



Map created February 2017
by M. Simpson

Open Space Action Plan Town of Bolton

1 in = 1 miles



Source: MassGIS

Figure
32

Section 9

Seven Year Action Plan

In the following section, the Town presents its specific action items required to meet the goals and objectives for the 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan. It should be noted these actions are based on four principles without which they will not be achieved. The four principles are:

1. Efficient and inclusive town government,
2. integrated land planning,
3. Coordination with local, regional, and state efforts, and
4. Excellent and open communication at all levels.

Although these principles seem basic and easily understood, through the revisions to the Open Space and Recreation Plan representatives have felt that it was important to present them up-front to emphasize their importance. The town boards and citizens must regularly engage in these four activities if the town is to achieve the goals and implement the actions set forth in Bolton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Section 9 uses the following abbreviations for town boards and local groups who are responsible for implementing the applicable action items:

TA - Town Administrator

PLAN – Town Planner

BOS - Board of Selectmen

AC - Advisory Committee

CC - Conservation Commission

BCT - Bolton Conservation Trust

PB - Planning Board

BOH - Board of Health

TC – Bolton Trail Committee

AGC - Agricultural Committee

PR - Parks and Recreation Committee

AH – Affordable Housing

ZBA – Zoning Board of Appeals

SVT - Sudbury Valley Trust

BTC - Bolton Trails Committee

DPW – Department of Public Works

IT - CMGEEKS

(Please view the prior section for full text of each item)

The following table represents the current estimated schedule of the time scale of action items in this Plan. The schedule will be determined largely by available funding and active volunteers. The seven year action plan is an effort to put the recommendations in this plan in priority order for implementation -- with those highest priorities being completed in the early years of Plan Implementation.

Ongoing Action Items - Year 1 through 7

Action	Primary Responsibility	Funding
The Conservation Agent in conjunction with the Conservation Trust and Agricultural committee should continue to evaluate parcels of open land and assist the Town in working proactively to protect the most significant areas. Also in making decisions about priorities as parcels become available to the Town.	CC, BCT, AGC, BOS, PLAN, PR	Volunteer Efforts
The Town should make an annual appropriation of funds to the Bolton Conservation Fund to provide money for costs associated with land acquisitions.	CC, AC	Town Budget
Funding should be given to projects consistent with the OSRP. Projects that leverage funds from other sources should be given additional priority.	CC, AGC, BOS, PLAN, BTC	Volunteer Efforts
Conservation Commission, Bolton Conservation Trust and Sudbury Valley Trustees should continue to work as partners to protect open space and should coordinate each other's strengths.	CC, SVT, BCT, PLAN, PR, AGC	Volunteer Efforts, Town Budget, Private Fundraising
Conservation Commission should work with the Agricultural Commission to monitor the status of Bolton's key agricultural properties and work with farmers to maintain the viability and sustainability of local farms and/or seek funds to assist with farmland preservation.	AGC, CC, BCT, BTC, ZBA	Volunteer Efforts
Continue to expand the Town's pedestrian and alternative ways of transportation including making connections to conservation and recreation areas.	PLAN, DPW, CC, PR, BCT, BTC	Town Budget, Grants, Volunteer Efforts
Review notices of withdrawal or sale of lands enrolled in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B that ensure that such parcels are given due consideration by all	BOS, CC, BCT, PLAN, AGC, PR	Volunteer Efforts

Boards for all municipal needs.		
The Selectmen and Economic Development Committee should be proactive in working with the Conservation Commission, Bolton Conservation Trust, Planning Board and others to identify/secure sites to meet future (long-term) municipal needs.	BOS, EDC, CC, BCT, PLAN	Volunteer Efforts, Town Budget
The Planning Board should continue to work with the Conservation Commission and Bolton Conservation Trust in the encouragement of FOSPRD development where applicable.	PB, CC, BCT	Volunteer Efforts, Town Budget/ Staff
When priority parcels are proposed for development, the planning board should either encourage the land to be developed as FOSPRD or encourage provisions which allow the temporary set aside of park and open space that the town may be interested in purchasing in the future.	PB, CC, PR	Volunteer Efforts, Town Budget/Staff
In contemplating taking and disposition of tax title lands, the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer should consult with the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Agriculture Commission and other municipal boards. Lands that are important for conservation should be transferred to the control of the Conservation Commission; other lands important for other uses should be transferred to the control of the appropriate board.	BOS, CC, PR, AGC, PLAN	Volunteer Efforts, Town Budget/Staff
The Conservation Commission should continue to consider opportunities to lease existing parcels of conservation land for agricultural purposes.	CC, AGC, BCT	Town Budget/Staff
Encourage joint affordable housing-open space projects where appropriate to the site in order to foster support for both of these important municipal needs.	CC, BCT, EDC, PLAN	Volunteer Efforts, Town Budget/Staff, Grants

Short Term Action Items - Years 1 and 2 (2017-2018)

Actions	Primary Responsibility	Funding
The Town should continue to protect land throughout Bolton and create a network of sidewalks and trail linkages in this part of Town.	CC, PLAN, BCT, BTC	Grants, Town Budget/Staff
The Planning Board should consider an overlay zone relative to underserved areas of Bolton specifically, the southeastern quadrant that encourages or requires planned conservation development with a land conservation “master plan” for the open space designed to foster such linkages.	CC, PLAN, BCT, AGC, BTC	Grants, Town Budget/Staff
Use GIS analysis to evaluate Bolton’s municipal properties to determine which areas are most important to preserve; and determine a potential change of use.	PLAN, CC, GIS	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Complete a more detailed evaluation of the feasibility/design of improving access for all individuals at the conservation and recreational areas identified in Section 7. Identify, design and permit one access project. Possibilities include: Town Common, Fyfeshire, Powderhouse extension.	CC, BTC, PR, BTC, PLAN	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts, Grants
Build accessibility into any new recreational facility development. Identify, design and permit one access project.	CC, PR, BCT, PLAN, BTC	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts, Grants
Create targeted walking plans specific to neighborhoods in Bolton and continue to seek an annual appropriation for maintenance of these walking areas.	PB, DPW, CC, BTC	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts, Grants
Continue updating (print/electronic) Bolton Conservation and recreation lands. Include easily accessible walking areas.	CC, GIS, BCT, BTC	Town Budget/Staff
Develop and distribute simple invasive species fact sheets for homeowners on identification and control of the most	CC, BCT	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts

common invasive species.		
The Conservation Commission should update its bylaw regulations and include regulations relative to responsible use of properties with public access.	CC, BOS, TA	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
A “model” conservation restriction and deed should be developed and provided to applicants. The model should incorporate into their regulations provisions that address timing of these conveyances and payment of due diligence costs, boundary marking and maintenance.	PLAN, CC, BCT	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Continue to encourage proposal regarding a town center park with accessible trails.	CC, BOS, PR, BCT, PLAN	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
The Conservation Commission should post and routinely monitor boundaries of Town conservation areas, following up with abutting landowners to address issues with dumping and encroachments as needed. Flyers with information about conservation land should be distributed to abutting residential landowners, as well as realtors and lawn care companies.	CC, BCT, BTC, PR	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Effort
The Conservation Commission should monitor use of conservation areas with a goal of minimizing user conflicts. In particular, the regulations relative to dog walking (on/off leash) may need additional attention and/or enforcement.	CC	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Effort
The Conservation Commission should conduct mapping of invasive species at Town conservation areas and prioritize key areas for management. Also assist other Town land-managing departments (DPW, PR) in addressing invasive species issues.	CC, DPW, PR, BCT, GIS	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Revise and update bylaw to reflect lessons learned with these projects to date.	PLAN	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Continue to work towards coming into	PLAN, DPW,	Town Budget/Staff, Grants

compliance with Complete Streets; incorporate pedestrian and bike facilities as part of roadway projects.	CC	
Plan celebration events around significant Conservation dates.	CC, BCT	Town Budget/Staff
Sponsor at least 2-3 guided walks on conservation land annually to raise awareness in the community.	CC, BCT, BTC	Town Budget/Staff

Mid-Term Actions - Years 3 and 4 (2019-2020)

Actions	Primary Responsibility	Funding
Complete implementation of one accessibility project: plan and design second project. Possibilities include: Fyfeshire, Town Common, Powderhouse extension.	PR, CC	Town Budget/Staff, Grants
Develop a Bicycle Plan for Bolton focused on both understanding shared use and wayfinding improvements measures to enhance convenience for recreational cyclists using regional roadways as well as conservation areas. Consider opportunities to maximize the economic and health benefits of traveling by bicycle.	PLAN, CC, DPW, BTC	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Publish a guide to live with clean water with information on water pollution control, control of common invasive species, native plantings, minimizing lawn/fertilizer, rainwater recharge and other low-impact suggestions.	CC, BOH, PLAN, GIS	Town Budget/Staff, Grants, Volunteer Efforts
Provide credible information to municipal leaders, civic organizations and residents about the property tax implications of various growth scenarios. Enlist the assistance of Bolton Conservation Trust	CC, BCT	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts

for outreach efforts when applicable.		
The Conservation Commission should explore the possibility of wildlife management and/or forest management on select town conservation areas, with a focus on forest health and ecology.	CC, PR	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
The conservation commission should develop a long-term plan for carrying out its land management responsibilities. Additional funding and/or volunteer resources will likely be needed for personnel and equipment. Opportunities to collaborate with the highway, cemetery, and recreation departments as well as Bolton Conservation Trust should be explored.	CC, DPW, PR, BCT, BTC	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Evaluate water-based recreational activities throughout conservation and public properties throughout town.	CC, PR	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer
The Town should track re-enrollment of lands in current use taxation programs and periodically reach out to landowners of high priority parcels to make them aware of land conservation options.	CC, AGC, BOS	Town Budget/Staff
The town should track conservation restrictions and encourage landowners to make these restrictions permanent.	CC, AGC, BOS	Town Budget/Staff
Publicize Right to Farm Community; education efforts throughout departments to help sustain farms.	PLAN, AGC, CC	Town Budget/Staff

Long-Term Actions - Years 5 and 6 (2021-2022)

Actions	Primary Responsibility	Funding
Complete another accessibility project begun in previous year	PR, CC, BCT, BTC, PLAN	Town Budget/Staff, Grants
The Conservation Commission should educate owners of vernal pools and encourage their resource and protection.	CC	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Work with state agencies such as Fish and Game, Natural Heritage and others to review and implement best management strategies along with providing input to consider during future land acquisition.	CC	Town Budget/Staff
Identify and designate trails along major waterways.	CC, OARS, PR, SVT	Volunteer Efforts
The Conservation Commission should evaluate its land holdings to determine whether there is an additional site that would be suitable for other public activities that may become more permanent.	CC, AGC,	Town Budget/Staff
Educate residents on the local impacts of climate changes including the importance of land conservation for the present and future increasing resilience to drought and other climate changes that may occur. Also the identification of key parcels that advance this goal of reducing flood impacts.	CC, PLAN, GIS	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts
Identify areas that are at risk for flooding due to increased frequency and intensity of rain events. Develop a plan for mitigation in these areas.	CC, PLAN, GIS, DPW	Town Budget/Staff
Continue to sponsor guided walks on	CC, BTC, BCT	Town Budget/Staff

conservation land.		

Final Actions and Open Space and Recreation Plan Review - Year 7 (2022)

Action	Primary Responsibility	Funding
Update Open Space and Recreation Plan	CC, BCT, BTC, PLAN, GIS, PR, BOS	Town Budget/Staff, Volunteer Efforts