

SECTION 1

PLAN SUMMARY

The Wendell Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) coalesces the interest, effort, and motivation of community members towards the identification, prioritization, conservation and protection of Wendell's landscapes and ecosystems in the face of new residential development. Its purpose is to provide a framework for decisions dealing with land uses, which may impact valuable ecosystems and the lands that contain unique historical, recreational, and scenic values.

The 2010 Wendell Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) embodies the understanding of Wendell residents of the interdependence of contiguous forests, streams and wetlands, agricultural fields, scenic views, and significant historical structures and landscapes with the Town's rural character. The OSRP also reflects the respect that Wendell residents have for ecosystems and for all the life they contain. It illustrates the role that all undeveloped open spaces have in providing wildlife habitat, in ensuring that aquifer recharge areas remain vegetated, and the role that residents have in being, and learning how to be, good stewards of the land and the ecosystems in their Town.

The Seven Year Action Plan gives concrete substance to the goals and objectives, which were developed from the results of the 2008 Open Space and Recreation Survey and from community members' understanding of their Town's vast yet vulnerable natural resource base. The 2010 Wendell Open Space and Recreation Plan prioritizes actions that will identify focus or priority areas and clarify the criteria for protection priorities; identify and prioritize parcels that are of special conservation interest; work with local land trusts to identify potential conservation buyers; identify funding sources for land protection; apply for State Historical Preservation funding; negotiate access to the Phelps Forest Conservation Area for forestry purposes and complete a stewardship plan; provide ongoing maintenance for trails in the Fiske Pond Conservation Area; formalize public access to the Millers River for recreational purposes; sponsor educational events and materials for residents concerning the management of invasive pests and diseases; post signage on all roads leading into town identifying Wendell is a "Right-to-Farm" community; conduct a comprehensive investigation of the needs of Town boards and departments for administrative assistance; construct a sidewalk and bike path near the Commons in the center of Town, and develop a comprehensive plan to update the playground in the Town Center for improved safety and aesthetics.