

**Town of Sudbury Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals/Objectives**

**Goal 1: Preserve town character through the permanent protection of undeveloped land, surface water bodies and wetlands, agricultural lands and uses, publicly important views and historic sites.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Implement the open space and recreation objectives contained in the 2006 Heritage Landscape Report (See Appendix).
- b) Contact land owners of the identified parcels in this Plan to describe the Town's interest in preserving these properties.
- c) Continue encouraging development under the Cluster and Flexible Development Bylaws to preserve open space. Consider incentives for increased density in exchange for large open space and other methods of maximizing the amount of undisturbed area within new developments, such as Transfer of Development Rights.
- d) Partner with non-profit organizations in preserving land.
- e) Explore temporary restrictions on agricultural lands through the Farm Viability Program.

**Goal 2: Protect land areas and migration corridors for the preservation and continued viability of indigenous flora and fauna.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Inventory parcels for environmental sensitivity and to identify those that provide significant unprotected wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors.
- b) Inventory parcels to identify significant unprotected flora, including native and state-listed species.
- c) Work with landowners to obtain Conservation Restrictions or other permanent protection and stewardship in critical areas.
- d) Permanently protect and preserve parcels that provide significant habitat.

**Goal 3: Protect the quality and quantity of the Town's water supply, through aquifer and groundwater protection and water use education.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Continue to investigate centralized wastewater options for Route 20 business district properties.
- b) Continue meeting the annual permit requirements for Town compliance with National Pollution Discharge Effluent Standards (NPDES) Phase 2.
- c) Work with the Sudbury Water District to encourage water conservation and water use education. Also work towards acquiring lands for critical water supply protection for existing and new sources.
- d) Work with the Board of Health toward the upgrading of non-compliant septic systems.
- e) Encourage the use of Limited Impact Development (LID) techniques and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Standards (LEEDS) construction in all new public and private development.
- f) Review Town bylaws to require nitrogen loading studies in all new developments.

**Goal 4: Protect and restore the quality of the Town's ponds and waterways.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Continue efforts to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus emissions from the Marlboro Easterly Treatment Plant.
- b) Protect undeveloped parcels along the Sudbury River from development and degradation of viewsheds.
- c) Review and implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Ponds and Waterways Committee Master Plan.
- d) See efforts in Goals 3, Objectives b, d, and f.

**Goal 5: Provide and maintain a diversity of conservation and recreation land uses reflecting the interests and needs of the whole community, including opportunities for both active and passive recreation.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Review and implement as appropriate those field creation and redevelopment strategies described in the 2004 Athletic Field Master Plan which have not been implemented to date. (See Appendix)
- b) Develop new trails for passive use on new and existing conservation lands, including trails that are accessible to all. Continue to maintain existing trails.
- c) Investigate development of Town lands for potential reuse as active and passive recreational areas, including the landfill, Melone property and Mahoney property.
- d) Continue support of the Community Preservation Act as a viable funding source for new conservation and recreational programs and areas.
- e) Investigate other funding sources and mechanisms for expanded open space and recreational opportunities as desired by the Town, such as cluster and flexible development, transfer of development rights, opportunities for use of state grant programs, etc.
- f) Create new opportunities for conservation and recreation on town lands and privately held, town accessible lands (such as boat landing on Cutting Pond).
- g) Expand and promote eco-tourism opportunities in Sudbury, including hiking, cross country skiing, canoeing/kayaking, walking, and biking.

**Goal 6: Develop and maintain trail linkages by connecting old or creating new walkways and trails for non-motorized recreation.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Continue implementation of the 2001 Walkway Committee Report (See Appendix).
- b) Identify gaps in the present trail network, including regional Bay Circuit Trail connections, and formulate and implement strategies for obtaining additional trail linkages.
- c) Update Trail Linkage Plan and Map.
- d) Continue investigating the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, the CSX railroad corridor and the MBTA railroad corridor as non-motorized recreational corridors.

- e) Purchase or obtain rights to new land areas which provide links to existing conservation and recreation areas.

**Goal 7: Continue to provide outreach to increase awareness among residents of the range of the Town's open space and recreational assets.**

**Objectives:**

- a) Create a map of all public conservation and recreation areas including public trails and trail heads, boat landings, uses and entry points. Publish on the Town's web site and at all conservation land kiosks.
- b) Expand and promote eco-tourism opportunities in Sudbury, including hiking, cross country skiing, canoeing/kayaking, walking, and biking.
- c) Create stewardship programs for conservation lands. Develop a volunteer network of land stewards by involving residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations.
- d) Develop documents and compile reference material to educate land owners on the benefits of Conservation and Agricultural Restrictions on their lands. Be proactive in initiating contact and distributing information to land owners.
- e) Educate town residents and real estate agents about the benefits of retaining agricultural lands in Sudbury. Use the Agricultural Commission and the Grange as examples. (Benefits include fruit picking, hay rides, community sponsored agriculture).
- f) Develop/update and post regulations for use of Town recreation and conservation areas.
- g) Promote the benefits of and support the Community Preservation Act and other funding sources, including Self-Help grants, due to their ability to increase open space preservation and recreation.