

Dedham Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals/Objectives/Actions



Natural Resource Protection, Stewardship, Restoration and Enhancement

(2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan...EXISTING)

Goals/Objectives:

- 1. Protect the Town's biological diversity, watersheds and ecosystems.**
 - a. Protect lands that have high value for preservation of wildlife habitat, native vegetation, and water resources.
 - b. Contain and reduce spread of non-native plant species.
 - c. Minimize conflicts between human populations and wildlife.
 - d. Reduce pollution, improve air and water quality, and clean up polluted areas.
 - e. Preserve and restore waterways, ponds, and wetlands.
- 2. Promote sound environmental management of open spaces.**
 - a. Encourage responsible use among those who enjoy and access private and public open spaces.
 - b. Practice low environmental impact land management techniques for all Town properties.
 - c. Support and coordinate with Town's Environmental Department on sustainability initiatives.
- 3. Encourage development that protects open space systems and enhances natural resources.**
 - a. Guide and regulate private development to preserve open areas and protect environmentally sensitive areas.
 - b. Encourage site design techniques that limit point and non-point source pollution areas.

Actions:

- 1 Work with partner organizations to identify habitat areas for wildlife. **2**
- 2 Protect land in critical habitat areas. **7**
- 3 Coordinate with neighboring towns to create contiguous natural areas. **6**
- 4 Inventory and certify all vernal pools and regularly monitor protection. **1**
- 5 Educate private landowners about landscaping techniques and property management that supports wildlife and decreases use of pesticides. **5**
- 6 Coordinate removal of invasive plant species from natural areas. **11**
- 7 Educate public about natural resources, endangered species, native flora or fauna unique to Dedham, invasive species, and gardening with native species. Consider organizing a Bio-Diversity event. Research creation of a natural history center for the Town. **6**
- 8 Coordinate community volunteer efforts to support stewardship of natural areas, including: Youth/Scout organizations, Churches/religious groups, Civic and friendship organizations. **8**
- 9 Work with partner organizations and volunteer groups to monitor water quality. **3**
- 10 Where necessary, implement techniques to improve water clarity and quality (Mother Brook). **4**
- 11 Organize Town-wide cleanups of waterways. **1**
- 12 Adopt a Town-wide policy for land management of public lands to decrease water consumption and protect water resources. Incorporate Best Management Practices, Practice Low Impact Development. **7**
- 13 Create and maintain walking/biking trails (and required cleanup) at Manor Fields (former Striar) property as temporary use until Town plans are implemented. **16**
- 14 Create new trails within the Town Forest and increase accessibility through the creation of a safe access point on Washington St. and other suitable locations. **11**
- 15 Develop guides to parks and publicly-accessible lands which shows the trails, special features and access points for pedestrians and vehicles. Design brochures and trail guides. Create an information kiosk in the Square with maps, etc. **28**
- 16 Design a Town-wide greenway system that connects existing open space and recreation lands. Identify any gaps and work to protect and gain access. Coordinate with improvements to river access and extension of a linear park along Charles River and Mother Brook. Link to neighboring communities. **37**
- 17 Extend/improve trail system between Wilson Mtn. and the Charles River. Improve crosswalk and signage to Whitcomb Woods. Connect to walking trails at NewBridge. Complete NewBridge trail/wildlife corridor under Route 128. **29**
- 18 Meet with neighboring towns to coordinate open space acquisition and management along town borders and waterways. **8**
- 19 Create community gardens to help promote sustainable lifestyles (Consider Colburn St., Condon Park, St. Susanna's Church, other Town properties. **6**
- 20 Encourage property owners to regularly clean up and monitor trash/litter generated on their properties. **6**
- 21 Encourage recycling at local stores and provide incentives to recycle. **6**
- 22 Encourage use of biodegradable food service products at local stores and schools. **3**
- 23 Encourage existing large commercial developments to incorporate 'green' improvements to their buildings. **12**
- 24 Adopt environmental and energy performance standards for new development (design/construction/operation). **1**
- 25 Review Town's Aquifer Protection regulations to ensure effectiveness, particularly during/after new development and modify or improve as necessary. **1**
- 26 Educate private landowners about inclusion of native plants in landscaping and property management and reduction of pesticide applications. **2**
- 27 Create a Livable Communities Task Force to advocate for non-motorized transportation options and public transit. **8**

Dedham Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals/Objectives/Actions



Natural Resource Protection, Stewardship, Restoration and Enhancement **(2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan...PROPOSED)**

Goals/Objectives:

Actions:

1. Add data layers to Dedham GIS maps with conservation/recreation data from Mass GIS (OLIVER) (e.g. NHESP critical habitats, vernal pools, wetlands, trails). (Open Space and Recreation Committee)
2. Continue efforts to develop the Manor Fields site for recreational use. (Master Plan 2017 Update, Open Space and Recreation Committee, Public Workshop #1, Online Survey) **30**
3. Town Forest: expand trails, create trail map, figure-out parking. (Steering Committee, Public Workshop #1, Online Survey) **26**
4. Evaluate options for creating contiguous natural areas and wildlife corridors within Dedham on public and private land. (Open Space and Recreation Committee) **8**
5. Inform residents about new water app. for Dedham-Westwood Water District residents. (Open Space and Recreation Committee)
6. Develop an Environmental Checklist to assist with development review. (Master Plan 2017 Update) **1**
7. Establish a plan and priorities for maintaining and increasing the Town's urban forest and public tree inventory. (Master Plan 2017 Update) **2**
8. Develop and promote public conservation efforts relating to water and energy resources. (Master Plan 2017 Update) **2**
9. Develop several strategies to control invasive species on publicly-owned land, including volunteer days to remove specific strands, particularly along the Dedham Water Trail and Wigwam Pond. (Stakeholder Interviews, HW) **5**
10. Develop a comprehensive inventory of wetland restoration sites currently being adversely impacted and those areas that have the potential of being impacted. Circulate inventory to all boards and committees for their information and help in implementation. (HW) **2**
11. Establish a 'Dedham PROS (Parks, Recreation, Open Space)' working collaborative to include municipal departments (Parks and Recreation, Environmental, Council on Aging, etc.) in addition to various community groups/organizations (Dedham Community House, Endicott Estate, and various neighborhood associations) to better understand what each group offers, future plans for expansion, and how each can complement each other to efficiently provide services to Dedham residents. (Stakeholder Interviews) **14**
12. Improve communication between and among major Boards and expand opportunities for coordination by Town professionals associated with those Boards. Increase civic engagement by improving technology and communications processes for Town Departments, Boards and Committees. (Master Plan 2017 Update) **18**
13. Encourage the formation of a trails stewards group. (Master Plan 2017 Update) **8**
14. Adopt the Community Preservation Act or establish a permanent fund within the Town's Budget to fund the projects that would be funded if the CPA had passed. (Steering Committee) **9**
15. Confirm that all commissions, committees, boards, and pertinent town staff mentioned in this plan receive a copy of it and understand their role in its implementation. Investigate the feasibility to purchase software/app to tag people associated with different actions and connect different people who might not know each other. (SR) **3**
16. Create wildlife exclosures in the Dedham Town Forest to allow herbaceous vegetation to grow without deer grazing. (SR) **1**
17. Create 'Sponsor a Spot' locations in Dedham Conservation areas as a fundraiser and educational program. (SR) **2**
18. Add educational interpretive signage on Dedham Town Land to identify interesting natural features. (SR) **1**

Dedham Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals/Objectives/Actions



Natural Resource Protection, Stewardship, Restoration and Enhancement **(2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan...WHAT'S MISSING?)**

Goals/Objectives:

Actions:

Communicate the benefits of stormwater management and natural resources to everyday life, in light of climate change **4**

Bathrooms/port-o-pots at public spaces/fields **1**

Access to open spaces and natural areas to the public **7**

Create public records on herbicides used on all public recreation fields **1**

Create movement to reduce grassed lawns to reduce water and herbicides **1**

Create the Dedham Rail trail for recreational use/linear park/opportunity for gardens/educational program for children **8**

Consider Police Station adaptive reuse as a park **4**

Establish a fund dedicated for Parks & Rec. **6**

ADA accessibility for conservation areas **2**

Make developers pay their fair share for improving/expanding open space **1**

Expand the Aquifer protection District Overlay **1**

Abbutters most affected by open space should be heard **2**

Mountain biking and trail markers **1**

Connect existing greenspace in town **1**

Incentivize commercial abutters to clean up spaces **3**

Soil testing along Rail Trail **1**

Better enforcement/education for litter, illegal dumping **1**

Adaptive reuse for Capen School **1**