

Section 9 – Five Year Action Plan

The 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan had an ambitious Five - Year Action Plan consisting of 46 actions to accomplish the four major goals of the plan. The major accomplishments since the 2000 Plan are as follows:

- Hiring of a full-time Town Planner;
- Acquisition of the Lanai Island parcel and the creation of Gertrude Spaulding Park;
- Creation of [Vision 2000](#), a committee organized to define a shared vision for the future of Wakefield and to protect the quality of life, the beauty and character of the town, and the property and interests of everyone who lives in Wakefield;
- Worked with MAPC on Geographic Information Systems needs;
- Acquired funding to upgrade many parks and recreation facilities throughout Town to provide wheelchair and handicap access;
- Worked to integrate the Open Space and Recreation Plan with Wakefield's Master Plan;
- Acquisition by the Town of an additional 7.28 acres to add to Mapleway Playground;
- Acquisition by the Town of 34 acres near Lowell St.;
- Updated the Town's open space inventory, taking into account the new acquisitions since 2000 and the work of Gertrude Spaulding in the 1990's.

The Five-Year Action Plan is the most important section in any open space and recreation plan. The following recommendations are meant to bridge the gap between the existing open space and recreation resources identified in Section 5, the goals and objectives (Section 8), and the needs and desires of the residents of Wakefield (Section 7). The designation of a target year is meant as a guide only. It is more important to be flexible and to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Many items will need to occur over several years. In each case, a primary responsible party or parties is identified. Map 6: Action Plan is a map illustrating the Action Plan recommendations.

The 2004 Five-Year Action Plan was developed by first reviewing the action plan from the 2000 Plan. All completed actions were removed from the list. The remaining action items were reviewed by various Town departments to determine if they were still desirable. Additional action items were added based on citizen input at public meetings held on May 4 and June 3, 2004.

Wakefield 2004 Open Space Plan Action Steps								
GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
<i>Goal 1: Increase amount of and improve the Town's open space and 'green' areas</i>								
1A. Create a series of trail networks to connect specific destinations in town, link Wakefield to regional resources, and provide broader recreation opportunities	Obtain funding to create design plans for a town-wide greenway system	Planner, Planning Board	X	X				MA Greenways and Trail Grant Program
	Create design plans to establish a cohesive trailway/greenway along Main, Water, Lowell, Albion, and Prospect Streets	Planner, Planning Board, consultant		X				MA Greenways and Trail Grant Program
	Begin developing greenway by increasing the number of and design scheme for street trees and walking paths along the main greenway system (Main and Water Streets), beginning in the Greenwood neighborhood and stemming off the Melrose project begun in 2004	Planner			X			Public Works Econ Dev (PWED) Program
	Acquire or restrict lands along the Saugus and Mill Rivers to connect open space lands and scenic areas into the greenway trails	ConCom				X		MA Self-Help Grant Program
	Increase access to the town's water resources by creating trails, areas to put in canoes, walkways out to the water's edge, and/or viewing areas	Rec, ConCom, Planner, OSRC			X	X		MA Urban Self-Help Grant Program
	Develop safe links along major transportation corridors where it is not practical to acquire land		X	X	X	X	X	
	Confirm ownership by MBTA of the abandoned Boston and Maine railroad line right-of-way from Wakefield Center (junction of North Ave. and Main St.) to the Lynnfield town line	Wakefield Bike Committee, Planner	X					

Open Space & Recreation Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
	Acquire right of way from Guilford Corp. to convert the unused railway line into a linear park	Town Manager, BOS		X				MA Urban Self-Help; MA Greenways and Trail Demo Grant Program
	Review Weston & Sampson bikeway proposal and the Wakefield Bike Committee bikeway proposal. Have a meeting to reconcile differences	Planner, Wakefield Bike Committee, BOS	X					
	Based on the Wakefield Bicycle Committee and Weston & Sampson bike routes suggestions, create safe cycling routes to connect parks and other destinations within town	Planner, Wakefield Bike Committee		X				
	Implement the design plans for a linear park along the abandoned Boston and Maine railway line through Wakefield	Planner, Planning Board			X			Tea3
1B. Increase conservation land through acquisition, conversion, and conservation	Create a local land trust, following up on work of AVIS and Wakefield's Vision 2000 efforts	Planner, OSRC		X				
	Determine a "go-to" person to answer potential donor's land protection options questions	OSRC, ConCom		X				
	Develop a brochure/handout indicating who people can speak with if they are interested in donating or protecting land	OSRC, ConCom, Planner, BOS		X				
	Develop a comprehensive list of lands of conservation interest	BOS, Planning Board, ConCom, OSRC	X					
	Review the inventory of tax-title and town-owned lands to identify the best uses of the lands	Planner, Planning Board		X				
	Prioritize lands of conservation interest	ConCom, OSRC		X				

Town of Wakefield

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
	Develop clear open space acquisition criteria to be able to quickly respond as opportunities arise	OSRC, ConCom, Planner, BOS		X				
	Prioritize Chapter 61 and tax-title lands	OSRC, ConCom, Planner, BOS	X					
	Organize procedures for acquisition of Ch. 61 and tax title lands in order to be able to respond within the 120 day right-of-first-refusal period should these lands become available	ConCom, Planner, OSRC	X					
	Ensure that the Conservation Commission receives Chapter 61 right-of-first-refusal notices concurrently with the Board of Selectmen	ConCom, BOS	X					
	Approach owner of the last working farm in town to determine interest in putting the property under Ch 61A or protecting it in some way	Planner, OSRC			X			
1C. Improve open space throughout the Town, working to ensure that every section of town has some green space	Establish an entity to oversee the management and implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan	OSRC	X	X	X	X	X	
	Pass a Tree Preservation Ordinance	Planner, ConCom		X				
	Develop a tree management plan for the town	Planner			X			
	Begin a re-greening program to increase the number of street trees in Wakefield	Planner, DPW				X		
	Maintain green belts around Lake Quannapowitt and Crystal Lake; enhance them through further acquisition either of properties, rights of way, or easements	Friends, BOS, DPW	On-going					Recreation Trails Program; Federal Land and Water Cons. Fund
	Dedicate at least one Conservation Commission meeting of each calendar year for a public hearing to assess progress toward implementing and fine-tuning the Open Space and Recreation Plan	ConCom, OSRC	X					

Open Space & Recreation Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
	Promote communication and cooperation among Town boards regarding use and jurisdiction of open space	ConCom, OSRC, Planner	On-going					
	Collaborate with the Historical Commission, the Housing Authority, and other interest groups to create opportunities for cross-jurisdictional land protection initiatives	ConCom, OSRC, HC, HA	On-going					
1D. Plan and implement achievable open space preservation and recreation projects	Investigate how many certifiable vernal pools exist in Wakefield and where they are located	ConCom, OSRC	X					
	Determine feasible areas for/desirability of pocket parks (possibly using tax-title lands -see Goal 2A)	OSRC, Planner, Planning Board		X				
	Implement management plans for key areas of protected open space land, watershed, and water resource areas, especially focusing on Crystal Lake and Lake Quannapowitt	ConCom, OSRC			X	On-going		
	Develop a riverway plan for the Saugus River	ConCom			X			
	Begin Adopt-A-River programs for the Saugus and the Mill Rivers	ConCom				X		
	Improve the water quality of the Mill River	ConCom					X	
Goal 2: Increase number and quality of active recreational areas and facilities								
2A. Identify properties suitable for creating new active and passive recreation facilities	Hire a consultant to assess where to locate and how to develop and upgrade playing fields, athletic areas, and tennis courts	Planner, Rec, DPW		X				
	Develop a comprehensive list of lands of recreation interest	Planner, DPW, Rec, BOS, OSRC	X					
	Review the inventory of tax-title and town-owned lands to identify the best uses of the lands	Planner, Planning Board		X				
	Prioritize lands of recreation interest	DPW, Rec, OSRC		X				
	Determine reuse possibilities of town-owned lands for playing fields or recreational use	Planner, BOS		X				

Town of Wakefield

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
	Put a moratorium on the sale of town-owned land until the best use of parcels can be determined	BOS	X					
2B. Increase quality of active and passive recreational areas and facilities	Develop a plan for the expansion of Mapleway Playground, adding a soccer field to the existing recreation facilities	Friends of Mapleway Park		X	X			
	Expand recreational programs for teenagers and enhance town-run recreation options	DPW, Rec				X		MA Urban Self-Help Program
	Maintain and upgrade existing town properties	DPW, Rec	On-going					MA Urban Self-Help Program
	Develop a maintenance and rest/use schedule for all playing fields in Wakefield	DPW		X				
2C. Improve ADA accessibility to park and recreation lands	Work with DPW, Recreation Department, Community Development, and Town Engineer on further upgrades needed to provide wheelchair and handicapped access to all parks and recreation areas, especially Moulton Playground, Fernald and Blatz Fields, and Col. Connelly Park	DPW, Rec, Town Engineer, OCD	X	And on-going				
	Develop a brochure to include in Town light bills or text to put on Town's webpage highlighting the ADA accessible recreation facilities and parks	Planner, Commission on Disabilities		X				
Goal 3: Protect watershed and water resources								
3A. Improve the water quality in Lake Quannapowitt	Work with Friends of Lake Quannapowitt and other organizations to identify sources of water quality problems and potential remedies	Town, Friends, OSRC	On-going					
	Work with DPW towards creating a watershed protection area around Crystal Lake by helping to extend their property ownership in that area through acquisition and codifying it	ConCom, DPW, Planner, BOS			X			
	Broaden the Conservation Commission mandate	ConCom, BOS	X					

Open Space & Recreation Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
	Review road salting policy near Lake Quannapowitt and Crystal Lake to ensure an environmentally friendly road maintenance program for these sensitive areas	DPW, ConCom		X				Coastal Non-Point Source Pollution Grant Program
	Educate the public about the impact of salt use in the winter on the water resources in town	Friends, ConCom, OSRC			X			Coastal Pollutant Remediation Program
3B. Involve the public in issues of watershed and resource protection	Expand fertilizer/pesticide and other public education efforts	ConCom, Friends	X	X	On-going			Coastal Pollutant Remediation Program
	Continue to make the public aware of resource protection issues and on-going activities to improve the watersheds and resources of the town	ConCom, Planner	On-going					
	Implement an annual Town-wide clean-up day	ConCom, Friends	X	On-going				
	Link the town webpage to the webpages of groups working to advance the resource needs of the town, such as the Friends of Lake Quannapowitt and Vision 2000	Town IT Manager/webmaster	X					
3C. Strengthen existing by-laws to further protect watersheds and water resources	Develop a Watershed Protection District Bylaw for the Crystal Lake watershed that meets the standard of the model bylaw in the 1992 North Suburban Water Supply Protection Plan	ConCom, BOS, Planning Board				X		
	Review and develop or upgrade local bylaws to improve resource protection	Planner, BOS			X	On-going		
3D. Reduce direct stormwater discharge to the extent possible	Work with DPW to remove the stormwater drainage pipe that discharges into Crystal Lake	DPW, ConCom		X				
	Reduce the amount of stormwater runoff, especially in high priority areas, by preserving open land and permeable surfaces	ConCom, OSRC	On-going					

Town of Wakefield

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
	Pursue the implementation of stormwater system improvements and public education as part of Phase II of the EPA's Stormwater Regulations	DPW, ConCom	X	X	X	X	X	
	Extend the jurisdiction of the DEP's Stormwater Guidelines to include all development, not just development that is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act	ConCom		X				
<i>Goal 4: Step-up efforts to coordinate with and participate in local and regional planning efforts</i>								
Improve coordination of open space and recreation planning efforts with neighboring communities and regional planning entities	Continue participation in regional planning efforts regarding recreation and open space with organizations such as MAPC, DCR, and NSPC.	Planner	On-going					
	Continue work with the towns of Lynnfield, North Reading, Reading, and Wilmington to develop a regional bikeway through the 5 towns and to create links within Wakefield	Wakefield Bike Committee, Planner	On-going					
	Work with the Lynnfield Conservation Commission to continue the protection of Reedy Meadow	ConCom	On-going					
	Work with the towns of Saugus and Melrose to develop a Resource Management Plan for the Golden Hills ACEC			X				
	Work with Stoneham to develop a watershed protection district for the portion of the Crystal Lake watershed that lies within that Town's boundaries	BOS, Planner, ConCom			X	On-going		
	Work with the city of Melrose to create a pathway from the Greenwood area in Wakefield to the Middlesex Fells Reservation					X	On-going	
	Collaborate with the towns of Reading and Lynnfield to develop a 3-town plan for the potential re-use of the Camp Curtis Guild property	Planner, BOS			X			

Open Space & Recreation Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBLE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	FUNDING
<i>Goal 5: Seek funding to maintain and increase the amount of active and passive recreational areas</i>								
	Allocate an established amount of funding to the Open Space Fund as a regular budget item	BOS	X					
	Re-establish the Gertrude Spaulding Fund for Environmental Education or create another similar Open Space Fund	Friends, Vision 2000, Planner		X				
	Create a means through which people who are interested in donating money to the improvement of Wakefield's open space and recreation facilities can do so	OSRC			X			
	Revisit the Community Preservation Act (CPA)	Planner, OSRC		X				
	Educate decision-makers re: CPA	Planner, PB, ConCom, OSRC			X			
<i>Goal 6: Continue to use zoning and other land use regulations to create and protect open space</i>								
Create incentives to make it economically advantageous to save land	Implement smart growth strategies to take the pressure off development happening outside of the downtown and more high-density areas	Town-wide	On-going					

Abbreviations Codes	
ConCom	Conservation Commission
Rec	Recreation Department
OSRC	Open Space and Recreation Committee
DPW	Department of Public Works
HC	Historical Commission
HA	Housing Authority
Planner	Town Planner
Planning Board	Planning Board
OCD	Office of Community Development
BOS	Board of Selectmen
Friends	Friends of Lake Quannapowitt

Table 25: Gertrude Spaulding’s “Wish List” of Private Parcels of Conservation Priority

Parcels of Conservation and Recreation Interest		
<i>The numbers next to the area’s name/location correlate with the numbers on the map</i>		
Parcel Name/Location	Comments on Parcel from Public Meeting 5/4/2004	Natural Features
#3 - Lakeside Office Park/Motel	Connect to Town-owned pathway; complete pathway around Lake Quannapowitt	aquifer, lake edge, wetlands
#4 - Spaulding St – Jackson Residential	Connect to Town-owned pathway; complete pathway around Lake Quannapowitt	Lake edge
#5 - Quannapowitt Yacht Club	Connect to Town-owned pathway; complete pathway around Lake Quannapowitt	Lake edge, wetlands?
#6 - Scott Ln and Water St	Part of Mill River watershed; potential riparian buffer	river edge, near proposed greenway (Water St)
#7 - Foster Lane/Paon Blvd	Part of Mill River watershed	vernal pool, wellhead protection area, wetlands
#8 - New Salem St	Part of Mill River watershed	wetlands, along river
#9 - Salem/Walton St	Saugus River watershed	aquifer, along river, along proposed secondary greenway
#10 - Montrose Ave – power lines	Land under power lines; was a bike path in the 1970s	wetlands, vernal pool, abuts river
#11 - Montrose Ave – power lines	Land under power lines; was a bike path in the 1970s	some wetlands
#12 - Audubon Road – power lines – 4 separate parcels	Land under power lines; was a bike path in the 1970s	rare species habitat, wetlands, vernal pool, abuts Reedy Meadow, biomap core habitat, rare wildlife habitat
#13 - Salem/New Salem Streets	May have already been developed	wetlands
#14 - Parker Road/Rte. 128 – 5 separate parcels	Would fill in land in this area that is owned by town - all wet; part of Lake Quannapowitt watershed	wetlands, part in aquifer
#16 – Ch. 61B land – Forest St/Forest Rd	Attaches to bigger upland area; possibly attached area may be given to town; wet	wetlands, vernal pool
#20 - Bathol St/Washington – 2 separate parcels	Flood-prone area	zoned commercial, surrounded by wetlands, vernal pool
#21 - Linden Street	Adjacent to town-owned pumping station	wetlands
#22 - Forest Street	Highest point in Wakefield - ledge	some wetlands
#24 - Oak St/Melrose Ave	Connection to Town Forest	ACEC
#25 - Montclare Ave	Connection to Town Forest	ACEC
#27 - Lowell St/Penfield Circle/RR	Property owner petitioned to buy a piece of property	wetlands
#29 - Salem St/Walton Rd	Wet area	wetlands, abuts small pond

Table 26: Priority Acquisition Areas from the Gertrude Spaulding Wish List

The numbers next to the area's name/location correlate with the numbers on the map

Parcel Name/Location	Comments on Parcel from Public Meeting	Natural Features
#3 - Lakeside Office Park/Motel – North Ave.	Connect to Town-owned pathway; complete pathway around Lake Quannapowitt	aquifer, lake edge, wetlands
#6 - Scott Ln and Water St	Part of Mill River watershed; potential riparian buffer	river edge, near proposed greenway (Water St)
#7 - Foster Lane/Paon Blvd	Part of Mill River watershed	vernal pool, wellhead protection area, wetlands
#8 - New Salem St	Part of Mill River watershed	wetlands, along river, along proposed rail trail
#9 - Salem/Walton St	Saugus River watershed	aquifer, along river, along proposed secondary greenway
#10 - Montrose Ave – power lines	Land under power lines; was a bike path in the 1970s	wetlands, vernal pool, abuts river
#12 - Audubon Road – power lines – 4 separate parcels	Land under power lines; was a bike path in the 1970s	rare species habitat, wetlands, vernal pool, abuts Reedy Meadow, biomap core habitat, rare wildlife habitat
#14 - Parker Road/Rte. 128 – 5 separate parcels	Would fill in land in this area that is owned by town - all wet; part of Lake Quannapowitt watershed	wetlands, some parcels in aquifer, would piece together pieces already owned by town
#24 - Oak St/Melrose Ave	Connection to Town Forest	ACEC
#25 - Montclare Ave	Connection to Town Forest	ACEC

Map Legend

Priority Acquisition Areas from Spaulding Wishlist

- See Table on previous page

Facilities in Need of Improvement

- JJ Round Playground
- Yeuell School fields

Develop Recreation Facilities

- Mapleway Playground Extension
- Boat/canoe launch to Lake Quannapowitt near Veteran's Field
- Town-owned property near Nasella Field
- Boardwalks, water access, to Reedy Meadow along railroad right of way

Improve Access to

- Reedy Meadow
- Mill River
- Lake Quannapowitt

Areas of Interest

- Lake Quannapowitt
- Crystal Lake
- Golden Hills/Town Forest/ACEC
- Reedy Meadow
- Breakheart Reservation
- Parcels #4 and 5 from Gertrude Spaulding list – right of way or access to complete loop trail around Lake Q.
- Chapter 61B Lands

Sites of Interest

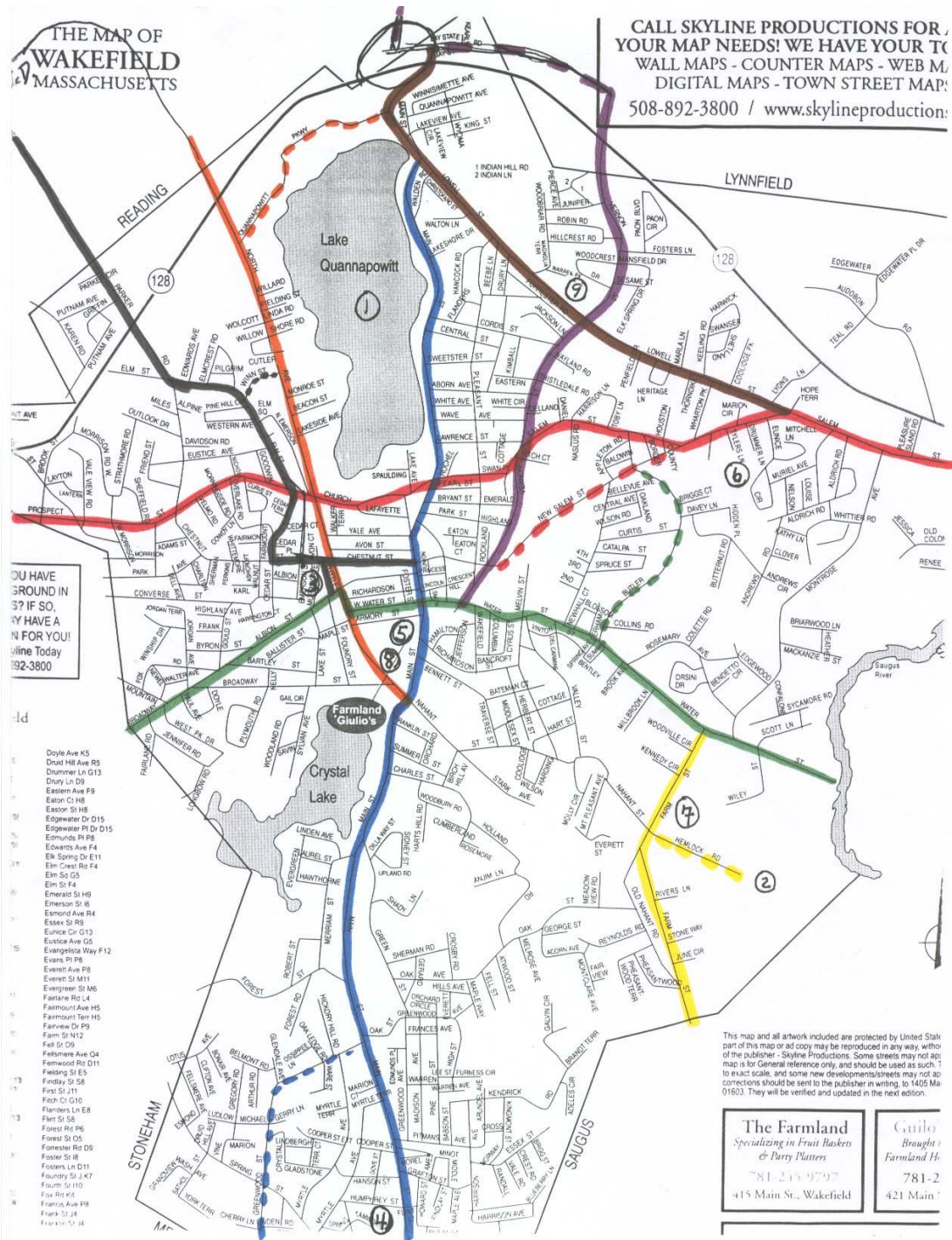
- Camp Curtis Guild property
- St. Florence Church property
- Last working farm in Wakefield
- Yeuell School
- Franklin School
- Doyle School
- Hurd School
- Montrose School
- Area between Main and Green Streets (known as Gates of Greenwood)



There is much overlap between the proposed greenway trail outlined on the action plan map and the proposed bikeway routes through Wakefield. In order to highlight both concepts, a copy of the complete bike trail concept map proposed by the Wakefield Bike Committee has been inserted here (on the next page). This concept map was submitted for consideration to the 5-Town Regional Bikeway Committee's consultant, Weston & Sampson, as they designed the concept plan for the 5-town regional bike route. The two concept plans differ somewhat and neither has been adopted as a final plan thus far.

The development of bike routes is an important piece of the open space and recreation activities underway in Wakefield and the surrounding region. It is important to resolve the differences between the two concepts as planning and implementation forward.

Concept Map of Proposed Bike Paths through Wakefield by the Wakefield Bike Committee



Wakefield Bike Committee Key for Bike Path Streets and Points of Interest

Color	Route	Connecting:
Blue	Main St.	Lowell St. to Main St., Melrose
Blue (broken)	Greenwood St.	Main St. (Wakefield) to Franklin St. (Melrose)
Orange	North Ave.	John St., Reading to Main St.
Orange (broken)	Quannapowitt Parkway	North Ave. to Lowell St.
Red	Salem, Church & Prospect Sts.	Salem St., Lynnfield to North St., Stoneham
Red (broken)	New Salem St.	Salem St. to Vernon St.
Purple	Vernon St.	Main St., Lynnfield to Water St. (Rte 129)
Purple (broken)	Bay State Rd.	Main St., Lynnfield to Haverhill St. Reading.
Black	Chestnut, Cedar, Elm, Tuttle Sts. & Parker Rd.	Main St. to Ash St., Reading
Black (broken)	Winn St.	Elm St. to North Ave. (no motorized traffic)
Green	Water (Rte. 129), W. Water Sts., North Ave., Albion St.	Water St., Saugus to Elm St., Stoneham
Green (broken)	Butler Ave.	New Salem St. to Water St.
Yellow	Farm St.	Water St. (Rte. 129) to Main St., Saugus
Yellow (broken)	Hemlock Rd.	Farm St. to Breakheart Res.
Brown	Lowell St.	Main St. to Salem St.

Points of Interest

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lake Quannapowitt 2) Breakheart Reservation 3) North Ave. MBTA Station 4) Main St. MBTA Station
(Greenwood) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Downtown Wakefield 6) Sullivan Park 7) Wakefield High School 8) Galvin Middle School 9) Dolbeare Elementary School |
|---|---|