

## 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*