

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Draft Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Available for Public Review and Comment**

A draft of an update to the 1985 Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan has been compiled for Public Review and Comment, following up on last year's open space and recreation survey. The Draft Plan is formatted to meet the requirements set forth by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Division of Conservation Services (DCS), and will make the Town eligible for State LAND and PARC (formerly Self-Help) grants for open space acquisition, protection, or recreational facility improvements. Having an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan also increases a community's "Commonwealth Capital Score", a composite ranking of the implementation of sustainable development principles locally, which is used for other State discretionary funding programs (of which the Land Bank plans to apply for in the future).

With the decreasing amount of Land Bank funds available for future purchases and the ever increasing competition for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding, the LAND and PARC grants can be used to complement future open space purchase, by helping to leverage existing funding resources. Victor Di Cristina, Chairman Land Bank and Open Space Committee notes "the Open Space and Recreation Plan will provide the economic stimulus for the Land Bank to pursue important land purchase opportunities for conservation and recreational use."

The table below indicates Cape Cod Towns that have received LAND and PARC grants in the last three fiscal years:

	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY07</b>	<b>FY08</b>
<b>Conservation Grants (LAND)</b>			
Barnstable	\$500,000		
Brewster			\$500,000
Dennis	\$243,000	\$500,000	
Orleans	\$500,000		\$500,000
Provincetown		\$177,060	
Wellfleet	\$351,000		
Yarmouth			\$250,000
<b>Recreation Grants (PARC)</b>			
Barnstable		\$48,600	\$745,700
Dennis	\$500,000		\$261,464

## Draft Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan (Page 2)

The report follows the required state format and contains the following key components:

- Summary
- Introduction/Overview
- Community Setting
- Environmental Inventory and Analysis
- Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Lands
- Analysis of Needs
- Goals and Objectives
- Five-Year Action Plan

While the plan is voluminous with information, the key sections containing proposed actions include Section 8 - Goals and Objectives and Section 9 - Five-Year Action Plan. Also, of particular interest in the plan is the inclusion of ten maps providing a Town-wide presentation of the following features:

- Zoning
- Soils
- Geology
- Unique Features and Scenic Resources
- Water Resources
- Conservation and Recreation Lands
- Vegetation, Fisheries and Vernal Pools
- Rare Wildlife Species Habitats
- Environmental Challenges
- Action Plan

In anticipation of a future public forum on the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan to be scheduled early next year, hard copies of the Draft Plan will be made available for review by the public at the following locations: Eldredge Library, Town Hall, and Town Hall Annex. An electronic copy will also be placed on the Town's website ([www.Chatham-MA.gov](http://www.Chatham-MA.gov)) available for viewing or downloading. In addition to the Draft Plan be will be distributed to the to the Planning Board, Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Land Bank Open Space Committee, Community Preservation Committee and the Cape Cod Commission for comment.

Copies of the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan will be made available and distributed for review and comment the fourth week of December 2008, to provide ample time for review prior to conducting the first Public Forum early next year. Additional forums and presentations will be scheduled, as needed, to address comments on the Plan prior to submission to the State for final approval. Questions or comments on the Draft Plan can be directed to:

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