

SECTION 9 7-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Achievements from the 2005 OSRP

Since the completion of the 2005 OSRP, the Town of Norton has accomplished many of its goals and objectives. Below is a sampling of the items that were completed. The 2005 OSRP goals and objectives are listed in italics, followed by a brief detail of the accomplishment.

1.a.ii. *storm drain labeling*. Some of our storm drains have been labeled. This is an ongoing project undertaken by boy scouts and girl scouts in the K streets and the Wading River watershed.

1.b.i.2 *tax title transfers in Canoe River aquifer*. Spent several Saturdays visiting and assessing over 500 town-owned properties. Gave a list to Selectman with recommendations on what should be kept by the town, who would benefit from it (ie: recreation, conservation, water dept) and what should be sold.

1.b.i.2. *RT 495 land*. CRAAC, Mansfield Natural Resources Trust, Land Preservation Society of Norton, local senators and representatives worked with DCAM and DCR to agree on care and control agreement for 126 acres of land along RT. 495 for Article 97 protection. It was finally completed after 30 years.

1.b.3. *Maintain vegetation within waterways to allow canoeing, boating, and kayaking*. Several trips were made along the Canoe River to make it passable. Several days of work have been coordinated to clear the water chestnut at Barrowsville Pond off of Barrows Street. This is an ongoing project.

1.c.ii. and iii. *Meet with landowners to discuss potential conservation restrictions*. Conservation agent is actively working with landowners and applicants.

1. d. i. *Transfer land in Hemlock Swamp*. Several acres of land have been transferred to conservation management and reported to MassGIS.

1.d.ii.*Transfer land along the Three-Mile River*. Several acres of land have been transferred to conservation management and reported to MassGIS.

1.d.iv. *Support Three-Mile River ACEC*. Town of Norton supported nomination and is represented in stewardship committee.

1.e.i. *Identify natural community types*. Conducted wildlife habitat evaluation of canoe river and identified natural community types.

1.e.iv. *Research Town Forests*. Member did research and presented an article on Gertrude Cornish who established our town forest on Plain Street in Norton, MA.

1.e.iv.3. *Create Forest Management Stewardship Plan for each property*. In 2009 plans were established for Lincoln Woods and Town Forest. In 2010 these projects were implemented and are currently in process.

1.g.1. *Update land prioritization*. Committee created evaluation of all town-owned land for selectmen. Also, revised prioritization of land to acquire for this updated plan.

- 1.g.iii. *Wetland bylaw*. Proposed wetland bylaw twice, defeated twice at town meeting.
- 1.g.v. *Higher storm water standards*. Conservation Commission routinely requests higher infiltration rates and better TSS removal for projects in acecs.
- 2.a. i. *Encourage Agricultural Preservation Restrictions*. Ongoing
- 2.a.iii. *Forestry plans*. Forestry plans completed for Lincoln Woods and Gertrude Cornish Town Forest
- 2.a.v. *Keystone Cooperators*. Annual advertisement and email notification of program application.
- 2.b.iii. *Agricultural Commission*. Proposed to area farmers but not interested.
- 3.a. *Expand recreational opportunities*. Have met several times with Recreation individuals who are actively seeking support for their programs.
- 3.d.4. *Maintain trails*. Committee has taken groups on walks of our properties several times a year. Committee has supported and helped rebuild the wooden trail on the Leo Yelle Conservation land, whose effort was led by Ginny Weisman. Cleared the trails of obstructions on Johnson Acres.
- 3.e.5.i, v and vi: *Improve public access to water bodies*. Town purchased land on Mansfield Ave for a boat launch area. Plans are being developed.
- 4.i,ii and iv. *Improve funding options for open space and recreation projects*. Survey was conducted in 2010 and results were catalogued. Meetings have been conducted with Recreation Committee. Committee has continuously monitored OS plan. Land Preservation Society of Norton for annual Earth Day Report Card discontinued
- 4.b.2.ii. Provide free programs. Monthly nature hike or canoe trip offered free of cost to anyone interested for last 3-4 years.
- 4.c.i. *Pursue State and Federal funding*. Received several grants for wildlife habitat evaluation, open space planning, natural community identification workshops etc.
- 4.c.ii. and 4.d.v. *Collaborate with organizations*. Mass Audubon offered open space planning workshop, Taunton River Watershed Coalition offered turtle search grant, Taunton River Watershed Plan offered bylaw writing assistance, The Nature Conservancy worked with Town for grant to preserve 50 acres on Three-Mile River. Students at high school, boy scouts and youth group volunteered hours to remove water chestnut.
- 4.d.iii. *Local fundraising*. Residents/businesses contributed to Leo Yelle boardwalk project and water chestnut removal at Barrowsville Pond.
- 5.a.ii.1. *Demolition delay bylaw*. Bylaw was proposed but defeated at town meeting.

5.a.iii. *Marker program for historical areas.* Historical society has a marker program and information on website.

5.b.2.i, ii, and iii. *Protect historical areas.* Many parcels have been preserved at town meeting in the Great Woods and Hemlock Swamp.

6.a. *Increase educational opportunities.* Press releases for environmental issues done.

6.a.i.1. *CRAAC awareness day.* CRAAC awareness day and Earth Day are ongoing programs.

6.a.2. *Biodiversity Day.* Ongoing.

6.a.3. *Collaboration with Land Preservation Society of Norton.* Biodiversity Days, Earth Day, nature hikes, vernal pool walks, 3-mile river walks, wild backyards program are all done with support.

6.a.4. *Community leaders.* Teachers at Wheaton and Norton Middle School work on collaborative projects.

6.a.6. and 7. *Wheaton College Vernal Pool Team.* Ongoing provided information is shared with town.

6.a.ii. *New nature programs.* Scouts have been a valuable asset to Open Space by attending our activities and providing assistance with projects associated with the committee.

6.a.ii.2. *Expert guided walks.* Number of expert walks held during Canoe River Wildlife Habitat Evaluation.

6.a.ii.4. *Reinstate local Tree Warden position and budget.* Position reinstated, received many grants for tree warden projects.

6.b. ii. *Print additional copies of the booklet of conservation property available.* Done

6.b.v. *Provide poster and bulletin board presentations for the Norton Public Library.* Done when library was available on a more open basis.

6.b.vii. *Increase availability of Open Space and Recreation Plan.* Additional copies of the Open Space Plan were printed and given to local boards.

6.b.viii. *Post Open Space and Recreation on town website.* Done

7.a.i. *Biodiversity Days.* Ongoing project.

7.a.ii. *Stewardship plan.* Completed and 2 properties logged in 2010.

7.a.iii. *Wildlife habitat evaluations.* Evaluation conducted on con com land by open space committee and amateur naturalists.

7.a.v. *River ecosystem evaluation.* Evaluation conducted on Canoe River by open space committee and amateur naturalists.

7.a.vi. *Create booklet of local wildlife.* Ongoing by our conservation agent.

7.b.i. *Rare species investigation.* Grant received in 2009 to look for rare turtles.

7.b.i3. *Field investigations.* Ongoing list of species at conservation properties.

Seven-Year Action Plan for 2011-2017

The purpose of the Seven-Year Action Plan is to provide a chronological guide for completing tasks outlined in the Goals and Objectives Section. Some of the actions take preparation and groundwork in order to be accomplished. This Seven-Year Action Plan attempts to identify all actions that will need to be done within the next seven years.

Key to the 7-year action plan chart:

BOS-Board of Selectmen

CC-Conservation Commission

DFW-Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

HWY-Highway Department

LPS-Land Preservation Society of Norton

OSC- Open Space Committee

REC-Recreation Commission

YEAR	RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION
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2011

Participate in Wild Backyards program	LPS, OSC, CC, BOS
Develop plan for future ballfields	REC
Create list of possible eagle scout, girl scout projects	OSC
Complete boardwalk at Everett Leonard Conservation Area	OSC, REC, volunteers
Work with The Nature Conservancy and Land Preservation Society of Norton on Crane Farm preservation project (50 acres)	OSC, CC, TNC
Reclaim portions of football field at high school, Pop Warner, School Cmte	REC

2012

Cooperate with scouts to label storm drains for watershed awareness and protection	OSC, CC, HWY
Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Complete master plan for Canoe River Greenbelt and Recreation Area	OSC, REC, BOS
Work with The Nature Conservancy and Land	OSC, CC, TNC

Preservation Society of Norton on Crane Farm preservation project (50 acres)	
Conduct another FrogWatch project with LPS as part of Wild Backyards Program	OSC, LPS
Conduct hikes and events with public outreach during the Tricentennial celebrations throughout the year	OSC, CC
Add more information and links to website	OSC

2013

Investigate Forestry Plan and Stewardship Plan for other conservation property like Leo Yelle Conservation Area. Contract with forester to create Forestry and Stewardship Plans for conservation land, apply for grants through Stewardship Grant Program	UMASS OSC/CC
Install sign at conservation land (m4/182) per donation (deed) requirement in memory of John S. Benasky	OSC, CC
Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Survey freshwater mussels and fish in Three-Mile River, OSC, grants, private consultants	DFW, CC

2014

Cooperate with scouts and outdoor clubs to GPS trails on protected land, create maps	OSC
Discuss boat access projects with Public Access Board, conduct site inspections	OSC
Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Create small wildlife refuge parks as part of Wild Backyards	LPS
<i>Create Master Plan for Slattery Property</i>	<i>OSC, BOS, Water, REC</i>

2015

Update booklet of conservation land CC	OSC, scouts
Conduct selective cutting of apple orchard on APR Barrows Street property	OSC, scouts, BOS
Inventory street trees	Tree Warden/OSC

Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Investigate canoe access points on major rivers, add signs	OSC, HWY

2016

Complete and implement master plan for Everett Leonard Complex improvements	REC
Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Create and implement strategy to preserve agricultural land	Town depts.

2017

Apply for grants for street trees, plant trees	Tree Warden/OSC
Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Conduct archaeological study of town	Historical Soc
Work with scouts on designing an ACEC badge	OSC, scouts
<i>Repair pavilion at Everett Leonard Complex</i>	<i>REC</i>

2018

Continue water chestnut removal project	OSC 2011-2017
Investigate the town forests, rededicate land Historical Soc	OSC
Create conservation newsletter with events and an educational article	OSC, CC
<i>Add shed and bathrooms to pool at Everett Leonard Complex</i>	<i>REC</i>

There is no available funding for any of these projects. We will continue to request grant funds, volunteers and donations. Most of the accomplishments from the last OSRP were done without funding and where funding was required we received donations and grants.

Major sources of funding in the past have been through the:

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Land Grant (formerly Self-Help/Urban Self Help)
Taunton River Watershed Coalition (TRWC)
Norcross Wildlife Federation
Urban Forest Challenge Grants
Forest Stewardship Program

South Coast Rail Project
Massachusetts Audubon
Private donations

The cooperation of other organizations is also essential for the success of these proposed projects. Cooperation with the following organizations will continue through the next seven years:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

The Wildlands Trust

Taunton River Watershed Coalition

Southeast Regional Planning Economic Development District (SRPEDD)

The projects are already ranked in priority by year.



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