

Section 8 Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives presented below are a synthesis of the new goals and objectives identified during the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Public Meeting in January 2010, and comments from residents and the Open Space Committee.

1. Goal 1: Protect wetlands, water supply and watershed lands

Objective 1: Assess and mitigate potential pollution sources to wetlands and water supply lands via best practical management.

Objective 2: Encourage *restrictive covenants* and *conservation restrictions* for large parcels and parcels that abut protected land

Objective 3: Support regional projects involving wetlands and open space

Objective 4: Identify other significant natural areas

Objective 5: Provide sewer and water service to environmentally sensitive and susceptible areas

Objective 6: Evaluate municipal policies/bylaws to improve protection of resources

Objective 7: Provide better public education and immediate response to exotic, invasive species threats

- a. Task: Continue water chestnut removal at Barrowsville Pond
- b. Task: Provide rapid response to water chestnut in Chartley Pond
- c. Task: Create educational campaign for residents

2. Goal 2: Increase educational opportunities

Objective 1: Educate community relative to environmental issues

Objective 2: Better promotion and advertisement of programs and activities

- a. *Task: Create web page or booklet of locations and allowable uses of protected property*
- b. *Task: Evaluate signs and parking, create new parking*
- c. *Task: Continue to provide free programs, hikes and boat trips*

Objective 3: Provide more links on website of other programs and a vocabulary /acronym list

Objective 4: Work with the Tricentennial Committee to advertise open space issues for the town's celebration

Objective 5: Provide better education of basic science and importance of wetlands and natural processes

Objective 6: Provide better advertisement and notification of programs to residents

- 3. Goal 3: Support natural resource protection in our three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)**
 - Objective 1: Continue protection of Canoe River Greenbelt project
 - Objective 2: Create better public awareness of the Hockomock Swamp
 - Objective 3: Continue to work with the Three-Mile River ACEC committee for a Stewardship Plan and its implementation
- 4. Goal 4: Protect wildlife habitat**
 - Objective 1: Identify and protect existing unique [natural communities](#)
 - Objective 2: Inventory natural communities, BioMap Core and Living Water Core for rare species
 - Objective 3: Maintain master Biodiversity list for town
 - Objective 4: Increase awareness and identify new important wildlife habitat areas
 - Objective 5: Encourage [restrictive covenants](#) and [conservation restrictions](#) for large parcels, parcels that abut protected land and important existing wildlife habitat areas
 - Objective 6: Participate in the Wildlife Federations' Wild Backyards program with Land Preservation Society
- 5. Goal 5: Improve public access to *and use of* the town's water bodies, conservation and recreation areas**
 - Objective 1: Identify locations for appropriate public access
 - Objective 2: Provide parking *and signs* for conservation and recreation areas
 - Objective 3: Provide universal trails where appropriate
 - Objective 4: Provide picnic, scenic areas and birding opportunities*
 - Objective 5: Construct fishing piers with parking area*
- 6. Goal 6: Protect historical, archaeological, scenic and heritage landscapes**
 - Objective 1: Preserve the historical, archaeological, scenic and [heritage landscapes](#) unique to Norton
 - Objective 2: Highlight remaining parcels of historical, archaeological, scenic or heritage landscapes for public education
 - Task: Continue the signage program of the Norton Historical Society
 - Task: Create an inventory of historic sites for the town

Objective 3: Encourage *Historic Preservation Restrictions* for all surveyed properties from the Heritage Landscape Inventory Pilot Program by PAL in 2002

7. Goal 7: Prevent agricultural losses

Objective 1: Support preservation of private open space in Norton through various means including the Balfour Farm, Crane Farm and Lincoln Meadows

Objective 2: Promote protection of existing and creation of new agricultural lands.

Objective 3: Create program for protection of chapter lands (Ch.61, 61A and 61B) and discuss chapter land and Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) options with residents

8. Goal 8: Improve funding options for open space and recreation projects

Objective 1: Maintain updated versions of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and track progress and accomplishments

Objective 2: Pursue State and Federal funding to match town spending in conservation, open space and recreation related areas

Objective 3: Review local funding procedures for preserving land

Objective 4: Partner with non-government organizations

Objective 5: Create volunteer program and/or better advertisement of projects needing volunteers and volunteer events

9. Goal 9: Expand recreational opportunities

Objective 1: Increase the number and availability, and improve the condition of existing *active recreation* fields and facilities (refer to Page 176 for a discussion of the difference between active and *passive recreation*)

Objective 2: Increase the amount of age-specific programs for adults, teens and seniors

Objective 3: Improve or create new recreational facilities and programs

Objective 4: Maintain multi-use trails

Objective 5: Create Town Park with paved and lit universal access surfaced trail for seniors, handicapped individuals and parents with strollers, bathrooms, fields, playground and skate park

Objective 6: Create neighborhood parks on North Worcester Street and in the Grove area

Objective 7: Create bike trail

Objective 8: Improve facilities at the Everett Leonard Complex to include bathrooms, repaired pavilion, kitchen, meeting rooms, and fields

Objective 9: Create Slattery Property master plan and implement it