



Nashua River on Main Street

Photo by Steve Piazza

Section 1. Plan Summary

This update of the Lancaster 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is required in order for the Town to be eligible for State Land grants. More importantly, the process of updating this Plan has provided the Town with an in-depth document that states our community open space and recreation goals, and identifies specific ways in which to meet these goals.

The 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan update is a clear and in-depth blueprint that strives to centralize information from many sources into one reference document. It is intended to be used by Town decision makers and for our fundraising and volunteer recruitment efforts. This networking of people and resources will allow the Town of Lancaster to make significant progress on the following OSRP goals:

- Protect the Town's water supply; ensure the health of its ponds, streams, wetlands, and waterways.
- Conserve and protect our agricultural lands and farming viability.
- Protect our contiguous blocks of forestland.
- Enrich our recreational resources.
- Improve the connectivity of people and places in order to foster a sense of community.

- Improve town-wide communications.
- Protect and enrich our open space and animal and plant habitat.
- Develop sustainable human and financial resources to support the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Integrate growth and development to preserve Lancaster's rural feel, scenic vista, historic character, and natural landscape.

The sections of the OSRP are as follows:

- Section 1 – Plan Summary, overview of community OSRP aspirations in general terms.
- Section 2 – Introduction, why the plan was written, description of planning process and public participation.
- Section 3 – Community Setting, gives a broad picture of our community and challenges we face.
- Section 4 – Environmental Inventory and Analysis, an in-depth inventory of Lancaster's natural and cultural resources, augmented by a Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program guidance letter to meet biodiversity goals.
- Section 5 – Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest, contains a listing by map and parcel of publicly owned land in Lancaster.
- Section 6 – Community Vision, overall vision of Open Space and Recreation goals.
- Section 7 – Analysis of Needs, summary of resource protection needs, community needs and management needs.
- Section 8 – Goals and Objectives, summary of goals and strategies to meet those goals.
- Section 9 – Seven-Year Action Plan, provides a year-by-year timetable for specific actions to accomplish our goals and identifies responsible parties.
- Section 10 – Public Comments, includes the public participation plan, public forum results, public survey results and analysis, and public support letters.
- Section 11 – References.
- Appendix – Includes all of the maps, a letter from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and the ADA Self-Assessment.

In preparing this plan update, the OSRP Committee received considerable public input. Committee members disseminated an Open Space and Recreation Survey in March and April 2017, and also held a Public Forum in March 2017. Public meetings of the Open Space and Recreation Committee were held every month from January 2017 through July 2017 to prepare for the plan update. Committee members also routinely attended other Town board and committee meetings to gain their feedback.