

Section

8

Section 8: Goals and Objectives

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 2011 Open Space Plan, 2011 Master Plan, the 2012 Recreation Trails Master Plan and the 2007 Sturbridge Reconnaissance Report, and the 2009 and 2014 Commercial Tourist District Revitalization Plan were consulted for current applicability and compatibility.

The following provides a set of goals and objectives for the 2018 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.

GOAL 1 – Continue to develop, maintain and improve public access to water resources.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Investigate a Town lease agreement with the Army Corp. of Engineers to re-open Streeter Point Beach with the potential of a pay for access system that can help to offset costs.
- B. Support the Trails Committee and Planning Board on the CT District implementation, in particular, support access to the Quinebaug River and the Riverlands. Ensure that any new access points protect river water quality and shoreline vegetation.
- C. Improve public access to the water for fishing and boating and swimming.

GOAL 2 – Enhance groundwater protection efforts.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Continue to identify priority preservation areas around town water supply wells and within Groundwater Protection Districts and continue to protect the existing District.
- B. Identify priority protection areas critical to preserving private water supply wells in areas of high risk due to adjacent land use or development threats.

GOAL 3 – Increase and enhance recreational areas and activities for all age groups and abilities.

OBJECTIVE

- A. Continue to identify locations that can be used for recreational opportunities and work to develop and promote those locations and activities.
- B. Develop and/or improve both indoor and outdoor recreation areas to provide a wide range of year round activities.
- C. Diversify recreational opportunities available to residents.

GOAL 4 – Increase the supply of critical open space and recreation lands in the Town.

OBJECTIVE

- A. Evaluate opportunities for open space acquisition by fee, donation, or easement in perpetuity. Emphasis shall be placed on parcels that create green corridors, protect water supplies and natural, cultural and historic resources, and provide access to and enhance recreational resources.

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.

- A. Promote broadened public awareness of open space opportunities.
- B. Identify sites that may be suitable for active outdoor commercial recreation uses that could be privately operated and that would complement other public open space areas.
- C. Build partnerships with state, federal, conservation groups, and non-profit owners of land in Sturbridge.
- D. Work with the STA to identify, mark and promote scenic rides in Sturbridge and the scenic areas identified in this plan.

GOAL 6 – Promote a cooperative and regional approach to Open Space and Resource Protection

OBJECTIVES

- A. Assure collective and cooperative commitment by town departments, boards and staff to accomplish the objectives of this open space plan.
- B. Maintain awareness of open space efforts in surrounding communities and the region.
- C. Develop contacts in surrounding communities and at regional land organizations to gain an understanding of open space activities in the planning stages.
- D. Make an effort to review the Open Space Plans of surrounding communities to that when appropriate communities can work in collaboration on similar goals.
- E. Review the accomplishment of these goals and objectives on an annual basis to insure implementation of this plan.

GOAL 7 – Continue to protect and preserve the small town character of the Town.

OBJECTIVES

- A. Preserve agriculture and forestry land, which are important components of the Town's character.
- B. Identify methods to preserve, promote and enhance streetscapes.
- C. Identify those natural, built and historic elements that contribute to the character of the town and develop preservation strategies.