

Section 8 - Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives are meant to provide guidance for future decision making by local officials by reflecting the "will of the town" relative to open space and resource protection. They were initially developed through a series of public meetings in the fall of 1986, when the Open Space Plan for the town was first being developed.

The goals and objectives were determined largely by information and opinions expressed in the Open Space questionnaire of 1986. This questionnaire was revised and redistributed to town residents in the summer of 1993. The results were generally consistent with those noted in the initial survey and therefore most of the goals and objectives listed below are unchanged. However, to respond to the challenge the town faced to accommodate the reconstructed Route 44 and the establishment of commuter rail service through town, two new questions were added to the questionnaire. Based on this input, a new set of goals and objectives were established.

After more than two decades of Open Space Planning, the Goals and Objectives of Kingston's effort to steward its natural resources are distilled into the following eight goals. The newest, is to encourage the use of some land for community gardens, in keeping with the spirit to preserve our limited fertile soils and agricultural heritage, and in appreciation for the needs of the times.

Goal 1

Protect the Quality of Kingston's Natural Environment

Objectives

- A. Protect, (through acquisition, purchase, gift, conservation restriction, easement, or tax title) the town's fragile and significant natural areas, and preserve the natural setting of the town's built environment.
- B. Educate the public on how local land use control can be used to the fullest extent feasible to protect the land, water and dependent biotic communities.
- C. Develop and implement management plans to improve and maintain surface water quality through management of sewage, street runoff, as well as other runoff.
- D. Provide for open space near or within residential areas
- E. Coordinate recreation and conservation land acquisitions with the Water Department to the fullest extent possible.

Goal 2

Stewardship of Existing Open Space lands

Objectives

- A. Encourage the development of caretaker groups for each open space parcel. These groups to assist with protection and stewardship, and maintenance of trails and facilities.
- B. Develop committed group of volunteers to improve amenities on conservation and recreation parcels.
- C. Develop institutional program of support and improvement: Stewardship—interns, to develop strong volunteer base to maintain and improve each properties and develop handbooks for stewardship, trail marking etc.
- D. Develop community gardens through alliance with Agricultural Commission, 4H groups, Silver Lake Horticultural program, garden clubs and civic groups.
- E. Develop Forestry management plans for town forests that encourage excellent Silva culture and wildlife habitat while providing needed fuel for town residents as needed, and inhibiting conditions conducive to wildfires.

Goal 3

Provide land and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations for passive and active recreation.

Objectives

- A. Update plans and improve management of existing town parks and conservation areas.
- B. Create one town entity to be responsible for the management of conservation lands.
- C. Provide public access to ponds, shorelines and forests.
- D. Educate the public about local open space and recreation areas.
- E. Develop projects and opportunities for strategic alliance among advocates for conservation, open space, recreation, historic preservation and affordable housing in order to maximize the financial advantages for the town and enhance community sustainability.
- F. Develop management guidelines to prevent conflicting recreational uses in natural resource areas.

Goal 4

Preserve Kingston's history through public education and protection of local historic sites.

Objectives

- A. Continue to identify and plan for the protection of sites of archeological and historic significance. (An example is Pulpit Rock near the Kingston Wastewater Treatment Facility)
- B. Protect the historic character of the town by developing appropriate by-laws defining “historic districts” and obtaining easements to mill sites and waterways. Support the Historic District Study.
- C. Ensure that local land use control powers are used to the fullest extent feasible to protect the values of archeological and historic sites.
- D. Create a program through the schools to promote awareness of local history.

Goal 5

Encourage land use activities which preserve privately owned land as open space.

Objectives

- A. Promote participation in voluntary restriction programs, including Chapter 61, Chapter 61A and Chapter 61B.
- B. Encourage donations of conservation easements.
- C. Encourage developer use of RDEOS (Residential Development Encouraging Open Space) passed as a Zoning By-law in 2000.
- D. Ensure that local land use control powers are used to the fullest extent possible to protect the quality of present and future public water supplies.

Goal 6

Further the objective of the Bay Circuit Program which is: to establish a system of privately and publicly owned open spaces, including parks, forests, reservoirs and wildlife preserves, scenic and historic sites and other properties and reservations surrounding Metropolitan Boston connected by designated roads, trails, waterways, stopping stations and paths of various kinds, highlighted by appropriate markers, signs and educational notations. (Bay Circuit Program)

Objectives

- A. Cooperate with neighboring towns on the protection of inter-town natural areas and waterways.
- B. Develop linkages between Kingston's recreation and conservation areas and those of neighboring towns.

Goal 7

Town officials should work with other authorities to ensure that minimal adverse impact to natural resources and recreational lands occurs with the development of new transportation facilities.

Objectives

- A. Create buffer strips of lands adjacent to the new facilities to reduce noise and visual impact of vehicles.
- B. Preserve existing walking trails and wildlife migration corridors while protecting the safety of residents and animals.
- C. Pursue replacement of open space lands lost, particularly in the vicinity of Camp Nekon, including both town-owned and State Forest property.

Goal 8

Preserve and Enhance the Character of the Community by encouraging development of pedestrian trails and bikeways and by protecting the aesthetic of scenic roads.

Objectives

- A. Plan and develop and bikeway network throughout town.
- B. Plan and develop appropriate sidewalks.
- C. Actively administer the scenic roads and public shade tree laws.

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