



**TOWN OF IPSWICH**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
15 Elm Street  
IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938



***Paul A. Nikas***  
*Chief of Police*

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***Lt. Daniel L. Moriarty***  
*Executive Officer*

To: The Ipswich Chronicle  
From: Police Chief Paul Nikas  
Date: July 23, 2012  
Re: Town Conservation Properties Vandalism

Ipswich is a remarkable place to live and work for many reasons. One of those reasons is the wonderful conservation properties protected by the Town for the benefit of all residents and visitors. For the majority of the public these properties are used as they are intended for quiet enjoyment with family, friends and pets to appreciate the scenic beauty in Ipswich. Unfortunately not everyone has the same sense of responsibility and ownership of these natural treasures, and we all suffer the consequences.

There have been a number of incidents of vandalism this summer at the Town's open space properties (and in some cases repeated vandalism), which is not only destructive and malicious, but costly and illegal. The Clark Pond overlook has had balusters along the railing kicked out 3 different times over the past several weeks. The information kiosks at both Shady Creek Conservation Area on Colonial Drive and Nichols Field on Labor in Vain Road have been vandalized with graffiti, broken and needed to be replaced. One of them had a bow shot through the Plexiglas, which left a gaping hole. The perpetrators of these acts of vandalism obviously have no regard for the implications of their acts, either the cost to the Town for repairs and replacement, or the effect of destroying public property leaving an otherwise peaceful and tranquil place marred by their presence.

The police have stepped up their patrols at these properties to deter this malicious behavior, but are asking the public for their assistance in putting a stop to this activity. If you hear of, or witness any suspicious or flagrant behavior at these or any Town property, we ask you contact the Ipswich Police at 978-356-6464 or 911 in an emergency. Remember to include a detailed description of the location, with as much information about the offender(s) as possible, without placing yourself in a confrontation. Perpetrators will be punished to the full extent of the law. Together we can work to restore these places of quiet enjoyment as destinations we can all appreciate and cherish without the unwanted nuisance and destruction of inconsiderate and careless vandals.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Chief Paul Nikas  
Ipswich Police Department

Beth O'Connor  
Open Space Stewardship Coordinator