



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

August 27, 2019

Alicia Geilen
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
40 Church St., Suite 200
Lowell, MA 01852

RE: Tyngsborough Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Geilen:

Thank you for contacting the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Tyngsborough. Enclosed is information on species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), as well as on Priority Natural Communities, Certified and Potential Vernal Pools, Coldwater Fishery Resource streams and rivers, and other aspects of biodiversity documented in our database for the Town of Tyngsborough. The Town is encouraged to include this letter and associated materials in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

MESA-listed Species

According to the NHESP database, the Town of Tyngsborough currently has habitat for the following rare species listed under MESA:

- Riverine Clubtail (*Stylurus amnicola*, Endangered)
- Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*, Threatened)
- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Threatened)
- Name not released* (animal, Threatened)
- Blue-spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*, Special Concern)
- Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferus*, Special Concern)
- Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela duodecimguttata*, Special Concern)
- Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*, Special Concern)
- Cobra Clubtail (*Gomphus vastus*, Special Concern)
- Umber Shadowdragon (*Neurocordulia obsoleta*, Special Concern)

*NHESP does not release the names of certain species deemed particularly susceptible to collection.

Fact sheets on these species may be downloaded from our website at

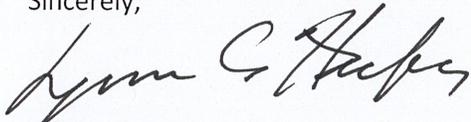
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and->

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- **Habitat Management:** The Town should assess its conservation areas for the presence of invasive species, and encourage the owners of large conserved properties to do the same. If invasives are present in substantial numbers or areas, consider removing them. (Note that MassWildlife currently offers grants to fund habitat management activities).
- **Regulation:** The Town should support and encourage its Conservation Commission to enforce the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Act. While there is no local board or official charged with enforcing the provisions of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, the Town could consider having the Conservation Commission and the Building Inspector notify development applicants of the presence/absence of Priority Habitat of Rare Species on the applicant's property.
- **Education and Outreach:** Developing community support for conservation of biodiversity is essential for successful efforts at land protection, habitat management, and regulation. Offering field trips on Town and other conservation areas, writing articles on conservation for local websites and newspapers, and encouraging local students to conduct biological surveys and observations on conservation areas are a few of the low-cost ways to build support that will pay off in the future.

The Town of Tyngsborough is to be commended for undertaking production of an Open Space and Recreation Plan. Please do not hesitate to call me at 508-389-6351 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Lynn C. Harper

Habitat Protection Specialist

Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program