

## Section 8: Goals and Objectives

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The goals described in this section are the long-range aspirations of the Town of Sturbridge for the protection of natural resources and the provision of recreational opportunities for its citizens and visitors. The objectives are conceptual steps to be undertaken to achieve these goals. Specific, tangible actions to implement the objectives are found in Section 9.

These goals and objectives were developed by the Open Space Committee with input from the community through public opinion surveys and public meetings. Previous town studies, particularly the 2005 Open Space Plan, 2007 Sturbridge Reconnaissance Report, 2008 Lakes Advisory Committee Report, and the 2009 Commercial Tourist District Revitalization Plan were consulted for current applicability and compatibility. The goals and policies of the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Workbook (revised March 2008), the Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements (revised March 2008) and the BioMap 2 2010 and draft elements of the town's Master Plan currently under development were also referenced for compatibility, where appropriate.

The following provides a set of goals and objectives for the 2011 Sturbridge Open Space and Recreation Plan. The section is divided into a set of goals and objectives that are drawn from the preceding chapters of this document. The next section will detail the seven year action plan to accomplish the goals and objectives.

### **TOWN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**GOAL 1** – Preserve the small New England character of Sturbridge

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1A Identify those natural, built and historic elements that contribute to the character of the town and develop preservation strategies.

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- 1B Identify methods to preserve, promote, and enhance streetscapes.
- 1C Advocate for open space preservation with relevant town boards and committees through the updating of bylaws and regulations.
- 1D Preserve agriculture and forestry land which are important components of the Town's character.

**GOAL 2** – Educate residents and others about the importance of open space preservation for passive recreation, habitat protection and water supply protection.

## OBJECTIVES

- 2A Partner with the Conservation Commission and other relevant groups to provide educational opportunities for residents and landowners.
- 2B Provide opportunities for local residents, individuals and families to become more involved in Open Space through trails and conservation lands.
- 2C Draw upon external expertise to provide a broad understanding of the benefits of open space preservation.
- 2D Have funds available to promote awareness of open space and to build support for future land acquisition.

**GOAL 3** – Increase the inventory of Open Space by fee, conservation restriction, donation, or easement in perpetuity. Give emphasis to parcels that create green corridors, protect water supplies and natural, cultural and historic resources, and provide access to our recreational resources.

## OBJECTIVES

- 3A Have in place methods for identifying, evaluating and prioritizing parcels for possible preservation.
- 3B Improve public access to the water for fishing and boating by identifying town owned and other available parcels which can provide varying levels of access depending on the environmental conditions on the site and water body conditions.
- 3C Review the disposition of tax title properties in relation to the possibility of meeting localized recreational needs.

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- 3D Identify a funding sources available to increase open space and recreational opportunities.
- 3E Continue to support the use of Community Preservation Act funding for the acquisition of important open space parcels for conservation, passive and active recreational purposes.

**GOAL 4** – Expand outdoor recreational opportunities, both passive and active for all Sturbridge Residents regardless of age or ability.

- 4A Encourage all town boards and committees to work together on open space and recreation objectives.
- 4B Improve access to recreational facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 4C Create an improved network of multi-use trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes between neighborhoods, conservation and recreation lands and commercial areas. Ensure that trail development includes trails that are ADA/ABA compliant.
- 4D Improve and increase recreational facilities, public and private to meet current and future needs.
- 4E Determine the maintenance needs (daily, annual or major investments) for all town owned open space and recreation properties.

**GOAL 5** – Encourage the appropriate use of public lands and recreational resources as a tool to promote sustainable tourism and enhance economic development within the community.

## OBJECTIVES

- 5A Promote broadened public awareness of open space opportunities.
- 5B Build partnerships with state, federal, conservation groups, and non-profit owners of land in Sturbridge.
- 5C Develop and distribute maps of scenic drives and views within Sturbridge and the Region.
- 5D Promote outdoor events and activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, kayaking, bird watching, etc.

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## **GOAL 6 – Protect and Enhance Drinking Water Supplies**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 6A     Protect current and future water supply areas from pollution.
- 6B     Acquire critical land areas necessary for water supply protection.

## **GOAL 7 – Promote a cooperative and regional approach to Open Space and Resource Protection**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 7A     Assure collective and cooperative commitment by town departments, boards and staff to accomplish the objectives of this open space plan.
- 7B     Maintain awareness of open space efforts in surrounding communities and the region.
- 7C     Review the accomplishment of these goals and objectives on an annual basis to insure implementation of this plan.