

8. Adopted Goals and Objectives

The development process for Mashpee's goals and objectives was described in section 6. In developing this plan update, the goals adopted as part of the Town's 1998 Plan Update, as well as the Town's comprehensive plan elements regarding open space, recreation and agriculture, wetlands, wildlife and plant habitat, water resources and coastal resources were reviewed. Based on input from the Town boards involved on our Planning Committee and others, along with staff analysis of needs, the following goals and objectives have been adopted for this plan:

As used in this plan, "goals" are defined as the ultimate ends we propose to achieve. These are fairly general statements of the ideal outcomes of our efforts. "Objectives" are more specific targets along the way to achieving our goals. They may be one-time events or be ongoing standards against which we can measure our progress. We hope to achieve these goals and objectives through a series of policies and actions specified in Chapter 9. The following adopted goals and objectives have been organized under the basic issue areas of Open Space Preservation, Recreation, Agriculture and Wetlands and Habitat:

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

GOAL A. TO PRESERVE AT LEAST 50% OF MASHPEE'S REMAINING OPEN SPACE IN ORDER TO PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT AND OUR OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES, PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND MAINTAIN THE RURAL AND SCENIC CHARACTER OF THE TOWN.

GOAL B. TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF MASHPEE'S GROUNDWATER TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER.

GOAL C. TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ESTUARINE WATER QUALITY AND THE HEALTH OF OUR COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.

Objectives

1. To maintain the integrity of existing large unfragmented open space areas and of open space corridors that may be important for wildlife movement or recreational activities.
2. To encourage the location of any new development outside areas of prime agricultural soils or important open space areas through clustering, transfer of development rights or other available means.
3. To ensure that the design and construction of any new development does not adversely impact significant or fragile areas of wildlife and plant habitat, lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies, shorelands, groundwater quality, historic buildings and sites, cultural and archaeological resources, agricultural operations and significant scenic roads, views and landforms.

4. To ensure the coordination of all Mashpee open space preservation and management activities by public and non-profit organizations.
5. To ensure the continued successful development and management of the Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge.
6. To supplement local Community Preservation Act and other tax funding of open space acquisition and recreational facilities and services with all available alternative sources of funding and revenue.
7. To increase agricultural and forest landowner participation in federal and state programs intended to preserve such land as open space.

RECREATION

GOAL D. TO MEET THE NEEDS OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF VARIED AGES AND INTERESTS FOR PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

GOAL E. TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO AND ENJOYMENT OF MASHPEE'S COASTAL RESOURCES WITHOUT DEGRADING THOSE RESOURCES.

Objectives

8. To ensure that public access to open space areas and water bodies is preserved where it will not adversely affect sensitive natural resources.
9. To ensure that recreational needs are addressed in the design and permitting of new residential and non-residential developments and that any required facilities are provided.
10. To ensure that new or existing public recreation areas and facilities are developed or improved to meet National Recreation and Park Association standards wherever feasible.
11. To provide the maximum feasible level of access consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act and state laws for disabled persons to the Town's open space areas and recreational facilities and services.
12. To develop new or expanded recreational programs and facilities to meet the changing needs of the Town's residents and visitors.
13. To ensure that School Department facilities and other Town facilities are available for recreational use and other leisure activities by all segments of the community.
14. To maintain a comprehensive program for informing residents and visitors about the Town's open space and recreation areas, facilities, services and programs.

15. To coordinate the Town's recreational facilities and activities with those of neighboring towns, state and federal agencies and other organizations.
16. To enhance the ability of our parks to respond to and sustain a variety of outdoor events and festivals.
17. To enhance our beach assets by making them more attractive, accessible, safer and more user friendly.
18. To expand our linear park system to link neighborhoods and provide safe and enjoyable recreational use of our trails.

AGRICULTURE

GOAL F.. TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

GOAL G. TO ENSURE THAT PRIME AGRICULTURAL SOILS AND OTHER POTENTIALLY VALUABLE AGRICULTURAL AREAS ARE PROTECTED FROM DEVELOPMENT OR DEGRADATION.

Objectives

19. To preserve areas of prime agricultural soils or soils of state or regional significance through the Town's open space protection, regulatory and facilities development and management programs.
20. To ensure that possible adverse impacts on existing or potential agricultural uses are considered in the development and adoption of Town by-laws and regulations.
21. To properly manage agricultural and forest resources on Town lands.
22. To develop community gardens and greenhouses to provide agricultural products and passive recreation opportunities.
23. To reduce the use of harmful pesticides in the agricultural sector, when possible, in order to minimize agricultural impacts on public health, wildlife, water resources and other natural resources.
24. To continue responsible rehabilitation and management of appropriate Town-owned cranberry bogs in order to preserve agricultural activity, where it does not conflict with protection of water quality and wildlife habitat, and produce revenues for conservation land acquisition, management and improvement.
25. To enhance the environmental health of our community through effective and efficient forestry and integrated pest management practices.

WETLANDS AND HABITAT

GOAL H. TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF INLAND AND COASTAL WETLANDS IN MASHPEE.

GOAL I. TO PREVENT LOSS OR DEGRADATION OF CRITICAL WILDLIFE AND PLANT HABITAT OR MIGRATION ROUTES.

GOAL J. TO MAINTAIN EXISTING WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND SPECIES DIVERSITY.

GOAL K. TO PRESERVE THE ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF MASHPEE'S GROUNDWATER, WETLANDS AND SURFACE WATER BODIES.

Objectives

26. To minimize man-made alterations to wetlands in Mashpee, except where there is an overriding public interest or for water-dependent uses where there is no feasible alternative.
27. To ensure that the wildlife habitat value and other natural functions of coastal and inland wetlands, including isolated wetlands and vernal pools, are protected by maintaining adequate undisturbed buffer areas along their edges wherever possible.
28. To minimize or avoid, where possible, any disturbances of wetlands and buffer areas for construction, operation and maintenance of underground and overhead utility lines and to ensure that surface vegetation, topography and water flow are restored substantially to their original condition if disturbed.
29. To reduce the negative impact of discharges of stormwater runoff on, and to prevent any new point source discharges of untreated stormwater into, natural wetlands, streams and water bodies, including vernal pools.
30. To restore or enhance the historic natural function of altered or degraded inland and coastal wetlands where practical and economically feasible.
31. To minimize any impact of groundwater withdrawals for water supply or other purposes, on wetlands and water bodies, including vernal pools.
32. To minimize any adverse impact of agricultural activities on wetlands and water bodies.
33. To ensure that new developments are designed so as to provide for the maximum feasible amount of suitable habitat for native wildlife.
34. To ensure that any landscaping projects include appropriate vegetation, when possible, to enhance or restore wildlife habitat.

- 35.** To preserve large unfragmented forest areas, as well as connecting greenways and wildlife corridors, to protect both "edge" species and those that require interior forest habitat.
- 36.** To provide wildlife with opportunities for safe passage under or across roads and through developed areas, where appropriate, to maintain the integrity of wildlife corridors.
- 37.** To protect local populations of rare wildlife and plants from the impacts of land development or other activities.
- 38.** To ensure that the preservation of wildlife habitat is a primary consideration in proposals for open space acquisition by the Town as well as in the location and development of Town facilities.
- 39.** To minimize depredation and other impacts of domestic animals on native wildlife.
- 40.** To maintain and enhance hunting and fishing opportunities while protecting public safety and private property rights.
- 41.** To enhance wildlife populations and diversity through appropriate habitat management.