

SECTION 8: GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following is an outline of goals and objectives developed from previous Open Space Plans, response to the telephone survey and public input during open meetings of various town boards and committees and is the summary of many issues discussed through the planning process.

Goal 1: Preserve sensitive conservation areas and agricultural lands.

- 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.

Goal 2: Protect water resources and promote appropriate use of them.

- Identify, map and protect wetlands.
- Identify and protect groundwater, impound and flood plain areas.
- 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: Protect significant plant and wildlife habitats, endangered organisms, and wildlife corridors.

- Identify, map, and protect vernal pools and other areas of critical habitat such as bogs, mature woodlands, early succession habitat.

- Identify aquifer and/or preserve areas suitable for conservation of wildlife via contiguous open space corridors.
- Promote awareness of these resources and the value of diverse species residing in our community.

Goal 5: Enhance neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and recreational opportunities.

- Develop and/or enhance recreational facilities and playgrounds for each of the four villages, providing accessibility to all.
- Develop walking/biking trails, bridle paths. These may also be available in winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Provide canoe/boating access to waterways.
- Consider the development of a large community park.
- Consider ADA accessibility in parks and greenway plans.
- Work to adopt the Community Preservation Act