

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH MEETING POSTING

Meeting Name: Open Space Committee

Date: February 13, 2014

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 140 Main Street

Agenda Items to be addressed:

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
2014 FEB 11 A 9:15

Order No. 13-1005615: That the Mayor's Communication pertinent to the Open Space Plan, refer to Open Space Committee and Carry Over to 2014.

Per Order of: Chairman Mark Oram

THE LISTING OF TOPICS THAT THE CHAIR REASONABLY ANTICIPATES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING IS NOT INTENDED AS A GUARANTEE OF THE TOPICS THAT WILL HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. NOT ALL TOPICS LISTED MAY IN FACT BE DISCUSSED, AND OTHER TOPICS NOT LISTED MAY ALSO BE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

The public should take due notice that the Marlborough City Council may have a quorum in attendance due to Standing Committees of the City Council consisting of both voting and non-voting members. However, members attending this duly posted meeting are participating and deliberating only in conjunction with the business of the Standing Committee.

Electronic devices, including laptops, cell phones, pagers, and PDAs must be turned off or put in silent mode upon entering the City Council Chamber, and any person violating this rule shall be asked to leave the chamber. Express authorization to utilize such devices may be granted by the President for recordkeeping purposes.



IN CITY COUNCIL

Marlborough, Mass., DECEMBER 2, 2013

ORDERED:

That the Mayor's Communication pertinent to the Open Space Plan, refer to **OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE AND CARRY OVER TO 2014.**

ADOPTED

ORDER NO. 13-1005615



City of Marlborough

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF MARLBOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

2013 NOV 27 A 9:55

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Arthur G. Vigeant
MAYOR

Michael C. Berry
EXECUTIVE AIDE

Patricia Bernard
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

7

November 26, 2013

City Council President Patricia Pope
Marlborough City Council
140 Main Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

*Open Space
Committee &
City over to
New Legislative
Year*

Re: Open Space Plan

Honorable President Pope and Councilors:

I am pleased to submit for your acceptance the 2011-2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan for our community. This document is the result of a lot of hard work and collaboration on the part of our Conservation Officer, Priscilla Ryder, as well as our Open Space and Recreation Committee.

Enclosed for your information is the Executive Summary of this plan as well as a cover letter from Ms. Ryder. Due to the significant size of the Draft Open Space Plan itself (200+ pages), the full document has been placed on the City of Marlborough homepage for your reading pleasure.

Ms. Ryder will be happy to discuss this plan with you in greater detail at such time you see fit.

Sincerely,

Arthur G. Vigeant
Mayor

ENCLOSURES



City of Marlborough Conservation Commission

140 Main Street
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752
Tel. (508) 460-3768 Facsimile (508) 460-3747

Edward Clancy – Chairman
Dennis Demers
Michele Higgins
Lawrence Roy
John Skarin
Allan White
David Williams
Priscilla Ryder Conservation Officer

November 25, 2013

Mayor Arthur Vigeant
140 Main St. City Hall
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011-2018

Dear Mayor Vigeant,

On behalf of the Open Space and Recreation Committee, I am pleased to submit the final Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011-2018 for review and approval. As you know, in 2010 this plan was submitted in its draft form to the state and received "conditional" approval which made the city eligible for park and conservation grants. The conditional approval required that some additional information and another public meeting be held to finalize the plan and to get approval from several boards and the Mayor & City Council. On October 30th 2013, we held a public meeting with special outreach to the Environmental Justice Community to review the plan. The meeting was well attended. Additional information and maps were added as required, and now our final steps are to get any comments and a letter of approval from you and the City Council.

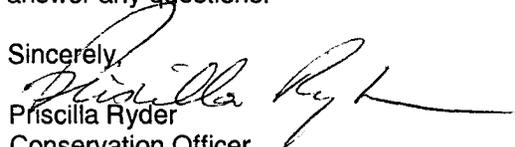
The 15 member Open Space and Recreation Committee is to be commended for including some great ideas in this plan which are far reaching and provide some great recommendations on parks to upgrade, and new parks to build to meet the city's recreation needs. It also recommends open space parcels for acquisition for passive recreation and includes some community projects such as community gardens and inter-community trails that will make the City an even better place to live, work and play!

The document is large at 100 pages for the main document and 150+ pages of appendices, in addition to 13 maps. The entire document, appendices and maps have all been posted on line for easy access and can be found at the following link: http://www.marlborough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA_ConCommisn/OpenSpacePlans/Draft%20Open%20Space%20and%20Recreation%20Plan%202011-2018

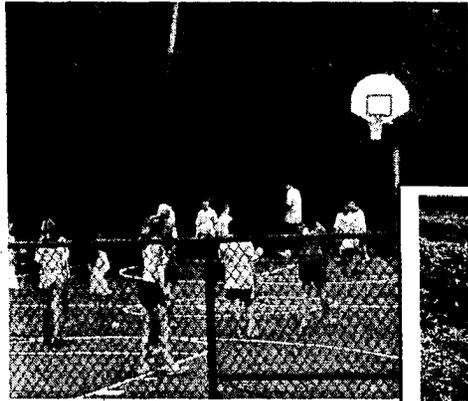
I have included a copy of the table of contents and the executive summary for easy reference. I will print out several hard copies of the entire document for review and put them in the City Council office. I'll print more out as requested. A set of the large maps will also be made available for review at the City Council office.

I am happy to attend a City Council meeting to present the plan and its many recommendations and to answer any questions.

Sincerely,


Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer

Encl.: OSRP Table of Contents; & Executive Summary
E-mail: OSR Committee



City of Marlborough



DRAFT

Open Space and Recreation Plan 2011 - 2018



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MAPS

- Map 1-** Open Space in the City of Marlborough and the Protected lands in surrounding towns.
- Map 2** Zoning Map 2010
- Map 3** Unique Landscape Features Map
- Map 4** Water Resources Map

Map 5	Wildlife Habitat Areas and Corridors
Map 6	Protected Land
Map 7	Unprotected Land
Map 8	Intercommunity Trail Link
Map 9	Bike Map
Map 10	Seven year Action Plan
Map 11	Environmental Justice Map
Map 12	Soils Map

APPENDIX

Appendix A -List of Open Space and Recreation Committee participants

Appendix B – City Wide Survey and Survey Results

1. Lists of the 44 Organizations Notified about the Survey
2. Copy of 2009 Survey
3. Summary of Open Space and Recreation Survey Marlborough MA- 2009

Appendix C - Assabet River Trail Map- (canoe map guide)

Appendix D- Storm drain markers and door hanger and Waterbill brochure

Appendix E – Recreation Department List of programs

Appendix F- Recreation Department 5 year capital plan

Appendix G- Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance documents

Part I - Administrative requirements:

1. Designation of ADA Coordinator
2. Grievance Procedures
3. Public Notification Requirements
4. Participation of Marlborough Commission on Disabilities

Part II – Program Accessibility

1. Facility Inventory
2. Transition Plan

Part III- Employment Practices

Appendix H- Comments from OSRP Public Meeting November 16, 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Marlborough's geographic location and solid infrastructure combine with its areas of open space and natural resources creates a community with lots of resources to make it a great place to live. This open space plan identifies the community's natural, recreational and cultural resources and determines what steps the city must take to preserve and maintain these important community resources. It also looks into the future to determine what resources will be needed to help maintain the quality of life that is enjoyed today.

The primary goals, as noted in section eight of this Open Space and Recreation Plan, are to preserve the unique natural resources and character of the city, to educate citizens about the benefits of these resources and to provide adequate recreational opportunities for the community. This 2011 Open Space and Recreation plan provides the inventory, history, needs analysis and action plan to implement these goals over the next seven years.

The plan includes:

- A summary of achievements of the 2003-2008 Open Space Plan.
- An overview of the City's cultural history, population characteristics, growth and development patterns.
- An environmental inventory of the community's natural resources, scenic features, water resources, plants and wildlife.
- An inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest. Included are maps of all city, state and private land used for recreation and conservation, as well as undeveloped parcels to provide a visual reference about which land remains undeveloped in the city.
- An analysis of conservation and recreation needs within the city, including management, planning needs and acquisition recommendations, to protect natural resources, and provide adequate open space and recreational facilities for a diverse and growing population.
- List of goals and objectives with a 7-year action plan.

Major recommendations provided in this plan include:

- Acquire as appropriate undeveloped parcels of land including: South St. swamp and Shoestring hill, remaining open parcels around Ft. Meadow Reservoir, and smaller parcels adjacent to already protected parcels and parcels that provide natural links between existing city owned and protected lands. See seven year action plan map (Map #10)

- Develop an intercommunity trail system so all residents have a means to take a walk not far from their homes. This includes providing sidewalk links to recreation sites, schools and conservation land destinations.
- Improvements to existing recreation areas including Ward Park and Memorial Beach.
- Aggressively pursue state and/or private grant funds for improvements to recreation facilities and acquisition of land for open space and for creating open space links and trails.
- Development of an additional major recreational facility at the old Bolton Street Landfill.
- Invest in green spaces and improve aesthetics by planting trees, removing invasive vines to preserve trees and planting shade and heritage trees, maintaining a green infrastructure.
- Help preserve the remaining farms in the community.
- Achieve Open Space Goals and in tandem support the Sustainability Action Plan and Smart Growth.
- Engage community citizens in preserving and maintaining open space, recreation and natural resource areas throughout the city.

Although the city was very successful in achieving many of the goals in the 2003 plan including upgrading the recreational facilities and improving conservation land trail, the development pressures on the last remaining parcels of land within the city will be strong and will get stronger when the economy improves.

It will be up to the Mayor, City Council, city boards, committees and residents to push for the protection of these last remaining parcels to save the remaining natural and unique character of the city. It is critical that the City protect specific areas of land through conservation restrictions, open space preservation and/or land acquisition to ensure that future generations can enjoy a life with clean lakes, clean drinking water, abundant wildlife, wooded and paved trails for passive recreation and adequate opportunities for active recreation. In addition, it is critical for the city to manage these open spaces and recreational facilities for future generations and ensure proper funding to maintain what the city already has. In addition it will be critical for the city to manage its green landscapes and prevent pollution of land, air and water resources by asking citizens in the city to do their part to help protect the environment. This goal ties to the bigger picture of helping make the City of Marlborough a greener community- to protect the environment and the personal health of our citizens by protecting our natural resources and providing access to healthy recreational opportunities.

The challenge over the next 5 years will be to ensure that the city plans ahead and saves the parcels of land that are important to the character of the community. Keeping hills undeveloped and ensuring that every neighborhood has a piece of open space or recreation land near by to find peace and quiet and a place to walk or exercise.