from the Town of Lincoln Comprehensive Plan 2003 (See page NC-7). Groundwater quality is classified by the state as: (highest to lowest) GAA, GA, GB, GC.
 - A. Little impact/low quality – Parcel is located away from a designated recharge area, or located within a classification area of GB or GC.
 - B. Recharge area – Parcel is located within a groundwater recharge area. A recharge area is an area of land in which levels of groundwater can be renewed by rain, underground springs, or surface water. Groundwater in area is rated GAA or GA.
 - C. Near wellhead – Parcel of land is within 2 miles of a wellhead protection area. Groundwater in area is rated GAA or GA.
 - D. Groundwater or wellhead present – Parcel of land has groundwater present, or is within the town designated boundaries of a well head protection area. Groundwater is rated GAA or GA.
3. Proximity to protected land or surface water bodies – Point value in this category is awarded based on parcels proximity to other protected land in Lincoln. Protected land is land that is protected from further development. Protected land can be town, state or privately owned. Proximity to surface water bodies including but not limited to: Blackstone River, Moshassuck River, Olney Pond, Handy Pond, Scott Pond, Barney Pond, Town Line Swamp, and Lonsdale Swamp.
4. Ecologically Significant Habitat
 - E. Degraded Habitat – Habitat which has destroyed or disturbed by development, excavation or pollution.
 - F. Average Habitat – Habitat which is typical of the area, and is capable of supporting typical ecological and biological communities (normally found plant and animal species) of Rhode Island.
 - G. Above Average Habitat – Habitat which is or has remained primarily untouched and sees infrequent human use. This habitat may contain

species which have been identified as “Species of Concern” by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program (RINHP) (See Comprehensive Plan page NC-10).

- H. Prime Habitat – Habitat which has been identified by the RINHP as a unique site which contains and is capable of supporting species identified by the RINHP as being listed as state or federally rare, threatened or endangered.
5. Farmland Preservation – Point value in this category is based on whether or not the parcel in question is an active, inactive (former) farm or not. An active farm is property that is currently being used to raise crops and or livestock. (Refer to Figure L – Cultural and natural resources, comprehensive plan.)
 6. Number of housing units – Calculations based on maximum number of residential dwelling units permitted by current zoning laws for that particular parcel. When determining the number of housing units, subtract 10% of the total square footage of the land to allow for public infrastructure such as roads and detention basins. Refer to the zoning and subdivision regulations.
 7. Historic Value – Considerations in this category will include but not be limited to historic features such as: stone walls, historic buildings, cemeteries, archaeological sites. These criteria would be applied in regard to how close the parcel in question is to any of these features. Further advice could be obtained from Blackstone Valley Historical Society or the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission.
 - A. No value – Land which has been recently developed or disturbed so as to minimize or destroy any historic value.
 - B. Low value – Land which may abut property which has been identified as being of medium value. Land which would have only one of the designated historical criteria.
 - C. Medium value – Land which contains at least two of the designated historical features. Land which has been designated as having historic, cultural or archeological significance as documented in any state guide plan or report.
 - D. High value – Land which contains three or more of the designated historic features. Land which abuts any town owned historical structure, i.e.: those mentioned in pages NC-12 through NC-16 of the comprehensive plan. Land which falls within a state or federally designated historic district (Figure L).
 8. Rural character/scenic value – This category will consider the aesthetic value of property proposed for protection. Also how the property contributes to the preservation of the rural character of the town. Higher point values will be assigned to properties that are near or adjacent to state designated scenic landscapes or scenic roads (Figure L).

