



TOWN OF PALMER

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OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2014 Annual Report

Office Hours: by Appointment

Meeting Dates: 3rd Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM, unless otherwise posted

Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Committee Introduction

The Open Space and Recreation Committee works with the community to target and preserve lands and ecosystems within Palmer for public benefit. These areas provide a healthy environment for wildlife and plants and areas for passive or active recreational use by the public. Areas of high natural, scenic and/or recreational value are priorities for the Committee. In order to assure the protection of valued land, we assist in the creation of trails for passive recreation, community gardens, playing fields, beaches and playgrounds.

This year the Committee has updated the expired 2006 plan and has held several informational sessions and community workshops for interested town residents. A public survey of Palmer residents was conducted from March to July to identify their open space and recreational needs, and a community forum was held on May 20th to review the survey results and develop concise community wide goals consistent with protecting Palmer's unique resources and accomplishable within the next seven years. The Committee plans to provide opportunities for the public to appreciate and enjoy Palmer's preserved natural areas, parks, playgrounds and fields, farms and water resources through a limited number of public field trips anticipated for the upcoming fall.

The Mission of the Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) Committee

The main mission of the Town of Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Committee is to preserve, maintain and enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Palmer by developing and maintaining an Open Space and Recreation Plan. The draft 2014 Open Space and Recreation Plan is available for review online and at the Conservation Commission & Planning Board offices.

The 2014 Plan describes the town's natural resources, provide an inventory of open space and recreational facilities, set community goals and provide an action plan for the next 7 years. The plan also identifies and recommends open space acquisitions and identifies other creative strategies to preserve open space based on public input and in consideration of Town government policies and action and the future Town's Master Plan.

Members of the OSRP Committee

The OSRP Committee is made up of Palmer residents that share a passion for protecting open space and recreational areas of the town. Committee members are appointed by the Town Manager for the duration of the plans update and include concerned citizens and representatives of key town entities (including the Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, Recreation Committee, Planning Board, Town Council and Historical Commission). There are currently several open vacancies on the committee and all interested residents should send a letter of request to the Town Manager.