



Thayer Memorial Forest

Photo by MRPC

Section 8. Goals and Strategies

The Open Space and Recreation Plan goals and objectives outlined below were formed by the 2007 Master Plan of the Town of Lancaster, the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Survey, the March 2017 Public Forum, and monthly public meetings initiated in January 2017.

An important overall goal is to improve the connectivity of people and places in order to foster a sense of community. The 2007 Master Plan begins by stating “As members of the Lancaster community, notwithstanding our diversity, we are united in wanting our Town to maintain and strengthen the qualities which make it the town we want”. Most acknowledge that Lancaster is a Town targeted for growth. Integrating that growth and development so that Lancaster’s rural feel, scenic vistas, historic character and natural landscape is preserved, remains critical. These are the goals and strategies for the Town we want.

Table 8-1. Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals and Objectives

Goals	Objectives
G1. Protect the town's public water supply.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Expand the town's water supply by partnering with surrounding towns that have excess water, particularly in North Lancaster.2. Educate the public and developers about nonpoint source pollution (that is, run off that is not from a single source but is from storms, snowmelt and human activities) and low-impact development.3. Control invasive vegetation in our conservation areas.4. Encourage creation of buffers along wetlands and waterways that are of adequate depth and which connect to other wetlands or upland habitat.5. Practice water conservation and water quality management.

Goals	Objectives
G2. Conserve and protect our agricultural lands and farming viability.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve lands that support agricultural uses. 2. Partner with the Agricultural Commission on work projects of mutual interest and to educate Lancaster residents on the value of farming to the town.
G3. Protect our contiguous blocks of forestland.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Permanently protect forestland that abuts existing conserved forestland. 2. Develop and implement a certified forest management plan. 3. Work with neighboring towns to link adjacent blocks of forestland.
G4. Enrich our recreational resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a central recreation area near the Town Green, connecting existing resources such as the Community Center, the baseball and soccer fields, and the tennis courts. Enhance these with a walking trail. 2. Expand recreational offerings accessible for all ages and for persons with disabilities. 3. Improve access and signage to existing paths and trails. 4. Construct additional trails, bike paths and sidewalks. 5. Seek long-term, sustainable financing for maintenance and upgrade of facilities as well as a volunteer network to help with stewardship. 6. Create a mitigation mechanism whereby developers would contribute to achieving some of our recreation goals, either by donating a resource or contributing to the recreation fund. 7. Via the Complete Streets program, improve our existing sidewalks and create new bike lanes where feasible.

Goals	Objectives
G5. Improve the connectivity of people and places in order to foster a sense of community.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the accessibility and ease of use of Lancaster’s open space and recreational opportunities for the benefit of persons with disabilities. 2. Connect existing trails and bikeways to each other and improve neighborhood access to public open space. 3. Provide a pedestrian connection from northern to southern Lancaster. 4. Encourage sidewalks and trails in new developments.
G6. Improve Town-wide communications.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the OSRC’s mission to advance the goals and actions of the Town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan and to serve as a centralizing forum of this effort. 2. Improve internal communications on availability of tax title properties.
G7. Protect and enrich our open space and animal and plant habitat.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve and protect priority sites for biodiversity. 2. Connect large blocks of contiguous habitat with wildlife corridors. 3. Encourage use of and respect for public lands. 4. Developing a stewardship program as well as a management plan for all town open space.

Goals	Objectives
G8. Develop sustainable human and financial resources to support the goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop the sources of funding to support the Open Space and Recreation Plan. 2. Communicate with Town committees and offices to leverage the work they are doing, in the interest of sharing resources and effort.
G9. Integrate growth and development so that Lancaster's rural feel, scenic vistas, historic character, and natural landscape are preserved.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deliver on the State's sustainable principles of Smart Growth and Smart Energy by creating policies, zoning and programs that will assist Lancaster to grow and flourish while keeping its natural and historic landscape intact. 2. Foster collaboration between those boards, commissions, and departments that review development proposals, especially in those areas designated for economic development. 3. Consult with the Planning Board on possible re-zoning plans to incorporate more open space and conservation area into existing zoning districts.