

PREFACE

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), Division of Conservation Services reviews applications for open space funds including the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grants. The acceptance of this Open Space and Recreation Plan by the State Division of Conservation Services makes the Town of Palmer eligible to compete for such funds, which it can use for land acquisition, maintenance and improvement of parks, playgrounds, conservation areas and other open spaces. Additionally, this plan is useful to the Town as a community information resource and comprehensive town planning related to open space and recreation.

The EEA defines the term open space as “conservation land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation”. The EEA goes further to state that a broader definition of open space can be defined as “any undeveloped land with particular conservation or recreation interest.” This broader second definition will be used in this plan when referring to Palmer’s open space.

The 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan was developed by the Palmer Open Space and Recreation Update Committee with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Funding is provided by a District Local Technical Assistance Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan is available through the Open Space and Recreation Committee’s website located at:

<https://www.townofpalmer.com/index.asp?SEC=BAD42420-FF52-4A88-9825-B81A68AFFE43>