



You're invited!

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

OF THE

CHARLESTOWN MORaine PRESERVE

KINGS FACTORY RD. PARKING LOT

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016 AT 11:00 am

The Charlestown Conservation Commission and the Charlestown Town Council invite you to join your friends and neighbors to celebrate the grand opening of Charlestown's new town-owned Open Space Property, *The Charlestown Moraine Preserve*. In honor of Arbor Day 2016, two ornamental grasses will be planted on either side of the parking lot kiosk. Refreshments will be available.

Some background on this moraine... This moraine, purchased by the Town in August of 2013 is an irregular shaped plat with frontage on the westerly side of Kings Factory Road and the northerly side of Route 1. To access the parking lot of the approximately 75 acre property, travel south on Route 1, take the Kings Factory Road exit and proceed north to the parking lot located on the left. A trail has been developed and blazed by the Conservation Commission covering the eastern portion of the Preserve, which can be accessed from the parking lot. A trail through the western portion will be developed soon. The property is available for public educational programs and trail hiking. Two picnic tables are available and the public is encouraged to use them, but to take their trash when leaving.

What is a moraine? This particular Moraine is called a terminal moraine and marks the areas where the advance of the ice left large deposits of soil, rock and gravel that was pushed or carried by the ice. The Moraine runs from Long Island to Narragansett and can be seen in Rhode Island From Westerly to Narragansett. The advancing ice scoured the rock and soil and formed ice pockets. When the ice receded, the material formed the outwash plain we see on the coast, basically south of Route 1. The edge of the advance comprised of rock and gravel is what we see north of Route 1 in many areas of Charlestown. Second growth oak and some birch, juniper and white pine, with an understory of fern beds, buckle berry and mountain laurel dominate the forest. The forest also supports a diversity of wildlife species including resident and migratory bat species.

The property is maintained and managed by the Charlestown Conservation Commission who also wrote the Management Plan. Commission members include—Lillian B. Arnold, Chair; Grace Klinger, Vice Chair; Richard Thieke, Secretary; Hal Hultgren; Forrester C. Safford; Kenneth Simoneau and Charles Connery.