

## 5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreational Interest



Photo by Jeff Thibodeau

## 5. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

### 5.1 Introduction

The Town of Chatham consists of 10,182 land acres of which a total of 5,092 acres or 50% is protected open space, recreation lands or lands dedicated to private recreation or agriculture. If Monomoy Island is excluded, these land uses account for 3,323 acres or 33% of the total land area in the Town. Approximately 46% (4,727 acres), or 29% (2,958 acres) if Monomoy Island is excluded, are protected open space. In this OSRP protected open space is defined as land on which development is prohibited or restricted by governmental regulation, deed restriction, conservation restriction or other requirements of acquisition. Lands of conservation and recreation are shown on Map 8.

An overview of the inventory is provided in Table S1.

**Table S1 Public and Private Conservation and Recreation Land**

	Acres
<b>Protected Open Space</b>	
Municipal Open Space	2,034
Watershed/Wellsite Properties	85
Private Open Space	563
Private Conservation Restrictions	54
Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge	1,839
Cape Cod National Seashore	152
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,727</b>
<b>Other Town Lands</b>	
Recreation Lands	221
General Municipal	357
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>578</b>
<b>Private Agricultural/Recreational Lands</b>	
Chapter 61A	8
Chapter 61B	136
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>144</b>

Source: Town of Chatham Growth Management Department

This section provides an inventory of open space and recreation lands in Chatham. This inventory is composed of information supplied by various public and private land conservation entities including the following:

- Town of Chatham Conservation Department;
- Town of Chatham Parks & Recreation Department;
- Town of Chatham Assessor;
- Town of Chatham Land Bank Open Space Committee Records;
- The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.; and,
- Chatham Conservation Foundation, Inc.

5.2 Protected Private Lands

5.2.1 Private Conservation Lands

Table 7. Private Conservation Lands

Land	Acreage	Zoning	Management	Protection Status
<b>Fee Simple Ownership</b>				
Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF)	559	Primarily residential	CCF	Deed restricted
Tern Island	4	R40	MA Audubon Society	Wildlife sanctuary
Total	563			
<b>Conservation Restrictions</b>				
Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF)	54	Primarily residential	CCF	Deed restricted

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

5.2.1.1 Chatham Conservation Foundation

The Chatham Conservation Foundation (CCF), Inc. is a private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the open spaces and natural resources of the Town of Chatham.

CCF acquires deeded ownership of land through outright gift, "bargain sale" (purchases below market value), or neighborhood-driven fundraising and purchase. CCF also provides technical assistance to Chatham neighbors who identify parcels for preservation, to land owners who wish to consider land preservation options, to town boards and committees on open space issues, and to developers and realtors who wish information about setting aside land as open space. CCF works closely with the Town to locate properties, discuss options with potential donors or sellers and to cooperate on purchases made using Land Bank and Community Preservation Act funds.

According to Appendix D, *Chatham Public and Non-Profit Conservation and Recreation Lands*, CCF owns 559 acres of protected open space. Another 54 acres are protected through conservation restrictions held by the CCF.

In 2000 CCF began found a new way to create and preserve open space, sometimes referred to as "undevelopment". Two important properties became available that had structures situated on the lots. The Bridge Street property was in close proximity to a larger CCF holding and the neighbors fully supported the purchase. The house was then relocated and the land replanted with native species. A second property was located near the highly visible intersection of Rt. 28 and Rt. 137 in West Chatham with more than 280 feet of frontage on Route 28. The owners removed the derelict building leaving the lot in its natural state.

CCF receives as gifts some parcels that are intended to be enjoyed by the public. CCF has acquired and maintains three walking trails: Honeysuckle Lane, Frost Fish Creek and Barclays Pond. Another CCF property where the public is welcome is Strong Island with its sheltered beach on the north and walking trails on the upland. However, there is a marked *Reserved Area* on the island where the public is not

allowed.

In 2003 CCF made a significant donation to the Harwich Conservation Trust for its purchase of the 43-acre Shea property along Muddy Creek, which is the border between Harwich and Chatham. Now named the D. Isabelle Smith Conservation area, the land provides an extensive walking trail system.

#### **5.2.1.2 Massachusetts Audubon Society**

The Massachusetts Audubon Society, a 501c3, owns Tern Island, which totals 3.59 acres. The island is used as a wildlife sanctuary primarily for avian species. It lies directly east of the Chatham Fish Pier.

#### **5.2.2 Conservation Restrictions**

As noted above, Conservation Restrictions in Chatham are held by the Chatham Conservation Foundation. CCF currently holds Conservation Restrictions on 31 properties accounting for nearly 54 acres. CCF actively promotes information about Conservation Restrictions as a land protection option for local property owners.

#### **5.2.3 Agricultural Properties Protected under Chapter 61**

The agricultural and horticultural land classification program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61A is designed to encourage the preservation of the state's valuable farmland and promote active agricultural and horticultural land use. It offers significant local tax benefits to property owners willing to make a long term commitment to farming. In exchange for these benefits, the city or town in which the land is located is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner when the land is removed from classification and an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for any purpose other than to continue raising farm products. Eligible property must consist of at least 5 contiguous acres of land under the same ownership and be "actively devoted" to agricultural or horticultural land use under Chapter 61A. Land is used for agricultural or horticultural purposes if it is used primarily and directly to raise or grow the following for sale in the regular course of business:

Appendix D, *Detailed OSRP Land Inventory*, lists parcels totaling 8 acres partially or completely in Chapter 61A status.

#### **5.2.4 Forested Properties Protected under Chapter 61A**

The forest land classification program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61 offers significant local tax benefits to property owners willing to make a long term commitment to forestry. In exchange for these benefits, the city or town in which the land is located is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner when the land is removed from classification and an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for non-forestry uses. Eligible parcels must consist of at least 10 contiguous acres of land under the same ownership and be managed under a 10-year management plan approved and certified by the State Forester.

Currently there are no parcels in Chatham listed under Chapter 61 status. It is recommended that the Town identify potential Chapter 61 parcels and take steps to encourage their classification.

### 5.2.5 Private Recreational Properties Protected under Chapter 61B

The recreational land classification program under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 61B is designed to encourage the preservation of the Commonwealth's valuable open space and promote recreational land uses. It offers significant local tax benefits to property owners willing to make a long-term commitment to preserving land in an undeveloped condition or for use for outdoor activities. In exchange for these benefits, the city or town in which the land is located is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner and an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for any purpose other than to maintain it as open space or for recreational use. Property must consist of at least five contiguous acres of land under the same ownership in order to qualify for and retain classification as recreational land under Chapter 61B.

Eastward Ho! Country Club in North Chatham on Pleasant Bay consists of four (4) parcels totaling 136 acres under Chapter 61B status. The private members only club consists of an 18-hole golf course, club facilities, and paddle tennis courts. The club leases a small parcel on Pleasant Bay to the Chatham Yacht Club, which is a private sailing club.

## 5.3 Unprotected Private Lands

### 5.3.1 Major Corporate, Recreational or Institutional Holdings

The Chatham Bars Inn is a 21.34 acre private resort property. The property is located on both sides of Shore Road along the shore of Chatham Harbor. CBI includes public waterfront dining which is open to the public. CBI is adjacent to the Chatham Links, a public 9-hole golf course owned by the Town and managed under contract with a private golf course management firm.

### 5.3.2 Large Estates

Currently the Town of Chatham has not defined through bylaw or planning initiative an acreage threshold for the protection of large estates. While the Comprehensive Plan does not specifically identify the protection of large estates, clearly many of the recommendations of the Plan and the existing local development regulations are rooted in the protection of community, environmental, and historic character and would apply to such land uses.

### 5.3.3 Other Significant Properties in Private Ownership

#### *Chatham Bars Inn (CBI)*

The Chatham Bars Inn is the private property holding with the most impressive views and valuable real estate sprawling along the Atlantic shore. Appendix D, *Detailed OSRP Land Inventory*, shows a total of 21.34 acres with a total assessed value of around \$71 million. Its value as both an open space and recreational resource is unparalleled. In 1989, the Town acquired the 9-hole golf course previously owned by CBI as a public recreational resource for approximately \$7 million. There may also be other opportunities to integrate public amenities into this private oasis.

*Chatham Beach and Tennis Club*

A private recreational area that is not currently classified under Chapter 61B due to its relatively small size is the 3.27 acre Chatham Beach and Tennis Club property, which overlooks Chatham Light beach. This is an important visual and recreational asset to the community even though it is privately owned. The Town should consider its purchase should that opportunity arise.

**Table 8. Other Significant Properties in Private Ownership**

Location	Acres	Zoning	Note
Chatham Beach & Tennis Club	2	R20	Significant scenic waterfront property
Eastward Ho CC	137	R40	Significant scenic waterfront property
Stage Harbor Yacht Club	.25	R40	Significant scenic waterfront property
Monomoy Youth Services	1.0	R20	Adjacent to existing town recreation land

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

**5.4 Protected Municipal Lands**

**Table 9. Protected Municipal Lands**

Type	Acreage	Zoning	Management	Protection Status
Conservation	2,034	R20, R40	Conservation Commission	Article 97
Water Supply Protection	85	R20, R40	Board of Water Commissioners	Article 97
Total Municipal	2,119			

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

**5.4.1 Municipal Conservation Land**

**5.4.2 Water Supply Protection**

Chatham's reliance upon groundwater located within the community as its source of potable water underscores the importance of protecting this fragile resource. Chatham has a long tradition of purchasing lands specifically for the purpose of water supply protection. These lands have been purchased for the express purpose of maximizing the wellhead protection areas for the Town's drinking water system helping to ensure long-term water quality. Additionally, regulatory measures restricting land use activities located within the Zone II area contributing to public water supply wells, the regulation of wetland alterations and the management of stormwater also further town-wide water supply protection.

**5.4.3 General Municipal**

**5.4.3.1 Town Buildings**

Chatham owns over 70 buildings and structures, spanning major public buildings such as schools, offices, a wastewater treatment facility, infrastructure support buildings, a community center, a library, museums, housing among others. These buildings range from large to very small. Additionally, several buildings the Town owns are either individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or within National Register Districts.

**Table 10. General Municipal Lands**

Type	Acreage	Zoning	Management
General Municipal	357	M	Board of Selectmen
Parks & Recreation	221	M	Recreation Commission
Total	578		

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

**5.4.3.2 Parks and Recreation**

The Town of Chatham provides a wide range of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. Indoor opportunities include the Community Center and its gymnasium, the Chatham Railroad Museum and the Dock Keene Scout Hall. The outdoor facilities provide areas for picnicking, organized sports, children’s playgrounds, skateboarding, tennis and passive recreation. The outdoor facilities are dispersed throughout Town.

**Table 11. Chatham Park and Recreation Properties (excluding beaches)**

Site	Location	Features
Chase Park	Off Cross Street	Windmill, charcoal grills and picnic tables available and restrooms.
Doc Keene House	Stage Harbor Rd @ Cedar Street	Used as Boy Scout Center
Kate Gould Park	Main Street	Gazebo and restrooms.
Mack Monument	Lighthouse Overlook	Pocket park
Nickerson Park	Rotary	Pocket park
Chatham Community Center	Main Street	Indoor gym and meeting rooms
Sears Park	Main St @ Seaview	Pocket park
Samuel Hawes Park and skateboard park	George Ryder Rd	Located at Chatham Municipal Airport
Seaside Links	Seaview St	Public golf course
S Chatham Tennis Courts	Bobby’s La	Tennis courts
MM Center/Tennis Courts/RR Museum	Depot Rd	Tennis courts, historic railroad artifact museum
Veterans Field	Depot & Main	Home field for the Chatham A’s; Little League field and playground
Volunteer Park	Sam Ryder Rd	Little League fields (soccer?) and playground.

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

**5.4.3.3 Beaches and Parking**

With Chatham’s geographical position and an almost continuous shoreline along Nantucket Sound, Pleasant Bay, the Atlantic Ocean and their numerous bays and coves, the Town’s marine public beaches

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provide for a varying range of saltwater recreational opportunities. Freshwater recreation opportunities are also provided at several pond locations throughout town. Chatham's town Beaches are listed in Table 12.

**Table 12. Chatham Town Beaches**

Beach	Location	Features
Cockle Cove	Cockle Cove Rd	Public Beach, parking fees, lifeguards and portable bathroom
Forest Beach	Forest Beach Rd	Public Beach, limited parking, no restrooms, no fees
Hardings Beach	Hardings Beach Rd	Public Beach, parking fees, lifeguards, restrooms and snack mobile.
Jacknife Harbor	Rt 28, Pleasant Bay	Public beach, no fees, no restrooms.
North Beach	Pleasant Bay	Access via water or ORV
Old Comers Rd	Lovers Lake	Freshwater
Oyster Pond Beach	Stage Harbor Rd	Public beach, lifeguards, restrooms, no fee.
Pleasant St Beach	Pleasant St	
Ridgevale Beach	Ridgevale Rd	Public Beach, parking fees, lifeguards and portable bathrooms. Available for special events.
South Beach	Chatham Harbor	Public beach, limited half-hour parking, no restrooms. Shuttle bus available
Schoolhouse Pond	Off Sam Ryder Rd	Freshwater, Resident only beach
White Pond Beach	Wilfred Rd	Freshwater Public beach, no fees, limited parking

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

**Table 13. Chatham Town Landings**

Landing	Waterway System
Andrew Hardings Lane	Chatham Harbor
Barn Hill	Stage Harbor
Battlefield	Stage Harbor
Bearse's Lane	Chatham Harbor
Bridge Street – East	Stage Harbor
Bridge Street Ramp (leased)	Stage Harbor
Clafins	Chatham Harbor
Cotchpinicut	Pleasant Bay
Cow Yard	Chatham Harbor
Crow's Pond	Pleasant Bay
Eliphamets Lane	Stage Harbor
Fish Pier	Chatham Harbor
Goose Pond	Freshwater Pond
Holway	Chatham Harbor
Mill Creek	Stage Harbor
Mill Pond	Stage Harbor
Old Mill Boat Yard	Stage Harbor
Oyster Pond Furlong	Stage Harbor
Port Fortune	Stage Harbor
Ryders Cove	Pleasant Bay
Scatteree	Pleasant Bay
Sears Road	Stage Harbor
Strong Island	Pleasant Bay
Taylor's Pond	South Coastal
Vineyard Avenue	Stage Harbor

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

**5.4.3.4 Town Landings**

Chatham's 25 town landings provide critical public access to Chatham waterways for recreational and commercial water dependent activities including boating, shellfishing, finfishing and kayaking. Town landings are listed in Table 13. As important as they are, landings account for only 10.38 acres of land area. Many are simple road widths, while others provide parking, beach area and boat ramps. On-going maintenance of town landings is a priority recommendation in the Pleasant Bay and South Coastal management plans, respectively.

**5.4.4 Walking Trails and Bikeways**

Bike and walking trails account for six acres in Chatham.

The Town has been supportive of the effort of the Cape Cod Commission's *Cape Cod Pathways* project to link trails to form a Cape-wide network and although the Town has several nice walking trails it has not yet completed a contiguous trans-town path and dedicated it to the Pathways system. A grant was awarded in 1998 for the development and improvement of trails on the Training Field Triangle, Indian Hill Well property and the George Ryder Forest. In 2005, the Training Field trails were rehabilitated. There are a number of other parcels where trail improvements and extensions would enhance public enjoyment of the Town's conservation lands. These include the Town Forest, the Goose Pond property, the Sam Ryder Rd. property (classified as recreation), and others.

The extension of the Cape Cod Rail Trail walking and biking path into Chatham was completed by the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) in 2006 and turned over to the Town in 2007. This trail has been named the Old Colony Rail Trail (OCRT) for both the Chatham and Harwich segments. The trail runs along the old railroad right-of-way, beginning at the Harwich border in South Chatham to the Chatham Airport as an exclusive, paved off-road trail. At the Chatham Airport, a segment runs down George Ryder Road in designated bike lanes, before crossing below the Airport along another paved off-road section. The OCRT then connects to Wilfred Road via a "share the road" segment to Old Queen Anne Road, where the off-road trail resumes along Stepping Stone Road to Crowell Road. The final portion of the OCRT proceeds along Tip Cart Drive and Hitching Post Lane, via "share the road" segments, across Depot Street to its terminus at Veterans Field, near the Town's Community Center.

Existing trails are described briefly below in Table 14, *Chatham Trails*.

**Table 14. Chatham Trails**

Trail	Location	Distance
Barclay Ponds Trail	Off Old Queen Anne Rd	-
Former Old Colony Railroad ROW	Rail trail from Harwich to Veterans Field	1 1/2 mile
Frost Fish Creek Trail	North Chatham	1 mile
South Trail	George Ryder Rd & Ralph St.	-
Honeysuckle Trail	Off Stage Harbor Rd	-
Indian Hill Trail*	Indian Hill Well Property	-
Morris Island Trail	Morris Island	3/4 mile
Seaside Trail	Harding Beach	.6 mile

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Trail	Location	Distance
South Beach	South Beach	3 miles
Training Field Triangle	Old Comers Rd/ Training Field Rd/Old Queen Anne Rd	-

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

5.5 Protected Federal Land

Table 15. Protected Federal Lands

Land	Acreage	Zoning	Management	Protection Status
Morris Island	70	R40	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Federal wildlife refuge
Monomoy Island (North and South)	1660		US Fish & Wildlife Service	Federal wildlife refuge
North Beach/North Beach Island	233	NA	Chatham Police Department and North Beach Management Committee	Within Cape Cod National Seashore but some unprotected parcels are in private ownership

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

5.5.1 US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge is owned and managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge consists of 70 acres on Morris Island, which is part of mainland Chatham, and 2,700 acres on Monomoy Island.

5.5.2 Cape Cod National Seashore

Approximately 233 acres of land area is comprised by North Beach and North Beach Island, which are within the management boundaries of the Cape Cod National Seashore. The National Seashore is a part of the National Park system. However, some of this land within the National Seashore is in private ownership, and some is owned by the Town. North Beach is managed by the Town of Chatham in cooperation with the Town of Orleans.

5.6 Unprotected Potentially Developable Land

An analysis was conducted in 2010 using the Town’s GIS system and Assessor’s database to calculate the remaining developable land by three general land use categories. The results were generated by tallying the total undeveloped land for each category after making adjustments for environmental and regulatory constraints. The results of this analysis are indicated below in Table 16, *Remaining Developable Land by Use*.

Table 16. Remaining Developable Land by Use

	Estimated Acreage
Residential	269
Commercial	35
Industrial	14
Total	318

Source: Town of Chatham Community Development Department

## 5.7 Lands of Special Environmental Significance

The Cape Cod Priority Ponds Project<sup>9</sup> was completed by the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. to assist public and private land conservation programs on Cape Cod. The focus of the guide is the identification of the remaining undeveloped land parcels adjoining fresh water ponds<sup>10</sup>. The primary goal of the project is to assist in the protection of the most important remaining undeveloped pond shore areas on Cape Cod for water quality, conservation and passive recreation purposes.

In Chatham, two parcels totaling almost 28 acres are on the list of the top 200 parcels Cape-wide. One of these parcels has recently been purchased by the Town using land bank funds. Eleven parcels totaling approximately 44 acres are given a medium ranking. Twenty parcels totaling approximately 74 acres are given a low ranking, though this does not imply their unimportance. Though the priority ponds maps and parcel lists are not available for public viewing, they are available for use by land conservation groups to help focus land acquisition efforts, particularly those related to pond protection. Future land acquisition efforts in the Town of Chatham should incorporate the findings of the Priority Ponds Project.

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<sup>9</sup> The majority of this section is taken from the report on the Cape Cod Priority Ponds Project authored by The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc.

<sup>10</sup> Though the protection of undeveloped property is the primary interest of most land conservation efforts, this study also includes so-called under-developed parcels. Under-developed parcels are large lots that may contain existing structures, but also include sufficient additional land area (beyond the minimum lot size required by zoning) to warrant consideration for conservation purposes.

## 6. Community Vision



Photo by Jeff Thibodeau

## 6. Community Vision

### 6.1 Goals of the 1985 Open Space Plan

The development of open space and recreation goals is critical to the planning process because it provides the framework within which specific actions are identified and prioritized. The goals also articulate a community vision for open space and recreational resources. The goals of the 1985 open space plan provided a starting point for discussing current community goals. Two goals stress in the 1985 plan are carried forward in the 2010 OSRP:

- Maintaining existing open space and recreational facilities; and
- Providing present and future residents of the Town with the opportunity to enjoy the recreational, open space and natural resources in and around the Town.

### 6.2 Community Survey Results

To assess how community needs or aspirations may have changed since 1985 the Town undertook a survey of residents. In the summer of 2007 surveys were directly mailed to a random sampling (500) of all Chatham households (3,611) and were also made available via the following

- Town Office Buildings;
- Town of Chatham website;
- Town of Chatham cable public television broadcasts; and
- Chatham Edition of the Cape Cod Chronicle Newspaper.

A total of 117 surveys were returned and subsequently tabulated by the Town. The majority of respondents (78%) were adults over 45, a group that constitutes 63% of the population. The main findings of the survey are summarized below.

When asked to **indicate the top 5 recreational needs in the Town**, 15.4% responded Conservation Areas, 12.5% responded Public Access to Water bodies, 10% said bike trails. Children's play areas and hiking and skiing trails were viewed as needed by less than 7% of respondents. The weighting of responses may reflect the large percentage of adults over 45 who responded.

Views about **whether the Town should maintain or expand open space and recreation facilities** were evenly split. 29.1% want the Town to improve maintenance levels and expand facilities, 24.8% want the Town to preserve existing maintenance levels and expand recreational facilities, 20.5% think the Town should preserve existing maintenance levels w/no further expansion of facilities, and 22.2% think the Town should improve maintenance levels with no further expansion of facilities.

When asked to **indicate a favorite historic, open space or recreational facility** in Chatham out of a list of 32, 16% said Lighthouse Overlook/Beach and 15% said the Atwood House museum. Local beaches were the favorite of 12% with Harding's Beach singled out by 11%. Chase Park and Kate Gould Park were the favorite of 6%, respectively.

The relative importance of purposes served by open space protection were indicated. Water supply protection was considered important by 94.7%. Protection for places of historic value was considered important for 75.2%, for wildlife protection it was important for 72.6%, and for places of scenic beauty and recreation was important for 35.4%.

When asked to rank methods available to the Town to preserve and purchase open space and recreation areas, *purchase by town or state or grants from the state or federal government* were viewed most favorably, followed by *gifts from residents, zoning controls, purchase of development rights, taxes on real estate sales, or tax title*.

When asked whether the Town is doing a good job protecting resources, on average half said yes with respect to groundwater, surface water, wetlands and forest/uplands, while roughly one-quarter of respondent did not think the Town was doing a good job protecting those resources. However, a sizeable percentage of respondents (17%-30%) did not have an opinion.

A strong majority of respondents (88%) believe that it important or very important for the Town to acquire and preserve conservation areas. Less than 5% responded that it is not important at all.

When asked if they are satisfied with the amount and quality of active and passive recreational areas in the Town nearly 60% of adults over 45 said yes, while only 46% of young adults and 48% of children said yes. Roughly a quarter of each age group expressed dissatisfaction.

When asked about their own actions to help the Town protect open space, 72% said they would vote for a town-supported acquisition. Far fewer said they would donate money (31%) or rewrite a deed to limit future use (18.3%.) Fewer than 10% said they would donate or sell land to the Town below fair market value.

In addition to the survey, additional perspective on open space and recreation issues was obtained by meetings with town Boards involved in planning and open space issues, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Community Preservation Committee, Conservation Commission. Private organizations such as the Chatham Conservation Foundation, Friends of Chatham Waterways, and Friends of Pleasant Bay also were consulted on issues and priorities.

### 6.3 2010 OSRP Goals

Based on information gleaned from the survey and other outreach discussions, a set of goals for the 2010 OSRP was identified. These goals are presented along with proposed objectives and actions in Sections 8 and 9.

- To continue to preserve open space in order to protect the environment, provide recreational opportunities and slow or control development;
- To protect environmentally sensitive areas from development;
- To protect ground and surface water resources in order to provide a pollution-free environment for both the human and natural environments;
- To protect wildlife habitat and species including forest, wetlands and fisheries;

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- It is very important to protect the appearance and character of Chatham in order to maintain and improve the economy and overall quality of life that attracted and keeps people here.
- To maintain existing open space and augment recreation facilities at a level that sustains their inherent qualities and values as ecological and cultural systems;
- To provide present and future residents of Chatham with the opportunity to enjoy the recreational, open space and natural resources throughout the Town; and,
- To protect and manage the Town's beaches, and open space and recreation areas and facilities as vital natural and cultural resources.

## 7. Analysis of Needs



Photo by Jeff Thibodeau

## 7. Analysis of Needs

### 7.1 Overview

Chatham's open spaces provide critical ecological functions that protect the health and quality of ground water, ponds and estuaries. Open spaces in turn provide a variety of habitat types necessary for biodiversity. Chatham is fortunate to have an extensive variety of natural open spaces that encompass inland forest, fields, significant bordering vegetative wetlands and extensive coastal wetlands. The rapid pace and form of land development in Chatham over the past several decades has generated threats to water quality and other natural resources.

In addition to anthropomorphic impacts associated with development, open space and natural resources in Chatham, particularly coastal resources, face threats from storms and changing tidal conditions and exacerbated by storm events. An understanding of resource protection needs, both natural and man-made, is crucial to developing an effective open space management plan.

### 7.2 Summary of Resource Protection Needs

#### 7.2.1 Need for Creative Protection Tools

Chatham's prior open space and recreation planning efforts placed on land acquisition, with impressive results. At this point, most of the large blocks of undeveloped land in Chatham have either been acquired by the Town, CCF or federal government or have been subdivided for residential development. This fact, in addition to high property values and limited municipal financial resources, calls for evaluation and use of other land protection tools. These include:

- Targeted Acquisition - On-going, the Town should develop a Priority Parcel Acquisition List to direct its land acquisition efforts. The list should focus on (1) preserving the remaining high priority parcels for conservation and recreation; (2) lands that are adjacent to existing protected open space or provide links to larger open space and conservation parcels; and (3) lands that can be "undeveloped" and reclaimed as open space and view corridors. The Town should also stay alert to changes proposed in lands which are quasi-protected now by temporary restrictions, such as current use assessment lands, term conservation restrictions and undesignated-use municipal lands.
- New Tools and Strategies - Limited land and financial resources require more innovative approaches to preserving open space and natural resources than ever before. A list of non-regulatory open space protection techniques is included in Appendix B. Some of these techniques have been applied on a limited basis in Chatham. Better education of town officials, landowners, and citizenry about these alternatives may lead to improved implementation. Regulatory techniques also should be evaluated, such as amendments to the existing Open Space Residential Development ("cluster") bylaw, which is unused, and potentially a habitat protection overlay and site clearance bylaw.

### **7.2.2 Need for Groundwater Supply Protection**

Well field protection needs have thus far been met through intelligent land acquisition, primarily in the western portions of the Town, and through Board of Health and Zoning regulations. Continued land acquisition to protect these and other potential water supply areas remains important. Exploration of regional initiatives and land purchases, such as the Fratus property in Harwich, should be encouraged. These groundwater supply measures will be augmented by the continued Board of Health regulation of on-site sewage disposal and the implementation of a Comprehensive Wastewater/Nutrient Management Plan.

### **7.2.3 Surface Water Quality Protection**

Chatham's extensive surface waters include kettle ponds, coastal plain ponds, salt ponds, and estuaries. Open space around fresh and marine surface water bodies limits run-off of nutrients or other pollutants that diminish water quality essential to the ecology of these resources. Land protection around surface water bodies is an ongoing need. In instances where parcels are not protected, ensuring buffers around surface water bodies also can be effective in limiting pollution impacts and maintaining habitat. Salt marsh, fringe marsh and bordering vegetated wetlands are critical buffers to surface water bodies and often are encroached on by development. Management of the public's use of surface waters, including provision of the appropriate level of parking and facilities also are critical to the health of surface water resources.

### **7.2.4 Biodiversity and Habitat Protection**

With the exception of a few large protected open spaces, much of the Town's wildlife habitat has been largely fragmented by the extent of development. Loss of or encroachment on habitat diminishes the Town's ability to support diverse wildlife populations. However, the extent of this threat has not been quantified. There is a need for wildlife inventories and habitat management plans in the larger conservation areas in town. There is also a need to ensure the adequate protection of estimated and priority habitats identified by the NHESP. Currently, projects requiring Conservation Commission review are required to file with NHESP. The filing with NHESP should be included as part of other town permitting processes.

### **7.2.5 Protection of Vulnerable Coastal Resources**

Much of Chatham's charm and appeal derives from its being surrounded on three sides by water. However this also means the Town's shoreline is subject to dynamic tidal and wave impacts and storm-induced erosion. Erosion on the South Coastal shoreline along Nantucket Sound is diminishing the size of the Town's prime public beaches. On the North side, the formation of the second inlet into Pleasant Bay and Chatham Harbor has led to increased erosion of two public landings as well as private properties, and is inundating adjacent salt marshes. Dynamic conditions eventually could have an impact on two large conservation properties: Strong Island and Tern Island. In addition to continued coordinated coastal management, steps are needed to evaluate acquisition of upland properties to ensure on-going access and salt marsh migration.

## 7.3 Summary of Community Needs

### 7.3.1 Overview

Recreation and open space needs reflect Chatham's socio-economic profile and its role as a seasonal community. Chatham has an older population by and large but also has many school age children. Providing adequate and appropriate recreational opportunities for these diverse groups is an on-going management challenge. Chatham's population triples during the summer season, and this puts added stress on open space and recreational facilities. The Town's beaches, ponds, trails and playgrounds are heavily used all summer long. Management guidelines for public open space and recreation facilities, and on-going commitment to facilities maintenance and improvements will continue to be a town priority.

### 7.3.2 Comparison with the Statewide Comprehensive Open Space and Recreation Survey (SCORP)

The SCORP compares regional demand for and satisfaction with open space and recreation facilities and accessibility with that of the state. The SCORP generally finds that the Cape has strong demand for coastal beaches and shorelines, golf courses, neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and tot lots, and historic and cultural sites. There is generally high satisfaction with open space and recreation facilities with the exception of dissatisfaction with the amount of agricultural land. The SCORP also finds that there is slightly lower participation in field based activities compared with the state, but higher participation in rail based activities (walking, biking), swimming and passive pursuits such as nature watching. It is reasonable to assume that these findings are a good approximation of conditions in Chatham, and that differences with the state could be more pronounced in Chatham given the higher average median age of year round residents.

### 7.3.3 Local Assessments

The SCORP findings generally match the perspective of the Chatham Park and Recreation Department. According to the Department, there currently seems to be a sufficient supply of field space, swimming areas and programs for children. The new Community Center, which opened in 2007, will address the need for space to house these programs and services. The need for additional hiking trails should be addressed by recent land acquisitions and the construction of the new bike trail. Needs that require attention by the Park and Recreation Department include: development of additional programs and services to serve the adult and senior populations; greater feedback from the community regarding their specific desires for programs and services (a department survey is planned to address this need to some extent); improved public education regarding the Parks and Recreation Department services and facilities; and improved access for people with disabilities.

### 7.3.4 Survey Findings

Notwithstanding the SCORP and local assessments, the community survey conducted for the OSRP found that, when asked if they are satisfied with the amount and quality of active and passive recreational areas in the Town nearly 60% of adults over 45 said yes, while only 46% of young adults and 48% of children said yes. Roughly a quarter of each age group expressed dissatisfaction. The types of facilities that respondents tended to want to see improved and expanded include: conservation areas, public access to water bodies, bike trails, children's play areas, hiking trails.

### 7.3.5 Coastal Access

Enhancements to coastal access are an ongoing priority in the Town. Heavy demand for access for boating, commercial and recreational shellfishing, beach-going, and nature viewing puts pressure on town landings and water access points. At the same time, coastal erosion and privatization of shoreline has limited access to waterways. Remaining public access points are subject to loss of sediment due to littoral and tide action and armoring of up-drift properties. Parking is limited, which can lead to overflow parking on adjacent town streets and public properties. Acquisition of additional access points, and purchase of properties adjacent to existing access points, should be evaluated continually. On-going management to prevent encroachment on sensitive resources and adjacent private properties is needed.

### 7.4 Management and Coordination Needs

The following management and coordination needs have been identified as being significant to the success of efforts to address resource protection and community needs for open space protection and recreation.

- Coordination among town agencies with jurisdiction or management oversight of open space and recreation resources, including municipal bodies that administer financial resources;
- Greater outreach and public dialogue about the adequacy of existing open space and recreation needs; and
- New partnerships within the Town and between the Town and other municipal and local entities. These could include public private partnerships and inter-municipal agreements.
  - Codification of management oversight including resource inventories, resource management plans, use guidelines, and clearly stated priorities. Priority management concerns with respect to town conservation areas include parking and access, unauthorized use of motorized vehicles, illegal dumping, interpretive education, facilities, habitat management including control of invasive species and wildfire management
  - Options to increase funding for land management and land acquisition.
  - Completed and periodically updated management plans for town conservation lands and town parks. These includes the *Comprehensive Lands Management Plan (2007)*, *Inventory of Town Parks Properties (c.1998)* and report on town conservation lands (Wilkoff, 1997) in addition to individual property management plans.

## Section 8. Goals & Objectives



## 8. Goals and Objectives

The goals enumerated below are intended to help define the long-range community vision for protecting open space and providing recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors. Each goal is followed by a list of objectives or conceptual steps to be undertaken to achieve the goal. Specific, tangible actions to implement the objectives are found in Section 9.

The goals and objectives listed below have evolved during the development of the OSRP. The initial goals described in Section 6 were based on the results of the community survey and further discussions within the ad hoc planning committee, and between the committee and other stakeholder groups. These initial goals subsequently were refined based on the inventory and assessment of open space and recreation needs identified in Sections 7 and 8. The goals and objectives below build upon the initial goals, and reflect a greater understanding of the strategic approach necessary to achieve the goals. Every effort was made to ensure that the goals and objectives in the OSRP complemented and supported related town planning efforts such as the CP and CW/NMP, as well as the Cape Cod Commission's Regional Policy Plan and the 2000 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

The order of listing goals or objectives is not intended to convey an order of priority.

### 8.1.1 Goal

Acquire, preserve and protect a maximum amount of open space for environmental protection, community character and recreational needs, in balance with other community needs such as affordable housing.

### 8.1.2 Objectives

- Continue to seek public and private funds for acquisition of new open space.
- Regularly revisit and revise open space and recreation priorities to ensure they are consistent with community needs.
- Expand use of creative non-regulatory land protection tools such as conservation restrictions, tax abatements, and gifts.
- Expand use creative zoning and regulatory powers to protect open space, sensitive resource areas and important public views.
- Expand use of regional and public-private partnerships to protect open space.
- Reuse or "undevelop" abandoned buildings and lands for conservation and recreation purposes.

### 8.2.1 Goal

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

### 8.2.2 Objectives

- Protect the health of fresh and marine surface waters and associated natural resources.

- Provide public education and information regarding access opportunities and responsibilities.
- Provide and maintain facilities, parking and transportation options to support an appropriate level of activity.
- Ensure that adequate resources are available for the maintenance of properties and access points.
- Improve pedestrian access, vehicular transportation and parking near the shore.
- Continue implementation and regular updates of management plans for coastal waterways and complete management plans for freshwater areas.
- Develop and implement management guidelines and review current regulatory policies and requirements to enhance resource protection.
- Move expeditiously to implement the Comprehensive Wastewater/Nutrient Management Plan.

### 8.3.1 Goal

Protect the Town's Groundwater Supply for Current and Future Needs.

### 8.3.2 Objectives

- Identify and protect future wellfield areas through zoning or acquisition.
- Provide public education on household waste disposal and systems.
- Move expeditiously to implement the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for regional initiatives to protect and manage shared water resources, including acquisition partnerships.

### 8.4.1 Goal

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

### 8.4.2 Objectives

- Encourage greater coordination and cooperation among town departments and private stakeholder groups regarding open space and recreation planning and initiatives.
- Promote stewardship of open space and recreation facilities as a community-wide priority.
- Create opportunities for regular communication about open space and recreation priorities among stakeholders and the Town.
- Update and implement the Town of Chatham OSRP every five years as required, and coordinate this process with other planning initiatives.

### 8.5.1 Goal

Protect and Enhance Chatham's Unique Community Character, Scenic Beauty, Historic Areas and Unique Habitats

### 8.5.2 Objectives

- Promote stewardship of open space and recreation facilities as a community-wide priority.
- Identify and implement regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to protect significant natural and cultural resources including critical wildlife and plant habitat, water resources, historic, cultural and archaeological areas, significant scenic roads and views, and unfragmented forest.
- Implement management strategies to protect Chatham's beaches and shoreline in balance with the natural processes of erosion and deposition.
- Promote the concept of the public realm as a significant element in the Town's open space network.

### 8.6.1 Goal

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

### 8.6.2 Objectives

- Assess the condition of existing recreational facilities and develop and fund a program for repairs, improvements and rehabilitation of the facilities to meet current needs and state or national standards.
- Regularly evaluate community recreation needs and assess whether expansion or alteration of facilities is called for to ensure needs are met.
- Designate use of conservation and recreation lands based on their suitability and community needs. Encourage year-round and multi-purpose use where appropriate.
- Achieve ADA compliance for all public open space and recreation facilities. Open space, recreational facilities, and water access points should be made accessible to handicapped persons and program opportunities should be available to special populations to the extent practical.
- Promote public education about and appropriate use of recreational facilities and programs through outreach, signage and other methods. Ensure that all stakeholder groups are included.
- Explore alternative strategies to alleviate pressure at heavily used recreational facilities such as public beaches and landings, to allow access without compromising environmental sustainability.
- Manage all town open space and recreation properties for their intended public benefit and to protect open space and recreational resources.

### 8.7.1 Goal

Promote open space as a means of protecting and enhancing animal and plant biodiversity

### 8.7.2 Objectives

- Conduct and regularly update a town-wide inventory and prioritization of wildlife habitats and species.
- Use regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to protect and enhance wildlife and habitats.
- Identify and preserve wildlife habitats that foster habitat diversity
- Provide or restore links to and corridors connecting wildlife resource areas.
- Continue to implement management plans for town conservation properties.
- Coordinate habitat protection measures among town departments, particularly with regard to NHESP requirements.

## 9. Five Year Action Plan



## SECTION 9. FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN (★INDICATES PRIORITY OBJECTIVE)

**GOAL 8.1: ACQUIRE, PRESERVE AND PROTECT A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS, IN BALANCE WITH OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS SUCH AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCES
Regularly revise and revisit open space and recreation priorities to make sure they are consistent with community needs ★	Develop an updated Priority Parcel Acquisition List with priority given to lands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- within or adjacent to designated protected open space;</li> <li>- within or adjacent to fresh and saltwater bodies and associated resources, wetlands and floodplains;</li> <li>- containing vernal pools or other critical habitat;</li> <li>- providing wildlife corridors;</li> <li>- that enhance pathways and bike trails;</li> <li>- abutting existing water supply areas or potential new areas;</li> <li>- identified by the Priority Ponds Project;</li> <li>- Chapter 61 properties;</li> <li>- With non-perpetual conservation restrictions.</li> </ul>	LBOSC, CPC, Conservation, Community Development and Parks & Recreation	LBOSC and CPC Funds, County, State and Federal Grants, CCF and other Private Sources
	Develop and implement strategies to acquire lands on the <i>Priority Parcel Acquisition List</i> and pursue permanent protection. Establish a strategy for the ongoing management of these properties.	LBOSC, CPC, BOS, Conservation, Community Development and Parks & Recreation	LBOSC and CPC Funds, County, State and Federal Grants, CCF and other Private Sources
	Update the OSRP in five years (2015).	Community Development	CPC, Department Funding
	Concentrate acquisition in coastal areas to augment public access or resource protection. Lots adjoining or in close proximity to existing publicly-owned areas should be given priority. Available, large coastal estates should be evaluated for their desirability of open space	LBOSC, CPC, Conservation, Community Development and Parks & Recreation	LBOSC and CPC Funds, County, State and Federal Grants, CCF and other Private Sources
Expand use of regional and public/private partnerships ★	Forge partnerships with private businesses to improve and expand existing facilities and programs and secure additional public open space.	LBOSC and CPC	LBOSC and CPC
Reuse or un-develop abandoned buildings for conservation and recreation	Identify properties with current or future potential for reclaiming open space or views if removed.	Community Development and Conservation	Department Budgets

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**GOAL 8.1: ACQUIRE, PRESERVE AND PROTECT A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS, IN BALANCE WITH OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS SUCH AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING. (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCES
Continue to seek public and private funds for the acquisition of new open space acquisition of new open space ★	Pursue LAND, PARC and Land and Water Grants for open space and recreational resources.	BOS, LBOSC, CPC, Conservation, Community Development and Parks & Recreation	EOEEA, DCS
	Identify and pursue grant sources for trails, cultural programs and ADA compliance.	Conservation, Community Development and Parks & Recreation	Cape Cod Commission, EOEEA and DCS
	Explore new funding mechanisms such as payment in lieu of land contributions and offsite mitigation contributions of open space	Conservation, Community Development	Cape Cod Commission, EOEEA and DCS
Expand use of creative non-regulatory land protection tools	Cooperate with nearby jurisdictions to promote protection of regional open space resources and initiatives including water supply protection, areas, critical wildlife habitat, Cape Cod Pathways, etc.	LBOSC, CPC, BOS, Conservation, Community Development and Parks & Recreation	Cape Cod Commission
	Adopt a policy to acquire tax title lands and evaluate for open space or recreation prior to disposition. Properties of environmental significance should be designated conservation lands.	Assessing and BOS	Department Budgets
	Bi-annually review (including interviews with owners) Chapter 61 properties for potential acquisition.	LBOSC and CPC	LBOSC and CPC
	Acquire conservation restrictions on all unprotected municipal lands even if they are currently designated as conservation and recreation land and on any privately owned land that exhibits conservation values including wetland resource areas.	Conservation	LBOSC and CPC
	Research publicly-owned conservation and recreation lands to determine their protection status. For lands not legally protected in perpetuity, seek a permanent conservation restriction assigned to deed and recorded in the Barnstable County Registry.	Conservation	Department Budgets

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**GOAL 8.1: ACQUIRE, PRESERVE AND PROTECT A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF OPEN SPACE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND RECREATIONAL NEEDS, IN BALANCE WITH OTHER COMMUNITY NEEDS SUCH AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING. (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCES
Encourage use of creative regulatory land protection tools	Evaluate the OSRD bylaw and recommend ways to increase its use.	LBOSC, CPC, Community Development	
	Review site plan review criteria to ensure that development projects preserve existing vegetation, incorporates green buffers and enhance open space.	LBOSC, CPC, Community Development	CPC, Department Budgets
	Evaluate new zoning bylaws to encourage open space and habitat protection: habitat corridor overlay, site clearance bylaw, transfer of development rights.	Community Development	Department Budget

**GOAL 8.2 : PROVIDE ADEQUATE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND SAFE ENJOYMENT OF CHATHAM’S OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY ITS SHORELINE AREAS AND FRESH AND MARINE WATERWAYS. ACCESS SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN BALANCE WITH RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Protect health of fresh and marine surface waters and associated natural resources ★	Protect, acquire and preserve easements along all herring runs to assure this natural resource for future generations.	LBOSC, CPC and Conservation	LBOSC, CPC and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Retain or re-establish a natural edge along coastal and fresh water bodies and wetlands to preclude building except approved water-dependent uses.	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Include surface water protection as a priority in selecting land for acquisition or protection. Identify/seek acquisition of parcels bordering surface water resources, wetlands and groundwater supply areas.	LBOSC and CPC	LBOSC and CPC
Provide public education and information regarding access opportunities and responsibilities	Work with private groups such as Friends of Chatham Waterways and CCF to develop/distribute public information regarding access opportunities and appropriate activities at access points. A speakers’ bureau, printed materials, local cable access, and other media should be used.	LBOSC and CPC	County, State and Federal Grants and Private Sources
Provide facilities to support public access and ensure that adequate resources are available to maintain properties and access points	Include repair and maintenance of Town Landings, Conservation Areas and recreation resources as a regular item in the municipal capital plan	Coastal Resources, Conservation and Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Conduct an assessment of conservation and recreation access points to identify improvements necessary for ADA compliance	Community Development and Committee for the Disabled	Department Budget

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**GOAL 8.2 : PROVIDE ADEQUATE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND SAFE ENJOYMENT OF CHATHAM'S OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY ITS SHORELINE AREAS AND FRESH AND MARINE WATERWAYS. ACCESS SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN BALANCE WITH RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY. (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCES
	Provide Restroom Facilities at Volunteer Park and all official town beaches and add a second set of restrooms at Harding's Beach.	BOS and Parks & Recreation	Town Meeting Appropriations
Continue implementation and updates of resource management plans. Ensure that management plans address resource protection as well as public access.	Continue participation in the Pleasant Bay Alliance, and implement recommendations of the Pleasant Bay Management Plan and plan updates.	BOS and Health & Environment	Ongoing, Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Continue to implement the South Coastal Harbor Management Plan and update the plan in 2015.	BOS, Coastal Resources	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Continue water quality monitoring in marine areas and expand water quality monitoring in freshwater ponds.	Health & Environment	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Augment erosion control measures with beach nourishment at town beaches.	Coastal Resources	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
Develop and implement management guidelines and review current regulatory policies to enhance public access and resource protection	Develop management guidelines for all town-owned conservation areas. Guidelines should address public access rights and responsibilities, and maintenance procedures.	Conservation	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Include and enforce public access rights under Chapter 91 waterways in local zoning determinations and conservation commission orders of determination.	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Develop best design standards and regulations for permitting structures on freshwater ponds to minimize impact on surrounding vegetated buffers, and protect rare plant species while providing water access.	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Investigate the feasibility of developing a townwide beach nourishment program that includes creative financial support from public and private sources.	Coastal Resources	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Implement coastal resource management plan recommendations regarding environmentally benign boating and mooring practices and eelgrass protection and restoration.	Coastal Resources	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Evaluate regulations governing development within the 100-year coastal flood plain and wetland buffers and strengthen if necessary.	Community Development and Conservation	Department Budgets
	Identify and certify all vernal pools and ensure that local regulations are adequate to protect them.	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget

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**GOAL 8.2 : PROVIDE ADEQUATE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND SAFE ENJOYMENT OF CHATHAM'S OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY ITS SHORELINE AREAS AND FRESH AND MARINE WATERWAYS. ACCESS SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN BALANCE WITH RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY. (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCES
	Assess coastal resources, public access and infrastructure vulnerable to relative sea level rise; develop a management plan to address threats.	Conservation, Community Development and Coastal Resources	FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Support Implementation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan and Stormwater Improvements	Document role of open space in protecting the Town's fresh and marine surface waters and ground water.	Health & Environment and BOS	Department Budgets
	Reduce the nitrogen load to impacted embayments or freshwater bodies through the purchase or donation of developable land.	Health & Environment and Conservation	LBOSC and CPC Funds, County, State and Federal Grants, CCF and other Private Sources
	Educate the public to the benefits of, and encourage the use of, native landscaping to minimize the use of fertilizers.	Health & Environment and Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Evaluate and, if necessary, mitigate stormwater drainage patterns into ponds and streams through the use of vegetated swales, leaching catch basins and other best management practices.	Conservation and Community Development	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
Improve pedestrian access, vehicular transportation and parking near the shore.	During peak use, bus shuttle and or regional transit service should be provided to public beaches. Safe and convenient bus drop-off/pick-up areas should be considered at bathing beach areas.	Parks & Recreation, Community Development and Coastal Resources	Ongoing coordination with CCRT and Federal Jurisdictions
	Provide better connections between adjacent beach areas using roadways, walkways and improved pedestrian activity zones. Provide for bus drop-off and pick up area and overflow parking area where possible. Landscape pedestrian use areas with indigenous vegetation	Parks & Recreation, Community Development and Coastal Resources	Ongoing coordination with CCRT and Federal Jurisdictions
	Evaluate parking, access and amenities at public coastal access points. Identify options for improving access, aesthetics or resource protection parking redesign, boardwalks, signage, interpretive exhibits.	Parks & Recreation, Community Development and Coastal Resources	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Explore strategies to relieve pressure at heavily used public beaches and landings to allow access without compromising environmental sustainability.	Parks & Recreation, Community Development and Coastal Resources	Ongoing coordination with County, State and Federal Jurisdictions

2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan

**GOAL 8.3: PROTECT THE TOWN'S GROUNDWATER SUPPLY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS.**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Identify and protect future wellfield areas through zoning or acquisition ★	Protect and strengthen regulations governing land uses within water supply protection zones.	Community Development	Department Budget
	All identified groundwater supply protection zones be protected using the most stringent regulations. Existing development within these zones should be monitored for potential sources of contamination, required to use the most advanced waste disposal technologies, and where possible retrofitted with cleaner technologies.	Community Development and Health & Environment	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Large areas of contiguous open space should be studied for their potential value to protecting public drinking water supplies	Water and Sewer	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
Provide public education on waste disposal options and requirements, water conservation, and other activities that could damage public water supply.	Use public education to promote use of non-toxic, phosphate-free household products and continue to encourage safe disposal of household hazardous waste	Conservation and Health & Environment	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Continue to enforce MGL c. 270, s. 16, preventing illegal dumping on and misuse of public land.	Health & Environment and PD	Ongoing, Department Budgets
	Encourage groups such as Chatham Conservation Foundation, Inc., Friends of Chatham Waterways, and local youth groups and Americorps, to organize volunteer land clean-ups of public and private open space.	Health & Environment and BOS	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Evaluate transfer station fees and collection policies to discourage residents from disposing of bulk items in unauthorized areas. Explore alternative means of legal disposal.	DPW and Health & Environment	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Continue to expand Town-wide recycling efforts.	Chatham Recycles	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Institute a public education effort aimed at water conservation and consider additional measures to encourage water conservation, such as rate structures and requiring lawn irrigation systems to be supplied by on-site or be controlled by soil moisture sensors if supplied by town water.	Water & Sewer	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations

2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan

**GOAL 8.3: PROTECT THE TOWN'S GROUNDWATER SUPPLY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS. (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTICIPANTS	RESOURCES
Identify and pursue opportunities for regional initiatives to protect and manage shared water resources.	Continue to explore opportunities with the Town of Harwich for joint purchase of properties to protect the towns' water supply wells.	Water & Sewer, LBOSC, CPC and BOS	LBOSC and CPC Funds, County, State and Federal Grants, CCF and other Private Sources
	Continue regional coastal management with the Pleasant Bay Alliance, CCNS and USFW to explore expanding bike trails, access, parking.	Water & Sewer, LBOSC, CPC and BOS	LBOSC and CPC Funds, County, State and Federal Grants, CCF and other Private Sources

**GOAL 8.4: PROMOTE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND AMONG STAKEHOLDER GROUPS**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Encourage greater coordination among town departments and private stakeholder groups regarding open space and recreation planning activities	Include review of open space and recreation projects in inter-departmental meetings and regular meetings with the Town Manager	All Town Departments	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Designate a town department to oversee OSRP implementation activities and act as the regular town point of contact with private stakeholder groups concerned with open space and recreation issues.	Community Development Conservation and Parks & Recreation	Department Budgets
Pursue projects that will foster inclusiveness and build stewardship of open space and recreation facilities as a community-wide priority ★	Develop programs such as trail clean-ups, nature walks, public interest forums, trail maps, and programming on Channel 18	Conservation, LBOSC and CPC	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Complete plans for a trans-town walking trail to include jogging, walking, and riding trails with emphasis on linking conservation and recreation areas.	Cape Cod Pathways	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Install additional bicycle racks at beaches, parks and in commercial areas	Bikeways and Parks & Recreation	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations and Private Sources
	Develop multiple-use areas to improve availability and service of open space and recreation areas.	Community Development Conservation and Parks & Recreation	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations and Private Sources

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**GOAL 8.4: PROMOTE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ABOUT COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND AMONG STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
	Develop creative solutions for integrating active and passive recreation, especially for children and the elderly.	Parks & Recreation, Conservation and Community Development	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations and Private Sources
Create opportunities for regular communication about open space and recreation needs among stakeholder groups and the Town	Host an annual public forum to involve stakeholders in discussion open space and recreation needs and priorities.	LBOSC and CPC	County, State and Federal Grants
	The designated town contact person should communicate monthly with key private stakeholder groups including Chatham Conservation Foundation and Friends of Chatham Waterways, and coordinate meetings of the groups as necessary	Conservation and Community Development	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Create an open space news page on the town website	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
Update and implement the OSRP every five years and coordinate this process with other town planning initiatives	Designate a town department to take responsibility for coordinating implementation activities and providing regular updates to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen	Community Development	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Update the OSRP every five years. During the fourth year of this cycle, appropriate funds should be allocated in anticipation of the next year's Plan update.	Community Development	CPC

**GOAL 8.5: PROTECT AND ENHANCE CHATHAM'S UNIQUE COMMUNITY CHARACTER, SCENIC BEAUTY, HISTORIC AREAS AND UNIQUE HABITATS**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Identify and implement regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to protect significant natural and cultural resources including critical wildlife and plant habitat, water resources, historic, cultural and archaeological areas, significant scenic roads and views, and unfragmented forest	Develop management plans or guidelines for all recreation facilities and conservation lands to ensure resource protection and access needs are balanced	Conservation	Ongoing, CPC, County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Develop an inventory of threatened lands or structures in sensitive resources areas or culturally significant areas and develop strategies for their sustainability.	Conservation and Community Development Historic Commission	FEMA, CPC, Department Budget and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Prepare a Forestry Management Plan for all publicly owned woodlands greater than five acres	Conservation	CPC, County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations

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**GOAL 8.5: PROTECT AND ENHANCE CHATHAM'S UNIQUE COMMUNITY CHARACTER, SCENIC BEAUTY, HISTORIC AREAS AND UNIQUE HABITATS (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Implement management strategies to protect Chatham's beaches and shoreline in balance with the natural processes of erosion and deposition ★	Continue re-nourishment and dune restoration efforts to ensure the viability of Chatham's coastal beaches, particularly south coastal beaches.	Coastal Resources	CPC, County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
Promote the concept of the public realm as a significant element in the Town's open space network.	Incorporate design requirements for public art and public use space in commercial development projects, particular those in high traffic areas.	Community Development	Department Budget
	Investigate potential revisions to the Open Space Residential Design bylaw that would encourage its use.	Community Development	Department Budget
	Encourage use of construction and design standards contained in "Designing the Future to Honor the Past: Design Guidelines for Cape Cod," Cape Cod Commission, 1994.	Community Development	Department Budget
	Where feasible, require placement of new utility lines underground for development and redevelopment projects.	Community Development	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Undertake a public shade tree inventory along town major streets and develop recommendations for maintenance, areas for tree planting, desirable species types, and preservation strategies.	Parks & Recreation	CPC, County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Strengthen site plan review provisions of the zoning bylaw to require site plan modifications to save valuable, mature trees.	Community Development	Department Budget
	Evaluate a potential bylaw requiring a permit for the removal of valuable trees and require property owners to plant replacement trees where appropriate.	Tree Warden and Community Development	Department Budget

**GOAL 8.6: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS AND ENSURE THAT THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF ALL USER GROUPS ARE MET APPROPRIATELY**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Assess the condition of existing recreational facilities and develop and fund a program for repairs, improvements and rehabilitation of the facilities to meet current needs and state or national standards.	Inventory recreation facilities and assess use in light of current and projected population.	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Include needed expansion or repair projects for recreational facilities in the Town capital plan	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	New recreation/athletic facilities should be designed to meet applicable standards and should be planned for an intended 40-year life span.	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budget

2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan

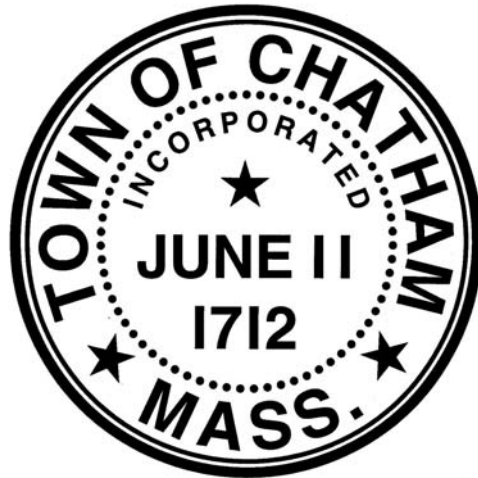
**GOAL 8.6: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS AND ENSURE THAT THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF ALL USER GROUPS ARE MET APPROPRIATELY (CONTINUED)**

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Regularly evaluate community recreation needs and assess whether expansion or alteration of facilities is called for to ensure need are met.	Conduct a bi-annual survey of recreation facilities users and user groups to assess adequacy of facilities to meet demand and other management issues	Parks & Recreation	CPC, County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Extend existing walking and bike trails to create a cross-town network	Bikeways	CPC, County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Designate use of conservation and recreation lands based on their suitability and community needs. Encourage year-round and multi-purpose use where appropriate.	Conservation and Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budget
Achieve ADA compliance for all public open space and recreation facilities. Open space, recreational facilities, and water access points should be made accessible to handicapped persons and program opportunities should be available to special populations to the extent practical.	Identify the ADA compliance status of all town recreation facilities, trails and conservation lands.	Community Development and Committee for the Disabled	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Develop a work plan and timeline for accomplishing ADA compliance at all facilities. Improvements should be prioritized to encompass a variety of user groups and the most heavily used facilities. All Town buildings and facilities need to ensure convenient handicap accessibility to the greatest degree possible. This is especially critical for town beaches and landings Natural open space and protected land need to provide for some type of suitable handicap access to permit the experience of the natural setting.	Community Development and Committee for the Disabled	Ongoing, Department Budget
Promote public education about and appropriate use of recreational facilities and programs through outreach, signage and other methods. Ensure that all stakeholder groups are included.	Continue to advertise recreation programs on the town website, through public schools, and through the council on aging.	Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budget
	Develop a template for improved signage and recreation to clearly identify areas and project a consistent theme and appearance. This template should be used as the basis for replacing signage as needed.	Community Development and Parks & Recreation	Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations
Manage all Town open space and recreation properties for their intended public benefit and to protect open space and recreational resources ★	The Town should also initiate a review of current policy related to all town-owned property (land and buildings). Consideration should be given to the multi-use potential of government property and to the continued maintenance and protection of this resource.	Facilities and Parks & Recreation	Ongoing, Department Budgets and Town Meeting Appropriations

**GOAL 8.7: PROMOTE OPEN SPACE AS A MEANS OF PROTECTING AND ENHANCING ANIMAL AND PLANT BIODIVERSITY**

OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	PARTIES INVOLVED	RESOURCES
Conduct and regularly update a town-wide inventory and prioritization of wildlife habitats and species.	Conduct a town-wide wildlife habitat and species inventory. Coordinate the inventory with similar undertakings by US Fish and Wildlife, Cape Cod National Seashore, Cape Cod Commission, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife NHESP	Conservation	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
Use regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to protect and enhance wildlife and habitats ★	Create development standards and/or regulations that protect the wildlife habitats, corridors and species identified in the Cape Cod Wildlife Habitat Conservation Project and by MNHESP wildlife protection initiatives.	Conservation	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Continue to implement management plans for Town conservation properties.	Conservation	CPC and Town Meeting Appropriations
	Coordinate habitat protection measures among Town departments, particularly with regard to NHESP requirements to ensure that all projects located within estimated or rare habitat areas file a request for information with NHESP.	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
Identify and preserve wildlife habitats that foster habitat diversity	Identify and map wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors throughout the town and share this information with conservation and planning departments	Conservation	Ongoing, Department Budget
Provide or restore links to and corridors connecting wildlife resource areas.	Evaluate creation of a habitat corridor overlay district or alternatively establish performance standards for new development or redevelopment projects in identified corridors to ensure the continuity of wildlife corridor/habitat	Conservation and Community Development	County, State and Federal Grants and Town Meeting Appropriations

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