

SECTION 6 – COMMUNITY VISION

The Town of Foxborough, guided by its Conservation Manager and Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, with extensive collaboration and input from the community, other town committees, town officials, elected representatives, and an intern from the Wildlands Trust, has created this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).

The meetings, surveys and public input used to prepare this updated OSRP helped to develop strategic ways to respond to increasing development pressures that affect the Town's ability to protect essential natural resources, preserve open space for future generations, and meet our community's current active and passive recreation needs.

A. Description of Process

In 2004, public meetings were held and an Open Space and Recreation Survey was created and distributed by the OSRP Committee throughout town; 100 completed surveys were collected. In 2009, a new survey, patterned after the State's Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook, was made available to residents online and at various points around town; 250 completed surveys were collected. A public kickoff meeting was held on February 11, 2009. Advertisements in a local newspaper, flyers posted around town, an email campaign and word of mouth were used to publicize these efforts.

In 2010 and 2011, the Town's Conservation Manager and OSRP Committee, sought more public involvement. Numerous OSRP Committee meetings were held and extensive research and analysis were completed during this time, which included review of Assessor parcel maps, GIS work, interviews with town officials and a synthesis of survey results.

This Plan was prepared following the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services for the preparation of state-approved open space and recreation master plans.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Formal and informal input collected during the preparation of this Plan (such as surveys and public comment) indicates that residents of Foxborough recognize the direct tie between open space and recreation, and their quality of life. In a bustling region, Foxborough has the challenge of balancing the growth of "gray" infrastructure such as roadways, houses, and water and power lines, with the preservation of "green" infrastructure such as the undeveloped lands, wetlands, parks, recreational fields, and forests. This balance has made Foxborough a desirable place to live. However, the rapid growth and development trends of the region have caused a great deal of concern among residents.

Residents recognize that development in their town will continue to happen, but want to guide it in ways that protect and enhance the community's natural lands and resources, recreational amenities, social and cultural identity and overall quality of life.

Through the planning process, four overarching goals for recreation and open space have been developed.

1. Preserve, protect, connect and enhance Foxborough's conservation and natural land resources.

Residents recognize that growth and development should not compromise the natural character and environmental quality of their community. The intent of the first goal is to protect lands for their natural resource and conservation qualities, increase the town's participation in protection of the local watershed, and advance more ecologically sound development practices as the town grows.

2. Provide, maintain, and improve diverse recreation opportunities that meet the needs of Foxborough's growing population.

Foxborough's active population appreciates the existing recreation amenities in town, but as the population grows so will the demand for these facilities. Foxborough needs more multipurpose recreational facilities, an enhanced network of trails, and improved recreation amenities. Opportunities for residents to hike, play, exercise, or enjoy the outdoors should be easily accessible, diverse and kept in good order.

3. Preserve and improve the quality, character, and health of Foxborough’s community and environmental resources by protecting common resources, remediating degraded lands, and preserving the town’s cultural heritage.

Open space preservation meets significant social and community needs of Foxborough residents. Maintaining quality of life and the rural character in town depends on strategic preservation efforts. Foxborough can improve the environmental vigor of the community by preserving drinking water quality for its residents, restoring degraded land and protecting sites of archaeological and historical significance.

4. Build a strong constituency of open space and recreation advocates through education and collaborative partnerships.

Foxborough can promote an appreciation of its existing open space, natural resources and town character by teaching residents about the impact they have on the environment, the social and economic advantages of open space and recreation amenities, and what they can do as individuals and as members of the community to keep Foxborough a great place to live.



Old oak tree at the Cocasset River Park’s entrance on Mill Street