

VI. Community Goals

- A. Process The following draws on discussions with the Open Space Committee and on the goals in the 2005 Plan Submission
- B. Vision: A balanced community combining a strong traditional center with varied neighborhoods and discrete industrial/commercial areas set off by a combination of river front, woodlands, grasslands and agriculture, and protected water resources structured around a linked town-wide open space system. There would be some open space near all existing and future development forming either a backdrop to a neighborhood or its focus, while the linked greenway system would form a town-wide network. The town would reflect continued growth management, application of Smart Growth and Low Impact Design principles, and an active open space preservation program. The combined holdings would offer challenging recreation resources for all.
- C. Goals Statement This is the basis for the statement of Goals and Objectives following the discussion of Needs.

Bridgewater's major open space and recreation goals are the following:

1. Agriculture Related

- A. To preserve and cultivate public and private agricultural lands using tools such as Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, Community Preservation Act funds, appropriate zoning of present farmland, and a local Agricultural Commission, along with other state resources such as the Farm Viability and Environmental Enhancement programs
- B. Identification of potential community garden sites and establishment of such a program. This might be done in collaboration with the community gardens program at the Old State Farm which the BSC Office of Community Partnerships is developing in partnership with the Department of Corrections.

2. Open Space Related

- A. To support the efforts of the Conservation and Recreation Commissions to maintain the beauty of Bridgewater and its landscape, to provide varied recreational opportunities for all, and to increase general environmental awareness, and awareness of the town's cultural and natural history.
- B. To create a town-wide linked open space system or network of holdings and connecting trails which in turn could be connected, if feasible, to open space provided next to or near every neighborhood.

- C. To enhance and expand the river-oriented Conservation Parkland System drawing heavily on the findings and recommendations of the site-specific management plans.
- D. To increase public awareness of existing open space and recreation areas, through varied media; signs, maps and web page features.

3. Water Related

- A. To protect environmentally sensitive areas, including the quality and capacity of the public water supply and preservation of riparian land along streams, lakes and ponds, and to enhance and protect wildlife corridors
- B. To support and adopt Low Impact Design strategies reducing runoff and maximizing ground water recharge, to consider recharge value when prioritizing open space acquisitions, and to implement flood control strategies such as augmenting flood storage areas, and actively managing dams and control structures

4. Smart Growth Related

- A. To encourage future town growth and development to follow Smart Growth Principles by incorporating them in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Zoning Bylaw, Board of Health Regulations, and related regulatory board guidelines and policies, and through possible use of new tools such as Transferable Development Rights.

5. Habitat Related

- A. To protect varied upland and aquatic wildlife, particularly increasing the fisheries productivity of water bodies, protecting vernal pools.
- B. To enhance/ protect wildlife corridors through the creation of a town-wide linked open space system

6. Recreation Related

- A. To provide varied opportunities for organized and casual, sports-oriented and nature-oriented, upland and water-based outdoor recreation
- B. To expand opportunities for passive and active recreation via facility improvements, greenway connections, and a town-wide/regionally-linked recreational /functional bicycle and pedestrian trail system building on previous proposals

8. Management Related

To better organize, expand and adequately fund the professional and volunteer maintenance and improvement of Bridgewater's Parklands System

9. Open Space Committee Related

A. Creation of a standing Open Space Committee to make this plan a living document to be used, and to evolve with changing needs, opportunities, and concerns.



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Photo by the Murray Family

