



# Town of Hanover, Massachusetts

## Open Space and Recreation Plan 2008-2012



*Presented to:*  
Open Space Committee  
Town of Hanover  
550 Hanover Street  
Hanover, Massachusetts

*Presented by:*  
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*Photos from top: Town Center Ballfield,  
Hanover Cemetery, Colby Phillips, King Street*

## **CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the update of Hanover's 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Without the effort of many, this planning effort would not have been possible.

### **Board of Selectman**

David G. Flynn, Chairman  
R. Alan Rugman  
Daniel A. Pallotta

### **Town of Hanover, Open Space Committee**

Harold Thomas, Co-Chair  
Mary Dunn, Co-Chair  
Bruce Ryerson  
Judy Grecco  
Wallace Kemp  
Dana Shaw

### **Other Participants**

Steven Rollins, Town Administrator  
Andrew R. Port, AICP, Town Planner  
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## **1.0 PLAN SUMMARY**

It is noted in the 1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan that Hanover's vision to guide the future growth and development of the Town in the next twenty years is for:

*A Town that retains and improves the pleasing character of its civic, historic, economic, and residential areas in a manner that is sensitive to its natural and built environments.*

The 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update final report is the culmination of nearly ten months of data gathering, public input and research. The document has been prepared to serve the Town of Hanover in the future in terms of what the various committees, boards, commissions and volunteer groups can do to support open space and recreation in town. As in 1997, the OSRP is designed to inform the reader about natural resources, open space, recreational amenities and other related topics that exist in Hanover and neighboring communities. Mentioned throughout the OSRP update process by participants was the fact that Hanover has changed significantly through the years from a rural, charming bedroom community to a more suburban, developed town that still has pockets of its original character spread throughout. Maintaining that character and ensuring that open space, natural resources and recreation continues to stay on the forefront of everyone's mind as the town continues to manage its growth is essential to those that live in Hanover.

The OSRP illustrates how important it is to continue to protect and preserve existing sensitive environmental areas and it also provides an inventory of existing recreational facilities. In terms of the future, suggestions are provided regarding what Hanover should be protecting and adding how the Town can continue to make recreational opportunities available for both residents and visitors. Other sections of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update include a discussion of the most recent demographic information available (population and housing data), an environmental inventory and analysis, a discussion of goals and objectives and also a needs analysis. Perhaps one of the most significant sections is the Action Plan which details suggested steps that different boards, commissions and committees in Hanover can take to achieve the stated goals and objectives. The Action Items are ambitious, but can be accomplished through cooperation and collaboration.

The final Open Space and Recreation Plan, in addition to serving as a guide for the town, once approved by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS) will allow Hanover to apply for specific types of grant funding for projects related to open space and recreation.

Hanover is a charming community that is deep in history and valued as a wonderful place to live. The overall goal of this entire planning effort has been to provide another tool for the town and residents to use to help understand the community and how to improve its open space and recreation in the future while protecting what currently exists.

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Statement of Purpose**

The Town of Hanover is a community that resonates with character from its history, open spaces, scenic views and people who live there. As a semi-rural suburban community to the City of Boston, it is an attractive place to many. Land is a finite resource, so competing needs of the development community and the efforts of planning projects such as the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update become evident. Continuing to manage and guide growth while protecting open space and natural resources and providing meaningful recreational opportunities will continue to be a challenge in the future. The OSRP update serves to provide guidance towards that effort. More specifically, the purpose of this project is to:

- ✓ Review and update the 1997 Hanover Open Space and Recreation Plan with the goal of identifying what action items have been completed and what work is still left to do as well as detail local open spaces, natural resources and recreational amenities to help guide the Town during the next five years on how best to enhance and protect those resources.
- ✓ Inventory existing open space and recreational resources and recommend additional opportunities for acquisition, additional protection or amenities to consider adding for the future.
- ✓ Inform and educate local residents about their community and existing open space, natural resources and recreational amenities and why they are important and obtain their input.
- ✓ Create the momentum for the implementing committee that is needed to begin implementation of the **key element** to the plan, the Action Items detailed in Section 9.0.

The OSRP update has been prepared as a document that will be educational and informative to those who read it.

### **2.2 Former Open Space and Recreation Planning Efforts**

OSRPs were prepared for the Town of Hanover in 1979, 1987 and 1997, which is approximately every ten years. The 1979 plan was prepared by the Conservation Commission and it detailed a history of the Town as well as conservation efforts that were taking place at the time. Goals at the time included:

- Protect the integrity of wetlands, watersheds, existing and potential aquifers, groundwater recharge areas, ponds, streams and floodplains,
- Fulfill current and future needs for recreation programs and facilities,
- Preserve known historic sites,

- Plan for the integration of open space uses with urban development,
- Prepare for the continued growth of the community in a planned fashion that can accommodate the citizens' needs and maintain the resources that are attractive to residents, and
- Establish cooperation among all town boards and departments in preparing for future growth demands.

The 1987 Hanover Open Space Plan was updated by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and it detailed that since the 1979 plan was written, the Conservation Commission acquired more land, enacted a local wetlands protection bylaw and established several protective zoning districts. The goals established for the 1987 plan included the goals identified in the 1979 plan, but further emphasized the need for recreational programs and facilities as well as improving public access to open space.

### **2.3 1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan Action Items**

Since 1997, the Town of Hanover has made progress in accomplishing a number of tasks listed in the Section 9 (Action Plan) of the 1997 Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by Beals and Thomas, Inc. The recommended action items were organized by responsible party and year in which the item should be completed or initiated. Since 1997, the following has been accomplished:

#### **Goal 1: Identify, preserve and protect those historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the town.**

The Open Space Committee has taken several steps towards identifying key parcels for acquisition such as sending letters to landowners who have property that is ten acres or larger and they have conducted site walks. In addition, the Committee was very active and vocal about helping to have the Community Preservation Act (CPA) passed in Hanover (in 2005). The CPA serves as an additional funding source for open space and recreation projects.

In May of 2003, the Town adopted a Bylaw for the Preservation of Historically Significant Buildings. In summary, the Bylaw requires that if an applicant wishes to demolish any building seventy five (75) years or older the project be reviewed. The Town of Hanover has also prepared a Historic Preservation Plan.

#### **Goal 2: Protect and enhance the quality of Hanover's surface and groundwater.**

In the past ten years, the Town of Hanover has worked on identifying vacant lands to target for acquisition or other means of protection, particularly properties near or adjacent to town wells and public drinking water supplies. The local Aquifer Protection District serves to help monitor businesses and homes conducting certain activities in the area by requiring that Water Quality Compliance Certificates be obtained from the Public Works Department.

**Goal 3: Enhance appropriate public access to and use of existing conservation lands and establish continuous greenways.**

Several bridges and boardwalks have been built on conservation lands and the greenway by Boy scouts, AmeriCorps participants, Open Space Committee Members and volunteers. Properties where these bridges and boardwalks have been built include Colby Philips, Fireworks, French's Stream, Myrtle Street and Drinkwater. The 1999 trails map that was produced is being updated as a part of the 2007 OSRP project.

Activities that have taken place in Hanover to educate residents about existing conservation lands include vernal pool walks with high school students, and Open Space Committee sponsored walks on local conservation areas. In addition, the Open Space Committee also works with the local newspaper regarding articles of interest.

**Goal 4: Improve and increase recreational opportunities in Hanover.**

The Open Space Committee frequently works with Local Scout Troops who help out tremendously with trail work and signage for conservation areas and trail heads. In addition, the OS Committee helped to create a new trail along Forge Pond and a boardwalk that allows access into the Colby Phillips property while preserving wildlife habitat.

**Goal 5: Increase environmental awareness among all sectors of the community.**

The Open Space Committee has been working to increase environmental awareness in the community. The Committee was instrumental in advocating for Community Preservation Act funds which allowed the Town to purchase the Cervelli Property (now known as King Street Property) in May 2007.

The Committee also supports guided walks through open space properties. More specifically, naturalists have led several guided walks.

**2.4 Planning Process and Public Participation**

In the spring of 2007, the Town of Hanover issued a request for proposals to hire a consultant to assist the Open Space Committee and update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Beals and Thomas, Inc. was selected and began working on the project in April 2007.

Beals and Thomas, Inc. put together a team of qualified professionals that included a Project Manager, Environmental Planner, Environmental Specialist and ADA Accessibility surveyor. The team met monthly with the Hanover Open Space Committee which consisted of local residents who volunteer their time to serve their community on a local committee. The Town Planner, Andrew R. Port, AICP was also a part of the team working on the update. In 1999, the Open Space Committee (OSC) initiated the Hanover Greenway project to establish a continuous walking trail from Hanover High School to

Luddam's Ford Conservation area. The OSC has built trails, bridges and boardwalks, using volunteer labor and grants that have given Hanover resident's greater access to the outdoors.

Beals and Thomas, Inc. conducted a site visit in May 2007. The visit consisted of partnering with the Town Planner, Andrew R. Port and two Open Space Committee members, Hal Thomas, Co-Chair and Wallace Kemp to travel around Hanover, get a feel for the community and take photographs of open space, natural resources, playgrounds, water resources, ballfields, walking trails, scenic viewscapes and other recreational amenities. Beals and Thomas, Inc. also conducted a well attended public forum on June 19, 2007 at the Hanover Town Hall to inform local residents about the project and ask for their input regarding goals and objectives and to better understand what they felt significant issues are in terms of open space, recreation and natural resources. The Public Forum included a component where participants broke into small groups and using a map that was provided, mapped out a "Tour of Hanover" that they would take someone on who is new to the community, or a first time visitor. The exercise proved to be very successful and is summarized in Appendix C.

### **Hanover Day**

The Open Space Committee took the initiative to further the public process for this project by setting up a booth at Hanover Day. Hanover Day is an annual celebration of the community that includes booths of civic organizations, an arts and crafts tent, restaurant establishments providing "a taste of Hanover," and access to local historical resources like the Stetson House. The booth set up by the OS Committee included a large map where event participants could identify their "favorite place" in town and could also receive more information about the Public Forum, volunteer opportunities and land conservation in general. The booth was visited by approximately 50 people and was very well received. Hanover Day attendees that stopped by the booth identified the following areas as their "favorite place," they include:

- The North River, Factory Pond, Luddams Ford, Briggs Stable, Melzer Hatch Reservation, Town Center, Bonney Conservation Parcel, Colby Phillips, Bird Sanctuary off of Broadway, Willow Road Site, Sylvester Field, Cervelli Property, the Cranberry Bogs, Myrtle Field, Hiking on the trail behind the old Fire Station and Ellis Field.

A full summary of Hanover Day is provided in Appendix C.

### **Citizen Survey**

Public outreach for the project was continued by preparing an Open Space and Recreation survey. The survey was conducted in August and September 2007 and was made available through a link on the Town website. A copy of the survey was also mailed to every household in the community. In total, 246 responses were received. The purpose of the survey was to provide another opportunity for local

residents to offer their thoughts and ideas regarding open space, natural resources and recreational amenities in Town. Many of the survey results are discussed in Section 7.0 of this report, and the full survey summary is included in Appendix C.

### **Additional Public Forum**

A second Public Forum for this project was held on November 8, 2007 (World Town Planning Day), in conjunction with the other master planning efforts going on simultaneously in Hanover. All five of Hanover's long range plans were discussed, including:

- Master Plan (Comprehensive Plan)
- Open Space & Recreation Plan
- Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan
- Affordable Housing Plan
- Historical Preservation Plan

As part of the Public Forum each consultant charged with completing one of the plans noted above presented key findings of each plan to date. Specifically, the consultants were asked to discuss:

1. The major issues, problems, challenges, or concerns identified in the plan which the Town should address over the next ten (10) Years, and
2. The major recommendations or actions identified in the plan which the Town should undertake over the next ten (10) years to address these issues.

In addition, the Town encouraged residents to visit the Town website during the next few months to view the Community Preservation Plans in draft and final format, and to answer final survey questions for the new Master Plan. Executive Summaries of each plan posted will be made available as well as comment forms to provide feedback to the Town. Overall, the Community Preservation Plans are expected to be finalized by January 2008. The new Master Plan will be completed by May of 2008.

The update of Hanover's Open Space and Recreation Plan was a collaborative and collective effort of many. The Open Space Committee's main goal was to prepare a plan that would be easily understood and implemented after the actual planning process is finished. The final OSRP is interesting, unique to the community of Hanover and proactive regarding recommendations, goals, objectives and action items.

## 5.0 INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATIONAL INTEREST

The following section details specifically where open space resources and recreational amenities are located within the Town of Hanover. The type of facility and its condition was determined by the Open Space Committee. For the purposes of this project, the Town of Hanover took the initiative to update the outdated MA GIS Open Space data layer. Assumptions made in the new data layer include:

- Typically, Town owned land, managed by the Conservation Commission is considered to be permanently protected open space. Andrew Port, Town Planner spoke with Melissa Cryan at the Division of Conservation Services and they agreed that because there are no conservation restrictions on the properties managed by the Conservation Commission, it would not be appropriate to designate the parcels as permanently protected. Though they are under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, the Town could change the designation and use of the property because there is no permanent restriction stating otherwise.
- Fields owned by the School Committee were not included as a part of the open space inventory. The property under School Committee care and custody has no protection at all and most of the land is already developed in some fashion. It is not considered to be open space by the Town of Hanover, which was also discussed between Mr. Port and Ms. Cryan.

Open space in a community is valuable for several reasons. Land is a finite resource, there is only so much, so by leaving areas in their natural state, it not only helps define community character, but it also provide habitat areas and corridors for wildlife and plants. In addition, particularly in the Town of Hanover, it helps protect drinking water supplies.

The open space and recreation inventory column headings include:

**Site Name:** Indicates the name of the site.

**Acres:** Total number of acres or a close approximation. Once acre equals 43,560 square feet.

**Manager:** Name of the manager of the property and the agency or department responsible for managing the property, if applicable.

**Level of Protection:** Notes whether the site if by virtue of zoning, or by the receipt of state or federal funding, is protected from sale and building development. Mass GIS notes the following characteristics about level of protection:

*Permanent (In Perpetuity)* – Legally protected in perpetuity and recorded in a property’s deed. Public land is typically in perpetuity if it is owned by the Conservation Commission (see first bullet point above), if there is a conservation restriction on the

property, if it is owned by a State conservation agency, if it is owned by a non-profit land trust or if state or federal monies were used to purchase or improve the property. Private land is in perpetuity if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity, if there is an agriculture preservation restriction, or if there is a conservation restriction on the property.

*Temporary* – Legally protected for less than perpetuity (short term conservation restriction) or temporarily protected through a functional use. Example: water district lands are only temporarily protected while water resource protection is their primary use.

*Limited* – Protected by legal mechanisms other than those listed above. Land might be protected by a requirement of a majority municipal vote for change in status or Chapter 61 land.

*Unknown* – Should be researched through the property deed to see if any protection level is listed.

For the purposes of the updated Hanover Open Space layer, the level of protection descriptions defined above have been used.

**Public Access:** Notes whether or not the site is open to public use.

**Type of Facility/Condition:** Details what kind of condition the site or facility is in and what the site might be used for (ballfields, beach etc).

Open Space for the purposes of the 2007 Hanover update is defined as parks, playgrounds, fields, recreational amenities, forests, land of significant size owned and managed for agricultural, conservation, open space or recreation purposes.

## 5.1 Types of Open Space and Recreation Land Protection

In this section of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update, areas in Hanover that are significant for their open space, natural resource or recreational amenities have been highlighted. The inventory is inclusive of private and public sites (both developed and undeveloped) and is meant to be comprehensive.

According to the Division of Conservation Services, land that is protected (or in perpetuity) is typically owned by the Conservation Commission<sup>31</sup>, a State conservation agency, a nonprofit land trust or if the Town was awarded state or federal money for the improvement of purchase of a specific piece of property. Some private property can also have a protected designation if it is indicated in the property deed, if the property has an Agricultural Preservation restriction or if the Department of Environmental Protection has placed a restriction on the property for wetland protection or conservation purposes.

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<sup>31</sup> See assumption on previous page regarding conversation between Mr. Andrew Port, Town Planner and Ms. Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Services.

Land owned by other agencies is often times not protected. For example, many of the parks and playgrounds or baseball fields may not be permanently protected and in danger of development in the future.

More specifically, the types of programs below illustrate different types of protection that could be available to property in Hanover. Some of the programs are already in use such as Chapter 61.

**Article 97 Protection:** Article 97 protects publicly owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. In order for a property to be sold, transferred or converted to a different use, Article 97 requires a vote of the Town in which the land use would be changed (by Conservation Commission, Parks Department, other, whichever is appropriate), a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting or City Council in support of the disposition, a 2/3 vote of the legislature in support of the disposition, they must demonstrate compliance with applicable funding sources and the municipality must file an ENF with MEPA.

**Conservation Restriction:** A conservation restriction is an agreement that is bound legally between a landowner and a “holder” or grantee. The landowner would agree to limit the amount and/or use of a specific property in order to protect the unique or specific conservation values that are evident on the property or important to the landowner or “holder.” A specified amount of time for the conservation restriction can be noted, or the conservation restriction can be in perpetuity. A conservation restriction is recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

**Easements:** An easement is typically listed on a property deed and it allows permanent access to a property for a specific purpose. It is a right of use, not a right of possession.

**Chapter 61:** Chapter 61 encourages preservation of agricultural, recreation and forest land in Massachusetts. Landowners can ensure the long-term protection of their property by receiving a tax benefit if they agree to the terms of Chapter 61. If an owner wants to take property out of Chapter 61 designation, the Town can recover the tax benefits given and they have the right of first refusal to purchase the property if the land is sold for residential, commercial or industrial purposes.

The following table is a listing of open space and recreational resources located in the Town of Hanover. The Open Space and Recreational resources are illustrated on Map 6, Appendix A prepared for this plan.

Town of Hanover  
Open Space and Recreation Plan

Hanover, Massachusetts  
125601RP001

Inventory of Areas of Conservation and Recreation Interest – Town of Hanover								
Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
<b>Town of Hanover</b>								
Amos Gallant Field/Curtis School	2.90	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS, Parks and Rec	Residential		Temporary	Public	Baseball Field/Good
B. Everett Hall Field/Sylvester School	20.1	Town of Hanover/BOS	Parks & Rec, BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Bandstand, Football and Baseball Fields, Basketball, Tennis Courts, Playgrounds, Picnic Areas/Good
Baily Parcel	5.94	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Unknown	Public	Wooded neighborhood conservation land/Good
Barstow Parcel	7.28	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature trails/Good
Beal/Riverside Drive Well Property	47.7	Town of Hanover/DPW	DPW	Residential		Temporary	N/A	Water Supply Protection
Birchwood Road Property	2.37	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood conservation land/Wet
Bonney Conservation Parcel	6.04	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Good
Bonney Land	1.28	Town of Hanover/ CC	Con Com	Business		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Good
Briggs Field	1.18	Town of Hanover/BOS	Parks & Rec, BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Baseball Field/Good
Broadway Well Site	98.43	Town of Hanover/DPW	DPW	Business/ Residential		Temporary	N/A	Water Supply Protection
Broadway/Indian Head Parcel	1.79	Town of Hanover/DPW	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation, Old railbed/Good
Brookwood Road Parcel	0.54	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Buttonwood Lane Property	3.70	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Calvin J. Ellis Field	11.60	Town of Hanover/P&R	Parks & Rec	Residential		Temporary	Public	Baseball Fields/Good
Cedar Old Farm Connector	0.36	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Connector to ConCom Land/Good

Town of Hanover  
Open Space and Recreation Plan

Hanover, Massachusetts  
125601RP001

Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
Cedar Street Property	21.4	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation land, Vernal Pool/Wet
Clark Land	13.06	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Colby Phillips Area/Wet
Clark Land	64.71	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Cranberry Bog/Good
Colby Phillips Property	3.18	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature Trails/Good
Colby Phillips Property	129.9	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature Trails/Good
Colonial Drive Property	0.64	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Wetlands
Cross Street Site	4.33	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Adjacent to Morrill Phillips
Dillingham Old Town Way Site	5.91	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood conservation land/Good
Dwelly Avenue Parcel	3.20	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood conservation land/Wet
East Street Property	3.99	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land, no access/Wet
Elm Street Property	0.75	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Emily Elizabeth White Conservation Area	5.29	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Aquifer Protection District/Good
Fairbairn Parcel	1.18	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Commercial		Temporary	Public	Abutts Third Herring Brook/Good
Fireworks Property	142.18	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature Trails/Good
Hammer Hook Conservation Parcel	3.32	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Wooded area behind detention area/wet
Hanover Center Cemetery	33.0	Town of Hanover/DPW	DPW	Residential		Temporary	Public	Cemetery
Hanover Center Corner Property	.25	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Park area near Town Hall/Good

Town of Hanover  
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Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
Hanover Spring Meadow Lot	1.58	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Wetlands
Hanover Street Well Protection	32.87	Town of Hanover/BOS	DPW	Residential		Temporary	N/A	Water Supply Protection
Hell Swamp	73.06	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Swamp, Conservation Land
Hillside Drive Lane	1.22	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Good
Indian Head/Riverside Land	34.0	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Aquifer Protection Zone/Good
Jay's Lane Parcel	3.05	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Good
King Street/Cervelli Property Lot 1A Lot 1B subparcel a Lot 1B subparcel b Lot 1B subparcel c	75.4 20.67 27.3 19.5 7	Town of Hanover P&R CC P&R CC	Conservation/ P & R	Residential	CPA Funding	Temporary	Public	Former farmland, nature trails
Larchmont Parcel	1.75	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Legion Drive Property	6.32	Hanover Housing Authority	Housing Authority	Residential		Temporary	Public	Land Designated for Affordable Housing
Luddams Ford Park	29.18	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature trails, fishing, canoe launch/Good
Mann Brook Swamp	9.97	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land
Mann Brook/Hobart Swamp	18.92	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Mayflower Circle Property	7.71	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Merry Property	56.84	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature Trails/Good
Morrill Allen Phillips Wildlife Sanctuary	72.44	Town of Hanover/P&R	Conservation/Parks	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature Trails, Baseball Field/Good

Town of Hanover  
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Hanover, Massachusetts  
125601RP001

Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
Norwell Line Parcel NE	14.3	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Norwell Line Parcel NW	2.35	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Old Farm Road Property	12.42	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Pine Island Swamp/Wet
Old Ford Conservation Parcel	3.20	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Old Washington Street Corner	0.02	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Route 53 Commercial Area/Good
Oldfield Drive Parcel	1.66	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Pine Island Swamp North	4.51	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Swamp, Conservation Land
Pine Island Swamp South	19.5	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Swamp, Conservation Land
Plain Street Site	4.71	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Diked Trails/Good
Plain Street Site	11.2	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Diked Trails/Good
Pleasant Street Property	1.94	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Old Dam Site/Good
Plymouth Road Parcel	3.11	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Good
Pond Street Well Protection	38.8	Town of Hanover/DPW	DPW	Commercial		Temporary	N/A	Water Supply Protection
Ponderosa Drive Parcel	12.57	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Good
Rest Haven Lot-Rockland Town Line	1.93	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Wet
Rinear Property	23.2	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Mixed Woodlands & Wetlands
Salmond School Fields	3.11	Town of Hanover/School	School Department	Residential		Temporary	Public	Ballfield/Good

Town of Hanover  
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Hanover, Massachusetts  
125601RP001

Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
Shingle Mill Lane	0.68	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Good
Shinglemill Brook Swamp	9.75	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Sproul Land	5.64	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Summer Circuit Ellis Parcel	1.47	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Ballfields, Parking Lot/Good
Summer Street Site	104.9	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature trails/Good
Third Herring Brook & Old Pond Swamp	50.8	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land, Flood Plain, Wetlands
Third Herring Brook Parcel	4.47	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Commercial		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land, Flood Plain, Wetlands
Tindale Bog & Beach Property	16.58	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Skating Area/Good
Tindale Parcel	9.95	Town of Hanover	Town of Hanover	Residential		Temporary	Public	Well Protection Area/Wet
Union Cemetery	1.91	Town of Hanover/DPW	DPW	Commercial		Temporary	Public	Cemetery
Union Street	14.9	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Hells Swamp/Wet
Walnut Street Parcel	0.65	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Brook/Wet
Washington Broadway Salmond School Parcel	3.28	Town of Hanover/School	School	Residential		Temporary	Public	School Administration Prroperty/Good
Washington Street – Cardinal Cushing Parcel	3.15	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Partially Wet
Water Street Parcel	1.21	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Good
Water Street Parcel	3.85	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Old Dam site/Good

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Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
Webster Street Parcel	13.25	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Good
Webster Street Parcel	2.77	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
West Avenue Property	26.2	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Whiting Street Parcel	22.1	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Whiting Village Property	21.5	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Whiton Court Parcel	6.60	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation Land/Wet
Willow Road Site	32.4	Town of Hanover/CC	Con Com	Residential		Temporary	Public	Nature Trails/Good
Woodland Drive Parcel	1.84	Town of Hanover/BOS	BOS	Commercial		Temporary	Public	Neighborhood Conservation Land/Good
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,590</b>							
<b>Other</b>								
Birchwood Road Property	.69	Bass Victor Trustee	BOS	Residential		Temporary	Public	Along Molly Brook
Briggs – Hanover Street	20.84	Private Landowner	N/A	Residential		Limited	Private	Chapter 61 Land/Good
Briggs – Main Street	37.70	Private Landowner	N/A	Residential		Limited	Private	Chapter 61 Land/Good
Cervelli – Center Street	7.95	Private Landowner	N/A	Residential		Limited	Private	Chapter 61 Land/Good
Denham – Circuit Street	14.7	Private Landowner	N/A	Residential		Limited	Private	Chapter 61 Land
Great Rock Shingle Mill Parcel	4.74	Bass Victor Trustee	N/A	Residential		Permanent	?	Private Conservation Land
Hacketts Pond	6.40	South Shore NCS	South Shore NCS	Residential		Permanent	?	Conservation Land
Holly Farms Wildlands Parcel	3.75	Wildlands Trust of SE MA	Wildlands Trust	Residential		Permanent	?	Conservation Land

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Site Name	Acres	Owner	Management	Zoning	Grant Received? Funding?	Level of Protection	Public Access	Type of Facility/Condition
Indian Head Drive Boat Launch	1.93	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Residential		Temporary	Public	Recreation, Boat Launch
Indian Head Drive/Plymouth County Land	3.19	Inhabitants of Plymouth County	Plymouth County	Residential		Temporary	Public	
Melody Woods	42.5	South Shore NCS	South Shore NCS	Residential		Permanent	?	?
Melzer Hatch Reservation	47.16	Wildlands Trust of SE MA	Wildlands Trust	Residential		Permanent	Public	Conservation Land/Good
Murtha Property	4.30		Community Preservation Committee	Residential		Temporary	Public	Conservation, Historic Preservation, Housing
Nick Tedeschi Sanctuary	14.11	South Shore NCS	N/A	Residential		Permanent	?	?
Norwell Cemetery Property	9.01	Town of Norwell		Residential		Temporary	Public	Cemetery
Onbashian – Broadway	7.16	Private Landowner	N/A	Residential		Limited	Private	Chapter 61 Land
Stoney Meadow Property	20.9	Wildlands Trust of SE MA	Wildlands Trust	Residential		Permanent	Public	?
Stony Meadow Conservation Restriction	7.05	Private Landowner	Private	Residential		Permanent	Private	Conservation Land
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>254.08</b>							
<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>1,844</b>							

**Note:** The only property that has been purchased with any type of grant funding is the King Street/Cervelli Property, which was purchased with funds from the Community Preservation Act. Also, all properties listed in this table should be re-verified with the Town as characteristics of the parcel may continue to change.

## **8.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Goals and objectives for the Hanover Open Space and Recreation Plan update were developed using input received from a number of resources including two Public Forums, Hanover residents who participated in Hanover Day, a town wide survey, comments from members of the Parks and Recreation Committee, comments from Town staff and from comments from the Hanover Open Space Committee. For purposes of this project, goals were formed around a general vision or concept and the objectives listed are more concrete ideas for accomplishing the stated goals. The action items in Section 9.0 are specific activities that make achieving the goals and objectives realistic.

Beals and Thomas, Inc. also reviewed the recent Hanover Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Historic Preservation Plan and the 1997 Hanover Master Plan to determine what goals were specified that would pertain to the more specific Open Space and Recreation Plan.

### **MANAGEMENT**

#### **GOAL 1: Assign a specific entity to oversee the implementation of the overall Open Space and Recreation Plan.**

- The Open Space Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee should work together on a regular basis to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan with oversight from the Town Administrator, Town Planner and Parks and Recreation staff person.
- Inform other Boards and Committees (Conservation Commission, DPW, Board of Health, Historic Commission, Community Preservation Committee, etc.) of the Open Space Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee's implementation efforts.
- Designate at least one member of the Open Space Committee and one member of the Parks and Recreation Committee (with assistance of the Town Planner where needed) to thoroughly research and monitor the types of grant funding listed in the body of the OSRP update so as to better target specific projects and maximize the potential to apply for and receive grant funding (See Section 7.0). Another option might be for the Town to hire additional staff, or a consultant to monitor and apply for grant funding.

#### **GOAL 2: Devise and maintain a system for targeting and prioritizing land for future property acquisition.**

- Utilize the Land Acquisition Worksheet on potential open space parcels to determine priority of potential purchase (outlined in Section 7.0).
- The Open Space Committee should work closely with the Town Planner and communicate when properties come up for acquisition through the Planning Board. Ideally, a member of the Planning Board would sit on the Open Space Committee.

- The Open Space Committee should continue their outreach efforts to local landowners and pursue the protection of properties that classify as high priority.
- Develop a more formal property tracking system/database for monitoring land of interest, property owners, and what type of contact has been made.
- Consider the potential options for forming a Land Trust to oversee the proper management of particular open space parcels within the Town.

## COMMUNITY CHARACTER

### **GOAL 3: Preserve and protect open space and natural areas in Hanover because they provide linkages between the history of the Town and the present conditions.**

- Acquire additional open space and natural areas.
- Further protect the natural areas adjacent to the North River/Indian Head River due to their status as critically important habitat areas (the North River is an example of a Freshwater Tidal Marsh and Fresh/Brackish Tidal Swamp).
- Continue to implement projects which heighten public awareness of Hanover's unique natural and cultural resources (such as designating additional Scenic Roads).
- Utilize the Historic Preservation Plan and involve/collaborate with the Historical Commission whenever possible on joint projects.

### **GOAL 4: Collaborate with other committees, organizations and towns regarding open space and recreation projects and initiatives.**

- Communicate with Rockland, Norwell, Hanson, Pembroke and Weymouth Open Space Committees and Recreation Committees to share ideas, collaborate where possible and determine what some joint projects may be.
- The Open Space Committee could collaborate with the Southeastern Wildlands Trust, Recreation Committee, Historical Commission the Community Preservation Committee and others on projects whenever possible and to identify, acquire and manage open space to meet projected community needs. Offer support to each other on initiatives that organizations take on separately.

## OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### **GOAL 5: Continue to acquire additional open space.**

- Give priority to those open space acquisitions that meet criteria in the Land Acquisition Worksheet (See Section 7.0).
- If a property is already designated as open space, but does not have permanent protection (temporary and limited protection designations), work to protect the parcels in perpetuity.
- Acquire tax title lands for community purposes, including open space,

recreation, affordable housing, or municipal services.

- Inform Hanover residents about the Town's interest in preserving additional open space and make them aware of opportunities to do so such as conservation restrictions or selling the property.

**GOAL 6: Encourage sustainable growth, development and redevelopment consistent with the remaining carrying capacity of Hanover's natural environment.**

- Preserve significant natural and fragile resource areas during the design/permitting stage of developments. At the pre-application meeting discuss these resources in terms of the project. Such resources include critical wildlife and plant habitats, water resources (lakes, rivers, aquifers, wetlands, etc...) and historical, cultural and archaeological areas, scenic roads and views, and significant landforms.
- Add provisions to Hanover's regulations to ensure that development is consistent with Town character and goals and move them further to help promote good design.

**GOAL 7: Enhance public access to and appropriate use of existing conservation lands; continue to further the greenways initiative and creation/improvement of existing and new trails and monitor permanently protected conservation lands to ensure their character remains unchanged.**

- Inventory natural resources present on conservation lands, and identify the appropriate level and type of public access by developing and maintaining:
  - Data base of conservation lands and degree of public access,
  - Management plans to allow public access without harming environmentally sensitive areas, and
  - Rules and regulations pertaining to the use of public lands.
- Improve and maintain public access to conservation parcels.
  - Establish a group of volunteers responsible for creating and maintaining trails. This group should include a member of the Conservation Commission, or at a minimum, review placement of new trails in order to avoid impacts to important natural resources, including wetlands and rare species.
- Monitor and promptly remove invasive species from conservation lands before they become a problem and impact native species.

**GOAL 8: Expand Hanover's local efforts and work towards taking a regional approach to protecting drinking water and provide long range protection of public drinking water supplies.**

- Protect land available around the Water Resource Protection District to act as a buffer to prevent contamination.
- Work with neighboring towns to formulate a plan for groundwater and surface water protection.

- Work with neighboring towns and land trusts to protect remaining open land in the area west and north along the Freshwater Tidal Marsh and Indian Head River.

## REGULATORY

### **GOAL 9: Improve and enhance Open Space and Recreation land within Hanover through regulatory methods.**

- Develop Open Space Development/Cluster Zoning Bylaw.
- Amend Subdivision Regulations to promote Low Impact Development techniques and green design.
- Hanover Boards/Town commissions should work closely with and ask for assistance from NHESP in reviewing any project proposed in the habitat areas of the regulatory areas of the maps in the Natural Heritage Atlas.
- Nominate Freshwater Tidal Marsh/Indian Head River area as an ACEC

## RECREATION

### **GOAL 10: Enhance, maintain and preserve passive and active recreational opportunities for Hanover residents and visitors of all ages, abilities and interests.**

- Focus on trail creation, maintenance and information outreach.
- Improve and create more equestrian trails, walking trails, water access and bicycle trails.
- Repair and maintain existing sports fields.
- Map and mark existing walking trails and access points to the trails.
- Create small, local parks in various areas of town.
- Maintain an accurate inventory of all of the recreational facilities (playing fields, courts, playgrounds etc.) and conservation areas in Hanover.
- Maintain an accurate inventory of all the recreational programming provided in the Town of Hanover.
- Use the ADA section of this plan and start to address needs of special user groups including handicapped and elderly and provide additional facilities and programs adequate to meet the identified needs.
- Inventory available parking at all town-owned conservation/ recreation areas and add parking where needed/appropriate.
- Research and apply for additional funding sources for the maintenance and upgrading of Hanover's parks and playgrounds (*See Section 7.0 for funding sources*).
- Address recreational needs identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Needs include more swimming, road biking, walking, playground and tennis facilities (*See Section 7.0 for more information*).

- Utilize and make an effort to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan created in 2007/2008 by the Parks and Recreation Committee with their consultant.

## EDUCATION

**GOAL 11: Better educate Hanover residents about conservation and land use and provide education and materials on conservation and land use issues so as to improve their knowledge.**

- Formulate a working group within the Open Space Committee with the assistance of the Conservation Commission to create brochures and pamphlets regarding M.G.L. Chapter 61, conservation restrictions, invasive species and wetlands.
- Invite knowledgeable citizens and professionals to hold seminars regarding conservation matters.
- Continue to hold guided walks through existing open space as a form of education and outreach.
- Consider providing a pamphlet to new Hanover residents from the Open Space Committee and the Conservation Commission regarding conservation, wetlands, invasive species and contact information should questions arise.

**GOAL 12: Improve public awareness and public access regarding Hanover's Open Space and Recreation assets.**

- Develop an inventory of existing recreation and cultural service providers that are associated with area organizations.
- Improve access to information about open space and recreational programming including placing articles in the newspaper, utilizing the Hanover website and sending out information via mail.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee should oversee the day to day maintenance and improvements of the recreation facilities under its jurisdiction, together with the fences, bleachers, dugouts and other appurtenances.

## **9.0 FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

The action plan is the section that details for the next five years, a timetable of specific actions and activities that should occur for successful implementation of the Hanover Open Space and Recreation Plan. The action items (or priorities) are based on the goals and objectives that were formulated in Section 8.0 and the needs analysis prepared in Section 7.0.

Section 9.0 is often the most difficult component of an Open Space and Recreation Plan for a number of reasons. An Action Plan can be difficult to commit to and be problematic to review over time. Items that have been accomplished fade from view, while the more intractable problems continue to haunt the town. Financial and political trends may change, advancing some items while leaving others untouched. For these reasons alone, many communities are hesitant to put in writing the full scope of their intentions.

The following action plan intends to deliver on the promise of the goals and objectives expressed throughout this process, with a program of tangible steps for Hanover to take over the next five years. There is a high level of activity on these issues, based upon the input received during the planning process (the Public Forums, Hanover Day, Citizen Survey). While all actions listed are recognized as important, two areas in particular rise to the top as being absolutely essential for any future progress towards meeting the goals of this Plan:

- *The collaboration of the Open Space Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan.* Although there are many groups and departments active in open space and recreation issues in Hanover, their activities are not totally coordinated or focused. If the ambitious goals and objectives of this Plan are to be achieved, there needs to be a collaborative effort between these committees to oversee this progress and coordinate the actions and priorities of the other various groups. This effort should be overseen by the Town Administrator and the Town Planner. Other groups to involve throughout the process include but are not limited to:
  - Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Council on Aging, Hanover Youth Athletic Association, Private Non-Profits and State and County Resources
- *Continue to educate and involve the numerous Town Boards and Committees regarding this project and the relevant action items and remind them that Hanover's open space and recreational amenities are a central and lasting priority for the Town.* While there may be competing needs for time and funding, all groups must abide by the central tenet that open space and recreation issues are extremely

important to the residents of Hanover. Where open space and recreational resources are concerned, the goals and policies of this Plan and the members and staffs of the Town's open space agencies must be consulted. Furthermore, groups must agree in advance on the proper decision making procedures to be followed in such matters.

- *Securing additional sources of funding, staffing, and other support for open space and recreation activities and programs.* The Town of Hanover has an opportunity to seek out additional funding sources to achieve the goals of this Plan in addition to grant funding they have received in the past and Community Preservation Act funds. Support for the goals and objectives may be found in the form of donated community labor or park “adoption” by residents, or from federal, state, and private grants (See discussion in Section 7.0).

## 9.1 Five Year Action Plan Summary Table

**Abbreviation Key:** CC = Conservation Commission, TP = Town Planner, OSC = Open Space Committee, PRC = Parks and Recreation Committee, BOS = Board of Selectmen, BOH = Board of Health, CPC = Community Preservation Committee, HC = Historic Commission, TA = Town Administrator, PB = Planning Board, HYAA – Hanover Youth Athletic Association

#	Action Item	Year	Responsible Party	What Page is the Action Item on?
<b>Year 1 - 2008</b>				
1	Formally designate the Town Administrator as the coordinator of the Five Year Action plan. The Open Space Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee should work closely with the Town Administrator to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan, with the assistance of the Town Planner.	2008	TA, OSC, PRC, TP	9-8
2	The Open Space Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee should meet with the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator to discuss the Open Space and Recreation Plan and its implementation.	2008	TA, OSC, PRC, TP, BOS	9-8
3	The Open Space Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee should develop a checklist of action items to accomplish that will also identify each committee's goals, their organizational responsibilities for the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan (including how they can/will work together) and regarding conservation and recreation programs and activities in the community. In addition, they should meet at least semi-annually and share progress memorandums and have joint meetings when possible.	2008	OSC, PRC, TP	9-8
4	Consider adding either a full or part-time position to the Planning Department to assist the Town Planner on local planning initiatives and help implement this plan and other projects, or offer an internship to a graduate student.	2008	TA, BOS, TP, CPC	9-9
5	Confirm that all commissions, committees, boards and pertinent town staff mentioned in this plan receive a copy of it and understand their role in its implementation.	2008	TP, OSC, PRC	9-9
6	Update every six months the list of key parcels of land which are of high interest for protection by acquisition or other methods. Consider transferring the care and custody to the Conservation Commission of existing open space where possible and add conservation restrictions to as many designated open space parcels as possible.	2008	TP, OSC, PB, CC	9-9
7	Modify the land acquisition worksheet as needed to ensure it is an appropriate evaluation tool to use when considering property for protection (located in Section 7.0). In addition, develop a computer database to track parcels of interest and status (this could be something like an Excel Spreadsheet) and update it frequently to monitor key parcels of	2008	OSC, TP	9-10

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	land which are of high interest for protection by acquisition or other methods.			
8	Identify major open space areas in abutting towns and develop a working relationship with representatives in communities like Rockland, Pembroke, Norwell and Hanson to discuss future projects. Communication needs to be more consistent.	2008	OSC, TP	9-10
9	Improve the communication and working relationships amongst the Open Space Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and Community Preservation Committee. Hold a two to four hour working meeting (maybe a Saturday morning) with all three committees facilitated by a third party where goals and agendas of each committee would be stated and brainstorming could be done regarding how to better communicate and work together in the future.	2008	OSC, TP, CPC, PRC	9-10
10	Work with Pembroke and Norwell to nominate an area surrounding a portion of the North River/Indian Head River as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Go to <a href="http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec/aboutMaps.htm">http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/acec/aboutMaps.htm</a> for more nomination information, and see Section 4.0 for more details about the ACEC program. Hire a consultant if necessary to help with the nomination and consider using CPA funds to do so. The nomination should be made by the community.	2008	CC, TP, OSC	9-11
11	Develop educational materials about alternative methods used to leave land parcels in their natural state in perpetuity or available for public access as appropriate and a Frequently Asked Questions handout that the Open Space Committee could provide to landowners interested in more information about protecting their property.	2008	OSC, TP, CC	9-11
12	Research and apply for additional funding sources for the maintenance and upgrading of Hanover's parks, playgrounds and conservation areas (see Section 7.0 for a list of funding sources).	2008	TP, OSC, PRC	9-11
13	At the design/permitting state of developments, discuss the significant natural and fragile resource areas that may pertain to a project with would be developers. Such areas include critical wildlife and plant habitats, water resources and historical, cultural and archaeological areas, scenic roads and views and significant landforms. Encourage projects to take these areas into consideration. Where it makes sense, notify the Open Space Committee and ask for input when needed.	2008	TP, PB, CC, OSC	9-12
14	Continue to identify and certify vernal pools.	2008	CC	9-12
15	Develop a potential list of new trails for development and trails that need maintenance/signage and present the plan to the Town with the support of the Town Planner. Use this trails plan as a guide for projects and to seek out funding sources for passive and active recreation.	2008	OSC, TP, PRC	9-12
16	If possible, try to inventory natural resources present on conservation lands, and identify the appropriate level and type of public access.	2008	TP, CC, Volunteers	9-13

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17	Establish a group of volunteers responsible for creating and maintaining trails. This group should include a member of the Conservation Commission or at a minimum, review placement of new trails in order to avoid impacts to important natural resources, including wetlands and rare species.	2008	TP, CC, OSC, PRC, Volunteers	9-13
18	Continue to monitor and promptly remove invasive species from conservation lands before they become a problem and impact native species.	2008	CC, Volunteers	9-13
19	Specifically target land surrounding the Water Resource Protection District for protection to act as a buffer to prevent contamination of the water supply.	2008	OSC, TP	9-14
20	Contact twice annually representatives in neighboring towns to discuss groundwater and surface water protection and develop a collaborative plan/line of communication for doing so.	2008	TP, DPW	9-14
21	Investigate the potential of using another substance besides sand/salt on the roadways during the winter as a way to further protect drinking water.	2008	CC, DPW, BOS	9-14
22	Review the existing system for addressing failing septic systems and identify ways in which it can be approved.	2008	BOH, CC	9-14
23	Establish an Open Space Development Zoning Bylaw (sometimes known as Cluster Subdivision Bylaw). The Town of Hanover currently does not have such a Bylaw.	2008	TP, PB, BOS	9-15
24	Amend subdivision regulations to maximize amount of open space maintained in proposed developments (should be done in conjunction with the Open Space Development Zoning Bylaw).	2008	TP, PB, BOS	9-15
25	As also noted in the Historic Preservation Plan, revise the Village Planned Unit Development Bylaw.	2008	TP, PB, BOS	9-15
26	As also noted in the Historic Preservation Plan, revise the Retreat Lot Bylaw.	2008	TP, PB, BOS	9-15
27	Adopt a Scenic Road Bylaw to formalize the application and review process of projects along designated scenic roads.	2008	TP, PB, BOS	9-16
28	Develop a proposed plan for adding sidewalks to key roadways in Hanover. These connections should be throughout town to provide walking/biking networks where trails do not or cannot be added to the "Greenway." More sidewalks in Hanover was identified as a need in the Citizen Survey conducted for this project.	2008	TP, DPW	9-16
29	Investigate the potential of further utilizing Low Impact Development techniques and/or developing a Low Impact Development Bylaw.	2008	TP, CC	9-16
30	Investigate potential sites for a designated recreational programming facility/community center, including specific space for the Parks and Recreation Administrator.	2008	TP, PRC, OSC	9-17
31	Continue to focus on trail creation, maintenance and information outreach. Consider developing a trail management plan that utilizes the newly created trails layer and suggested maintenance/management techniques to use at the various sites.	2008	OSC, CC, TP, PRC	9-17

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32	Repair and maintain existing sports fields where necessary (utilize Parks and Recreation Master Plan). A maintenance schedule should be developed.	2008	PRC, DPW	9-17
33	Work with the Town Planner to identify where equestrian trails, walking trails, bicycle trails and water access could be added/improved in the Town of Hanover. Develop a memorandum summarizing the findings, circulate it to all relevant boards and commissions and suggest next steps.	2008	OSC, CC, PRC, TP	9-17
34	When possible, address needs identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The needs identified were more swimming, road biking, walking, playground and tennis facilities in Hanover. Consider including these elements when moving forward with new projects or updating existing sites.	2008	TP, OSC, PRC	9-18
35	Continue to map and mark existing walking trails and access points to the trails in Hanover. Consider preparing a more formal walking trail map, similar to that of the Town of Needham (one Open Space Committee member should investigate Needham's work and report back). Once everything is mapped, visit the map annually and update it.	2008	OSC, TP	9-18
36	Investigate in detail the potential of creating small, local parks in various areas of Town where there are currently no amenities available, particularly in the northern part of town on Town-owned land.	2008	PRC, TP	9-18
37	Review the inventory in Section 5.0 of this plan annually and update it so as to maintain its accuracy.	2008	OSC, TP	9-18
38	Inventory all recreational programming provided in the Town of Hanover, including what is provided by the HYAA and update the inventory annually.	2008	PRC, PRD, HYAA	9-19
39	Utilizing the ADA Component (Appendix D) of this OSRP and Section 7.0, begin to address the needs of special user groups, including the handicapped and elderly, and provide additional facilities and programming to meet their needs.	2008	OSC, PRC, ADA, TP	9-19
40	Inventory the available parking at all town-owned conservation/recreation areas and consider adding additional parking where needed/appropriate.	2008	PRC, DPW, TP, OSC	9-19
41	Sit down together and review in detail the Parks and Recreation Committee's Master Plan.	2008	PRC, OSC	9-19
42	Make recommendations regarding how to improve available information and access to the Town of Hanover's website in terms of open space and recreation to the Town Planner and Town Administrator.	2008	PRC, OSC, CPC	9-20
43	Increase awareness and educate the public about open space, natural resources and trails in the community.	2008	OSC, TP	9-20
44	Formulate a working group within the Open Space Committee with the assistance of the Conservation Commission to create brochures and pamphlets regarding MGL Chapter 61, conservation restrictions, wetlands and invasive species. Inserts with tax mailings may work well.	2008	OSC, TP, CC, BOS	9-20

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45	Conduct an educational campaign regarding wetlands in Hanover.	2008	CC, TP	9-21
46	Increase/improve signage at open space and natural resource areas in Hanover by continuing to work with local volunteers and Scout Troops on such projects.	2008	OSC, CC, TP	9-21
47	Create a historical landscape/historical village self-guided walking tour map. See the Historic Preservation Plan, page 71 for more information.	2008	HC, TP	9-21
48	In support of the recommendation in the Historic Preservation Plan, work with the town and other boards/committees to organize an Annual Volunteer Fair/Day, maybe in coordination with Hanover Day or near Town Meeting. Volunteer activities may be varied, and might include trail maintenance, river clean-up, clean-up along scenic roads etc.	2008	BOS, TA, TP, HC, CC, CPC, OSC, PRC	9-21
49	Invite local citizens and professionals to hold seminars regarding conservation/recreational matters that they are familiar with or interested at Town Hall. Perhaps make it a monthly lecture series.	2008	TP, OSC, PRC	9-22
50	Increase awareness of Scenic Roads in Hanover regarding where they are and why they were designated. Start a multi-pronged media campaign and consider sending an informational letter to every person who lives on a designated Scenic Road in Hanover about the designation.	2008	HC, TP	9-22
<b>Year 2 - 2009</b>				
Action Items 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 45, 46, 48 and any incomplete regulatory recommendations				
<b>Year 3 - 2010</b>				
Action Items 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 45, 46, 48 and any incomplete regulatory recommendations.				
<b>Year 4 &amp; 5 – 2011/2012</b>				
Note: See Section 9.0 of the report				

## **Year 2 (2009) - Plan Implementation**

In year two, implementation of this plan should be focused on continuing the following action items:

- 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 45, 46, 48 and any incomplete regulatory recommendations.

## **Year 3 (2010) - Plan Implementation**

In year three, implementation of this plan should be focused on continuing the following action items:

- 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 45, 46, 48 and any incomplete regulatory recommendations.

## **Year 4 & 5 (2011-2012) - Plan Implementation**

In year three, implementation of this plan should be focused on continuing the following action items:

- 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 28, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 43, 45, 46, 48 and any incompleting regulatory recommendations.

In addition, in Year 5 (2012), other things to think about are to:

- Review all action items for years 1 through 4 and determine what has and has not been done. Evaluate how complete each action item is and take the necessary steps to plan for how to go about specifically addressing the action item,
- Take stock of the five years in which this plan will be active and note what worked well and what did not during implementation, and make note of what to do differently,
- Work with the Town Planner to bring the process of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update before the current one expires so that ideally, the plans will overlap and there will be no gap in a valid, state approved plan.