

2020 Natick OSRP - Seven-Year Action Plan (2020-2027)			
#	Objective	Action	Target Date
Goal 1: Protect Natick's open spaces, including waterbodies, woodlands, farms, and parks, that can be enjoyed by future generations			
1.A.1	A. Protect privately held open space through acquisition, conservation/agricultural restrictions, easements, and other means	(1) Pursue opportunities for land protection especially those properties identified on the "Open Space Interest List"	Ongoing
1.A.2		(2) Update the "Open Space Interest List"	2026
1.A.3		(3) Review the Tax Title list for land protection opportunities	Annually
1.A.4		(4) Keep track of Chapter 61 properties and ensure OSAC and ConCom are notified of "right of first refusal" events	Annually
1.A.5		(5) Secure open space as part of the permitting process	Ongoing
1.B.1	B. Permanently protect public and quasi-public open space	(1) Preserve open space in perpetuity held by the Town which are not already protected	2022-2023
1.C.1	C. Develop internal revenue streams for open space protection	(1) Seek payments to the FAR Stabilization Fund and other mitigation from developers	Ongoing
1.C.2		(2) Consider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA)	2020-2027
1.D.1	D. Develop and maintain zoning and land use tools to protect open space	(1) Ensure that new zoning bylaws encourage the set aside of open space, trail easements, FAR Stabilization Fund payments, etc.	Ongoing
1.D.2		(2) Require submission of a digital conservation/trail easement boundary plan once it is recorded as part of the permitting process	Ongoing
1.D.3		(3) Update Aquifer Protection District Bylaw	2021
Goal 2: Enhance, steward, and restore existing natural resources, open spaces and recreational facilities			
2.A.1	A. Improve existing fields and recreation facilities	(1) Make necessary improvements to South Natick parks (Grove Park, Multi-purpose Courts, etc.)	2022
2.B.1	B. Develop town-owned land or secure additional land for fields and recreation activities	(1) Create pocket parks with priority for densest neighborhoods	
2.B.2		(2) Create community gardens with priority for densest neighborhoods	2026
2.B.3		(3) Recreate field adjacent to Natick Community Senior Center	2021
2.B.4		(4) Identify public non-motorized boat storage and boat launch opportunities at Lake Cochituate and the Charles River	2026
2.C.1	C. Develop baseline inventory and encroachment monitoring program for conservation lands	(1) Develop a baseline inventory and address encroachments at each Conservation Commission owned property	2020
2.D.1	D. Develop Land Management Plan for conservation lands	(1) Develop Land Management Plan for Conservation Commission owned property including invasive species, ecological habitat improvements, annual budget requirements, etc.	2021
2.E.1	E. Engage residents, businesses, and other groups as active stewards or sponsors	(1) Develop a Trails and Land Stewards program including a database of active stewards assigned to each open space/trail, an online steward sign-up and report a problem form, tracking of stewardship hours, etc.	2020
2.E.2		(2) Engage volunteer groups in open space and trail work	Ongoing
Goal 3: Preserve and protect the town's water supply, wildlife, and other natural resources			
3.A.1	A. Improve ecological habitats	(1) Develop Invasive Species Management Plan for the Hunnewell Town Forest	2020
3.A.2		(2) Work towards eradication of invasive species in the Hunnewell Town Forest	Ongoing
3.A.3		(3) Develop invasive species public education campaign surrounding their identification and eradication	2024
3.A.4		(4) Establish a pollinator garden program. Install one new pollinator garden	2025
3.A.5		(5) Install three new green infrastructure projects on Town-owned land as recommended in the 2018 Lake Cochituate Watershed-Based Plan	2021-2027
3.B.1	B. Limit use of toxic substances on natural resources town-wide	(1) Develop a discouraged and recommended list of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers. Share the list on the Town website, social media, with permit applicants, with landscaping companies, etc.	2024
3.B.2		(2) Establish a residential public education campaign surrounding toxic uses, their impact on natural resources, stormwater's role, lawn size, etc.	2026
Goal 4: Provide a system of walking and bicycle trails that connect our open spaces and provide a way to travel throughout the town			
4.A.1	A. Acquire land or secure easements to provide continuous walking and bicycling trails, to be used both for recreation and transportation	(1) Explore use of utility easements and paper streets for trails	2021
4.A.2		(2) Improve and expand open space access points	Ongoing
4.A.3		(3) Explore options for additional Lake Cochituate trail access especially along southeastern and southwestern edges	2025
4.B.1	B. Develop and mark new and existing trails	(1) Develop and implement trail construction standards, including marking, bridges, signage, walkways and surfaces, etc.	2022

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4.B.2		(2) Add new Henry Wilson trail sign on Route 135 and historic markers/signage along trail	2021
4.B.3		(3) Complete Takawambpait Trail	2027
4.B.4		(4) Complete Sudbury Aqueduct from Cottage Street to the Sherborn Town Line	2022
4.B.5		(5) Develop last Cochituate Rail Trail segment from the current proposed terminus to the MBTA Station	2022
4.B.6		(6) Connect north Pickerel Pond with south Pickerel Pond via a boardwalk trail system	2022
4.B.7		(7) Develop parking area and improve trail head for the Pine Hill area	2023
4.B.8		(8) Develop parking area and improve trail head for Winter Woods	2021
4.B.9		(9) Collaborate with neighboring communities to develop Charles River Blue Trail	2026
4.B.10	C.	(10) Continue to implement offsite wayfinding signs to trails, kiosks at trailheads, pet waste bag dispensers, etc.	Ongoing
Goal 5. Increase awareness, appreciation, and use of the town's open spaces, trails, natural resources, and recreational opportunities			
5.A.1	A. Use marketing tools to publicize the location, amenities, and availability of open spaces	(1) Update town-wide open space and trail maps and provide them online and in print	2025
5.A.2		(2) Sponsor trail walks and canoe or bicycle trips to introduce people to the available opportunities	Ongoing
5.A.3		(3) Participate in Natick Days and other town events to promote these resources	Ongoing
5.A.4		(4) Place open space and trail maps at strategic locations in town	Ongoing
5.A.5		(5) Optimize cross-promotion of events among the open space and trails related organizations in town	Ongoing
5.B.1	B. Promote universal access for trails, recreation facilities, and conservation areas	(1) Create a fully inclusive park and playground	
5.B.2		(2) Indicate accessibility levels in brochures, maps, and other public materials and provide them online and in print.	2025
5.B.3		(3) Conduct additional open space and trails promotion/outreach to Environmental Justice neighborhoods	2025
5.B.4		(4) Join the "10-Minute Walk Campaign" and commit to ensuring all residents are within a 10-minute walk to an open space/park.	2021
5.C.1	C. Promote coordination among the various town boards, commissions, and departments responsible for open spaces	(1) Track progress on this Action Plan and report annually to relevant Town boards and committees	Annually
5.C.2		(2) Encourage communications among boards, committees, neighboring communities, and other related organizations.	Ongoing