

Appendix 4

This appendix is an update of Chapter 9, Five Year Action Plan, added to the 2005 Pepperell Open Space and Recreation Plan in January 2010.

The original five-year action plan listed proposed actions and a timetable for completing those actions for each of the objectives noted in Section 8. Since 2005 some of the Objectives have been achieved. A Public Forum regarding an update to this Chapter was widely advertised and held at the Pepperell Library on Tuesday, January 5, 2010 by the Conservation Commission. Twenty-seven people attended. In addition, comments were solicited from Town department heads, the Planning Board, and the Board of Selectmen. Taking stock of all the comments, the accomplishments of the past 5 years, and on-going or as-yet-unmet objectives, the following Action Plan for the next 2 years has been adopted by both the Pepperell Conservation and Recreation Commissions.

Goal 1: Preserve Pepperell’s public and private water supplies.

Objective 1-a. Complete the Pepperell Springs Protection Project. **DONE**

Objective 1-b. Permanently protect additional open space in the Water Resources Protection Overlay District (WRPOD). Prioritize WRPOD protection efforts in the following order: Well Protection (Zone II) land, surface water and wetland resources, open land in the watersheds of Blood, Gulf, Sucker, Stewart, and Reedy Meadow Brooks & Heald and Coon Tree Ponds.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Study & prioritize for protection the privately-owned open space parcels in town, with special consideration for parcels in the WRPOD	2010
Correct trails maps so that Zone 1 land around municipal wells is not shown as publicly accessible	2010
Develop and distribute educational materials about lawn care and landscaping, including proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, organic methods, minimizing irrigation and lawn size, use of native species	2011

Objective 1-c. Minimize ground and surface water “exportation” from the watershed. **DONE**
(Sewer Overlay District added to Zoning By-Law)

Goal 2: Protect sensitive natural resources and the rural character of the Town.

Objective 2-a. Complete the Pepperell Springs Protection Project. **DONE**

Objective 2-b. Permanently protect additional open space that includes or abuts wetlands and water bodies, vulnerable wildlife habitat (such as corridors, large forested tracts, open fields, & vernal pools, especially BioMap core areas and Estimated Habitat for Rare Wildlife), and local landmarks (such as the bandstand, animal pound, covered bridge, and other historical sites or buildings).

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Study and prioritize for protection the privately-owned open space parcels in town	2010

Develop protection plans for the highest priority parcels, including possible acquisition or conservation restrictions to be held by the town or a land trust	2010
Implement protection plans when possible	2010-2011
Develop and adopt Chapter 61 Right-of-First-Refusal Assignment Procedure	2010

Objective 2-c. Encourage the MA DFA purchase of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on eligible farmland.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Collect and/or develop information about the APR program to give to local farmers and distribute it	On going
Appropriate funds to assist in purchase of APR's, if any are proposed	2010-2011

Objective 2-d. Change Zoning By-Laws to encourage cluster developments and other “creative” planning tools. **DONE** (Open Space Residential Subdivision added to Zoning By-Laws)

Goal 3: Provide for long-term sustainability of open space protection and recreation efforts.

Objective 3-a. Form an oversight group to implement the goals, objectives and actions in this plan.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Identify workable structure for oversight group, e.g. appointment of committee by Selectmen, sub-committee of Conservation Commission, or other	2010
Appoint members, including individuals who can be liaisons to Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Finance Committee, and Planning Board	2010

Objective 3-b. Study open space “build out” possibilities and update the list of priority parcels for permanent protection.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Integrate plans for actions in Objectives 1-b and 2-b	2010
Produce “vision map” of ideal Open Space network	2011

Objective 3-c. Examine financing and evaluate Community Preservation Act adoption.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Plan long term funding mechanism to support open space projects	2011
Implement plans if possible	2011

Objective 3-d. Evaluate and update management plans for Conservation Land parcels, Water Department lands, and the Town Forest.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Prioritize parcels for evaluations and updating	2010
Evaluate and update, if necessary	Complete 1 parcel or

(Updating of Heald Street Orchard Plan DONE)	management unit per year
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Objective 3-e. Evaluate the recreation program to plan for future open space and program needs.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Study the 2003 Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey results, Massachusetts Outdoors!, population projections, and other data & input	2010
Plan future recreation program needs, focusing on land requirements for playing fields, sports facilities, or other	On going

Goal 4: Increase access for people of all demographic groups to Pepperell's Open Space and Recreation lands and programs.

Objective 4-a. Provide information and widely publicize lands and programs.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Finish Pepperell trails map in cooperation with the Nashoba Conservation Trust	2010
Publicize Conservation Land and Conservation Commission events as well as Recreation Commission-sponsored programs in the Recreation Commission quarterly flier	On going
Issue periodic press releases about Conservation and Recreation Commission programs or decisions	On going
Post fliers about upcoming events on Conservation land kiosks, in the Library and Community Center, and on the Town of Pepperell website	On going

Objective 4-b. Sponsor programs for all ages to educate about natural history and the relationship between people and the environment.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Hold public events such as guided walks on Conservation Land	Monthly during good weather
Publicize and enforce prohibition of motorized vehicle use on Recreation & Conservation Land, including improved signage, educational articles on the Town website and local newspaper, meetings or other programs about the reasons for the prohibition	On going
Promote educational programs run by groups such as the Nashua River Watershed Association, encourage such groups to use Conservation Land for their education programs	On going

Objective 4-c. Promote inter-connected trail system on open lands and increase connectivity between recreational activity centers and neighborhoods.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Seek additional grants to place bike racks at Conservation	2011

and Recreation destinations (Bike Racks at Town Field DONE)	
Plan town-wide alternative transportation network, including off-road trails, sidewalks and bike lanes	2011
Include plan in next Comprehensive Plan update	Future, beyond 2011

Objective 4-d. Evaluate recreational offerings to see if they meet community needs.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Develop assessment methods such as surveying, program evaluations, and requests for comments on registration materials	Evaluate input annually

Objective 4-e. Improve access to conservation and recreation lands and programs for people with disabilities.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Post information about accessibility of Conservation and Recreation lands on Town web site	2010
Implement one project per year to improve accessibility of Conservation and Recreation Land	On going

Goal 5: Promote a cooperative and regional approach to open space and recreation planning.

Objective 5-a. Encourage communication and cooperation between Town boards and commissions on open space and recreation issues.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Increase collaboration between Selectmen, Conservation Commission, DPW, and Town Forest Committee on town-owned open land management	On going
Continue monthly informational meetings for town department heads	On going

Objective 5-b. Routinely include local land trusts and other non-profit organizations, such as the Nashua River Watershed Association, in the Town's planning and implementation of the goals, objectives, and actions in this plan.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Designate a specific representative of the town for each non-profit group and ask the representative to keep pertinent town agencies informed of issues and decisions	On going
Encourage commissioners and town staff to become active individual members of local groups	On going

Objective 5-c. Continue and increase Town participation in regional efforts such as ACEC Stewardship and the Source Water Protection Initiative.

<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
Designate a specific representative of the town for each regional program and ask the representative to keep pertinent town agencies informed of issues and decisions	2010