

Section

9

Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan

The Seven Year Action Plan represents the breakdown of goals and objectives and the actions required to meet them. All the actions in this plan are essential for the town to achieve its open space goals. However, we have tried to prioritize the action items in a meaningful and manageable manner.

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2018

Seven Year Action Plan

Goal # 1– Continue to develop, maintain and improve public access to water resources

Objective 1A– Investigate a Town lease agreement with the US Army Corp of Engineers to re-open Streeter Point Beach with the potential of a pay for access system that can help offset costs.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Request the Town Administrator to outreach to the Army Corp of Engineers to determine if this is possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Administrator 	High	2018	None Required
If it is determined that this is a possibility, request a meeting with the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Recreation Committee, and other appropriate parties to discuss the closure and to see if there is support to move forward with reopening this area as a Town Beach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Town Administrator ✓ Recreation Committee 	High	2018	None Required
Discuss the implementation of a pay for access pass system for residents and non-residents that could support this amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Town Administrator ✓ Recreation Committee 	High	2019	None Required
Create an operations plan, and budget for Streeter Point Beach, and implement that.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Town Administrator ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Recreation Committee 	High	2019	Town Budget Grants Private Sources Fees

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Objective 1B – Improve public access to Sturbridge water bodies for fishing, boating and swimming.				
ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Work with the Conservation Commission to identify areas that may provide better access to the lakes for boating, fishing and swimming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Conservation Commission ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Town Planner 	High	Planning: FY 19-20 Implementation: Long Term	None Required
Work to develop better relations with the Lakes Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Conservation Commission 	Medium	On-going	None Required
Continue to support the efforts of the Planning Board and Trails Committee in providing access to the Quinebaug and Riverlands from the Commercial Tourist District. Ensure that any new access points protect river water quality and shoreline vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Planning Board ✓ Trails Committee ✓ Conservation Commission ✓ Town Planner ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Open Space Committee 	Medium	Planning: FY 19-20 Implementation: FY 21-22	CPA Funds Town Budget
Work with the Conservation Commission, Trails Committee and owners of 9 Holland Road to provide viewing areas and a river trail along the property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conservation Commission ✓ Trails Committee ✓ Conservation Commission ✓ Town Planner 	High	FY 19-20	Town Budget Volunteer Labor Donations

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GOAL # 2 – Enhance groundwater protection efforts.

Objective 2A – Continue to identify priority preservation areas around town water supply wells and within Groundwater Protection Districts and continue to protect the existing District.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Maintain contact with the DPW Director to gain an understanding of future water supply areas under consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DPW Director ✓ Open Space Committee 	High	On-going	None Required
Acquire critical land areas necessary for water supply protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DPW Director ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner 	Medium	On-going	CPC Grants
Ensure that Groundwater Protection District bylaws are complied with at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer ✓ Town Planner ✓ DPW Director ✓ Conservation Agent 	High	On-going	None Required
Discourage the use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other contaminants, particularly in the Groundwater Protection District and near surface water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conservation Commission ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Lakes Advisory Committee ✓ Open Space Committee 	High	On-going	None Required

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Objective 2B – Identify priority protection areas critical to preserving private water supply wells in areas of high risk due to adjacent land use or development threats.				
ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Stay informed about and water contamination threats and/or issues in Sturbridge and surrounding towns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Board of Health ✓ Town Administrator 	High	On-going	None Required
Support the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, and others trying to deal with these issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Board of Health ✓ Town Administrator 	High	On-going	None Required

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

Objective 3A– Continue to identify locations that can be used for recreational opportunities and work to develop and promote those locations and activities for all age groups and abilities.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Work to identify a location to develop a playground that is not on school grounds so that it is available for use during the day when school is in session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee 	High	Planning: FY 19-20, Implementation: FY 21-22	None Required Staff to identify CPA to acquire
Work to identify an appropriate location to develop a Dog Park or identify an existing segment of trail that could be designated as “Dog Friendly”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee 	High	FY 2019	None Required Staff to identify CPA to acquire
Work to identify an appropriate location to develop a fitness trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee 	Medium	FY 2022	None Required
Continue to support the Recreation Committee in its efforts to develop playing fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee ✓ Community Preservation Committee 	High	FY 2019	None Required
Partner with the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission and support land acquisition and easements that help advance trail construction and connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Trails Committee 	Medium	On-going	CPA Town Budget

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Objective 3B – Develop and/or improve both indoor and outdoor recreation areas to provide a diverse range of year round activities.				
ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Continue to partner with the Senior Center in providing activities and recreational opportunities for this growing segment of our population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee ✓ Senior Center Director ✓ Council on Aging ✓ Trails Committee 	High	On-going	CPA Town Budget
Continue to create accessible trails and improve access to all open space and recreation areas that are open to the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Trails Committee 	High	On-going	CPA Town Budget Private sources
Working with appropriate parties, promote outdoor events and activities such as snowshoeing, cross country skiing, kayaking, bird watching, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee ✓ Economic Development/ Tourism Coordinator ✓ Trails Committee ✓ Special Events Committee 	High	On-going	STA
Include bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all new roadway projects when feasible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DPW Director ✓ Town Planner ✓ Town Administrator 	High	On-going	MassWorks Town Budget Private sources

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Continue to develop and improve a network of trails, sidewalks, and bike paths between neighborhoods, conservation and recreation lands and commercial areas. Insure that trail development includes those that are handicap accessible and multi-use serving walkers, runners, bicyclists and wheelchairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Trails Committee 	Medium	On-going	CPA Betterment Town Budget Private sources
Objective 3C – Review the disposition of tax title properties in relation to the possibility of meeting localized recreational needs.				
ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Work with the Town Planner and Assessor to identify parcels that may provide access to recreational resources and/or that are contiguous with other open space parcels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Town Planner ✓ Assessor ✓ Open Space Committee 	High	On-going	None Required
Objective 3D – Identify funding sources available to increase open space and recreational opportunities.				
ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Continue to research funding sources for the creation or preservation of open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee 	High	On-going	None Required
Cultivate local, state and federal fiscal resources for open space funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee 	High	On-going	None Required

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Objective 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.				
ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	PRIORITY	TIMEFRAME	FUNDING
Continue to play an active role with the Community Preservation Committee.	✓ Open Space Committee	High	On-going	None Required
Continue to educate residents about the benefits Community Preservation Act funding provides to the community.	✓ Community Preservation Committee ✓ Open Space Committee	High	On-going	None Required
Objective 3F – Improve access to recreational facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.				
Provide inclusive, passive and active recreational opportunities, resources, and facilities for all citizens.	✓ Recreation Committee ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Open Space Committee	High	On-going	CPA Betterment Town Budget Private sources
Continue to make progress on action items noted in the Town of Sturbridge Accessibility Plan	✓ Recreation Committee ✓ Board of Selectmen ✓ Town Administrator ✓ Open Space Committee	High	On-going	Town Budget

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<u>Goal # 4 – Increase the supply of critical open space and recreation lands in the Town.</u>				
Objective 4A – 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.				
Prioritize parcels under Chapter 61 for future acquisition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner ✓ Assessor 	Medium	FY 2021	None Required
Partner with the Trails Committee and Conservation Commission to support land acquisition and easements to help advance trail construction and connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee 	High	On-going	CPA Betterment Town Budget Private sources
Identify areas that would protect wildlife corridors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Conservation Commission 	High	On-going	None Required
Identify and protect vernal pools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Conservation Commission 	High	On-going	None Required
Encourage all town boards and committees to work together on open space and recreation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Recreation Committee 	High	On-going	None Required

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Distribute copies of this plan to various Boards, Committees, and Departments and ensure that all understand their roles in the implementation of this plan.	✓ Open Space Committee	High	FY 2019	None Required
Create a process for evaluating and prioritizing parcels for possible preservation.	✓ Open Space Committee	High	FY 2019	None Required
Review the disposition of tax title properties in relation to the possibility of preserving open space and meeting localized recreational and preservation needs.	✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner	High	On-going	None Required
<u>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.</u>				
Objective 5A – Promote broadened public awareness of open space opportunities.				
Build partnerships with state, federal, conservation groups, and non-profit owners of land in Sturbridge	✓ Open Space Committee	High	On-going	None Required
Work with the STA to identify, mark and promote scenic roads in Sturbridge and the scenic areas identified in this plan.	✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Sturbridge Tourist Association	Low	FY 2024	STA

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Goal # 7 – Continue to protect and preserve the small town character of the Town.				
Objective 7A – Preserve agriculture and forestry land, which are important components of the Town’s character.				
Work to preserve agriculture and forestry lands by collaborating with the Conservation Commission and others to promote/encourage the use of Agricultural preservation restrictions and Forest Conservation efforts.	✓ Open Space Committee	Medium	On-going	None Required
Support the Farmer’s Market Committee in its effort to hold weekly a weekly Farmer’s Market with local and regional vendors.	✓ Open Space Committee	Medium	On-going	None Required
Objective 7B – Identify methods to promote and enhance streetscapes.				
Support the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen in working towards the implementation of the Commercial Tourist District Revitalization Plan as it relates to streetscape improvements, pocket parks and access to the Quinebaug River.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner ✓ Conservation Agent ✓ Planning Board ✓ Trails Committee 	High	FY 19-22	CPA STA Betterment Town Budget MassWorks

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Objective 7C – Identify those natural, built and historic elements that contribute to the character of the town and develop preservation strategies.				
Encourage the Historic Commission or other group to inventory our historic and archaeological resources using the Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) inventory forms. Archaeological inventories cannot be released to the public but can prove to be a valuable tool to aid in future planning and development efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Historic Commission ✓ Community Preservation Committee 	Low	FY 24-25	CPC Grants MHC
Develop preservation strategies for the Heritage Landscapes so that more are not lost to deterioration or development pressures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Open Space Committee ✓ Town Planner ✓ Conservation Agent 	High	On-going	None Required

Map 13: Action Map

