



Saw Mill Stream in Estabrook Woods by Cherrie Corey

Goals & Objectives

This section takes the four goals outlined in Section 6 and delineates specific objectives for each of the goals. The goals were formulated based upon resident feedback, analysis of resources, and the goals and objectives presented in the *2004 Open Space and Recreation Plan* and the *2010 Update*.

A) Goals and Objectives

Based upon the previous plans and the analysis presented in this plan, the following specific goals and objectives emerge as central for Concord's open space and recreation planning (responsible parties and specific actions are identified in Section 9):

GOAL 1: Protect water resources and biodiversity.

- Protect Concord's large natural areas and major wildlife corridors.
- Manage quantity and quality of groundwater and surface water to protect the Town's water resources.
- Protect and/or monitor Concord's streams, rivers, ponds and wetlands.
- Protect biodiversity and state-listed species in Concord.
- Prioritize remaining parcels along waterways for protection if and when they become available.
- Revise zoning laws to further protect open space in Town.

GOAL 2: Improve connectivity and access to recreational resources.

- Reduce major impacts of Route 2 (such as barrier to pedestrians/cyclists/wildlife, too much salt use, and traffic).
- Meet active recreation use needs.
- Continue developing the local/regional trail network for transportation and nature-based recreation.
- Establish committee to conduct in-depth study of potential improvements in resources and safety for bicycling in Town.
- Consider developing a multipurpose dog park with features for other users as well (e.g., benches, walking track, etc.)
- Provide neighborhood-oriented opportunities for recreation and gardening by creating informal playing fields, expanding community garden locations, maintaining and improving existing playgrounds, etc.
- Provide more recreational opportunities for disabled individuals.
- Support maintenance, improvement, and potential development of active recreation resources.

GOAL 3: Protect agricultural land including fields, meadows, and orchards.

- Prioritize agricultural land to protect based on threat of development, proximity to other farmland, lot size, overlap with other OSRP goals, and prime agricultural soils.
- Promote zoning changes to protect agricultural land including agricultural overlay districts and transfer of development rights.
- Promote conservation programs that protect farmland such as Agricultural Preservation Restrictions and Community Preservation Act.
- Support farmers and local food systems in Concord.

GOAL 4: Improve collaboration and management.

- Incorporate the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* in Town and community decision-making.
- Think regionally and work collaboratively with neighboring towns.
- Continue to partner with land trusts, government entities, and individuals to make full use of available government funds and programs, as well as enhance laws and regulations, to acquire and/or protect important land parcels.
- Manage all Town-owned land consistent with open space objectives.
- Secure funding and partner with other entities for open space land protection.
- Encourage major open space landowners to establish a committee and lay out management practices for their land consistent with the Town's open space objectives.
- Increase educational outreach and promote culture of resource conservation, sustainability, and climate change mitigation.
- Monitor open space lands for compliance with respective restrictions, easements, or access.