

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following is an outline of goals and objectives developed from previous Open Space Plans, responses to the community survey and from public input during the Public Visioning Session held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, and is the summary of many issues discussed through the planning process.

Goal 1: Enhance neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and recreational opportunities.

- Consider ADA accessibility in parks and greenway plans.
- Adopt the Community Preservation Act.
- Provide recreational opportunities for all age groups, especially for kids, teens and elderly.
- Develop and/or enhance recreational facilities and playgrounds for each of the 4 villages, providing access for all.
- Provide canoe/boating access to waterways.
- Develop walking/biking trails, bridle paths. These may also be available in winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Provide opportunities for all residents to have safe and accessible opportunities to recreate in all seasons in Palmer.
- Provide opportunities for people to grow food by siting, constructing, and managing at least one community garden on Town-owned property

Goal 2: Protect water resources and promote their appropriate use.

- Enhance river access opportunities by developing blue trails, boat launches, and formalizing access locations.
- Develop a plan to create, manage and enhance existing recreational use and accessibility to waterways and watershed land.
- Promote said plan to include multi-use policies with appropriate recreational and conservation guidelines.

Goal 3: Preserve and manage open space lands, archaeological treasures, and scenic views for conservation and recreational purposes.

- Identify and protect areas of significant historical, cultural, and ecological value.
- Protect open space parcels and develop greenways along primary waterways.
- Encourage programs that include nature study, bird watching, and other passive recreational activities.

- Develop programs and trails that have multi-use opportunities for seasonal recreation and encourage appreciation of these resources.
- Develop and promote open space and recreational opportunities that will serve as buffers to the developable land area.

Goal 4: Publicize open space and recreation areas and promote their appropriate use.

- Develop informational materials on all open space and recreation areas to provide to residents.
- Increase access to information on open space areas and recreational opportunities by streamlining information.
- Publicize open spaces, recreation areas, and trail networks to promote recreational use.
- Post signage for applicable rules and regulations at open space and recreation areas to facilitate appropriate recreational use.
- Enforce rules and regulations for use of open space areas through routine monitoring and inspections.

Goal 5: Protect and Preserve Open Space Parcels and environmentally sensitive Conservation Areas

- Acquire and/or protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, rivers, ponds, recharge areas and slopes greater than 25%.
- Identify and protect agricultural lands in use.
- Identify and protect agricultural lands not in use, via stewardship programs, for future agricultural or conservation needs.
- Identify aquifer and/or preserve areas suitable for conservation of wildlife via contiguous open space corridors.
- Identify, map, and protect vernal pools and other areas of critical habitat such as bogs, mature woodlands, and early successional habitat.