

# Town of Sturbridge Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011



This plan was prepared by the Town of Sturbridge Open Space Committee - May 2011

#### TOWN OF STURBRIDGE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN - 2011

This plan was prepared by the Town of Sturbridge Open Space Committee with assistance from:

Jean M. Bubon, AICP, Town Planner

The Sturbridge Open Space Committee Members are:
Carol Goodwin, Chair
Randy Ellithorpe
Elissa Gelfand
Lynne Sarty
Chip Silvestri

The following individuals and groups also provided assistance with the development of this plan:

Erin Jacque, Conservation Agent
Pat McGarrah – General Assistance
William Mitchell, Principal Assessor
Andrew Golas, Planning Department Intern – Mapping
Conservation Commission
Community Preservation Committee
Master Plan Steering Committee
Planning Board
Public Lands Advisory Committee
Recreation Committee
Trails Committee
Board of Selectmen

The photographs contained within this plan were provided by the following:

Michelle Moran Erin Jacque

# Table of Contents

SECTION 1 - PLAN SUMMARY	6
SECTION 2 - INTRODUCTION	8
A. – THE COMMUNITY	8
B. – THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN	8
C. – THE PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	10
SECTION 3 - COMMUNITY SETTING	12
A. – REGIONAL CONTEXT	12
MAP – REGIONAL CONTEXT/MAJOR WATERSHED	16
B. – HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY	17
MAP – INFRASTRUCTURE	26
MAP – LAND USE	29
MAP – ZONING	30
SECTION 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	31
A. – GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY	31
MAP – SOILS	35
B. – LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	36
MAP – HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY	40
C- WATER RESOURCES	41
MAP – WATER RESOURCES	45

### TOWN OF STURBRIDGE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN-2011

MAP – VERNAL POOLS	48
D. – VEGETATION	50
E. – FISERHIES AND WILDLIFE	52
F. – SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS	53
MAP – SCENIC RESOURCES AND SCENIC ROADS	55
G. – ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES	<u>56</u>
MAP – FEMA – FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP	71
SECTION 5 – INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND	
RECREATION INTEREST	72
A. – PUBLIC LANDS AND FACILITIES	73
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MANAGED OPEN SPACE	<u>75</u>
STATE OWNED AND MANAGED OPEN SPACE	91
B. – PRIVATE OPEN SPACE LANDS AND FACILITIES	93
C. – RECREATION FACILITIES	95
D PROTECTED LANDS INVENTORY	102
ACCESSIBILITY OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES	128
MAP – OPEN SPACE MAP	136
SECTION 6 – COMMUNITY VISION	137
A. – THE PLANNING PROCESS	137
B. – STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	144
SECTION 7 – ANALYSIS OF NEEDS	145

## TOWN OF STURBRIDGE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN-2011

A. – SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS	145
B. – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS	149
C. – MANAGEMENT NEEDS	150
SECTION 8 - GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	153
SECTION 9 - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN	157
MAP – ACTION MAP	174
SECTION 10 - PUBLIC COMMENTS	175
SECTION 11 - REFERENCES	179
SECTION 12 - APPENDIX	181
APPENDIX A – ADA ACCESS – SELF EVALUATION	A-1
APPENDIX B – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ITEMS	A-105
APPENDIX C – STURBRIDGE FIELD STUDY REPORT	A-139