

Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan
FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Five-Year Action Plan is intended to provide concrete steps towards implementing the objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee developed the draft action steps outlined below.

The objectives are listed in the far left column of the foldout Table 9-1 in the same order as they appear in Section 8. They are followed in the same row by recommended actions, the board or group responsible for implementation, and start dates. By implementing the recommended actions, each of the objectives will begin to be realized.

Successful implementation will require the participation of existing town boards, committees and staff, including but not limited to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Commission, and an Agricultural Commission.

Accomplishing the actions identified in this section will require time and commitment from dedicated volunteers. Where money is required, it may be sought from state and federal governmental agencies, private non-profit conservation agencies, foundations, and individual donations in addition to municipal funds. A broad base of community support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan should facilitate fundraising to achieve its goals and objectives.

Table 9-1: Recommended Action Steps to Implement the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Start Date
Educate town boards, commissions, and residents on the costs of municipal services associated with different land uses including commercial, industrial, residential, farm and forestland and explore the impact of development of each type.	Establish an Open Space Committee.	Select Board/Town Meeting	2005
	Establish an Agricultural Commission.	Select Board/Town Meeting	2004-2005
	Sponsor a public forum at which the American Farmland Trust presents its findings in their Cost of Community Services study of Shelburne when it is completed.	Open Space Committee and Agricultural Commission	2005

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Start Date
Support farmers in Shelburne to maintain open space and rural character by reducing burdens of farming.	Work with farmers, State Legislators and other groups to advocate for changes in the state tax code (e.g. a maximum of one building lot per active farm) and Chapter 61A application procedures (e.g. Ch. 61 A applications should be required only once, unless changes occur).	Agricultural Commission and Open Space Committee with partners (Shelburne Board of Assessors, the Farm Bureau, and FRCOG Regional Planning Board)	2005
	Invite Dept. of Revenue and Office of Commonwealth Development staff to a meeting to hear concerns of farmers and other community members.	Agricultural Commission and Board of Assessors	2005
Support a periodic review of zoning by-laws, work to make by-laws consistent with the goals of the Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan, and consider revising zoning and the subdivision regulations to support agriculture.	The Planning Board should continue work it has already begun including creating an Agricultural District that would be designed to include "right to farm" measures that reduce nuisance cases.	Planning Board	Ongoing
Work with Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) and other interested parties to implement strategies at all levels that will result in economic viability and higher profits for local farmers as a means of keeping farmland open.	Invite Jay Healy to discuss his farm viability ideas with local farmers and other interested community members.	Open Space Committee and CISA	2005
	Encourage groups like Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative (MWC) to team up with CISA to provide landowners comprehensive marketing for all farm products including timber and fuelwood.	Agricultural Commission, CISA, and MWC	2005

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Start Date
Continue to identify areas of town that are most important to protect from development. The Select Board should have information on areas identified as important and be prepared to act on opportunities that are initiated by landowners.	The Open Space Committee will identify areas of land with significant value in conserving clean air & water, habitat for animal and plant life, farmland, forests, and scenic vistas (e.g., along Rte. 2, and ridgelines) and share this information with landowners.	Open Space Committee	2004
	The Open Space Committee will create a list of priority criteria for action in regards to land protection activities.	Open Space Committee	2004
	Write grants to raise money for land protection.	Open Space Committee	Ongoing
Promote the Massachusetts Chapter 61, 61A, and 61 B Land Classification and Taxation Programs to local landowners to help keep undeveloped lands in active farming, forestry, and recreational uses.	Develop a policy for how the town may act on its right of first refusal in regards to Chapter lands and ask the Select Board to adopt the policy.	Open Space Committee	2005
	Promote an understanding among landowners of the intentions of the town in regards to its right of first refusal in the broad sense.	Select Board with the Board of Assessors	2006 and Ongoing
Continue to set aside municipal funding each year to be used as a town match to ensure that landowners that want to protect their farmland through the APR Program can do so.	Ensure that both the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Account and the Land Preservation Account can accrue in value over time and explore if they can receive private donations.	Select Board and Town Meeting	2004

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Start Date
	Present an annual report to a televised Select Board meeting on the progress of the Open Space Committee and Agricultural Commission. Educate residents on important issues, activities, and conservation projects. Use the time to promote citizen participation in specific initiatives.	Agricultural Commission and Open Space Committee	2005
Continue to work with local land trusts to encourage investment of state, municipal, and private resources for the purposes of protecting priority resource values from development while preferably maintaining property on the tax rolls with minimal tax impact.	Seek assistance from Franklin Land Trust and other groups in the development of a long-term capital campaign to raise money to pay for the difference between what the APR Program would pay and fair market value for farmland.	Select Board, Open Space Committee, Agricultural Commission, Franklin Land Trust, and the Department of Agricultural Resources	2005

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Start Date
Provide opportunities for landowners to learn about land protection and estate planning options.	Provide annual land preservation forums for farmers, landowners and citizens and keep the public informed about other nearby land preservation forums.	Open Space Committee and CISA	Ongoing
Explore whether the Conservation Commission has the capacity to manage conservation lands and conservation restrictions that could be donated to the town in the future.	Develop a policy statement that deals with town ownership of conservation land.	Select Board and Town Meeting	2005
Promote existing recreational facilities and services.	Promote existing recreational facilities and services.	Recreation Commission	2005
Enhance safe public access to the Deerfield River or to lands that contain priority recreational resource areas.	Form a Trails Committee to be in charge of creating and maintaining trails to recreational sites on public lands or on private lands that have easements or agreements.	Recreation Commission and the Open Space Committee	2005
Determine the potential recreational needs of different segments of the population and the feasibility of developing new facilities and programs of the types most in demand.	Survey the recreational needs and interests of residents and their willingness to lead recreational activities.	Recreation Commission	2006
	Determine if any of the neighboring towns were interested in co-supporting a shared part-time paid Recreation Coordinator's position.	Select Board	2006
	Investigate the possibility of private investment by associations in the development of public recreational programs in Shelburne.	Recreation Commission	2007

Objective	Action	Responsible Board/Group	Start Date
Explore additional funding sources for recreational facilities and programs including the libraries.	Based on the results of the recreation survey, identify priority projects and funding sources and submit a report to the Select Board.	Recreation Commission, Select Board, FRCOG Planning Department	2007
Inventory access and ownership issues on all public and quasi-public lands in Shelburne in support of exploring the potential for recreational use.	Identify current public-access trails or sites on the Deerfield River, to Mt. Massaemet, to Mohawk Trail, and to other important sites such as a viewing deck over the Potholes, and then disseminate information highlighting these open space areas in Shelburne. Include trail etiquette standards and expectations.	Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee, and Shelburne Citizens	2007
Seek to increase the number of hours the town libraries are open each week.	Based on the results of the recreation survey, ascertain the funding requirements for increasing Library hours and submit a report to the Select Board identifying funding needs.	Recreation Commission and the Library Trustees	Ongoing

Source: Shelburne Community Development Planning Committee Members; 2004.