

SECTION 2.5 Open Space and Recreation

Introduction

In 1998 the Town of Dennis updated its Open Space and Recreation Plan. The update was designed to give it meaning for today's town, and to meet the state's 1990 Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. The update built on earlier plans incorporating goals of protecting natural resources, conserving open space and providing a varied recreation program. The plan seeks to address these goals simultaneously where possible by encouraging preservation of open space, while allowing opportunities for its enjoyment through modest improvements which provide access for passive recreation. The following material has been excerpted from the 1998 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which is incorporated in the Town of Dennis Local Comprehensive Plan by reference, and added to by incorporating Minimum Performance Standards for Regional Policy Plan consistency.

A. Statement of Purpose

Dennis's Open Space and Recreation Plan is intended to provide a framework for decision-making by its residents. The purpose of the plan is to serve as a guide to responsible action to conserve Dennis's natural resources, preserve its open space and provide ample opportunities for recreation for its citizens.

B. Previous Efforts

The Open Space and Recreation Plan represents the current culmination of over 25 years of open space and recreation planning in the Town of Dennis. Among the first principal efforts was the Town of Dennis Planning Proposals and Policies Report prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs in 1974. That report, conducted for the Town of Dennis Comprehensive Planning Committee, included sections devoted to "Natural Resources and Physical Features" and Open Space and Recreation." In 1975, the Barnstable County Conservation District prepared a study entitled, Natural Resources Planning Program of the Town of Dennis, which evaluated specific natural areas for protection and passive recreation. An inventory report entitled Natural and Visual Resources, Dennis, Mass., was printed in 1976 by the University of Massachusetts and included principles and goals for conservation and recreation. In 1979, a "Recreation Master Plan" was adopted by the town, outlining the need for public recreational facilities.

In 1984, a more comprehensive document, Conservation and Recreation Plan, was prepared by Interchange (consulting firm) and provided a framework to advance the town's ambitious land acquisition program at 1985 Town Meeting. This plan was the town's first to receive (provisional) state approval by the Division of Conservation Services. In 1985 the Town of Dennis Planning Department prepared a "Land Availability Study," which was used to prepare the 1986 Town of Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was approved by the state for use through 1991.

In 1994 the town began its preparation of a Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) in compliance with the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan (1991, amended 1996). This comprehensive plan will involve a full build-out and capacity analysis and guide development for the next 20 years.

C. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs' Open Space Planner's Workbook: A Companion to the 1990 Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements was used as a guide to preparing the plan. The Selectmen appointed a Local Planning Committee in 1992. In 1994 the Committee distributed a survey (1027 respondents) which included conservation and recreation questions. In accordance with the state Uniform Procurement Act (MGL c.30B), the town hired The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts, Inc. (Mark H. Robinson, Executive Director) to provide technical assistance to the Planning Department in preparing the final plan.

The Local Planning Committee held an initial public hearing on the draft updated plan on June 25, 1997. Comments from that hearing were incorporated in the plan. Another public hearing was conducted on April 22, 1998. A public hearing on the final plan was held before the Selectmen. All hearings were publicized in the local media as well as by town hall posting. Town, regional and state officials reviewed the plan in 1998 and their comments were also used to revise the final plan.

GOALS AND POLICIES

2.5 Open Space Protection and Recreation

2.5.1. Goal: Preserve and manage sufficient areas to maintain a healthy natural environment, provide habitat for wildlife, encourage outdoor recreation and retain community character. In order to preserve and enhance the availability of open space on Cape Cod and provide wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and protect the natural resources, scenery, ground water quality, air quality and character of Cape Cod, Dennis shall strive to protect at least 50% of its remaining developable land as open space (modified RPP Goal 2.5.1)

Minimum Performance Standards:

2.5.1.1. Development or redevelopment throughout town, shall be clustered away from sensitive resources and maintain a continuous corridor to preserve interior wildlife habitat. These development clusters will strive to protect areas which serve ground water recharge, wildlife habitat, open space, scenic roadways, appropriate recreational opportunities, and protection of the town's natural character.

2.5.1.2. Preserved open space within proposed developments shall be designed to be contiguous and interconnecting with adjacent open space, and shall be subject to permanent conservation restrictions. The town of Dennis will include bonus provisions through the cluster bylaw to allow increased density for preservation of additional high quality open space.

2.5.1.3. Residential, commercial and industrial development shall provide permanently-restricted critical habitat open space based upon a development impact statement submitted as part of its development review submittal. Open space shall be designed to protect those portions of the site with the highest natural resource values as identified by a natural resources inventory. Within open space areas the maximum amount of natural vegetation shall be maintained.

2.5.1.4. Residential, commercial and industrial redevelopment shall maintain the existing percentage of open space on the lot or shall provide off-site open space or make a cash contribution toward open space which offsets by an equal amount, any reduction in open space resulting from redevelopment.

2.5.1.5. In the design of developments, significant natural and fragile areas including critical wildlife and plant habitat, water resources such as lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands and wetlands, historic, cultural and archaeological areas, significant scenic roads and views, unfragmented forest and significant landforms shall be protected.

2.5.1.6. Where development is proposed adjacent to land held for conservation and preservation purposes, the development shall be configured so as to prevent adverse impacts to these lands and in a manner that maximizes contiguous open space.

Other Development Review Policies:

2.5.1.7. Wherever possible, off-site open space provided through Section 2.5.1.3. or 2.5.1.4. should be located within or contiguous to Cape Cod Significant Natural Resource Areas or in the areas identified in Section 2.5.1.5.

2.5.2. Goal Recreation: Meet all residents' and visitors' recreational needs by providing a diversified selection of year-round recreational programs with adequate indoor and outdoor facilities distributed evenly in each village, while protecting sensitive natural resources and keeping costs within a limited municipal budget (modified RPP Goal 2.5.2).

Minimum Performance Standards:

2.5.2.1. Recreational needs as identified in the 1998 Dennis Open Space and Recreation Plan shall be addressed in the development of projects on in Dennis. Such needs include opportunities for wildlife study, expansion of trail corridors, protection of scenic roadways, development and expansion of access for the disabled, additional public beaches and water-based recreational opportunities with associated parking facilities to the extent these minimize alteration of natural shorelines and do not harm wildlife habitat.

2.5.2.2. New development should provide suitable recreation and play areas to meet the needs of the residents of that development such as ballfields, playgrounds, basketball courts or bicycle and walking paths.

2.5.2.3 Meet Local Recreation Needs through Balanced Offering of Programs: Develop and/or expand recreational programs which address the needs of citizens and tourists, including those of different age (youth, adults and seniors), incomes and abilities, subject to availability of funds.

2.5.2.4 Upgrade Active Recreation Facilities to Provide Better Service: Develop, relocate and/or expand recreation facilities to meet local recreation needs, subject to availability of funds.

2.5.2.5 Enhance Fresh and Salt Water Bathing and Boating Facilities: Design creative, efficient means to expand mooring/docking areas, and encourage expansion of sandy beach areas and ancillary support land. (See also, Coastal Resources Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.2.6 Encourage Alternative Transportation on Safe Routes to Reduce Congestion, Conserve Energy and Improve Air Quality: Promote walking and bicycle paths throughout town (except where safety precludes it, such as along Route 6A) and connecting to long-distance trail systems. (See also, Transportation and Air Quality Elements of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.2.7 Provide Access to Open Space and Outdoor Recreational Facilities for Persons with Varying Physical and Other Abilities: Ensure that experiences available at selected conservation areas, trails, parks, and playgrounds are accessible to people with a variety of levels of mobility, sense awareness and mental capacity, mindful of site characteristics and financial considerations.

2.5.2.8 Cooperate with Other Town Departments to Develop Municipal Land for Multiple Use: Identify areas of conservation land and wellfields, where passive recreation can be enhanced, such as installing trails, and picnic areas, as appropriate.

2.5.2.9 Provide Public Education and Promotion of Community Recreation Programs: Ensure that programs and facilities are well known in the community, to residents and visitors.

2.5.2.10 Coordinate Management of Recreation Resources Which Cross Town Boundaries: Cooperate with nearby jurisdictions to promote protection of regional recreational resources, such as the Cape Cod Rail Trail, and Cape Cod Pathways regional trail network.

2.5.2.11 Enhance a Balanced Local Economy by Strengthening Outdoor Opportunities: Maintain, promote and improve economically productive recreational resources such as beaches, golf courses, harbors and fishing areas. These areas should be maintained specifically for those uses and expanded where possible. (See also, Economic Development Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.3 Goal: Protect and enhance Dennis's fragile environmental resources, including water quality, scenic beauty and unique habitats.

Minimum Performance Standards:

2.5.3.1 Identify opportunities for land acquisition and/or regulatory protection to preserve key environmental resources.

2.5.3.2 Protect and Enhance Coastal/Saltwater Resources: Preserve coastal water quality that will enable fishing, shellfishing, swimming and boating to continue for residents to enjoy and as a mainstay of the town's tourist economy and support native industries of commercial fishing and shellfishing. (See also, Coastal Resources Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.3.3 Protect Freshwater and Wetland Resources: Preserve the quantity and quality of groundwater, ponds and freshwater wetlands which provide wildlife habitat. Provide effective implementation of local wetlands regulations. (See also, Water Resources, Wetlands & Wildlife and Plant Habitat Elements of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.3.4 Preserve Unique Natural Features: Protect and preserve the value of identified lands for wildlife habitat, rare plants and animals, uncommon woodlands (such as cedar swamps), unfragmented forests, and historic resources, through regulatory and non-regulatory means.

Development or redevelopment within Significant Natural Resource Areas, as illustrated on the Cape Cod Significant Natural Resource Area Map dated September 5, 1996, as amended, shall be clustered away from sensitive resources and maintain a continuous corridor to preserve interior wildlife habitat. Where a property straddles the boundary of an area shown on this map, development shall be clustered outside the boundary. The primary function of these areas is the provision of ground water recharge, wildlife habitat, open space, scenic roadways, appropriate recreational opportunities, and protection of the Cape's natural character (RPP 2.5.1.1).

2.5.3.5 Mitigate Natural Hazards of Storm Flooding and Sea Level Rise: Promote sound land use principles to prevent acute storm damage and chronic sea level rise from causing undue threats to public safety and natural resources. Respond to heavy public use of certain town properties by designing appropriate erosion control measures. (See also, Coastal Resources Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.3.5 Manage Town's Open Space Properties to Protect Natural Resources while Encouraging Appropriate Public Use: Evaluate town-owned undesignated-use open space to dedicate portions to conservation use and develop management plans which ensure maximum natural resource protection, while enhancing recreational access for purposes such as walking, fishing, swimming and small-craft boating.

2.5.3.6 Prevent Degradation and Abuse of Open Space Areas. Provide cost-effective means of patrol and maintenance for town-owned open space to prevent overuse, dumping and resource degradation.

2.5.3.7 Coordinate Protection of Natural Resource Areas with Multiple Jurisdictions: Cooperate with nearby jurisdictions, such as the neighboring towns and water district, to design compatible and integrated management of coastal and freshwater resource areas, migratory wildlife and other natural resources.

2.5.4 Open Space: Preserve and manage sufficient areas to maintain a healthy natural environment, provide habitat for wildlife, encourage outdoor recreation and retain community character.

Minimum Performance Standards

2.5.4.1 Protect Environmentally Sensitive Lands: Acquire or protect, through regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms, lands in or near sensitive natural or unique areas and open space lands identified in this plan.

2.5.4.2 Protect and Retain Lands of Recreational Value: Dedicate appropriate areas of town-owned open space to recreational use and encourage retention of existing private recreational facilities, particularly equestrian riding areas, boating facilities and the skating rink.

2.5.4.3 Protect the Town's Scenic Resources: Preserve the natural features, cranberry bogs and waterfront of Dennis, in particular Scargo Hill, and ensure that views of these features are available to residents and tourists alike. (See also, Community Character Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.4.4 Protect Significant Historical Sites or Areas: Acquire or protect lands and structures, particularly along, but not limited to Route 6A, the South Dennis Village Historic District and Bass River, which contribute to the unique Cape Cod character of the Town, provide historical, prehistoric or educational perspectives, and/or meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places or the Massachusetts Historic Commission. (See also, Heritage Preservation Element of the Local Comprehensive Plan.)

2.5.4.4 Promote an Integrated, Cost-Effective Open Space Acquisition Program: Except when development threat is imminent and/or public ownership necessary to accomplish an intended public purpose, use cost-effective land protection tools, with tax-incentives, such as donations, conservation restrictions and current use assessment, to retain open space in the community, working in alliance with non-profit organizations, such as the Dennis Conservation Trust.

2.5.4.5 Coordinate Open Space Protection with Regional Jurisdictions: Cooperate with nearby jurisdictions to promote protection of regional open space resources, such as the Cape Cod Commission regional greenbelt system, Monomoy Lens Protection Project and Cape Cod Pathways.

ACTION PLAN

A. CONSERVATION ACTIONS

I.A. Coastal Resources/Saltwater Quality

1. Prohibit direct discharge of untreated stormwater and wastewater into coastal waterways (complies with Policy 2.1.1.5 of RPP). Mitigate untreated stormwater discharges through the use of vegetated swales, leaching catch basins and other best management practices (2.1.1.8 of RPP), particularly along Swan River.

Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Board of Health & Dept. of Public Works.

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

2. Consider nomination of portions of waterways as federal EPA No Discharge areas for boats (2.2.Town.A of RPP). Coordinate with regional health officials on marine head pumping options (2.2.Town.G of RPP).

Responsible Parties: Harbormaster & Board of Health & Conservation Commission

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: 2002

3. Implement culvert reconstruction/wetlands restoration plan for Cold Storage Road marsh.
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Dept. of Public Works.
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going.

4. Investigate pump-out facility for Bass River boaters, perhaps in conjunction with Yarmouth.
 Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Harbormaster.
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

- I.B. Freshwater/Wetland Resources
5. Amend local wetlands protection bylaw to protect vernal pools.
 Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: 2003

6. Evaluate and, if necessary, mitigate stormwater drainage patterns into ponds and streams.
 Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Board of Health
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

- I.C. Unique Areas
7. Identify and certify all vernal pools
 Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

8. Pursue acquisition of the properties on or near Scargo Hill for conservation/recreation use.
 Responsible Parties: Board of Selectmen
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

- I.D. Flooding/Sea Level Rise
9. Amend zoning bylaw to prohibit new non-water dependent construction in the Federal Emergency Management Area (FEMA) V-flood zones, except where the height of the first floor elevation meets or exceeds the 100-year storm wave height
 Responsible Parties: Planning Board
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: 2003

10. Amend local wetlands protection bylaw to accommodate inland migration of saltwater wetlands, where feasible, based on a 2-foot sea level rise.
 Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Conservation Commission
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: 2003

11. Augment erosion control measures with beach nourishment at town beaches, particularly West Dennis, Chapin, Cold Storage and Corporation Beaches.
 Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Conservation Commission, Beach Department & Dept. of Public Works.
 Priority: Medium

Time Frame for Completion: 2005

I.E. Natural Resource Management

12. Develop natural resource inventory and management plan for major conservation areas, particularly Flax Pond and Crowes Pasture, identifying appropriate types and levels of recreational use.
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Conservation Commission
Priority: Medium
Time Frame for Completion: Ongoing.
13. Evaluate conservation significance of town-owned parcels, acquired through tax-title foreclosure, particularly along Hokum Rock Road. If significant, dedicate to conservation land under MGL c. 40, s. 8C.
Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission & Selectmen
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
14. Prepare and distribute public information about hurricane preparation, wetland protection, septic upgrades, floodproofing, boating safety.
Responsible Parties: Various departments
Priority: Medium
Time Frame for Completion: On-going.
15. Negotiate with Dennis Water District to exchange conservation restrictions on town and district lands that abut or are near each other, such as at Flax Pond, to assure water quality and permanent open space protection.
Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Department, board of Selectmen, Dennis Water District
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
16. Create wildlife habitat enhancement measures at Simpkins Neck, including cleared patches and plantings.
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department,
Priority: Medium
Time Frame for Completion: 2005.
17. Design more formal parking area at Simpkins Neck.
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department,
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: 2003.
18. Review health-related issues with respect to dogs on public bathing beaches.
Responsible Parties: Board of Health & Beach Dept.
Priority: Medium
Time Frame for Completion: On-going

I.F. Patrol/Land Maintenance

20. Deputize appropriate town officials, including health agents, in addition to police and harbor masters, to bolster enforcement of MGL c. 270, s. 16, preventing illegal dumping on public land.
 Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department,
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: 2005

21. Encourage non-profit groups, such as the Dennis Conservation Trust, and Adopt-A-Beach volunteers to organize land clean-ups of public and private open space.
 Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Department, and Beach Dept.
 Priority: Medium
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

22. Evaluate landfill/transfer station fees and collection policies to discourage residents from disposing of bulk items in unauthorized areas. Explore alternative means of legal disposal.
 Responsible Parties: Board of Selectmen, Board of Health & Dept. of Public Works.
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going.

23. Regulate motorized and non-motorized bicycle use on identified nature trails.
 Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Conservation Commission
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

- I.G. Regional Coordination
24. Continue to work with the towns of Brewster and particularly Yarmouth to identify and implement solutions to the nitrogen loading issue associated with eutrophication of the Upper Bass River.
 Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Health.
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going

B. OPEN SPACE ACTIONS

II.A Protection/ Sensitive Lands

1. Re-establish a Land Acquisition Committee of the town to update, refine and examine new opportunities for the town to acquire lands for conservation passive and active recreation.
 Responsible Parties: Board of Selectmen
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: Completed 1998 associated with Land Bank Act.

2. By means of regulatory or non-regulatory methods (see Section 7.A), protect lands which meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Lands within or adjacent to designated protected open space or potential open space areas (Map 7.A.1 and Map 9.A);
 - b. Lands within or adjacent to fresh and saltwater bodies, beaches, (salt and fresh water), wetlands, (marshes, swamps, bogs, meadows, ponds, and creeks), and floodplains;
 - c. Lands containing vernal pools or which provide refuge to federally or state listed endangered, or threatened species or species listed as of special concern;
 - d. Lands providing wildlife corridors which allow movement and migration of wildlife indigenous to Dennis;
 - e. Lands useful for multiple public purposes or enhancement of Cape Cod Pathways.
Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Natural Resources Department, Land Acquisition Committee, Planning Board
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
3. The Town should actively seek to protect high priority areas which have been identified by the Cape Cod Commission and town boards as Significant Natural Resource Areas. Local bylaws and regulations including mandatory cluster, increased lot sizes and overlay districts are encouraged to preserve the sensitive resources within the greenbelt (RPP Rec. Action A).
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department, Conservation Commission, Planning Board
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
4. Work with local land conservation organizations to identify, acquire and manage open space to meet projected community needs. Priority should be given to the protection of significant natural and fragile.
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources Department
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going

II.B. Protection/Recreational Lands

5. By means of regulatory or non-regulatory methods (see Section 7.A), protect lands which meet one or more of the following criteria:
- a. Lands which abut existing public and private recreation and open space lands (6.2.Town.D of RPP);
 - b. Lands which could be designed to promote hiking or bicycle trails;
 - c. Lands which could allow for expanded recreational facilities in parts of Town presently under-supplied, particularly Northside and Southside, and including lands within existing densely developed subdivisions.
 - e. Lands providing public access for recreation to both freshwater and saltwater bodies (RPP Rec. Action C).
 - f. Lands suitable for active recreation where activities such as ballfields, playgrounds and public swimming areas would not adversely affect sensitive resources, as well as lands for passive or restricted access conservation uses (RPP Rec. Action D).
Responsible Parties: Recreation Commission
Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

6. Encourage eligible private recreation facilities to apply for property tax reduction via MGL c. 61B application for current use assessment.
Responsible Parties: Recreation Department, Assessors.
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going

II.C. Protection/Scenic Resources

7. Encourage use of construction and design standards contained in "Designing the Future to Honor the Past: Design Guidelines for Cape Cod," Cape Cod Commission, 1994.
Responsible Parties: Planning Board
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
8. Where feasible, require placement of new utility lines underground.
Responsible Parties: Planning Board
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
9. Implement local recommendations of Route 6A Corridor Management Plan.
Responsible Parties: Planning Board, Historic Commission
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
10. Where appropriate, the Town should encourage land owners to restore blighted or abandoned areas to open space, whether it be to landscaped parks or natural areas
Responsible Parties: Planning Board
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going

II.D. Protection/Historic Resources

11. Continue to preserve land along Bass River, particularly parcels between Highbank Road and Follins Pond.
Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
12. Install proper signage and covenants to protect public usage of ancient ways.
Responsible Parties: Planning Board, Selectmen
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going

II.E. Cost-Effective Program

13. Conduct mailings and hold workshops for large landowners describing tax benefits (income tax, property tax, estate tax) associated with land preservation options, such as the town conservation restriction program. Conservation Commission, Selectmen, Assessors, & Conservation Trust. 1998-99.

Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Selectmen, Assessors, Dennis Conservation Trust

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

14. The Town should aggressively seek to acquire tax title lands and hold them for community purposes, such as open space, affordable housing or municipal services. Properties of environmental significance such as wetlands and rare species habitat should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or nonprofit organization (modified RPP Rec. Action E). Adopt a policy to acquire tax title lands and evaluate for conservation, open space or recreation significance before deciding to dispose of them.

Responsible Parties: Selectmen

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

15. The Town should periodically review its procedures for approval and assessment of conservation restrictions

Responsible Parties: Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Assessors

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: 2003

II.F. Regional Coordination

16. Identify and map strategic parcels needed to implement open space greenbelt system, particularly parcels providing connections to the Cape Cod Pathways.

Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

17. Encourage cluster subdivision design to protect significant linkages in the greenbelt system.

Responsible Parties: Planning Board

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

C. **RECREATION ACTIONS**

III.A. Recreation Programs

1. Develop additional adult and senior recreation programs, using town funds and fees.

Responsible Parties: Recreation Commission, Council on Aging

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

2. Work cooperatively to develop bike paths, particularly along Setucket Road, and walking trails linking various outdoor and recreation facilities.

Responsible Parties: Recreation Department, Dept. of Public Works

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

3. Review and update recreation program offerings as community needs dictate, based on citizen/user surveys.

Responsible Parties: Recreation Department

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

III.B. Active Recreation Facilities

4. a. Continue to pursue alternative means of funding to design and construct an indoor community/recreation center, probably located at Kelley Park or the closed landfill. Seek state Urban Self-Help reimbursement and other sources to augment town funds.

- b. Develop design plans with cost estimates for outdoor play fields, tennis courts, etc. at closed landfill. .

Responsible Parties: Recreation Department

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

5. Develop additional facilities, distributed evenly through town, particularly for baseball, basketball and tennis.

Responsible Parties: Recreation Department

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: 2005

6. Cooperate with nearby towns, particularly Harwich, in exploring options for regional, year-round indoor public swimming pool. Recreation Department. 1999.

Responsible Parties: Recreation Department

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

III.C. Beach/Boating Facilities

7. Dredge Bass River Mouth, to expand navigability and enhance water quality and provide a source of compatible material for beach nourishment.

Responsible Parties: Harbormaster, Conservation Commission, Department of Public Works

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

8. Instruct the proposed re-established land acquisition committee to focus on identifying opportunities for increased pond and saltwater access lands.

Responsible Parties: Board of Selectmen

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

III.D. Alternative Transportation

10. Develop the railroad bed west of Route 134 as a recreational corridor.

Responsible Parties: Recreation Department, Dept. of Public Works

Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: On-going

11. Pending acquisition of additional beachfront, continue to study feasibility of siting an off-site parking facility and shuttle service for Southside beaches in summer.
 Responsible Parties: Selectmen, Recreation Department
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going
 12. The Town should continue to work with the Commission to identify and designate suitable locations for bicycling facilities to further the Cape Cod Bikeways program. Install additional bicycle racks at beaches, parks and in commercial areas.
 Responsible Parties: Recreation Department, Dept. of Public Works
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going
 13. The Town should continue its work with the Cape Cod Pathways Partners and the Commission to further identify, designate and acquire, through purchase or easement, suitable locations for walking paths that comprise the Cape Cod Pathways network. Promote Cape Cod Pathways as an off-season tourist attraction as well as year-round recreational network.
 Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Recreation Department
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going
 14. Recognize and protect ancient ways for public use during subdivision approval process.
 Responsible Parties: Planning Board
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going
- III.E. Handicapped Accessibility
15. Ensure that any new recreational facilities include design specifications that incorporate accessibility codes.
 Responsible Parties: Recreation Department
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: On-going
 16. Prioritize list of accessibility upgrades and determine costs needed for existing facilities, based on inventory in Appendix F of this Plan. Recreation, Natural Resources and Beach Departments with assistance from Town Engineer. 2000.
 Responsible Parties: Recreation Department, Natural Resources Dept., Beach Dept., Engineering
 Priority: High
 Time Frame for Completion: 2005
- III.F. Regional Coordination
17. Appoint a local coordinator and/or committee to participate in and advise on the Cape Cod Pathways program of the County Commissioners. Selectmen. 1998.
 Responsible Parties: Selectmen
 Priority: High

Time Frame for Completion: 2003

18. Evaluate Cape Cod Pathways proposed routes and dedicate specific public lands to that effort.
Responsible Parties: Conservation Commission, Water Dept., Selectmen
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
19. Seek approval for bike trail extension to Yarmouth.
Responsible Parties: Recreation Department, Selectmen
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: On-going
20. Update Open Space and Recreation Plan for continued state eligibility.
Responsible Parties: Natural Resources, Planning Department, Recreation Department
Priority: High
Time Frame for Completion: 2003