



Section 6 – Community Goals

Previous Goals

In the spring of 1999 a survey about open space and recreation needs and preferences was mailed to the households in Wakefield through their gas and electric bills. The general findings of the survey indicated that there was a strong desire for more open space, conservation land, active recreational facilities (including athletic fields), and better maintenance and improved equipment in existing play facilities. The strongest desire expressed in the survey was to improve and protect the shoreline of Lake Quannapowitt and the public water supply at Crystal Lake. Forty-nine percent of respondents felt that tax dollars should be used to purchase additional land for conservation and/or management of open space.

The goals and objectives of the 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan were derived from the survey. The 2000 plan included four goals:

Goal #1: Increase the amount of and improve the Town’s open space and “green” areas

- Increase conservation lands through acquisition, conversion, and conservation restrictions;
- Improve open space throughout the Town;
- Accommodate special needs by improving accessibility and achieving compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act goals;
- Plan and implement achievable open space preservation and recreation projects.

Goal #2: Increase the number and quality of active recreational areas and facilities

- Identify properties within the Town suitable for creating new active recreational areas and facilities;
- Increase quality of active recreational areas and facilities.

Goal #3: Protect watershed and water

- Improve water quality in Lake Quannapowitt;
- Provide long-term oversight of conservation lands and watershed and resource protection by broadening the Conservation Commission’s mandate;
- Involve the public in issues of watershed and resource protection;
- Strengthen existing by-laws to further protect watersheds and water resources.

Goal #4: Step-up efforts to coordinate with and participate in local and regional planning efforts

These goals are ongoing and the Town will continue to pursue them.

Description of Process

This update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan is the culmination of ideas and information provided by the residents of Wakefield through public forums, interviews with Town officials, field work, reviewing past reports and studies, and evaluating documents pertaining to regional open space and recreation issues. The planning and public participation process is described in Section 2 – Introduction of this plan.

Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The goals that the community outlined in 2000 were reviewed and renewed in 2004. These goals show a desire on the part of Wakefield residents to protect, conserve, and enhance Wakefield's open space, watershed, and recreational resources. The 2000 goals were enhanced to include goals to seek funding for open space and recreation projects and to find ways to connect trails, jogging routes, and destination areas within Town. The community's open space and recreation vision is to properly maintain the current inventory of open space and recreation parcels; to acquire new parcels in order to expand both passive and active recreational opportunities and further water and watershed protection goals; to create connections between open space lands, recreational facilities, and destination areas in Town; and to work both locally and regionally to improve open space and recreational resources.