



SECTION 1
Plan Summary

Section 1. Plan Summary

This section summarizes the content and key highlights of the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan (2018 OSRP) for the Town of Barnstable.

Section 2. Introduction

Open spaces devoted to conservation or recreation help to define community character and enhance quality of life. Over several decades the Town of Barnstable has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving and enhancing its open space resources, including development of successive open space plans. In 2010, the Town continued this strong tradition by obtaining state approval of an Open Space and Recreation Plan (2010 OSRP) in compliance with guidelines set forth by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (MassDCS).

Highlights of municipal and private open space and recreation initiatives following the adoption of the 2010 OSRP include:

- **Open Space Protection** – an additional 138.17 acres came under protection through acquisition or conservation restriction. Of this amount, the Town purchased 38.33 acres of open space and the Barnstable Land Trust purchased 89.65 acres. The remaining 10.19 acres was covered under a conservation restriction.
- **Public Access Enhancements** – include a new parking area constructed for Crocker Neck Conservation Area; ten new kiosks installed at various trail head parking areas;

An 80-ft ADA boardwalk constructed at Long Beach, Centerville; public access parking expansion at West Barnstable conservation area; installation of a new parking lot, trailhead, connector trail and landscape for new access to Lumbert Pond Conservation Area, Centerville; directional street sign project in West Barnstable Conservation Area roads for safety purposes; \$450,000 in improvements to the Craigville Beach bathhouse, and ADA accessibility improvements to the Olde Fair Grounds Golf Course, and Hyannis Golf Course restrooms.

- **Conservation Area Maintenance and Programs** – Presently there are 5,330 acres under active management by the Conservation Division, of which 2,025 acres are managed for public passive recreation. The Town Conservation Division has developed and implemented management plans for thirteen conservation areas that included 35 miles of trails and parking lot improvements. Additional resources are needed in order to update the conservation management plans, and implement recommended measures or improvements.
- **Recreation Programs and Facilities** – the Hyannis Youth and Community Center (HYCC) serves as a vital resource for community-wide recreation programs and services. The center is a year-round, full-service facility with two skating rinks, two basketball courts, a skateboard park, a café and a youth center with after-school programming. Based on a 2012 assessment of fields and facilities, the Town completed numerous improvements to fields, tennis courts and playgrounds across the community. These improvements are described in Section 7.
- **Policies, Regulations and Planning** – the Town completed numerous plans that contribute to a coordinated growth management and open space strategy for the community.

These include, but are not limited to, cultural district planning, nutrient management planning, and designation of Barnstable as a Gateway City. An evaluation of town-owned parcels (including tax title properties) was undertaken to determine the suitability of properties for open space protection, recreation and affordable housing. This led to reclassification of several parcels in the Town’s inventory of open space, municipal and protected properties.

- *Property Reclamation or “Undevelopment”* – Barnstable has continued to implement a program of removal of existing built properties. This approach presents opportunities to reclaim parcels of open space through acquisition and “undevelopment” of strategic built parcels. The latest example is the 2014 purchase of the Stone’s Antiques property on Main Street in Downtown Hyannis. The Town purchased the .18-acre property, demolished the structure, and invested \$50,000 to prepare the site as a pocket park.

A purpose of the *2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan* is to update the 2010 OSRP and maintain the Town’s eligibility for state funding assistance for open space and recreation purchases and improvements. A broader purpose is to provide a blueprint to guide the Town’s plans, investments, policies and regulations in support of protecting and enhancing open space and recreation resources.

The 2018 OSRP update was prepared by Ridley & Associates, Inc. for the Planning and Development Department (PDD) and with guidance from the Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee (LAPC). Broad-based community input for the 2018 OSRP was gathered through a widely distributed community survey, through meetings with town departments, boards and commissions involved with open space and recreation in the Town, and through meetings

with representatives of stakeholder groups. A draft of the 2018 OSRP was released for a public comment period. During the public comment period, a public presentation and hearing was held at Barnstable Town Hall. Public comments were invited by the PDD. Public comments, which are summarized in Section 10, were reviewed and integrated into the final draft 2018 OSRP. The final draft OSRP was then submitted to MassDCS for review and comment, with a request for conditional approval. Comments on the final draft from MassDCS will be incorporated into a revised final 2018 OSRP submitted for approval. [section to be updated following public comment]

Section 3. Community Setting

At 60.17 square miles, Barnstable is geographically the largest town on Cape Cod and the third largest in the Commonwealth. The Town also is the most populous community on Cape Cod, accounting for approximately 21% of Barnstable County’s year-round population.

The Town of Barnstable includes seven villages: Hyannis, Centerville, Osterville, Cotuit, Marstons Mills, West Barnstable and Barnstable Village. Each has a dynamic history of development and a unique village character. The village of Hyannis has the largest population and most intense commercial development of the seven villages and serves as the commercial, transportation, cultural, social service and health care center of Cape Cod.

As the region’s largest and most heavily populated community, and role as a regional center for commercial and institutional services, the Town of Barnstable often experiences the pressures of growth earlier and more acutely than other Cape Cod towns. In response, the Town has taken a leadership role in addressing many growth

management issues, including the protection of open space and the provision of recreational facilities, often providing models for action followed by other Cape Cod towns.

Barnstable's population is somewhat younger than other Cape Cod towns or the County as a whole. The Town has a higher percentage of people under 18 years of age than the County and a lower percentage of people 65 years and older. For open space and recreation planning, the age distribution suggests that Barnstable needs to provide a broad mix of active and passive recreation opportunities, and should gear facilities and programs to meet the needs of young families as well as retired adults.

Barnstable also has significant populations with special socio-economic needs that should be considered in setting priorities and allocating resources for open space and recreation facilities and programs. Environmental Justice populations have been identified and mapped in the Town of Barnstable. The state Environmental Justice Policy seeks to focus resources to service the high-minority/low-income neighborhoods in Massachusetts where the residents are likely to be unaware of or unable to participate in environmental decision-making or to gain access to state environmental resources. The Policy defines Environmental Justice populations as neighborhoods (U.S. Census Bureau census block groups) that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The median annual household income is at or below 65 percent of the statewide median income for Massachusetts; or
- 25 percent of the residents are minority; or
- 25 percent of the residents are foreign born; or
- 25 percent of the residents are lacking English language proficiency.

Meeting the open space and recreation needs of Barnstable's Environmental Justice populations is an important aim of the 2018 OSRP.

Water and wastewater management are issues at the core of growth management and open space planning in Barnstable. Water service is provided by a network of private and public water and fire districts. The districts control a significant amount of land, which protects public water supply and provides areas for wildlife habitat. Management, expansion or land swapping involving water district lands are strategic issues addressed by the 2018 OSRP.

Section 4. Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Barnstable's extensive and varied natural resources frame the areas where open space protection often is needed or desired, and also define the areas where citizens and visitors often seek access for recreation and enjoyment. The resources, which are greatly influenced by the Town's size, geological history, and exposure to Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket Sound, include:

- 170 miles of coastal and estuarine shoreline on Cape Cod Bay and Nantucket Sound, including the 4,700-acre Sandy Neck barrier beach which is classified as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern;
- Extensive wetlands, including salt marsh, anadromous fish runs and 30 certified vernal pools;
- 61 freshwater ponds two or more acres in size, including the 596-acre Wequaquet Lake, and encompassing Coastal Plain pondshores and other significant plant communities;

- 32 animal species which are listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as either endangered, threatened or of special concern;
- Extensive wild and town-propagated shellfish resources that support recreational shellfishing by some 2,300 residents and support a thriving commercial shellfishery;
- 10,482 acres of prime agricultural soils covering approximately one-quarter of the Town's total land area.

The variety and depth of the Town's historic and cultural resources also are compelling. Historic resources include sixteen National Register of Historic Places districts, one local historic district, one regional historic district, and numerous historic structures and scenic roadways located in villages throughout the Town.

Community stewardship of Barnstable's historic resources is addressed in the Town's Historic Preservation Plan. Barnstable's cultural resources encompass a vibrant arts scene and numerous activities and festivals that both celebrate and enhance the Town's maritime and historic traditions.

Barnstable faces challenges in protecting and enhancing the vibrancy, variety and quantity of its natural, historic and cultural resources. Many of the challenges the Town faces relate to the pace and location of development over the past half century, as well as other natural or economic trends. These challenges include:

- Concerns about pollution of ponds, estuaries and groundwater resulting from nutrient loading and bacterial contamination. These concerns have led to significant efforts to manage wastewater and stormwater, which are primary sources of the pollutants;

- Coastal erosion leads to increased efforts to armor the shoreline, which in turn can upset the natural sediment flow and create additional erosion pressures. Related concerns are the impacts of erosion and flooding associated with relative sea level rise;
- Biodiversity and habitat fragmentation is of concern given the extent of land development that has altered or diminished habitat;
- Protection of the Town's scenic roads is needed to preserve the character of Barnstable's villages. These views and vistas are influenced by roadway width and layout, the presence or absence of setbacks and sidewalks, local architecture and dominant trees and vegetation;
- Barnstable has 11 sites that are considered tidally restricted wetlands, due primarily to inappropriately sized culverts and pipes. In some cases the restrictions impair shellfish resources or anadromous fish runs, or lead to issues of degraded water quality;
- Management concerns on some conservation areas and water district lands include illegal trash dumping, unauthorized motorized off-road vehicle use, and vandalism;
- There are several mapped Environmental Justice areas in Barnstable. These areas include some of the most densely populated, densely developed areas in Town. Efforts to actively engage residents of these areas in open space and recreation planning are essential to ensuring that the development of new recreational programs and facilities will meet their needs.

Section 5. Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Lands

Over the past several decades the Town’s strong commitment to planning for open space and recreation has been guided by a corridors and greenways strategy. The priority upland greenway is the east-west oriented glacial moraine parallel to Route 6, valued for its hilly terrain, forest cover, and wildlife habitat. Many of the Town’s significant conservation parcels are located along this greenbelt. Additional conservation efforts have been focused on smaller corridors linking to the larger conservation greenway along the moraine. Protection of drinking water and protection of working landscapes are other strategic open space protection objectives.

The Town’s strong commitment to open space and recreation planning is demonstrated by a record of accomplishment. Table 11 summarizes increases in a variety of open space and recreation lands in the Town since 2010. Of the sixty square miles or roughly 38,500 acres of total land area in the Town, 11,098.81 acres (29%) is protected open space; another 2,565.34 acres (7%) is other public open space, recreation land or other public land; and 1,483.72 (4%) is lands in public or private ownership dedicated to agricultural or recreational uses. As noted above, since 2010 an additional 138.17 acres came under protection through acquisition or conservation restriction.

Table 11. Summary of Open Space and Recreation Land

Protected Open Space	2010	2017	Change
Conservation Land	6,349.26	6,531.14	181.88
Land Bank/CPA	960.06	998.39	38.33
Private Open Space	1,181.51	1,271.16	89.65
State land	447.35	422.89	-24.46
Conservation Restriction Only	438.39	448.58	10.19
Municipal Water District	233.51	237.91	4.40
Non-municipal Water Districts	1,188.60	1,188.74	0.14
Total Protected	10,798.68	11,098.81	300.13
Recreation Land, Other Open Space and Public Land			
Town Cemeteries	166.07	166.07	0.00
Public Trusts	79.17	51.20	-27.97
Town Recreation Land & Facilities	112.94	107.47	-5.47
Beaches & Public Landings	145.14	145.14	0.00
Municipal use	934.46	814.17	-120.29
Schools	289.73	280.23	-9.50
Airport	602.77	619.80	17.03
Housing Authority	54.50	52.19	-2.31
Barnstable County Land & Facilities	123.11	135.11	12.00
State Land	192.22	192.81	0.59
Federal Land	1.15	1.15	0.00
Total Recreation and Other	2,701.26	2,565.34	-135.92
Private Agriculture & Recreation			
Chapter 61	15.96	15.96	0.00
Chapter 61A Agricultural	628.13	712.64	84.51
Barnstable County Farm	91.73	106.50	14.77
Chapter 61B Recreation	626.70	648.62	21.92
Total Agriculture & Recreation	1,362.52	1,483.72	121.20

Source: Barnstable Planning and Development Department and GIS Department
As noted in the text, many changes in acreage are due to reclassifications of parcels by the Assessing Department

Section 6. Community Vision

A strong community vision can imbue a plan with purpose and provide the forward momentum needed for effective implementation.

The Town of Barnstable undertook a multi-faceted approach to articulating a community vision for the 2018 OSRP. This approach involved outreach to town committees working on related topics, an in-depth and widely circulated community survey, detailed review by the LAPC which has broad-based community representation, and consideration of locally-approved planning documents that provide a consistent context and interrelated goals to guide open space and recreation planning.

A community survey was distributed and responses were accepted over a sixty-day period. At the end of this period there were 570 completed surveys submitted for tabulation, of which 79 percent were from year round residents.

Based on the survey responses, the contributions of local officials and facilities managers, and in consideration of approved local plans and programs, the following principles provide the guiding vision for the 2018 OSRP:

- 1. Preservation of open space for protection of drinking water resources, and for the protection of other natural, historic and scenic resources is a community-wide priority.***
- 2. Protection of open space should continue to be an integral component of the Town's efforts to manage land use and the resulting effects of wastewater and congestion. Acquisition of***

appropriate parcels for municipal wastewater treatment should be prioritized in this effort.

- 3. Public access to fresh and marine waterfront areas, for the purpose of enjoying a variety of activities, is a high community priority. The Town should seek to expand those opportunities.***
- 4. The Town should continue to expand and improve facilities and programs to accommodate active and passive recreation opportunities for a diverse, multi-generational community.***
- 5. Opportunities for protection or restoration of land dedicated to farming and agricultural uses, and for market development of locally grown products, should be preserved and encouraged.***

Section 7. Analysis of Needs

The previous sections have provided an overview of community conditions and resources, an inventory of current open space and recreation resources, and a sense of the community's vision for the future. The analysis of needs presented in Section 7 reflects differences between existing conditions and the desired outcomes described in the community vision.

Community resource protection needs are summarized below:

Protection of Public Water Supply. Public drinking water is provided through a network of four¹ water districts. Collectively the distinct districts share management challenges:

- The need to acquire land to meet the 400-foot protective buffer in all Zone I's;
- The need to clarify the conditions under which water district property can be sold or swapped for more strategic parcels;
- Continued municipal efforts to control nutrient loading in ground water;
- Management of water district land to control or eliminate illegal or environmentally harmful activity.

Protection of Fresh and Marine Surface Water Bodies. Access to water bodies is an integral part of community living in Barnstable. Heavy use of waterways and shorelines, along with dense development in surrounding watersheds, can degrade vegetation, water quality and habitat. Protection needs include:

¹ The four districts providing water service are: Cotuit Fire District, Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire and Water District, Barnstable Fire and Water District, and Hyannis Water District.

- Swift implementation of wastewater management and nutrient management plans;
- Continued implementation of the Coastal Resource Management Plan for Three Bays and Centerville River systems;
- Continued long-term monitoring of fresh and marine water quality;
- Continued strict adherence to wetlands regulations and buffers around marsh, bordering vegetative wetlands, and coastal landforms.

Protection and Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat. A comparison of protected open space in the Town with areas of sensitive habitat shows instances of fragmentation of sensitive habitat areas. Needs to achieve green space connections and reconnections include:

- Using the analysis and maps provided in the Barnstable Comprehensive Plan as a guide to acquiring land;
- Exploring all opportunities to establish greenway linkages and reconnect habitat fragments, including easements, transfer of development rights (TDR), "undevelopment", and acquisition;
- Developing a green infrastructure plan to identify and prioritize opportunities for green linkages and habitat connections;
- Including wildlife protection in management plans for conservation and water district lands; and
- Ensuring that development and redevelopment projects seek determination of habitat status from Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Land Protection. As funds for land acquisition grow scarce, use of regulatory and non-regulatory land protection measures will become increasingly important. These measures may include:

- Incorporating open space protection measures in regulatory reviews of residential and commercial development and redevelopment projects;
- Seeking removal of existing built structures on key public and private parcels for open space protection, traffic mitigation or aesthetic benefits;
- Expanding use of non-regulatory protection methods to acquire open space including: donation, bequest, bargain sale, tax title transfer, and use of a reverter clause;
- Expanding use of non-regulatory measures to protect open space with less than fee interest: conservation restrictions, easements, options to purchase, rights of first refusal, tax deferral programs, differential assessment programs, lease arrangements and other tax incentive programs to encourage private property owners to protect their property;
- Exploring application of land use regulations to protect open space, such as broader use of cluster-style development.

Opportunities for Agriculture. Stemming the loss of agricultural activity and expanding the amount of land available for farming is an issue of regional importance. With strong community interest, prime agricultural soils and large open areas in the western part of Town, Barnstable is poised to take advantage of regional interest and opportunities to re-energize agricultural activity in Town. Preserving land for farmlands was identified as very important or important to seventy percent of community survey respondents.

Community open space and recreation needs are summarized below:

Public Access to the Water. Public access to the water for residents and visitors is an on-going open space and recreation need in the Town. By a wide margin, public access to water bodies for bathing, fishing and hand carried boating is the most used type of recreation facility among respondents to the community survey. Barnstable is challenged to provide an adequate number of water access opportunities to meet demand, and to maintain the associated support infrastructure such as parking, boat ramps and comfort facilities. The Town’s Ways to Water program has successfully increased access opportunities throughout Town, and has coordinated the Coastal Access Program which funds repairs and maintenance. This high level of commitment to public access is a continuing need and must be balanced with the sustainability of fragile coastal and shoreline resources.

Athletic Field Space. In 2012, the Recreation Division conducted an evaluation of athletic fields and recreation facilities throughout the Town. The assessment prioritized improvements at numerous facilities that have been completed or are underway throughout the Town. A 2017 field assessment is underway and will re-establish priorities for investment in field upgrades needed to serve the Town in the decade ahead.

Hyannis Youth and Community Center (HYCC). HYCC is a jewel among the Town’s recreation facilities. The HYCC is a full service, year-round community center that serves residents of all ages. The facility was purposely located in an area with underserved populations, including the Town’s Environmental Justice

populations. Needs important to the continued success of HYCC include:

- Promoting year-round use. With two rinks, HYCC is fully utilized by regional hockey leagues from fall through spring. HYCC has branched out to regional groups to ensure year round use and diverse activities that appeal to a broad range of residents. Year-round use is critical because HYCC is funded by an Enterprise Fund and revenues are needed to repay debt service;
- Balancing regional use with local needs and facility capacity. As regional use of HYCC expands, it will be necessary to ensure that critical local programming and access is not displaced.

Hyannis Parks. Hyannis is the most densely developed of Barnstable’s villages and an area identified by Town growth management policies as an area of future mixed-use infill development and redevelopment. The village is also the location of Environmental Justice populations who are likely to have fewer recreation options. Sufficient park and recreation space is needed to support additional growth and accommodate residents, employees, and visitors.

Community management needs are summarized below.

Field Maintenance and Management. Responsibilities for managing and maintaining town athletic fields need to be clarified among the Recreation Division, School Department, and the Department of Public Works. Going forward, greater coordination will be needed to manage use, plan and budget improvements, and conduct maintenance at field locations.

Land Management. Presently there are 5,330 acres under active management by the Conservation Division, of which 2,025 acres are managed for public passive recreation. Management plans for thirteen conservation areas have been developed and implemented, and these plans have supported numerous grants and improvement projects. Each plan includes a recommendation to upgrade the management every five years. While the plans remain valid, a periodic assessment of plans is advisable in light of implementation activities and changing conditions.

Reducing and Eliminating Barriers to Accessibility. Based on 2000 census data, 18% of Barnstable’s non-institutionalized population over the age of 5 is disabled.² In addition, Barnstable has a high percentage of older residents as compared to the state, some who may have mobility issues. These facts in combination suggest a needed emphasis on ensuring that facilities are accessible to a broad range of the population and should strive to meet ADA standards. Additional accessibility needs or improvements identified by the Barnstable Disability Commission include:

- Completing access projects identified in the 2007 Beach Survey and subsequent updates;
- Checking the two municipal golf courses for access needs;
- Building additional accessible playgrounds similar to Luke’s Love in West Barnstable;
- Continuing to improve accessibility signage at all town facilities.

On-going assessments and proposed ADA compliance needs are detailed in Appendix E ADA Self Evaluation.

² Town of Barnstable Community Development Block Grant Program Draft Five Year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action Plan, 2010.

Sections 8. & 9. Goals and Objectives and Action Plan

The community vision, inventory of resources and analysis of needs and opportunities provide the basis for refining goals and objectives of the OSRP. Goals are the broad outcomes the OSRP seeks to engender, and objectives are the conceptual milestones to achieve the goal. Section 9 contains a complete list of actions needed to accomplish goals and objectives.

The goals and objectives for the 2010 OSRP are summarized below, along with the highest priority actions for each goal:

Goal 1: Protect and maintain a maximum amount of open space to enhance environmental protection, recreational opportunities and community character.

Objectives to accomplish the goal include:

- 1.1 Continue to apply criteria for prioritizing land acquisition and protection decisions. The process and criteria should reflect a comprehensive, up-to-date evaluation of recreation, conservation and resource protection needs.
- 1.2 Continue the Town's strong commitment to acquiring open space consistent with the criteria used to evaluate and guide land protection decisions.
- 1.3 Promote policy and regulatory measures to preserve open space.
- 1.4 Promote non-regulatory measures to preserve open space.

1.5 Promote active stewardship of protected open spaces.

Priority Actions:

- 1.1.A. Refine the criteria used to evaluate land acquisition and protection decisions, to ensure that criteria adequately reflect current recreation, conservation and resource protection needs.
- 1.2.A Continue to dedicate town funds for acquisition.
- 1.2.B Continue grant writing (e.g., Land and Water, PARC) to support acquisition.
- 1.2.D Continue to leverage town funding for open space protection by pursuing partnerships with private organizations, non-profits, other public entities, and community organizations.
- 1.4.B Review protection status of Town Land Bank and conservation land and evaluate the need for additional protection by conservation restriction or other means if acquired for a specific purpose. For example, place a conservation restriction on all parcels purchased for water resource protection purposes.
- 1.4.C Provide information to land owners regarding conservation options including: conservation restrictions, gifts, Chapter 61, 61A, 61B and other land protection strategies.
- 1.5.E Evaluate the status of completed or ongoing tidal restoration projects (ie., Stewart's Creek, Bridge Creek), and use information for developing best practices for tidal restoration. Continue to pursue opportunities and grants to remove tidal restrictions and restore salt marshes and coastal wetlands, specifically: Rendezvous Creek, Maraspin Creek.

1.5.G Establish a management plan for Santuit Preserve; establish a five member management team consisting of members of the three ownership interests: Barnstable, Mashpee and the State.

1.5.H Continue to provide support for projects to reconstruct fish passages, treat stormwater and protect shellfish sites, including Hinckley's Pond.

Goal 2: Plan, coordinate and execute open space protection measures that complement community efforts to protect water supply, protect fresh and marine surface waters, preserve historic, scenic and cultural resources, and provide opportunities for farming and agriculture.

Objectives to accomplish the goal include:

2.1 Coordinate open space protection measures with efforts to protect the Town's groundwater supply for current and future needs.

2.2 Coordinate open space protection measures with efforts to protect wildlife habitat and augment the Town's green spaces and corridors.

2.3 Coordinate open space protection measures with efforts to protect fresh and marine wetlands and surface waters.

2.4 Preserve opportunities to protect land available for farming in balance with groundwater protection, and to support market development of locally grown produce.

Priority Actions:

2.1.A Identify and inventory the protection status of all fire and water district lands.

2.1.B For the Hyannis Water District, research the legal feasibility and strategic considerations of selling or exchanging excess property with a goal to increase ownership and control of Zone I areas.

2.1.C Provide planning support as needed to fire and water district efforts to secure lands to meet regulatory standards for buffers around all wells in a MassDEP Zone I.

2.1.D Develop management plans for water district lands that encompass:

- Creative options for monitoring and enforcement of access restrictions on water district land, such as volunteer-based programs;
- Partnerships with the Town and local private land trusts for land acquisition, cleanup and stewardship;
- Protection of water district lands from forest fires;
- Clarification on legal and desirable public access for non-detrimental activities.

2.1.E Evaluate the need for changes to the Town's Groundwater Protection Overlay District to increase protection of zones of contribution to public water supply.

2.2.A Inventory parcels which, if protected or reclaimed as open space, would present opportunities to link green spaces and create or re-establish connections between fragmented forests and critical habitat areas. Use the Corridors and Centers map and analysis

found in the Barnstable Comprehensive Plan as a guide to acquiring land.

2.3.A Support continued strict application of regulations designed to protect coastal and freshwater wetlands, and in particular the “no build” and “no disturb” buffer zone requirements.

2.2.E Continue to pursue opportunities to restore herring runs, including Hinckley’s Pond, to support anadromous fish populations and coastal fisheries.

2.3.C Support local wastewater management and nutrient management plans and projects.

Goal 3: Provide diverse recreational opportunities and access throughout Barnstable and ensure that the current and future needs of all user groups are met appropriately.

Objectives to accomplish the goal include:

3.1 Explore ways to ensure sustained funding for recreation facility maintenance.

3.2 Support the continued success of the Hyannis Youth and Community Center.

3.3 Provide adequate active recreation facilities for youth, adults, and seniors.

3.4 With support and input from residents, pursue recreation facilities improvements in each village.

3.5 Provide adequate passive recreation facilities and programs.

3.6 Coordinate planning for a town greenway network to maximize opportunities for trailways, bikeways, enhancements to the Cape Cod Pathways, and connections between open spaces.

3.7 Explore opportunities for expanding park and recreation space in Hyannis south of Route 28.

Priority Actions:

3.1.A Encourage development of a financial plan as a prerequisite to land acquisition or facility development. The plan would demonstrate funding sources for start-up costs and on-going operations and/or maintenance.

3.2.A Promote year-round use of the HYCC to engender diverse activities and generate needed revenues.

3.3.C Implement the recommendations of the 2017 Athletic Field Needs Assessment prepared for the Recreation Division by Weston and Sampson for all municipal and School Department athletic fields and outdoor facilities.

3.3.H “Walk Library” whereby a link (or links) on the Town website would be available for self-guided walks in a database.

3.6.B Continue planning and design for a connection to the regional bikeway network through the Mass Fisheries and Wildlife Hyannis Ponds property, across Route 132 and into Sandwich.

Goal 4: Provide adequate public access to and safe enjoyment of the Town's open space and recreational resources and programs, particularly its shoreline areas and fresh and marine waterways. Access should be provided in balance with resource sustainability.

Objectives to accomplish the goal include:

- 4.1 Pursue opportunities to enhance coastal and freshwater access.
- 4.2 Reduce or eliminate barriers to accessibility at major conservation and recreation areas and facilities throughout Town.
- 4.3 Enhance access to open space and recreation programs and facilities by Environmental Justice populations.

Priority Actions

- 4.1.A Look for opportunities to protect open space adjacent to coastal resource areas for the purposes of public access and/or resource protection, through acquisition or alternative land protection tools.
- 4.1.E Support public shellfish propagation and continue public access to designated recreational shellfishing areas.
- 4.2.B Complete accessibility projects identified in the 2007 Beach Survey and subsequent updates.
- 4.2.F Pursue Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other grant funds for accessibility improvements.
- 4.3.A Develop and outreach and communications plan to ensure that Environmental Justice populations are aware of open space and recreational facilities located throughout the Town.

- 4.3.C Increase parks and open space in underserved areas including Hyannis and Centerville.

Goal 5: Promote greater coordination and communication about community open space and recreation needs within government and among stakeholder groups in the Town.

Objectives to accomplish the goal include:

- 5.1 Establish an implementation process for the 2010 OSRP, to include annual progress reporting.
- 5.2 Establish regular coordination and communication among municipal and private organizations and stakeholders involved in open space protection.
- 5.3 Promote public awareness and support for open space acquisition.
- 5.4 Update the OSRP for approval in 2023.

Priority Actions

- 5.1.A Coordinate implementation through the Growth Management Department, Community Services Department, and Regulatory Services Department, and involve other municipal departments and boards and private stakeholder groups in setting annual action plans and reporting progress.
- 5.3.A Use local media to provide public information about the benefits, strategies and objectives associated with protecting open space and providing adequate recreational opportunities.

