

SECTION 9: ACTION PLAN UPDATE FOR YEARS 8-10

The Lunenburg Ad Hoc Open Space Advisory Committee will continue to support Open Space Plan implementation. This committee will continue to serve an “advisory” role to support the primary decision-making and regulatory bodies and associated staff within town government – namely, the Select Board, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Parks Commission, the Finance Committee, and Town Meeting. This will be critical to making meaningful progress on our open space and recreation goals and objectives.

It is important to recognize that open space and recreation opportunities are not luxuries – these are critical to the quality of life in Lunenburg. However, the town’s staff and volunteer capacities aren’t without limits. The same is true for our municipal budget. These realities underscore the need to keep this action plan relatively simple, straight-forward, and cost-effective.

The most important thing that this plan and its implementation can produce is positive momentum. Therefore, the action items in this plan start small, require little or no investment, and are intended to create successes on which to build incrementally. Dedicated staff and volunteer time has produced this plan, and most of the action items identified in this plan would be accomplished in a similar manner. The objective is to build upon our past successes and to be better positioned for future opportunities.

This action plan is organized according to Goals and Objectives listed in previous sections:

Goal 1: Enhance and promote existing open space and recreation assets

Objective	Action Item (Year)	Responsible Party	Funding Source
A) Improve community awareness of existing open space/recreation assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to refine and promulgate clear rules for the use of municipal conservation and recreation areas. (Years 6-10) 2. Conspicuously mark and/or sign formal trails, parking areas and other access points. (ongoing) 3. Create trail maps for existing conservation areas and/or a guide to public recreation facilities available. (ongoing) 4. Continue to lead organized outings, such as hikes or interpretive walks, at municipal open space and recreation facilities. (ongoing) 5. Improve information available at the library and on the town website. (ongoing) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, School Committee 2. Conservation Commission, Parks Commission 3. Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, School Committee 4. Conservation Commission 5. Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, School Committee 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. n/a 2. trust funds, state grants 3. state grants 4. n/a 5. state grants
B) Master plan restoration and enhancement of key recreation resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convene sub-committees to begin master planning process for both Marshall Park (ongoing) and Town Beach. (Year 7) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parks Commission 2. Select Board, Fin. Comm., Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. n/a 2. town meeting, state grants

	2. Begin implementation of master plans. (Years 7-10)		
C) Seek management assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Contract professional, licensed foresters to create “Forest Stewardship Plans” for several town conservation areas to identify management needs and opportunities, including potential timber harvests. (ongoing) Establish a “volunteer steward” program for the town’s open space properties and encourage community and/or individual projects (such as school-led or Eagle Scout projects) to implement management needs. (ongoing) Continue successful partnerships with organizations such as the Lunenburg Snowriders. (ongoing) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Commission Conservation Commission Conservation Commission 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> revolving funds n/a n/a
D) Expand capacity of Parks Commission	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Amend Town Charter to mimic M.G.L. Chapter 45 Section 2 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Charter Review Committee, Select Board, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a

Goal 2: Preserve the most critical natural resources

Objective	Action Item (Year)	Responsible Party	Funding Source
A) Provide easy access to information about conservation options to private landowners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update website to provide links to local land trusts, conservation organizations and state agencies (Year 8-10) Update website to provide information about Chapter 61, 61A and 61B enrollment (Year 7-8) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Assessor, Webmaster Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Assessor, Webmaster 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a n/a
B) Acquire or protect via permanent restriction additional priority properties	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a process for reaching out to owners of the highest-priority, unprotected lands, and implement direct dialogue with such owners (ongoing) Continue to utilize the coordinated process for reviewing Chapter 61 withdrawals for open space and recreation needs (ongoing) Acquire/protect most critical 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Select Board 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a n/a town meeting, state grants

	properties (as available)	3. Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Town Meeting	
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Goal 3: Expand access to conservation and recreation resources

Objective	Action Item (Year)	Responsible Party	Funding Source
A) Link conservation and recreation resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance connectivity between existing conservation and recreation resources, especially in densely-populated areas such as Whalom district and the town center, with sidewalks and/or bike lanes. (ongoing) 2. Support regional trail initiatives that connect Lunenburg's conservation and recreation resources beyond town lines. (ongoing) 3. Consider zoning changes, incentives, or other ways to link Lunenburg's businesses with its conservation and recreation resources. (Year 7-10) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Space Committee, Public Works 2. Open Space Sub-Committee, Conservation Commission 3. Planning Board, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. capital plan 2. state grants 3. n/a
B) Re-purpose "general municipal" land	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convene a multi-disciplinary review of vacant undesignated lands owned by the town. (completed) 2. Identify those parcels that meet specific municipal needs, including but not limited to conservation and recreation. (ongoing) 3. Take necessary steps to formally designate care and control to appropriate boards/committees. (Years 7-10) 4. Leverage certain designations of care and control of certain parcels as mitigation (if statutorily required for certain changes in use) or as non-cash match (for grant applications) if possible. (Years 7-10) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Select Board, Open Space Committee, various other boards 2. Select Board, Open Space Committee, various other boards 3. Select Board, Open Space Committee, various other boards, Town Meeting 4. Select Board, Open Space Committee, various other boards, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. n/a 2. n/a 3. town meeting 4. town meeting
C) Make ADA accessibility enhancements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make ADA enhancements to conservation lands as deemed necessary and reasonable (ongoing) 2. Make ADA enhancements to recreation lands as deemed necessary and reasonable (ongoing) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Commission 2. Parks Commission 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. grant funds, capital plan 2. capital plan, town meeting
D) Add rectangular playing fields/green spaces	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate opportunities (ongoing) 2. Acquire and/or build on existing resources new rectangular fields (as available) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Space Committee, Parks Commission 2. Open Space Committee, Parks Commission, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. n/a 2. capital plan, town meeting

E) Acquire and/or develop meaningful access to NW Town Forest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate existing rights of access derived from current title ownership (partially complete and ongoing) Evaluate opportunities for expanding access (partially complete and ongoing) Negotiate and acquire improved access (Years 7-10) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a n/a town meeting, capital plan
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Goal 4: Diversify funding sources

Objective	Action Item (Year)	Responsible Party	Funding Source
A) Integrate open space and recreation needs into the Capital Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate open space and recreation needs into the Capital Plan (complete) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fin. Comm., Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, Select Board 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
B) Pass Community Preservation Act	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Canvass boards and commissions for interest; share information (ongoing) Conduct outreach, public survey, to develop proposed adoption language, including suggested rates and exemptions (TBD) Seek town meeting approval (TBD) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Committee Open Space Committee, various boards various boards, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a n/a n/a
C) Apply for state grants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for state grants for eligible projects (ongoing) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open Space Committee, Parks Commission, Conservation Commission 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
D) Utilize dedicated/trust funds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine available funds/accounts, balances, and define restrictions (Year 7-10) Appropriate as needed to eligible projects, and leverage with state grants whenever possible (ongoing) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer, Town Manager, Conservation Commission, Trust Fund Commission Conservation Commission, Town Meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> n/a trust funds, town meeting, state grants