

# Stone Meadows Farm



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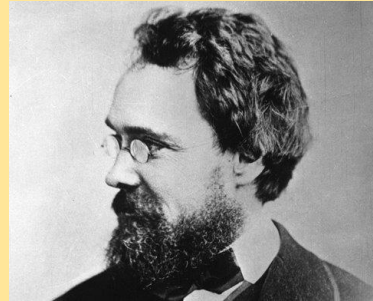


# New York 1850's

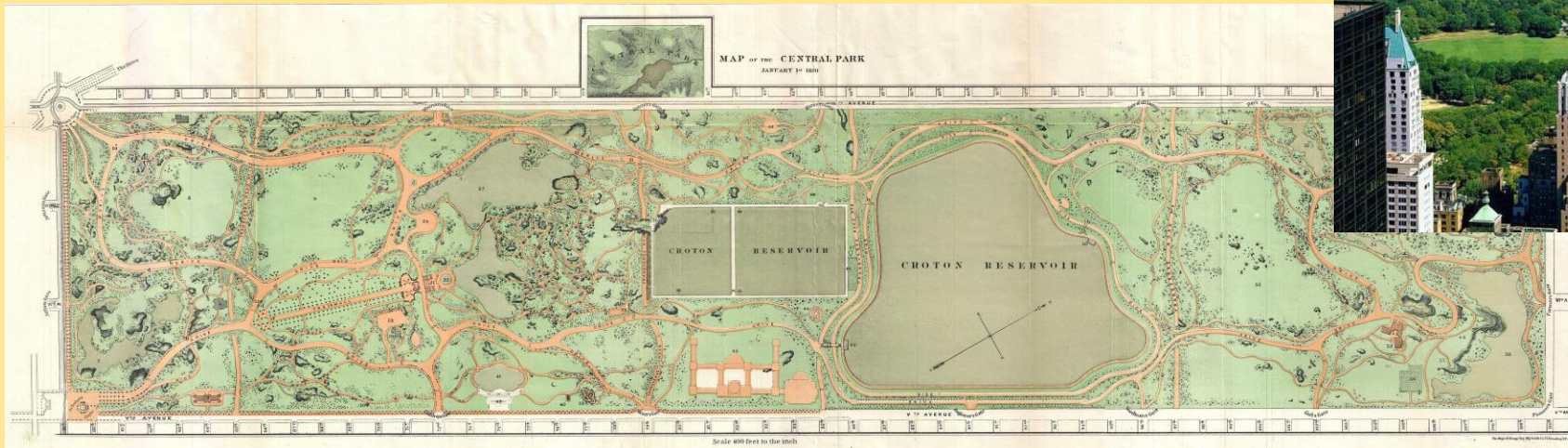
July 21, 1853 New York State legislature set aside 750 acres in Manhattan for creation of **Central Park**

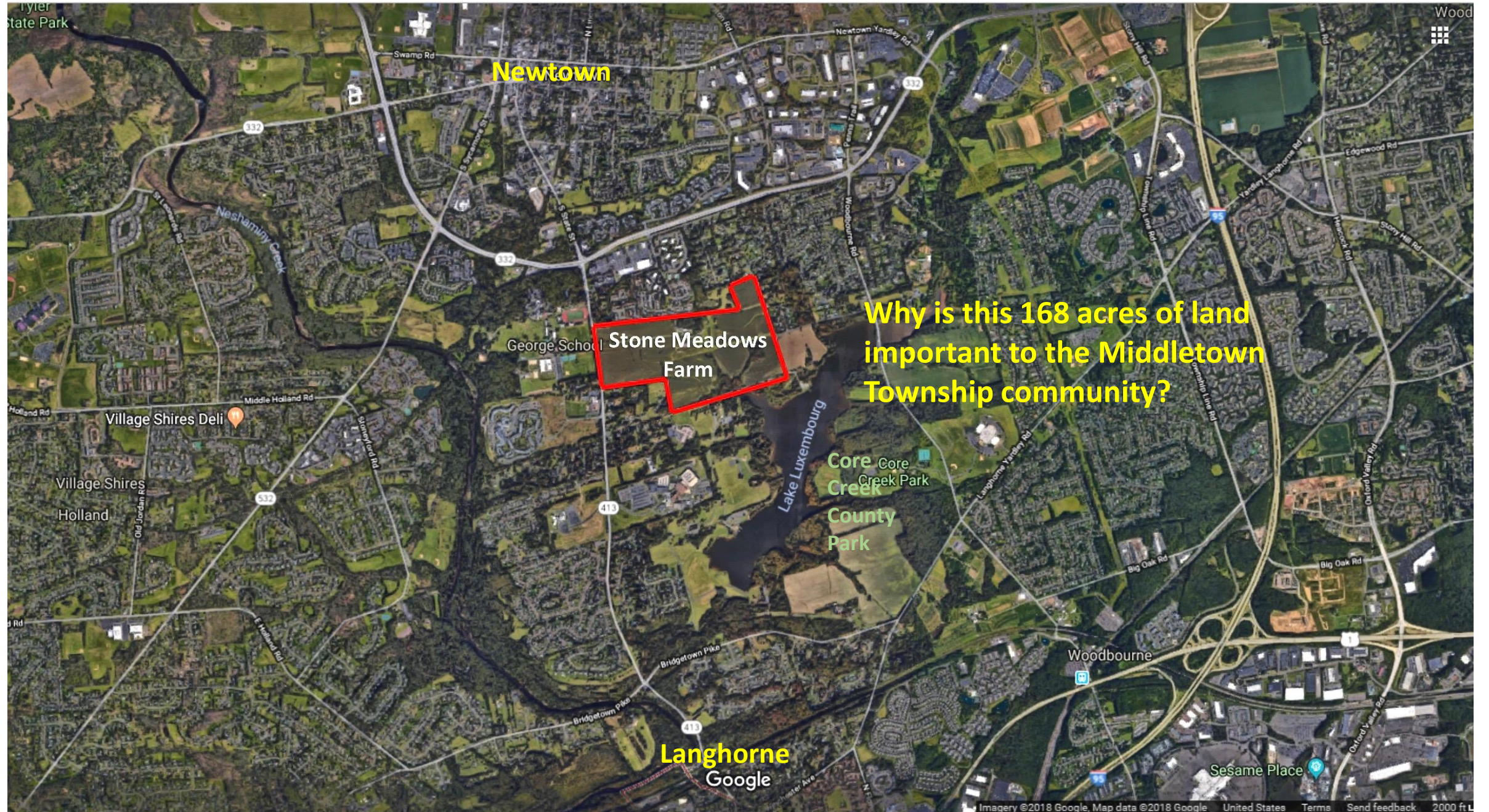
**Frederick Law Olmsted**

**Calvert Vaux**



**“landscape architects” won design contest 1858 for nation’s 1<sup>st</sup> landscaped park**





Newtown

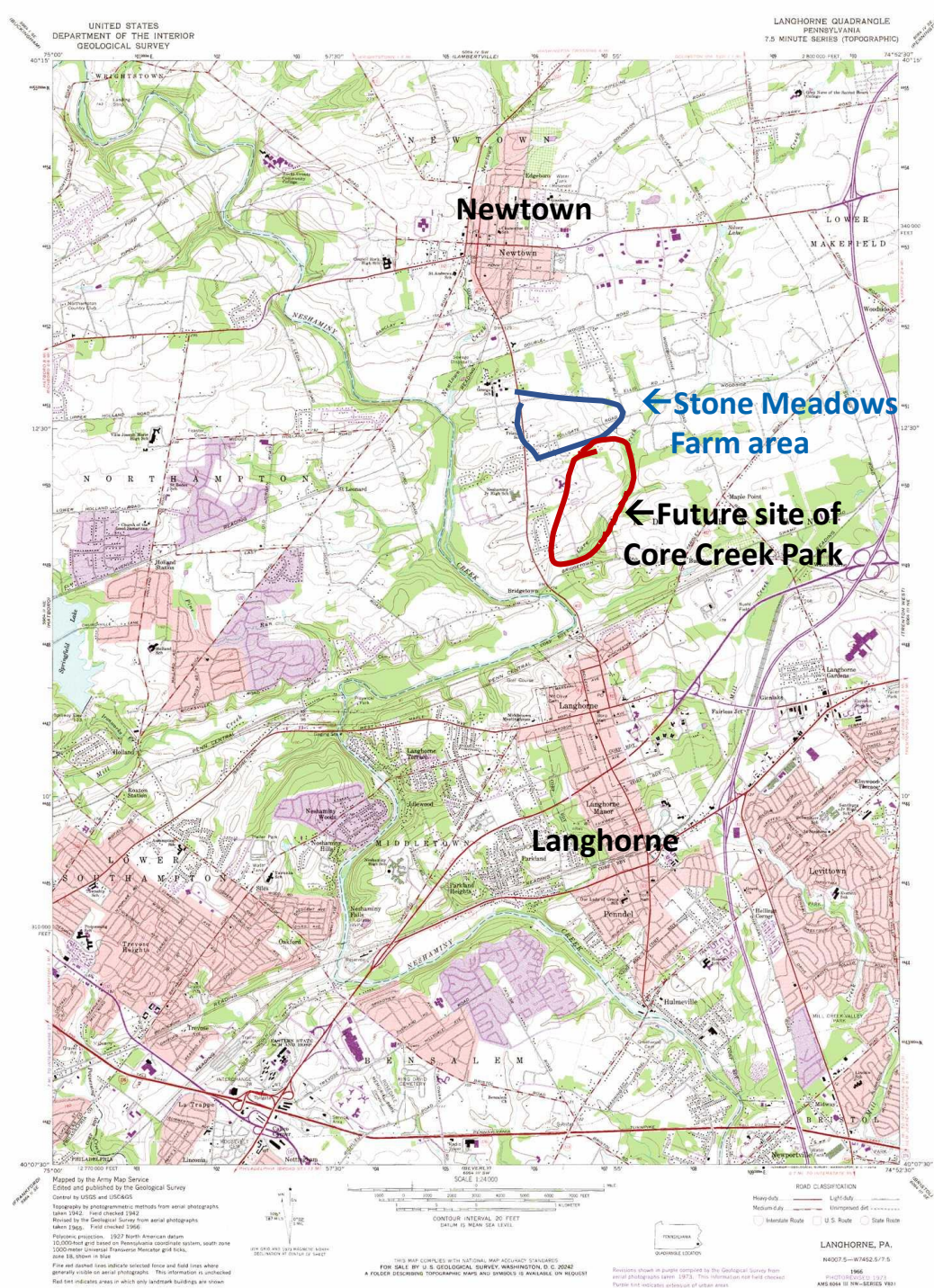
Stone Meadows Farm

Why is this 168 acres of land important to the Middletown Township community?

Core Creek Park  
County Park

Langhorne  
Google





# USGS Topographic Map Langhorne Quadrangle

1966

## LAND USE:

**WHITE** - open areas/agriculture/some residential development

**GREEN** - forested

**RED/PURPLE** – high density residential, commercial & industrial development



**1800's Central Park project was basis for term "OPEN SPACE"....as it applies to modern-day land management.**

USLegal.com - Open Space Law & legal Definition

**OPEN SPACE** generally refers to an undeveloped land or water area.

Specific definitions vary by jurisdiction, so local laws should be consulted for applicable requirements. The following is an example of a local law dealing with open space land:

**OPEN SPACE LAND** is defined as either:

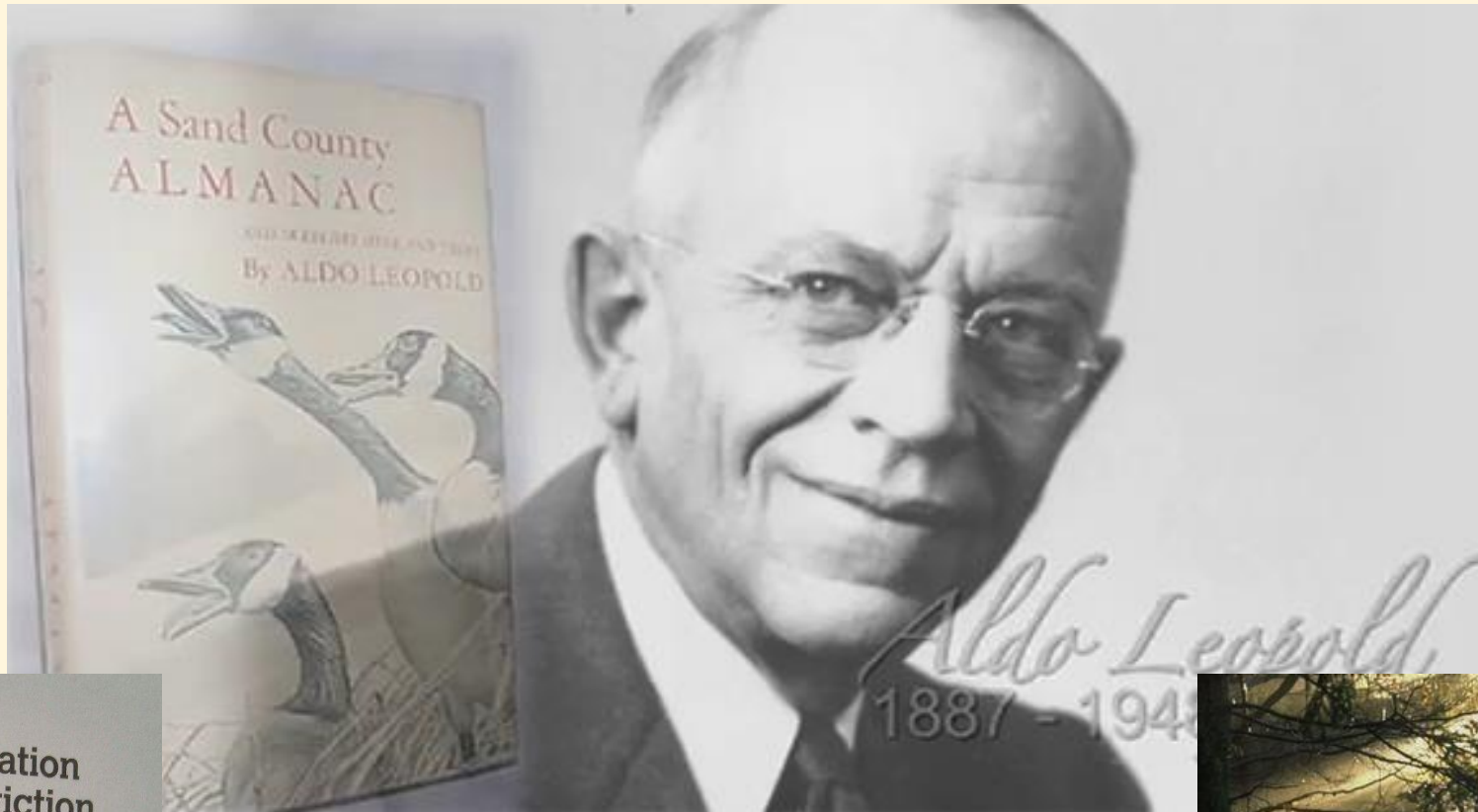
(1) Any land area zoned for open space by a comprehensive land use plan adopted by a city or county legislative authority, or

(2) Any land area in which the preservation in its present state would:

- a. **Conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources.**
- b. **Promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes.**
- c. **Enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forest, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries or other open space.**
- d. **Enhance recreation opportunities.**
- e. **Preserve historic sites.**
- f. **Preserve visual quality along highway, road, and street corridor or scenic vistas.**
- g. **Retain in its natural state tracts of land not less than one acre situated in an urban area and open public use on such conditions as may be**



## Philosophy/Mission of a Community Management Plan



The practice of conservation must spring from a conviction of what is ethically and aesthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right only when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the community, and the community includes the soil, waters, fauna, and flora, as well as people.

Aldo Leopold, ecologist, forester, and environmentalist

In [\*A Sand County Almanac\*](#), Aldo Leopold set forth his most enduring idea, the "[land ethic](#)," .....a moral responsibility of humans to the natural world.

**"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."**

**-Aldo Leopold**





**“Aldo Leopold Meadow” FEB 2017**  
**Ecosystem Restoration Project**  
**Bucks County Community College**  
**STEM Department**



## VALUE OF OPEN SPACE to a community: (Stanford University Research Study 1970's)

**Utility Value:** Utility value refers to the opportunity cost of visiting an open space. Opportunity cost is the loss or gain associated with choosing to spend time doing one activity, such as visiting an open space, instead of another, such as working overtime. The utility value depends on what it is compared to. One would have a negative value for open space if you were comparing the time spent visiting to working overtime, but a positive value compared to a more expensive recreational activity.

**Functional Value:** Functional Value encompasses natural ecosystem services such as regulatory (flood control), and provisioning (timber, pollination, etc).

**Contemplative Value:** Contemplative value is derived from the opportunities for mental and spiritual reflection that can be found in open spaces.

**Aesthetic Value:** Aesthetic value refers to the value people gain from the natural beauty of open spaces.

**Recreational Value:** Recreational value is the value of the opportunities for recreational activities (hiking, biking, hanging out) that people find in open spaces.

**Ecological Value:** The ecological value is the value people gain from being in ecologically preserved environments. For example, the chance to see an endangered species would bring ecological value to an open space.

**Cultural Value:** Cultural value is the most broad of the value categories, and refers to the value of a preserved open space to human social interactions and histories. For example, the preservation of an area of land could be justified because of its spiritual importance to a people.



# Potential Management Strategies

## Wildlife Habitat Conservation



## Pollinator Native Meadow Habitat



## Environmental Education



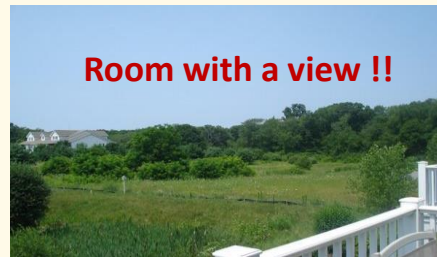
## Health & Well-Being



### Ecosystem services

<p><b>Provisioning Services</b> (i.e. ecosystems' ability to provide resources)</p> <p>E.g. Food provisioning - Water provisioning - Raw material - Medicinal resources / biochemicals - Ornamental resources - Genetic resources</p>	<p><b>Regulating Services</b> (i.e. ecosystems' beneficial regulatory processes)</p> <p>Climate regulation - Natural hazards regulation - Purification and detoxification of water, air and soil - Water / water flow - Erosion and soil fertility - Pollination - Pest and disease regulation</p>	<p><b>Cultural Services</b> (i.e. ecosystems' non-material benefits)</p> <p>Opportunities for recreation and tourism - Aesthetic values - Inspiration for the arts - Information for education and research - Spiritual and religious experience - Cultural identity and heritage - Mental well-being and health</p>
<p><b>Supporting Services</b> (i.e. services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services)</p> <p>Ecosystem process maintenance - Lifecycle maintenance - Biodiversity maintenance and protection</p>		

## Real Estate Value



Room with a view !!

or



More of this !!



## Passive Recreational Activities



## Aesthetics



## Agricultural Coop Farms



## Social Gathering Place ....concerts, etc.

**So the question remains .....as we contemplate the pros & cons ....as we consider the value of preservation in terms of the ECONOMIC, AESTHETIC, ECOLOGICAL, RECREATIONAL, SOCIAL & MORAL aspects in our decision-making process.....**

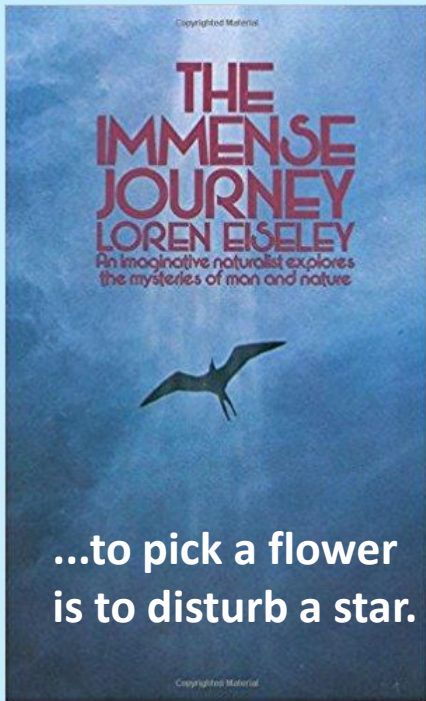
**Do we keep & improve on this?**



**or**

**Do we simply continue past practice, & contribute to the furthering of urban sprawl?**





Loren Eiseley

# The Starfish Story

An old man was walking on the beach one morning after a storm. In the distance, he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he saw that it was a young woman picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean. “Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?”

“The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die,” she said.

“But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach and thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a difference.”

The young woman listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea. “It made a difference for that one.”

~Adapted from the original by Loren Eiseley

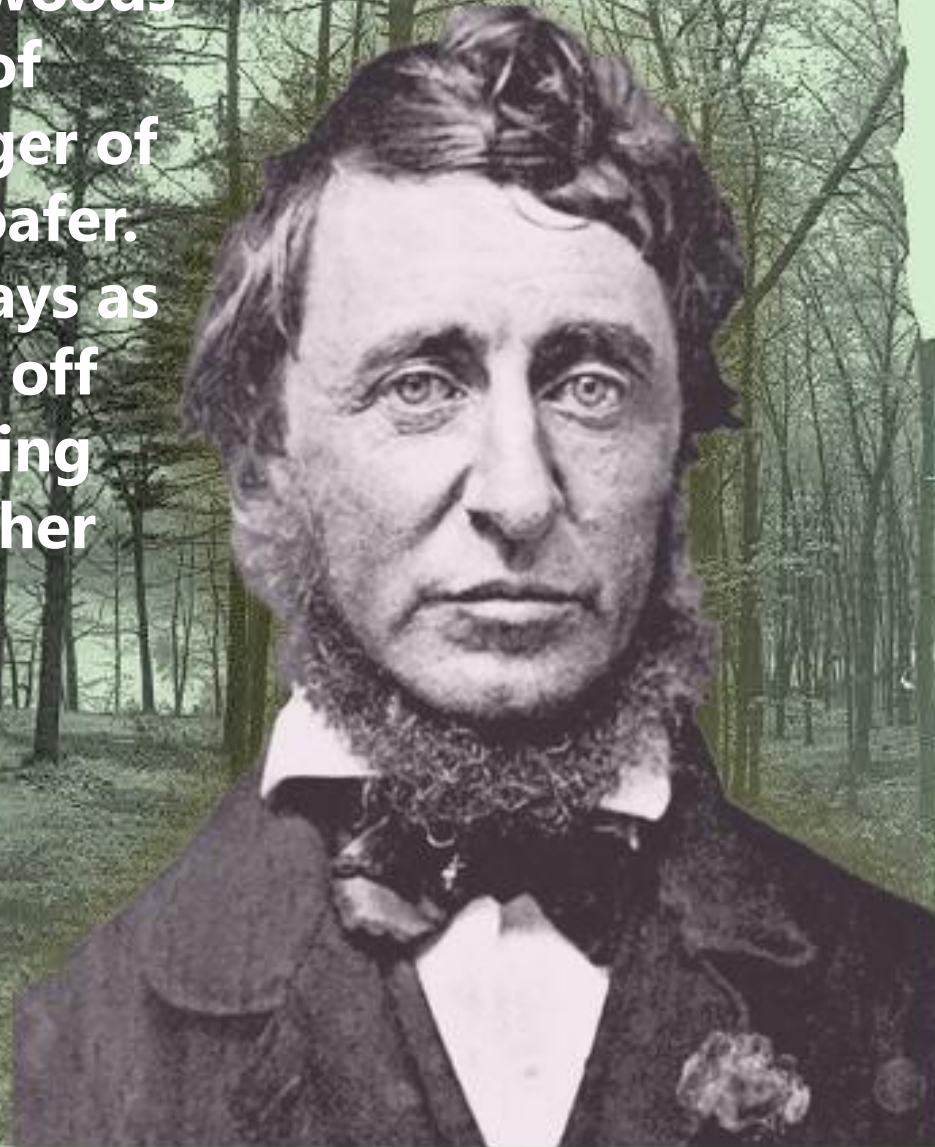
LIFE'S A DANCE



**...if humans continue to detach themselves from nature, they will die of a loneliness of spirit.**

**If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.**

**“Walden”....Henry David Thoreau**



# *Save Stone Meadows Farm*

**Let it be a gift to our children.....our legacy !!**

