

## 12.3 Open Space and Recreation

### Goal 1. Improve land conservation efforts in Westport

#### Objective 1.1: Develop Funding Mechanisms for Town Land Protection Program

##### Action

- 1.1.a. Dedicate \$\$ from sale of Town land & tax titles to conservation fund for land acquisition.
- 1.1.b. Apply for state matching grants for open space.

Resp	Time
OSTC	2
OSTC,CC, CPC	3

#### Objective 1.2: Manage Town-owned land and resources to better protect open spaces.

##### Action

- 1.2.a. Manage and increase public spaces in Central Village for community use.
- 1.2.b. [Update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan](#)
- 1.2.c. Promote management & stewardship of Town land by private organizations (WLCT, WYAA)
- 1.2.d. [Encourage active management and public use of town-owned beach properties \(signage, rules, marked paths\). Encourage environmental management of properties \(dune grass\).](#)
- 1.2.e. [Coordinate beach protection activities with property owners and WLCT](#)

Resp	Time
OSTC, CPC	3
<a href="#">CC</a>	1
BOS, OSTC, CPC	2
	2

#### Objective 1.3: Support Private and Alternative Methods for Land Conservation

##### Action

- 1.3.a. Review tax title lands for open space protection.
- 1.3.b. Encourage land protection by private neighborhood associations
- 1.3.c. Partner with public agencies and private organizations on land protection projects.
- 1.3.d. Consider Open Space Zoning Tools (cluster, TDR, agricultural. zoning)

Resp	Time
CC,CPC, AC	2
PB,WCLT	3
CPC, OSTC	2
PB	3

#### Objective 1.4: Increase public awareness of importance of open space.

##### Action

Resp	Time
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1.4.a. Share revised build-out analysis with public.	PB,CPC, MPUC, AC	2
1.4.b. Encourage "Ag in the Classroom" & other information sharing on benefits of agriculture.	AC	2
1.4.c. Provide info to press on open space matters.	OSC, MPUC, AC,CPC	2
1.4.d. Host educational outdoor recreation events	RC	3
1.4.e. Publish list of town owned properties bordering rivers, ponds and the ocean. Publish list of "Town Landings" managed by the Landing Commission.		

## Goal 2. Protect Westport's Rural Landscape

### Objective 2.1: Support and Promote APR Program

Action	Resp	Time
2.1.a. Educate farmers on APR Program options.	OSTC, WCLT	2
2.1.b. Increase Town cost share for APR's & purchase APR's on farms ineligible for State program.	OSTC, CPC/CC	2
2.1.c. Partner with DFA and WCLT on APR projects	CPC, OSTC	2
2.1.d. Work with legislators to amend APR and CR enabling legislation to allow for implementation of stormwater runoff mitigation best management practices (BMPs) and recreational activities.		

### Objective 2.2: Encourage enrollment in Chapters 61A & 61B

Action	Resp	Time
2.2.a. Exercise ROFR on Chapter lands, then restrict and re-sell for agricultural use.	OSTC, CPC,BOS	2
2.2.b. Dedicate Chapter 61 roll-back taxes to open space projects	BOS, FINCOM	3
2.2.c. Educate landowners on benefits of Ch. 61 program enrollment	AC,OSTC	3
2.3.d. Consider agricultural zoning tools (agricultural incentive zoning, cluster zoning, TDR)	PB,AC	3
2.3.e. Participate in Regional Planning	PB,AC	3
2.3.f. Promote farm stands and "pick your own" farms, & agricultural tours & events	AC, BOH,PB	3

**Objective 2.3: Encourage sustainable regional agriculture**

Action	Resp	Time
2.3.a. Match new farmers w/ existing farmland.	AC	2
2.3.b. Promote "South Coast Agricultural Green Belt"	AC	2
2.3.c. Meet periodically with CC & BOH to discuss farming issues	AC,CC, BOH	2
2.3.d. Draft "Living Near a Farm" Brochure	AC	3
2.3.e. Assist farmers in getting grants.	AC	3

**Goal 3. Preserve the quality of Westport's natural resources, groundwater, wetlands, wildlife, habitat & coastal areas****Objective 3.1: Encourage protection of groundwater resources.**

Action	Resp	Time
3.1.a. Protect aquifer by purchasing land or conservation restrictions in Protection District.	OSTC, CPC	2

**Objective 3.2: Protect wetlands and coastal areas**

Action	Resp	Time
3.2.a. Purchase land in coastal velocity zone & barrier beaches for open space	OSTC, CPC	3

**Objective: 3.3. Protect critical wildlife habitat**

Action	Resp	Time
3.3.a. Acquire & protect parcels linking protected lands and wildlife corridors.	OSTC, CPC	3
3.3.b. Acquire land identified as critical habitat by Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP).	OSTC, CPC	3

**Objective 3.4: Preserve undeveloped watershed lands in Westport**

Action	Resp	Time
3.4.a. Support efforts to acquire open space surrounding Copicut Reservoir to protect water supply.	BOS, CC	2
3.4. b. Focus Conservation projects on land adjacent to rivers, streams, and ponds.	OSTC, CPC,BOS	2

#### Goal 4. Provide & enhance indoor & outdoor recreational opportunities.

##### Objective: 4.1. Improve Town-wide recreational facilities

Action	Resp	Time
4.1.a. Study school facilities & Town Properties for recreational <a href="#">needs and</a> potential.	RC	3
4.1.b. Explore use of fairgrounds for additional seasonal events.	RC	3
4.1.c . Upgrade the High School fitness center/weight room and study potential for community use.	SC	3
4.1.d . Explore potential for additional indoor recreational facilities (Basketball, Volleyball)	SC, RC	3
4.1.e. Refinish Town Annex gym floor and make improvements to stage area.	RC	2
4.1.f. Explore creation of Public Golf Course.	RC	3
4.1.g. Construct new baseball, softball and soccer fields.		3

##### Objective: 4.2. Provide walking & biking opportunities

Action	Resp	Time
4.2.a. Place bike racks at Town facilities and beaches.	RC	2
4.2.b. Encourage recreational paths on Town land and conservation land.	RC	2
4.2.c. Explore use of ancient ways for passive recreational uses.	RC,PB	2
4.2.d. Encourage feasibility study for multi-purpose trail along Rte. 88.	RC	3
4.2.e. <a href="#">Extend the bike path along the rail line from Fall River into Westport.</a>		

##### Objective: 4.3. Enhance access to facilities for disabled persons.

Action	Resp	Time
4.3.a. Improve Town parking lots for handicapped access.	<a href="#">DC</a>	3
4.3.b <a href="#">Enhance</a> handicapped access to all Town facilities.	<a href="#">DC</a>	3
4.3.c <a href="#">Further pursue easier access to East Beach and Cherry Webb Beach</a>	<a href="#">DC</a>	2
4.3.c. Study feasibility of seasonal boardwalk at Town beaches.	<a href="#">DC</a>	3