

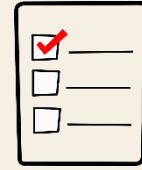


2020 Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

June 2020

Marianne Iarossi, AICP – Open Space Planner
Community & Economic Development
Open Space Advisory Committee

Why do we have an OSRP?
Why does it need to be updated
every 7 years?
Why should I care?



Creates an inventory of active and passive open space and recreational facilities/areas.



Lays out a 7+ year roadmap (the Action Plan) of projects that the Town wishes to accomplish.



The State's Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs requires the OSRP to be updated every 7 years. Natick's 2012 OSRP expired last year.



Most importantly, having an updated OSRP allows Natick to receive State money to use towards improving our playgrounds, protecting new lands, adding more trails, and addressing environmental concerns such as flooding and poor water quality.

Pieces of an OSRP

Section 1: Plan Summary

Section 2: Introduction

Section 3: Community Setting

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Section 6: Community Vision

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

Section 8: Open Space & Recreation Goals and Objectives

Section 9: Action Plan

Section 10: Public Comments

Most of these sections don't need much updating – such as Environmental Inventory & Analysis

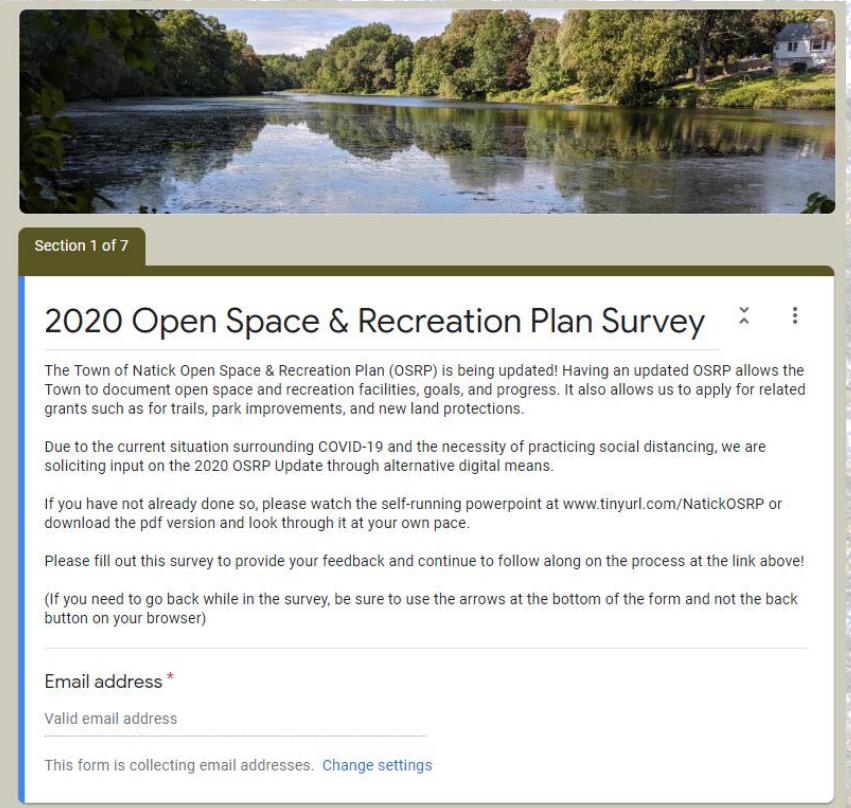
While others need to be updated quite a bit – such as the Action Plan.

The Action Plan is the list of projects the Town wishes to accomplish. The “meat & potatoes” of the OSRP.



What is an OSRP?

- Presentation video online
- Online survey
- Imagery campaign – send in your photos!
- Comments/questions can be emailed
- Earth Week Tent Talk online
- Featured in monthly Sustainability Newsletter
- Memos to BOS, PB, Rec & Parks
- Email blasts to other Town boards/departments
& community stakeholders
- Flyers around town at open spaces/trailheads
- Town website
- FB and other social media
- Next Door App



Section 1 of 7

2020 Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey

The Town of Natick Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) is being updated! Having an updated OSRP allows the Town to document open space and recreation facilities, goals, and progress. It also allows us to apply for related grants such as for trails, park improvements, and new land protections.

Due to the current situation surrounding COVID-19 and the necessity of practicing social distancing, we are soliciting input on the 2020 OSRP Update through alternative digital means.

If you have not already done so, please watch the self-running powerpoint at www.tinyurl.com/NatickOSRP or download the pdf version and look through it at your own pace.

Please fill out this survey to provide your feedback and continue to follow along on the process at the link above!

(If you need to go back while in the survey, be sure to use the arrows at the bottom of the form and not the back button on your browser)

Email address *

Valid email address

This form is collecting email addresses. [Change settings](#)

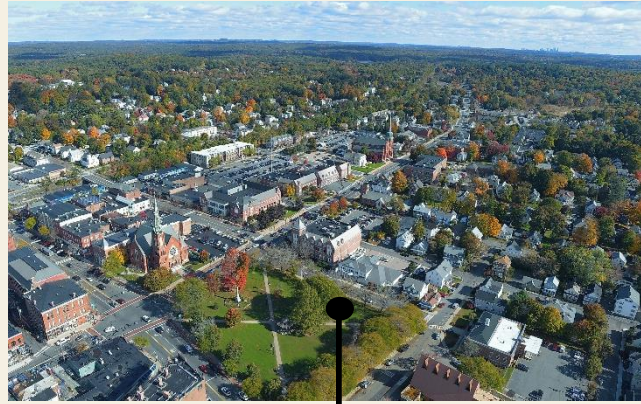


Almost 90% of land area in Natick is within ¼ mile of public open space.

Yet <50% of the Town is within ¼ mile of a formal park or open space entrance.



Stronger connections & access between open spaces & neighborhoods



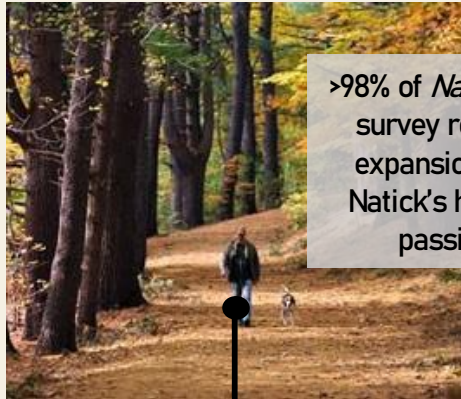
Smart growth & land protection



Better stewardship of what we have



Natural resource protection (trees!)



>98% of *Natick 2030 Master Plan* survey respondents support expansion & maintenance of Natick's high-quality active & passive open spaces!

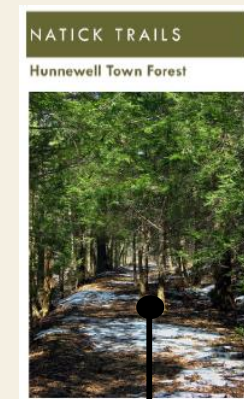
Increased passive recreational areas and programs



Increased active recreational areas and programs



Expanded access to water resources



Improved marketing for existing assets

Goal #1: Protect Natick's open spaces, including waterbodies, woodlands, farms, and parks, that can be enjoyed by future generations

Goal #2: Enhance, steward, and restore existing natural resources, open spaces and recreational facilities

Goal #3: Preserve and protect the town's water supply, wildlife, and other natural resources

Goal #4: Provide a system of walking and bicycle trails that connect our open spaces and provide a way to travel throughout the town

Goal #5: Increase awareness, appreciation, and use of the town's open spaces, trails, natural resources, and recreational opportunities



2020 Natick OSRP - Seven-Year Action Plan (2020-2027)

#	Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Other Agencies	Possible Funding	Target Date
Goal 1: Protect Natick's open spaces, including waterbodies, woodlands, farms, and parks, that can be enjoyed by future generations						
1.A.1	A. Protect privately held open space through acquisition, conservation/agricultural restrictions, easements, and other means	(1) Pursue opportunities for land protection especially those properties identified on the "Open Space Interest List"	ConCom	OSAC	Conservation Fund Mitigation Grants: LAND, PARC, LWCF	Ongoing
1.A.2		(2) Update the "Open Space Interest List"	OSAC	CED	-	2026
1.A.3		(3) Review the Tax Title list for land protection opportunities	CED	OSAC	-	Annually
1.A.4		(4) Keep track of Chapter 61 properties and ensure OSAC and ConCom are notified of "right of first refusal" events	CED	Assessor	-	Annually
1.A.5		(5) Secure open space as part of the permitting process	PB	ZBA, ConCom	-	Ongoing
1.B.1	B. Preserve, protect, and enhance open spaces which are not already protected	(7) Acquire open space in perpetuity held by the Town	OSAC	BOS	-	2022-2023
1.C.1	C. Develop internal revenue streams for open space	(4) Seek payments to the FAR Stabilization Fund and developers	PB	ZBA, ConCom	Mitigation	Ongoing
1.C.2		(2) Adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA)	BOS	All	-	2020-2027
1.D.1	D. Develop and maintain zoning and land use tools to protect open space	(1) Ensure that new zoning bylaws encourage the set aside of open space, trail easements, FAR Stabilization Fund payments, etc.	CED	PB	-	Ongoing
1.D.2		(2) Require submission of a digital conservation/trail easement boundary plan once it is recorded as part of the permitting process	CED	PB, DPW GIS	-	Ongoing
1.D.3		(3) Update Aquifer Protection District Bylaw	CED	PB	-	2021
Goal 2: Enhance, steward, and restore existing natural resources, open spaces and recreational facilities						
2.A.1	A. Improve existing fields and recreation facilities	(1) Make necessary improvements to South Natick parks (Grove Park, Multi-purpose Courts, etc.)	Rec & Parks	-	MVP Grant; PARC Grant; Town budget	2022
	B. Develop town-owned land or secure additional land	(1) Create pocket parks with priority for densest			Mitigation; Grants	

The goals are used to structure the Action Plan. The Action Plan is included in the Draft 2020 OSRP and can be viewed on the website.

Where are we now?

The Draft 2020 Open Space & Recreation Plan is out for review **now through June 30th!**

Letter of review/endorsement requested **by July 1st.**

Submit Draft 2020 OSRP to State for review **in July.**

Final 2020 OSRP distributed **this summer.**

A photograph of a public park on a sunny day. In the center background is a large wooden gazebo with a multi-tiered roof. Several banners are hanging from the gazebo, including one for 'Bernardi AUTO GROUP' and another for 'Natick Recreation Parks Department'. A group of children and adults are gathered on the grass in the foreground. A paved path runs along the right side of the image. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Thank you!

Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NatickOSRP> to learn more & view the Draft Plan.