

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following are a proposed new set of goals and objectives for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. They are based on the goals and objectives listed in the 1987 Open Space and Recreation Plan, and adjusted based on comments received at the March 20 and June 5 public meetings as well as meetings with various boards and commissions and Town officials. It should be noted this list is not presented in any particular order of priority.

GENERAL GOAL

To preserve and enhance the overall quality of the natural and cultural environment within the Town of Walpole by managing growth in a manner that protects important natural and cultural features, and by providing and maintaining a system of parks, recreation facilities and conservation lands that meets the diverse needs of the community.

Conservation Goals

Goal 1 -- Protect and improve the quality of Walpole's surface and ground water.

Objectives

- Protect, preserve and maintain existing and potential groundwater supply and ground water recharge areas within the Town to ensure sufficient quantities of safe drinking water.
- Protect and enhance the Town's rivers, streams ponds, and watershed protection districts.
- Support the Neponset Initiative¹, including adoption/expansion of the Neponset River Basin Area of Critical Environmental Concern² (ACEC) and additional nonpoint source pollution prevention efforts.
- Identify and certify vernal pools.

¹*The Neponset Initiative is an effort to improve resource protection and recreation opportunities in the watershed. The first step is preparation of a Basin Wide Action Plan, now underway.*

²*ACEC designation requires state agencies to administer programs and review projects in the area in order to create a planning and management framework to protect and preserve its resources.*

Goal 2 -- Protect the natural and cultural environment in a manner which reflects the Town's special

character.

Objectives

- Preserve, through acquisition and/or regulatory strategies, unique and/or ecologically valuable and significant land areas.
- Encourage the preservation and conservation of agricultural land.
- Identify and protect wildlife habitats and corridors, particular those of endangered and threatened species.
- Preserve the Town's heritage and character through the preservation of scenic areas, roads, and structures of historic significance.
- Acquire additional conservation lands, easements, and restrictions, especially adjacent to Town Forest.
- Prevent, to the extent possible, all forms of water, air, noise and visual pollution.
- Clean up existing contaminated lands and ensure that future contamination does not occur.

Goal 3 -- Develop a sound public policy toward open space preservation.

Objectives

- Develop cooperative planning and development programs among various federal, state and Town agencies.
- Adopt/revise Town bylaws as necessary in response to new state and federal laws, and to ensure continued protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Establish an Open Space Committee to implement the Plan, to prioritize its recommendations, regularly re-evaluate its goals and objectives and to ensure the Plan is updated as needed.
- Develop an integrated and financially sound approach for the acquisition and preservation of open space and recreational opportunities within Walpole.
- Pursue a variety of land acquisition and maintenance programs including private donations, state and federal assistance, user fees and reduced density projects.

- Work with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and neighboring towns to promote the Bay Circuit Greenbelt Plan.
- Provide an integrated system of foot trails, paths and sidewalks throughout Town to provide safe pedestrian travel as well as passive recreation, and to promote an appreciation for open space in the Town.
- Improve access to existing open space areas, and increase awareness about their ecological value and their recreational potential.
- Provide/ensure links among existing open space and recreation resources to promote wildlife migration and biodiversity.

Recreation Goals

Goal 4 -- Expand the number of fields and facilities to provide a wide variety of active recreation opportunities.

Objectives

- Develop a Town-wide system of park and outdoor recreation facilities and conservation areas to accommodate both structured and non-structured sports.
- Encourage neighborhood participation in planning and development of all outdoor recreational facilities and conservation properties.
- Encourage multiple use of recreation and conservation facilities through coordinated efforts of the schools, various Town departments and private organizations.
- Provide recreation facilities and programs for all segments of the community including the elderly, disabled, and adults aged 18 to 64, as well as children.

Goal 5 -- Improve, promote and maintain existing recreation facilities and conservation areas.

Objectives

- Provide adequate resources and management for the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
- Develop policies for the passive recreational use and maintenance of conservation land.
- Educate the public on outdoor opportunities currently available in Walpole.

- Work with the Bay Circuit Alliance, the State, and surrounding towns to enhance the regional recreational opportunities in Walpole.
- Develop a plan for making existing as well as new playfields and conservation areas accessible to the disabled.