

IX. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan contains six goals, ten objectives, and 77 actions. In developing these actions, the OSRPC considered the goals and objectives previously outlined in order to ensure that specific actions: 1) corresponded to at least one of the six goals; and 2) that at least one or more actions responded to a particular objective. The OSRPC also identified Project Partners for the various activities, including 14 Town boards and committees, as well as Town departments. Almost every board, committee, and department within the Town will play a role in following through with this Open Space & Recreation Plan Update.

Since the original plan, new timing categories have been established. Some actions are labeled as “ONGOING” if they are (a) long-term projects over multiple years, and/or (b) if they are currently in progress from the previous plan without an end date specified at this time. Some actions are labeled “MONITOR”, meaning the OSRPC and any Project Partners are responsible to monitor and address situations which arise that would trigger the action. It is possible that actions could be accelerated or moved to a later time on the timeline, depending on the availability of grants or other funding to complete certain projects and any additional requirements, such as a Town Meeting vote, that may add to the timeline.

The DPW, the only Project Partner responsible for maintenance of all Town properties and public spaces, plays an enormous role in the completion of many of these actions. The Office of Community & Economic Development, which had a major role in organizing and drafting this Plan Update, also assists in its implementation by pursuing grant funding, providing staff resources, and coordinating with Town boards and committees as needed. In order to implement the Plan Update, the OSRPC intends to take a more active approach to annual budget requests and will work with the DPW and Community

Development to get plan priorities included. During the term of the Plan Update, the OSRPC intends to work with Project Partner’s responsible for particular actions to develop project plans, obtain funding, and implement the recommended actions. To assist with implementation, the OSRPC will also reach out an work with local non-profit organizations.

Some items are carried over from the previous plan as they are either in progress or have not been fully completed. Many new items have been added as a result of the 2020 community survey, review of other planning documents, and OSRPC discussions throughout the Plan Update process.

The OSRPC intends to work closely with the Office of Community and Economic Development to pursue funding opportunities through Town, state, and federal sources as applicable, as well as private donations. Below is a table of potential grant funding opportunities available to support many of the actions in the Plan Update. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list, and the OSRPC and Town staff regularly work on identifying new sources of funding.

LOCAL	STATE	FEDERAL/OTHER
Essex County Heritage Partnership Program	Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities (PARC)	AmericaWalks
Essex County Land and Environment Initiative	Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	
	Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND)	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

The following chart outlines, year by year, the items that this seven-year Action Plan intends to carry out.

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Maintain Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities	Limit impact of school construction on conservation land or other existing open space	Charles M. Ewing Woods, Linscott Park, Phillips Park	ConComm, School Building Committee	N/A	High	1
	Repair seawall and stairway taking into consideration sea level rise and storm surges (per Beach Management Plan)	King’s Beach, Eiseman’s Beach, Whale’s Beach	DPW	FEMA	High	1-3
	Develop park landscaping utilizing beach-appropriate and environmentally-suitable species and material	Chaisson Park, Johnson Park	DPW, OCED	N/A	High	2
	Create site specific maintenance programs in collaboration with DPW and Recreation Dept’s (including protection for unique flora/fauna)	ALL	DPW, Recreation	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Explore feasibility and grant opportunities for timber management and invasive species removal for Harold King Forest, as recommended by Forest Stewardship Plan	Harold King Forest	ConComm, OCED, Swampscott Conservancy	DCR Forest Stewardship Program (FSP)	Low	6
	Develop playground maintenance, equipment replacement, and safety program	ALL (School & Town Playgrounds)	DPW, Recreation, School Committee	N/A	Low	3
	Have Swampscott section incorporated into DCR’s “Lynn Shore Reservation” (landscape, hardscape, railing, lighting, signage) and pursue effort to have DCR take over or share maintenance	King’s Beach	DPW, DCR, Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee	N/A	Low	7
	Remove dead trees and ornamental shrubs; thin remaining trees to improve overall health	Howland Park	DPW	Town	Low	ALL
	Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement “carry in/carry out” program”	ALL	Board of Health, DPW, Select Board	N/A	Low	1
	Determine size, scale, and number of monuments along mall so it doesn’t lose its “park” feel and maintains Olmsted’s Monument Ave planting plan; identify appropriate areas for future memorials	Monument Mall	Historical Commission, Historic District Commission	N/A	Low	5

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Maintain Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities	Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District)	Streets (public ways)	DPW, Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, OCED	N/A	Low	4
	Investigate and address any open space/conservation encroachment by neighbors	ALL	DPW, ConComm	Town	Low	ALL
	Develop a partnership/committee that includes representatives from ConComm, Swampscott Conservancy, Tree Task Force, and DPW to cohesively work together on plans for improving and maintaining open space	ALL	ConComm, DPW, Tree Task Force, Swampscott Conservancy	N/A	Low	1
	Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used	Hadley Elementary School	Select Board	Parkland Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities (PARC)	Low	5
Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town	Dedicate all Town-owned open space areas to permanent open space/recreation/conservation through easements or other protective measures	ALL	Select Board, OCED	Town	High	ALL
	Acquire conservation restriction to protect open space land in perpetuity	Jackson Woods	Select Board, ConComm	Town	High	2
	Incorporate open space and recreation goals into land use planning and zoning	General	Planning Board, OCED	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Identify and protect designated historical sites	TBD	Historical Commission, Historic District Commission	Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund	Medium	ALL
	Encourage continued use and appreciation of Town Hall as town gathering spot.	Town Hall, Town Hall Lawn	Recreation, OCED	N/A	Low	ALL
	Address light pollution at night in open spaces	ALL	DPW, Planning Board	N/A	Low	ALL
	Develop a plan for Town dedications/memorials that encourages planting of trees with memorial plaque	General	DPW, Tree Task Force	N/A	Low	3

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities to Meet Needs	Develop and Implement OSRPC Policy for Town Improvement projects, to incorporate the following priorities: ADA access, amenities for all ages, historically-appropriate landscaping, public art, sustainable design, and net-neutral energy consumption, natural resource protection	ALL	Commission on Disability, SFAA, Historical Commission, OCED, DPW, Recreation	N/A	High	1
	Improve Playground / Park facility and ensure there are features for small children (i.e. tot lot structures)	Windsor Park, Abbott Park	OCED, Recreation, DPW	PARC	High	1, 4
	Develop and implement public access/management plan, including installation of interpretive signage	Blythswood / White Court Easement	ConComm, DPW, HC, OCED	Town	High	1
	Install ADA beach access mats	Phillips Beach, Fisherman's Beach, Preston Beach	DPW, OCED, Commission on Disability	AARP Livable Communities, Mass Office of Disability (MOD) Project Grant	Medium	2
	Continue to support development and implementation of rail trail along the abandoned railroad line	Rail Trail	OCED, DPW, Select Board	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Review final ADA transition plan as it applies to Town open spaces and incorporate recommendations into ongoing and future OSRPC projects	ALL	OCED, Commission on Disability	N/A	Medium	2
	Identify areas for potential acquisition & Develop policies for Town acquisition of private land, placing priority on resource protection and with options for right of first refusal	ALL	Select Board	Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	Medium	ALL
	Re-evaluate adoption of Community Preservation Act as a funding option	General	Select Board	N/A	Medium	2
	Work with Harbor and Waterfront Committee to promote sustainable and environmentally feasible improvements to Town beaches (restrooms, picnic tables, benches, bike racks, public showers)	Beaches	Harbor & Waterfront Committee	Town, Seaport Advisory Council	Medium	ALL

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreational Facilities to Meet Needs	Work with Swampscott for All Ages during park updates to examine ways to include recreation needs for 60+ year old residents	General	SFAA	N/A	Low	ALL
	Explore feasibility of programmed area for beach activities, such as volleyball nets, and implement results	Beaches	Recreation, DPW	Town	Low	3
	Evaluate and promote opportunities to open public ways/ access points and improve walkability on public sidewalks through infrastructure upgrades	General	DPW, OCED	Town, Complete Streets	Low	ALL
	Explore feasibility of a splash pad and/or water feature for a new or existing park area. Include in future park upgrades as warranted.	General	OCED, DPW, Recreation	Town, PARC	Low	3
	Improve tennis and basketball courts; ensure any removal of courts can be replaced 1:1 in Town	Phillips Park, Middle School	Recreation, DPW	Town, PARC	Low	6
	Continue to pursue opportunities for public access to Aggregate-owned land, including access to Foster’s Pond and land behind Windsor Park	Aggregate Industries/ Quarry, Foster Pond, Windsor Park	ConComm	N/A	Low	ALL
	Create a mechanism to finance the acquisition, preservation and rehabilitation of land suitable for open space and public use.	General	Select Board, Finance Committee	Town, LWCF	Low	X
	Evaluate and promote opportunities to open public ways/ access points and improve walkability on public sidewalks through infrastructure upgrades	Streets (public ways)	DPW, Planning Board, OCED	N/A	Low	ALL
	Explore potential access points and creation of additional trails per recommendations in the Forest Stewardship Plan	Harold A. King Forest	ConComm	DCR Forest Stewardship Program	Low	5
	Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage	Beaches	Harbor & Waterfront Committee, DPW	Town	Low	2
	Collaborate with Temple to improve access to/through Palmer Pond and determine feasibility of re-establishing original walking trail or installation of raised boardwalk	Palmer Pond	ConComm	Town	Low	6
	Expand and improve public sidewalks along popular walking routes, especially Humphrey Street	Streets (public ways)	DPW, OCED	Town, Complete Streets	Low	ALL

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Strengthen Environmental Protection	Reduce pesticide use or replace with organic options	General	DPW, Select Board, Board of Health, Organic Lawn Maintenance Task Force	Town, Toxic Use Reduction Institute - Community Grants (TURI)	High	ALL
	Develop map highlighting areas where zoning regulations should be created to limit negative impact of land use development	General	OCED, Planning Board	N/A	Medium	5
	Develop local wetlands protection by-law that compliments the state Wetlands Protection Act	General	ConComm, Planning Board	N/A	Medium	3
	Take climate change, higher water levels, more intense storms, etc. into account in planning	General	ConComm, Planning Board	N/A	Medium	ALL
	Conduct assessment and develop control plan for invasive species, where occurring	General	ConComm, DPW	Town	Medium	ALL
	Establish tree inventory and management plan (focusing on native trees)	General	DPW, OCED, Tree Task Force	N/A	Medium	4
	Work with DPW to develop and implement green infrastructure policy	Town properties, Parking Lots, Streets (public ways)	DPW	Town	Low	6
	Develop native planting policy for municipal properties	Town properties	ConComm, DPW, Swampscott Conservancy	N/A	Low	4

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Strengthen Environmental Protection	Develop plan for replacement of aged/ailing street trees	Streets (public ways)	DPW, Tree Task Force	N/A	Low	2
	Identify and certify potential vernal pools	General	ConComm	Town	Low	ALL
	Educate and work with coastal property owners to institute resiliency practices to address storm surge, flooding, and other effects of climate change.	Wetlands, Beaches	ConComm, Planning Board	Town	Low	ALL
	Implement recommendations to improve flora and fauna from Harold King Forest Stewardship Management Plan	Harold A. King Forest	ConComm, OCED	DCR Forest Stewardship Program	Low	5
	Install Bird Blinds and Artificial Nesting Boxes per recommendations from the Forest Stewardship Plan	Harold A. King Forest	ConComm, Swampscott Conservancy	DCR Forest Stewardship Program	Low	X
	Establish a winter salt management program to protect open space & natural resources (alternative to salt)	Streets (public ways)	DPW	Town	Low	3
	Limit impact of harbor dredging on eelgrass beds	Fisherman's Beach	Harbor & Waterfront Committee	N/A	Low	ALL
	Post "No Dumping" signs at strategic locations	Charles M. Ewing Woods, Harold A. King Forest, Phillip's Beach	DPW, Board of Health	Town	Low	1
	Ensure Town completes necessary storm drain work to eliminate source of bacteria	King's Beach	DPW	N/A	Low	1-3
	Reduce sprinkler use to once very three days; install moisture sensor	General	DPW	N/A	Low	2

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Improve Public Access & Awareness	Install unified signage at primary facility entrances as well as along connecting paths/roads	ALL	DPW, OCED, Recreation		Medium	1-6
	Develop web-to-print trail maps for existing conservation areas with information on access and environmental protection	Harold A. King Forest, Charles M. Ewing Woods, Forest River Connector	OCED	Town	Low	3
	Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife	General	ConComm	Town	Low	ALL
	Develop and execute a plan for education in schools about the important of open space and Town resources	General	Swampscott Public Schools	N/A	Low	5
	Develop a program for a high school student to join the OSRPC each year	General	Swampscott Public Schools	N/A	Low	2
	Work with Essex National Heritage Commission to create signage along Essex Heritage Scenic Byway indicating points of interest	Essex Highway Scenic Network	DPW, OCED	Essex Heritage Partnership Grant	Low	4
	Examine public access and programming potential	Foster Pond	ConComm, OCED	N/A	Low	X
	Extend National Register status from Lynn line to Red Rock	King's Beach	Historical Commission	N/A	Low	3
	Work with Disability Commission to examine ways to include ADA-accessible recreation needs	ALL	Commission on Disability, DPW, Recreation	N/A	Low	ALL
	Investigate feasibility of an ADA accessible path	Jackson Park (Lower)	DPW	Town, MOD Project Grant	Low	4

GOAL	ACTION	FACILITY	PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING	PRIORITY	YEAR
Establish a Green Corridor Network	Develop community engagement plan for promoting walking/recreation along Green Corridor areas, including Town-wide walking map	Green Corridor Network	OCED Recreation, SFAA	Town, AmericaWalks	Medium	3
	Install unified signage with historical elements at key spots along Green Corridor	Green Corridor Network	OCED, Historical Commission	Town, Essex Heritage Partnership Grant	Low	4
	Investigate and protect wildlife corridors; add to Green Corridor map as needed	General	ConComm	N/A	Low	All
	Explore options for additional trails in and connecting to Harold King Forest, and on Aggregate Industry-owned land	Aggregate Industries / Quarry, Harold King Forest	ConComm, OCED, Swampscott Conservancy	N/A	Low	5
	Investigate feasibility of adding water bottle refill stations along Green Corridor	Green Corridor Network	OCED		Low	3
	Work with Salem Conservation Commission to maintain trail connection from Swampscott Cemetery to Forest River Conservation trail network	Swampscott Cemetery	Swampscott Conservancy	Town	Low	All
	Identify green corridor network system to connect open space & recreation facilities (streets and access easements)	Green Corridor Network	Recreation, DPW, OCED	N/A	Low	All

DPW: Department of Public Works
SFAA: Swampscott For All Ages
OCED: Office of Community & Economic Development
ConComm: Conservation Commission
HC: Historical Commission

The following page shows the a Map of the Action Plan, which identifies areas that should be considered for property acquisition, conservation restriction, and maps out the Green Corridor area.

