
Section VI: Community Vision

A. Description of Process

Since the adoption of the town's first Open Space & Recreation Plan in 1986, the Town of Falmouth community has been consistently and diligently acquired open space through the Land Bank/Community Preservation Fund and has also made recent strides in providing additional and enhanced recreational facilities after the adoption of the Community Preservation Act. As part of this update, the Planning Board held a public hearing on the topics of open space and recreation. In addition, the Community Preservation Committee since 2011 has conducted an annual needs assessment for open space and recreation (see page 2). Public testimony from the hearings and needs assessments make it clear that the community continues to be committed and engaged in protecting additional land and improving both active and passive recreation opportunities in town. Therefore, the basic overarching goals of this plan are much the same as the 2009 edition. As stated previously, the Goals and Policies of the Town Meeting approved Local Comprehensive Plan are still in effect and have proven to be successful guidelines to follow and we see no compelling reason to change them.

B. Open Space and Recreation Goals

The Town of Falmouth will strive to create, maintain, and promote as many active and passive recreational opportunities as possible taking into consideration all age groups, to promote the general health and well being of the community, and the preservation of our natural resources.

The Town of Falmouth will strive to acquire no less than 30% of the total land area as protected open space, including Article 97 land and land subject to conservation restrictions, in order to preserve and enhance the availability of wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and protect and conserve the natural resources, scenery and character of Falmouth.

By working towards the above goals, multiple objectives for the future will be advanced. By preserving important landscapes and historic patterns of development, community character will be strengthened and will foster vibrant citizen's involvement and civic engagement as residents participate in the future of their neighborhoods.

The natural environment will be protected and preserved and will in turn serve to protect the lives and property of the community from catastrophic storm events and toxic pollution. A well-functioning ecosystem that provides for the health of the water, air, and soil is an important investment in the future. The town's green infrastructure will improve the quality of life, provide refuge and respite from stresses inherent to modern life, and will improve the local economy as visitors choose to vacation in areas of natural beauty to experience the beaches, ponds, harbors, marshes and woodlands.

A functional transportation system that includes real options for pedestrians and bicyclists will improve the health of those who choose to use it, will lessen traffic congestion as people opt for other modes of travel, and will assist in the goal of lowering carbon emissions and lessening air pollution in the region.



*Broad River Bog
Source: The 300 Committee*