

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Town of Needham

**All Boards Meeting, March 28, 2017**

Tracy J. Adamski, AICP, Principal Planner

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## Agenda

### ■ Introduction (20 min.)

- What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?
- Public Process
- Proposed goals and objectives
- Review process and schedule



### ■ Discussion & Questions (40 min.)

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## What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?

- **Roadmap for prioritizing open space and recreation projects and expenditures**
- **Pre-Requisite for MA Division of Conservation Services grants**
- **Plan Components**
  - Plan Summary and Introduction
  - Community Setting
  - Environmental Inventory
  - Inventory of Lands
  - Community Goals
  - Analysis of Needs
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Five-Year Action Plan
  - Public Comments
  - ADA Inventory
- **Public Process**



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## 2007 Goals

- **Acquire/Protect Additional Open Space**
- **Enhance and Expand Recreational Facilities**
- **Expand Access, Promote Awareness and Support Responsible Stewardship of Needham's Natural Resources**
- **Protect Water Resources**



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## Progress Since 2007

- Acquired Carol/Brewster Conservation Land
- Incorporated Integrated Pest Management practices
- Installed of Bleachers at Memorial Park
- Established a community garden and dog park at the Nike site
- Developed a Trail Master Plan
- Constructed a trail on the Sudbury Aqueduct
- Conducted Town cleanup days 2x/year
- Maintained Tree City USA status for 21 years
- Constructed stormwater best management practices

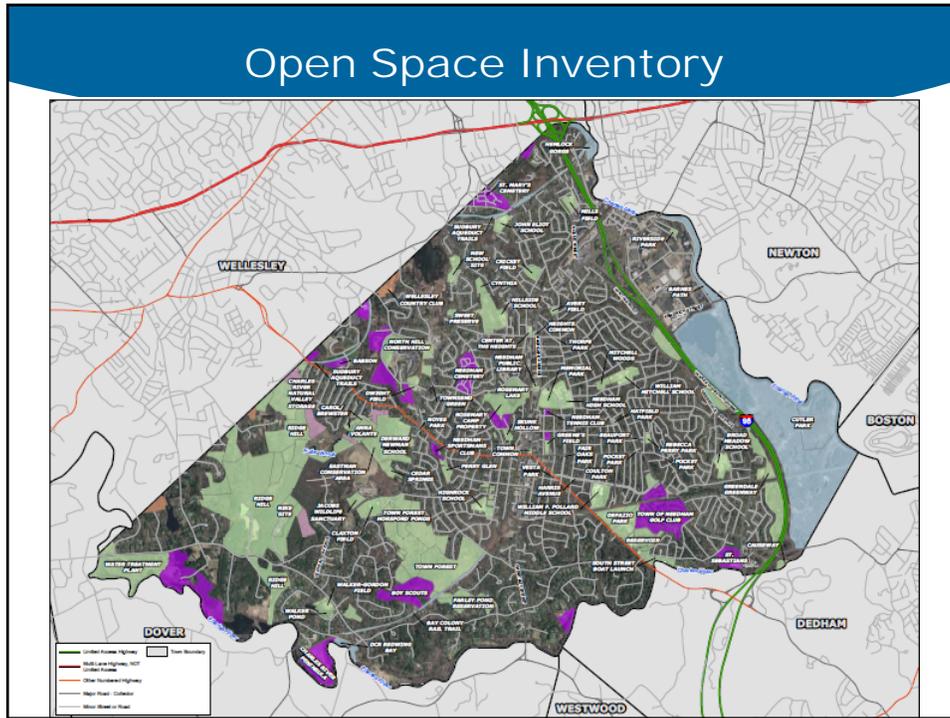
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## What is Open Space?

- Conservation land
- Forested land
- Agricultural land
- Athletic Fields
- Playgrounds
- Small / Pocket parks
- Green buffers along roadways
- Undeveloped land of conservation / recreation interest



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### Open Space Inventory

Trails	Fields / Playgrounds	Conservation	Commons/Pocket Parks/Other
Barnes Path (DCR)	Avery	Anna Volante	Beaufort Park
Bay Colony Rail Trail	Broadmeadow	Carol/Brewster	Coulton Park
Charles River Peninsula (TTOR)	Claxton	Fuller Brook (Army Corps)	Fair Oaks Park
Cutler Park Reservation (DCR)	Cricket	Cedar Springs area	Harris Avenue
Eastman Conservation Area	DeFazio Park	Charles River Natural Valley Storage (Army Corps)	Hatfield Park
Farley Pond Reservation	Dwight	Cynthia Road area	Heights Common
Greendale Greenway	Eliot	Jacobs Wildlife Sanctuary	Noyes Park
Hemlock Gorge Reservation (DCR)	Greene's	North Hill Conservation	Thorpe Park
Mitchell Woods	High Rock	Perry Glen	Town Common
Reservoir	High School	Skunk Hollow	Townsend Green
Ridge Hill Reservation	Hillside	Sweet Preserve	Vesta Park
Rosemary Camp Property	Memorial Park		Center at the Heights
Sudbury Aqueduct (MWRA)	Mills		Red Wing Bay boat launch (DCR)
Town Forest	Mitchell		South Street boat launch
	Newman		Rosemary Recreation Area (proposed)
	Pollard		
	Rebecca Perry		
	Riverside		
	Walker-Gordon		

## Public Process

- **Matt Varrell, PWS, Director of Conservation**
- **Patty Carey, CPRP, Director Park & Recreation Department**
- **Advisory Group:**
  - Approximately 40 volunteers
  - Help develop political interest and support
  - Provide guidance & input on the OSRP
  - Regular meetings
- **Public Survey**
- **Public Forums (2)**

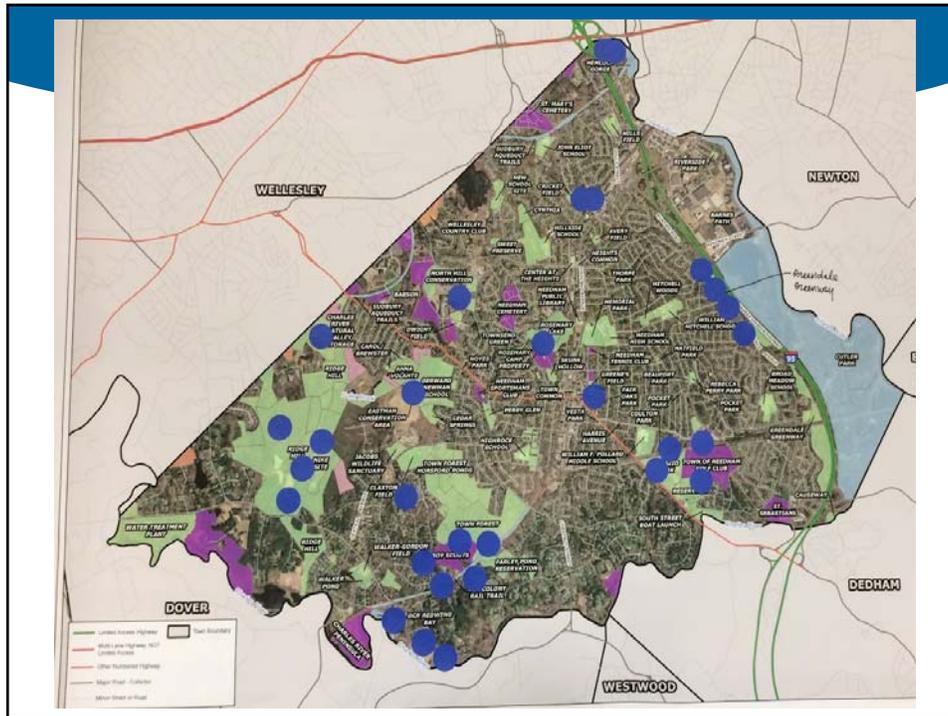


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## November 7<sup>th</sup> Public Forum Key Discussion Points

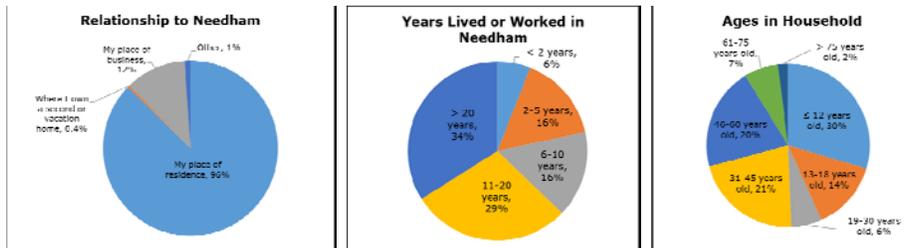
- **Land acquisition**
- **Protect and better use existing open space, wildlife habitat**
- **Maintain what we have**
- **Maintain and improve signage at Trails**
- **Sidewalks & bike lanes are important**
- **Education/Publicity/Marketing are needed**
- **Consider a location for a wheel court/park**
- **Use parking lots for basketball, roller hockey/skating**
- **Protect Water Resources, Charles River**

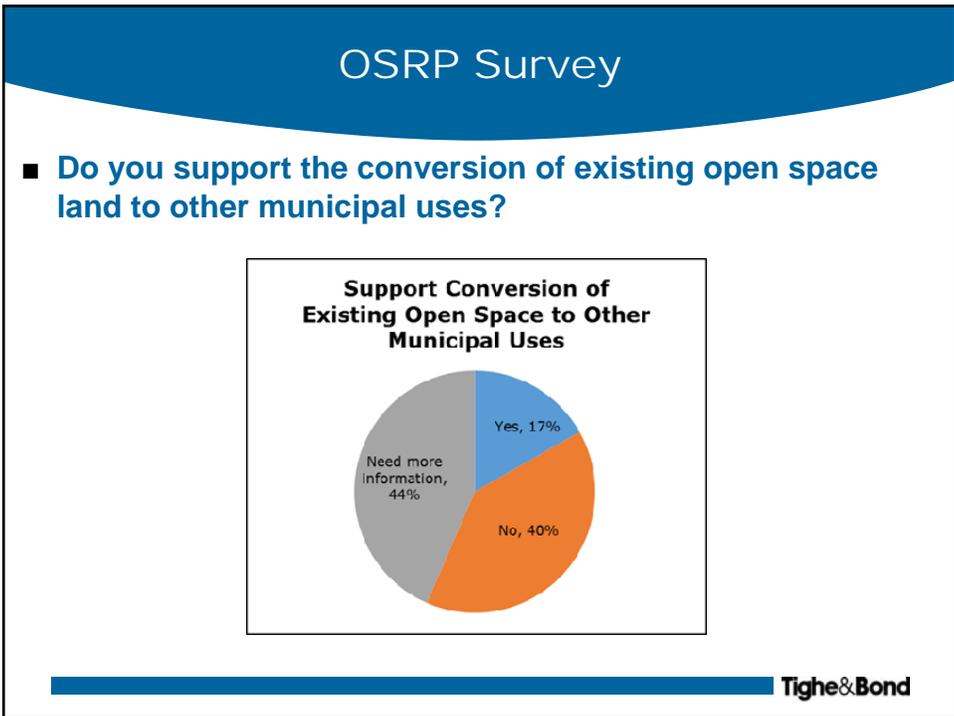
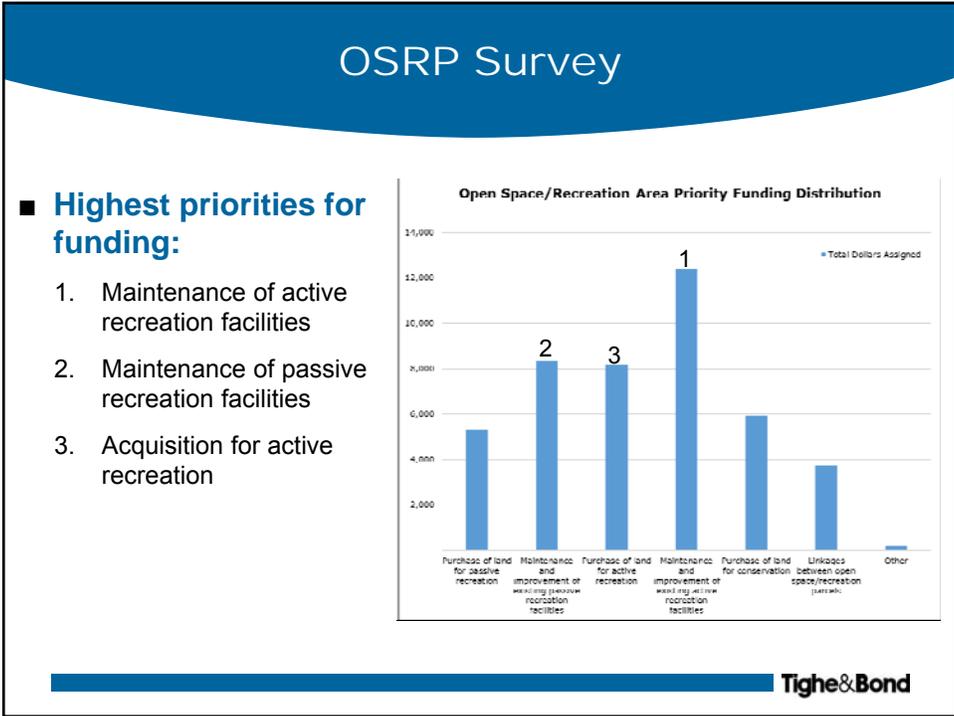
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## OSRP Survey

- Survey conducted November 9 - December 31, 2016
- 533 electronic responses, 1 hard copy response









# Goals & Objectives



## Goal I

### Acquire / Protect Additional Open Space

- **Objectives**
  - I-A. Acquire/Protect Open Space with Multiple Conservation Values
  - I-B. Acquire/Protect Open Space in the **More Densely Developed Residential** Areas of Town
  - I-C. Explore All Approaches to Protecting, **and Providing Linkages and Access to**, Open Space
  - I-D. Preserve Unique Features



## Goal II

### **Maintain, Enhance and Expand Recreational Facilities**

#### ■ Objectives

- II-A. Preserve, **Maintain** and Improve Existing Athletic Fields and Facilities
- II-B. Expand “Active” Recreational Resources to Meet Residents’ Needs
- II-C. Improve Handicap Accessibility

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## Goal III

### **Expand Access, Promote Awareness & Support Responsible Stewardship of Needham’s Natural Resources**

#### ■ Objectives

- III-A. Expand Access To and Along the Charles River
- III-B. Provide **and Maintain** Linkages To and Between Open Space and Recreation Areas and with Points of Interest such as Schools, Town Center, etc.
- III-C. Improve and Expand “Passive” Recreational Opportunities
- III-D. **Market to**, Educate and Inform the Public About Existing Open Space and Natural Resources, **Including Their Value and Threats**

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## Goal III Continued

- III-E. Promote Volunteer Groups to Assist in the Management and Protection of Needham's Open Spaces
- III-F. Understand and Appropriately Manage Large Tracts of Open Space for Environmental Protection and Wildlife Habitat

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## Goal IV

### Protect Water Resources

#### ■ Objectives

- IV-A. Minimize Contamination of Ground and Surface Waters
- IV-B. Educate the Public on Their Impact on the Environment and on Environmentally Sensitive Ways to Manage Their Properties
- IV-C. Discourage Use of Synthetic Fertilizers and Pesticides
- IV-D. Encourage Water Conservation
- IV-E. Promote BMPs under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit
- IV-F. Promote and Incorporate Climate Resiliency into Land Use Design and Decisions

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## Action Plan

**GOAL II: MAINTAIN, PRESERVE, ENHANCE & EXPAND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Objective II-A. Maintain, Preserve and Improve Existing Athletic Fields & Facilities			
Action Item	Funding	Responsible Party	Year (calendar)
Implement Field Study recommendations including investigation of synthetic turf options at Memorial and DeFazio Parks.	Athletic facility improvement fund	Park & Recreation, Selectmen, DPW, Memorial Park Trustees	2018
Review use of pesticides on fields to address hazardous conditions created by weeds and grubs.		IPM Committee	Bi-annually
Develop a five year action plan for all recreational facilities, including an inventory of playgrounds, and prioritize improvements. Items for inclusion include playground upgrades at DeFazio Park and Perry Park, field upgrades at Hillside, and improvements at Cricket Field	Existing capital improvement plan appropriation	Park & Recreation	Ongoing

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