Open Space, Recreation & Multi-Use Trail Plan
Vegetation & Wildlife

Environmental Challenges

Resources

Farmland Soils

Water
Environmental Justice Access
Health Impacts
1. Conservation Management

Objective: natural systems AND user-friendly

- Maintain Conservation Areas
- Remove Exotic Invasive Plans
- Restore natural systems
- Document existing conditions
- Identify places for fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, ORV, horses, and mountain bikes

Lead: Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Development
# Accessibility (ADA & 504)

## A2. Conservation & Agricultural Areas

### FACILITY INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Facilities</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Surface material</td>
<td>Paved, CS, BW</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dimensions</td>
<td>9” wide</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rails</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Signage (for visually impaired)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Facilities</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Areas (not lots)</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Areas</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Facilities &amp; Boat Docks</td>
<td>Access Routes</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handrails</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Arm rests, bait shelves, &amp; fish cleaning tables</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Handrails</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming &amp; Services</td>
<td>Information available in alternative formats, i.e. for visually impaired</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Process to request interpretive services, (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Conservation Acquisitions

Objective: 25% of City- most ecologically valuable and intact ecological areas

• Broad Brook/Fitzgerald Lake
• Saw Mill Hills/Roberts Hill
• Mineral Hills/Marble Brook
• Southern Tier/Parsons Brook
• Mill River Greenway and Beaver Brook (inc. Bean)
• Connecticut Greenway, Conte Wildlife, Arcadia Wildlife
• Greenways & blueways: water and wildlife corridors

Lead: Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Development
Broad and Beaver Brooks/Fitz. Lake

Connect along waterways
Mineral Hills & Saw Mill Hills

Connect along waterways and ridgetops
W. Farms, Florence & Parsons Brook

Connect along waterways & trailways
Mill River Greenway AND Historic Mill River

- Connect along waterways and historic waterways
Conn. River Greenway and Meadows Cons. Area
Connect along waterways and trailways
• Connect along trailways

State Hospital area
3. Conservation Acquisitions

Objective: Quality of life by connecting to all neighborhoods/urban areas

- Mill River
- Historic Mill River
- Rail trail buffers
- Dense neighborhoods (e.g. Florence/downtown)

Lead: Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Development
Barrett St. Marsh/ New Haven Canal

• Connect along waterways and trailways
4. Agriculture Acquisitions

Objective: Preserve farmland

- Farmland as part of larger conservation areas
- APRs on any other available farmland
  - State APR funding when possible
  - Local APR funding or CR equivalent otherwise
    - Consider focus on sustainability
- Create additional community garden plots

Lead: Conservation Commission and Office of Planning and Development with Agriculture Commission. Recreation Dept. for community gardens
Bean/Allard Farms: from Look Park

Courtesy of Richard Shephard, Aerial Photography
5. Agriculture Operations

Objective: Ensure Farmers for Farmland

• Some agriculture exemptions (wetlands and zoning)
• Enhance farmer viability
• Keep Farming program

Lead: Agriculture Commission and Office of Planning and Development
6. Recreation Acquisition

Objective: Land base for recreation

- 24 acre recreation area at Allard property
- Expand Sheldon Field
- Transfer Ray Ellerbrook Recreation Area to Recreation Commission.
- Small recreation opportunities adjacent to schools and neighborhoods

Lead: Recreation Commission, Recreation Department, Office of Planning and Development
Recreation Assessment

Limited sites for 1-2 fields
Extremely limited for more fields
7. Recreation Development

Objective: Make recreation improvements

- Develop Florence Fields (Allard)
- Rehabilitate and expand Sheldon Field
- Rehabilitate Maine’s Field
- Complete Vets Field improvements
- Consider Ellerbrook Field needs
- Capital improvements other areas

Lead: Recreation Commission and Recreation Department
New Recreation Needs

Improvements of the last decade

• Bocce (Maine’s Field)
• Disk golf (State Hospital)
• Skate board park (Vets Field)
• Tot lots (Florence Heights)
• Informal “Dog Park” (State Hospital)

What are the new needs?
Minimize Environmental Footprint
8. Conn. River Boathouse

Objective: Create mixed use waterfront park

• Develop permanent community boathouse
• High school, Smith, and community rowing
• Canoes and kayaks

Lead: Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Office of Planning and Development, Recreation Department, and Northampton Youth and Community Rowing
9. Recreation Maintenance

Objective: Maintain existing resources
- Develop partnerships with user groups
- City primary responsible agency
- Improve handicap accessibility options

Lead: Recreation Commission and Recreation Department
## A1. Recreation Areas

### FACILITY INVENTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
<th>Agnes Fox Field</th>
<th>Aquarium Field</th>
<th>Community Gardens</th>
<th>Hoyt Park</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Facilities</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>All facilities (tables, benches, grills, trash cans, picnic shelters, etc.) are adjacent to accessible paths &amp; open spaces</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tables &amp; Benches</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grills</td>
<td>Height of cooking surface</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>Near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
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<td>Swimming Facilities</td>
<td>Pools &amp; Beaches</td>
<td>Location from accessible path to pool into water</td>
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<td>Location from accessible parking</td>
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<td>Safety features, i.e. warning for visually impaired</td>
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<td>Handrails</td>
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<td>Shade provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play Areas (not in park)</td>
<td>All Play Equipment</td>
<td>Same experience provided to all</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Access Routes</td>
<td>Located adjacent to accessible paths</td>
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<td>Enough space between equipment for wheelchairs</td>
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<td>Berm courts onto courts</td>
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<td>Spectator seating</td>
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<td>Programming &amp; Services</td>
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<td>Are special programs at your facilities available (i.e. swimming lessons, hikes, etc.)?</td>
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10. Multi-Use Trail Development

Objective: 75% of city easy access to trail

- Connecticut River rail trail to Hatfield
- Manhan Rail Trail spur to Ryan Road area
- Manhan Rail Trail spur to Manhan River
- Norwottuck Rail Trail railroad tunnel
- Norwottuck VA Hospital spur
- Improved access to neighborhoods as multi-use spurs and standalone “short-cuts”

Lead: Office of Planning and Development, with Transportation and Parking and Bicycle and Pedestrian
Multi-Use Trail Development
11. Pavement to Parks
Objective: Reclaim key developed areas

- City Hall Plaza (safety and gathering)
- Historic Mill River at Pleasant St
- Historical wetlands
- Industrial Dr. circle

Lead: Office of Planning and Development, w/ varied partners
12. Heritage Landscapes

Objective: Focus on where history meets the landscape

- Working landscapes
- Historic features

Lead: Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Historical Commission, Agriculture Commission and Office of Planning and Development
13. Improve Public Awareness

Objective: Inform public of resources

- Web based information
- Media coverage
- Annual recreation mailing
- Rail trail signage program
- Improved visibility of access points
- Increase Natural and Historical Interpretation

Lead: Recreation Department and Office of Planning and Development
New Haven and Northampton Canal
Community Participation
Public Forum: 9/13/10
Public Forum: 9/24/10
Public Forum: 10/18/10
BBC discussion: 10/13/10
Historic 10/27/10: endorsed
Cons Com 10/28/10
Planning 10/28/10
Recreation 11/1/10
Agriculture 11/15/10
Transportation 11/16/10
City Council 11/4/10