

SECTION 8

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



View to Pleasant Bay from Eastward Ho! Country Club

Photo by Jeff Thibodeau, Helios Land Design

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

The *goals* included in this 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan are intended to help define the long-range aspirations of the Town of Chatham for the protection of natural resources and the provision of recreational opportunities for its citizens and visitors. The *objectives* are conceptual steps to be undertaken to achieve these goals. Specific, tangible *actions* to implement the objectives are found in Section 9. These goals and objectives listed below have grown out of the Open Space and Recreation planning process. Many are also articulated in the CP, the Cape Cod Commission's Regional Policy Plan and the 2000 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

GOAL 1: Acquire, Retain, Preserve and Protect a Maximum Amount of Open Space for the Community and its Natural and Wildlife Habitats, while Balancing this with Practical Needs such as Recreation, Affordable Housing, and Water Supply.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1A. Implement the town's Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Strategy including the findings and recommendations contained in this Open Space and Recreation Plan and the *Town of Chatham Open Space Acquisition Strategy Update: A Confidential Technical Appendix to the 2008 Town of Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan*. Priorities used to determine high priority parcels include:**
- Lands within or adjacent to designated protected open space or potential open space areas;
 - Lands within or adjacent to fresh and saltwater bodies, beaches, (salt and fresh water), wetlands, (marshes, swamps, bogs, meadows, ponds, and creeks), and floodplains;
 - Lands containing vernal pools or which provide refuge to federally or state listed endangered, or threatened species or species listed as of special concern;
 - Lands providing wildlife corridors;
 - Lands useful for multiple public purposes or enhancement of Cape Cod Pathways and bike trails;
 - Potential Water Supply Areas and land abutting existing water supply areas;
 - Maximum priority parcels identified by the Priority Ponds Project;
 - Chapter 61 properties (Rights of First Refusal);
 - Conservation restrictions that are not perpetual;
 - High priority parcels listed by the Land Bank and Open Space Committee, the CPC, the Chatham Conservation Foundation, and other conservation groups.
- 1B. The town should continue to seek funds to promote the *acquisition* of prime open space.**
- 1C. The town should encourage the use of creative regulatory and non-regulatory land protection tools such as conservation restrictions, tax abatements, gifts and zoning measures.**
- 1D. The town should reuse abandoned buildings and lands for conservation and recreation purposes.**
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GOAL 2: Protect Public Access to, Use and Environmental Health of Chatham's Landings and Surface Water Resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- 2A. Protect Chatham's Surface Waters and Associated Natural Resources**
- 2C. Harbor (and other water-based resource) Management Plans should be developed and implemented to ensure a balance between human use and enjoyment and natural resource protection.**

- 2D. Regulations governing development within the 100 year coastal flood plain and buffers to other wetland resource areas should be reviewed and strengthened if necessary.
 - 2E. Improve pedestrian access, vehicular transportation and parking near the shore.
 - 2F. Complete and adopt the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan as expeditiously as possible and move forward with implementing its recommendations.
 - 2G. Provide Restroom Facilities Where Needed.
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GOAL 3: Protect the Town's Present and Future Groundwater Supply.

OBJECTIVES:

- 3A. Identify and protect future wellfield areas through zoning or acquisition.
 - 3B. Improve waste disposal methods and systems.
 - 3C. Complete and implement the recommendations of Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Establish a mechanism for ensuring that recommendations of the Plan are moved forward through the regulatory and financing process with public and private cooperation.
 - 3D. Ensure that an adequate supply of public water is provided to meet needs for the next 20 year period, based on a minimum level of service of 75 gallons per person per day.
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GOAL 4: Identify and Coordinate Open Space and Recreation Needs to Benefit Each Simultaneously.

OBJECTIVES:

- 4A. Update and implement the Town of Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan every five years as required.
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GOAL 5: Accomplish Open Space and Recreation Goals, Objectives and Actions Expeditiously and at Minimum Expense.

OBJECTIVES:

- 5A. Coordinate cooperative meetings between various groups involved in Chatham's open space and recreation planning to assign implementation of action items.

GOAL 6. Protect and Enhance Chatham's Unique and Fragile Natural and Cultural Resources including Scenic Beauty, Historic Areas and Unique Habitats.

OBJECTIVES:

- 6A. Implement strategies to protect significant natural and fragile areas including critical wildlife and plant habitat, water resources, historic, cultural and archaeological areas, significant scenic roads and views, unfragmented forest and significant landforms**
 - 6B. Protect Chatham's beaches and shoreline against erosion**
 - 6C. Educate the Public Regarding the Value of Chatham's Natural Resources**
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GOAL 7: Acquire, Maintain and Expand Recreational Opportunities and Access throughout Chatham and Ensure that the Needs of Every User Group are Met Appropriately.

OBJECTIVES:

- 7A. Designate use of conservation and recreation lands as either active or passive recreation based on their suitability and establish, post and enforce regulations.**
- 7B. Focus more intently on improving the availability of and access to recreational resources.**
- 7C. Public recreational facilities and open space areas shall be designed for year-round and be multi-use where appropriate.**
- 7D. The town should undertake assessment of all existing recreational facilities and should develop and fund a program for repairs, improvements and rehabilitation of the facilities to meet today's needs and standards. All renewal of facilities should strive to meet national standards.**
- 7E. The Parks and Recreation Department should undertake a thorough needs assessment including plans to fulfill those identified needs after it has digested and integrated recent changes associated with construction of the new Community Center.**
- 7F. The Parks and Recreation Department, in concert with other town agencies, should continue to educate the public on the availability of programs, facilities, and services, and to promote public use.**
- 7G. Open space and recreational facilities should be made accessible to handicapped persons and program opportunities should be available to special populations when possible and practical. Special attention should be given to making landings more accessible for all.**
- 7H. Town agencies should work cooperatively to ensure that public facilities meet the needs of local and community groups and facilitate nonprofit and social gatherings and events.**
- 7I. In all revenue-producing programs and facilities, assurances must be obtained that the opportunity for an individual or family to participate is not closed due to fees or expenses.**
- 7J. Enhance signage and maintenance of recreation areas**
- 7K. Provide boat launching facilities on all major waterways to serve both residents and visitors.**

- 7L. Meet increasing demand for beaches with lifeguards through alternative means of transportation such as shuttle buses rather than expanding parking or reclassifying rural beaches.
- 7M. Promote Cape Cod Pathways
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GOAL 8: Design and Develop Aesthetically Pleasing and Pedestrian-Friendly Open Space and Recreation Areas to Enhance Chatham's Overall Appeal.

OBJECTIVES:

- 8A. Develop Streetscape/Site Design Plans that promote enhanced visual appeal, improved pedestrian circulation and economic viability of developed village areas, ports, beaches, and other major destinations.
- 8B. Inventory and assess the health, condition, and longevity of town forests, including trees along streets, with the assistance of public agencies such as the Department of Environmental Management and Cape Cod Cooperative Extension.
- 8C. Develop a management plan for trees on public lands and along public roads, including a program for periodically planting new trees
- 8D. Amend the zoning bylaw to increase landscaping requirements on new development and redevelopment projects in order to provide buffering of adjacent uses, screening of parking areas and beautification of parking areas.
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GOAL 9: All Public Properties of the Town Should be Designed and Managed for their Intended Public Benefit and to Protect Open Space and Recreational Resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- 9A. Existing town-owned properties should be managed and maintained to ensure appropriate use and public benefit.
- 9B. The *Comprehensive Conservation Lands Management Plan* (currently underway) should be completed and implemented as soon as possible.
- 9C. Consideration should be given to the development of more specific land management plans on individual town properties.

GOAL 10: Protect and Enhance Wildlife Population and Habitats.

OBJECTIVES:

- 10A. Identify and preserve wildlife habitats that foster habitat diversity and links to known wildlife resource areas.**
- 10B. Continue to pursue the implementation of the prescribed burning plan for habitat management on town conservation properties.**
- 10C. Conduct a town-wide inventory and prioritization of wildlife habitats and species.**