

Section 6 - Community Goals

A. Description of Process

Hanover's Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee (OSRPC) was appointed in December, 1995 by the Town Moderator. The OSRPC is comprised of thirteen members, representing many of the Town boards and departments, as well as citizens at large. As described in Section 2, the OSRPC is committed to developing a plan which reflects the needs and concerns of the community and has held numerous open meetings to support this intention, the first of which was held on January 10, 1996. In addition to the regular OSRPC meetings which were occasionally held in conjunction with other Town Boards or regional conservation groups, two Public Forums were held to solicit additional citizen input.

Boards and departments represented at the OSRPC meetings include:

- Selectmen
- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- School Committee
- Board of Health
- Board of Public Works
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Capital Improvement Committee
- Historical Commission
- Industrial Development Commission

In 1995, prior to the official establishment of the OSRPC, an Open Space Survey was distributed to a random sample of Hanover residents and received an impressive 21% return. The survey results illustrate the community's desire to provide open space and recreation opportunities in combination with land and water resource conservation/protection. Survey results are included in Section 11.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Hanover's first Open Space Plan was prepared in 1979 under the direction of the Conservation Commission. The Plan included prioritized lists of parcels for acquisition, site specific improvements for existing Town-owned properties, and a recommended set of land use controls to be implemented. The Plan also presented an overall strategy for open space preservation. Due to continued growth pressure and the resultant impacts, the 1987 Update of the Open Space Plan focused on resource protection and passive recreation, rather than active recreation. Today growth pressures continue, in Hanover and throughout the region.

Through two public surveys and an extensive public participation process, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has developed some broad goals to provide general guidance throughout the open space planning process. These goals, which are purposefully general, include:

- ⇒ *identifying, preserving and protecting those historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the Town;*
- ⇒ *protecting and enhancing the quality of Hanover's surface and ground water as a source of municipal drinking water and for wildlife and recreation use;*
- ⇒ *increasing environmental awareness among all sectors of the community;*
- ⇒ *enhancing appropriate public access to and use of existing conservation lands and establishing continuous greenbelts; and*
- ⇒ *improving and increasing recreational opportunities in Hanover.*