

## SECTION 9: *REVISED* 5-YEAR ACTION PLAN

### Agency Responsibility Key:

PLUC = Public Land Use Committee

CC = Conservation Commission

RD = Recreation Department

FHC = Franklin Historical Commission

DPCD = Department of Planning and Community Development

DCR = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

DRC = Design Review Commission

DPW = Department of Public Works

SD = School Department

FCRTC = Franklin Citizens Rail Trail Committee

### GOAL 1: Increase public awareness of open space and recreation opportunities in Franklin.

<b>Objective 1.1:</b> Install signage at open space and recreation areas, including but not limited to walk/hiking trails, bike paths and bike lanes that states the name of the area and the area's allowed usage.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
1.1a	Compile list of open space and recreation areas.	DPCD	<b>COMPLETE</b>
1.1b	Identify open space and recreation areas where signage is needed.	PLUC	Q3, FY10
	Determine verbiage, design & materials for each sign (wooden plaque, metal, plastic) and placement for each designated open space & recreation area.	PLUC	Q4, FY10 – Q3, FY11
	Approve signs	DRC	Q3, FY11
	Create signs- Funding: General Fund/ Gift Account	DPCD; Contract private sign-maker make signs	Q4, FY11 - Q2, FY12
	Install signs- Funding: General Fund/Gift Account	DPW, PLUC, DPCD, Contractor.	Q4, FY11 - Q3, FY12
<b>Objective 1.2:</b> Create a map/guide of all open space, parks, conservation land, and recreation areas in town.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
1.2a	Use list of open space and recreation areas compiled under objective 1.1a to create a map/guide of all open space and recreation areas in Town.	DPCD	Q1-Q2, FY11
	Create topographic map of each area	High school GPS class/ topographic map group; GIS Coordinator	Q3, FY11
	Write brief descriptions of each area.	PLUC; Use existing Tougas guide.	Q4, FY11
	Create booklet.	PLUC; High School Graphics Art Dept.	Q1-Q3, FY12
	Produce copies of booklet- Funding: Conservation.	PLUC	Q4, FY12
	Put on town web-site, accessible as downloadable PDF	DPCD	Q4, FY12
	Distribute booklets at key locations, such as Town Hall, Recreation Department Office, Senior Center, & Library	DPCD	Q1, FY13
1.2b	Create a map of SNETT Trail and State Forest walking trails to include YMCA, MBTA Station and SNETT parking Lot.	DPCD, GIS Coordinator	Q1, FY11

<b>Objective 1.3:</b> Create educational and/or outdoor classrooms to educate citizens about the environment and natural habitats in Franklin.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
1.3a	Compile list of open space habitats, and classifying the areas (i.e. wetlands, elm bank, etc.) that would provide good educational opportunities.	PLUC in conjunction with CC	Q3, FY12
1.3b	Find a knowledgeable instructor to develop an overview description summary of each type of habitat example. Funding: Conservation Fund.	Science instructor in Franklin Public Schools, Franklin resident, consultant	Q4, FY12 - Q2, FY13
1.3c	Set up Wilderness class through Lifelong Learning, Recreation Department.	DPCD, SD, RD	Q4, FY12 - Q2, FY13
1.3d	Apply for grant money to develop environmental/natural habitat educational program.	DPCD, SD	FY12/ FY13
1.3e	Develop environmental/natural habitat educational program for citizens; include community garden, locally grown food.	SD, RD	FY13
1.3f	Schedule educational programs – monthly, quarterly.	SD, RD	Q4, FY13 - ongoing

<b>Objective 1.4:</b> Establish Pearce Murphy Education Walks in environmentally sensitive areas.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
1.4a	Establish a fund through the Conservation Commission to support the financing of educational walks in environmentally sensitive areas throughout Franklin.	CC	Q1, FY11
1.4b	Find knowledgeable experts to help develop and execute the program.	CC	Q1, FY11 ongoing
1.4c	Solicit outdoor educational instructors to lead walks.	CC	Q1, FY11 ongoing

## **GOAL 2: Preserve, protect and enhance existing Town open space resources.**

<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Provide access to open space and conservation areas throughout town for residents of all ages and levels of ability.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
2.1a	Assess ADA compliance of conservation areas and other Town owned open space parcels as part of the OSRP development process.	ADA Commission, PLUC, DPCD	<b>COMPLETE</b>
2.1b	Prioritize list of non-compliant land.	PLUC, CC	<b>COMPLETE</b>
2.1c	Plan and design access improvements at priority properties.	PLUC	<b>COMPLETE</b>
	Construct handicap accessibility at conservation and open space areas that are not ADA compliant. Funding: Conservation Fund		

<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Create a plan for property acquisition of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B properties.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
2.2a	Catalog, evaluate, and prioritize Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands in order of priority for acquisition by Town for preservation	PLUC, DPCD	Q1/-Q2, FY11
2.2b	Contact and work with relevant organizations regarding acquisition of available Chapter 61 properties.	PLUC, DPCD	Q3, FY11 - Ongoing
2.2c	Contact owners of Chapter 61, 61A and 61B properties to ascertain future plans for properties.	PLUC, DPCD	Q4, FY11 - Q4, FY12
2.2d	Purchase priority Chapter 61, 61A and 61B properties	PLUC, DPCD, Metacomet Land Trust, CC	As opportunities arise
2.2e	Continue to fund the Open Space Fund to ensure money is available for the purchase of open space properties.	Town Council	On going

<b>Objective 2.3:</b> Identify and prioritize unprotected open space properties and work with property owners to protect these important resources from overdevelopment.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
2.3a	Create a list of significant land parcels that may be lost as open space if not acquired by Town or protected in other ways.	PLUC, DPCD	Q2, FY12
2.3b	Develop procedures, guidelines and ranking criteria to enable the Town to efficiently and effectively assess properties under private ownership that may provide for future acquisition for recreation opportunities and/or protection of open space areas.	PLUC, DPCD	Q2-Q4, FY12
2.3c	Prioritize properties under private ownership for future acquisition based on criteria established in action 2.3b.	PLUC, DPCD	Q1-Q2, FY13
2.3d	Contact owners of significant parcels to ascertain future use of parcels.	PLUC, DPCD	Q2-Q4, FY13
2.3e	Transfer Town owned tax title and unresolved parcels to Conservation Commission for designation as conservation lands	Town Administration, DPCD, CC	Q1, FY11
2.3f	Create materials highlighting conservation and preservation options for owners of private properties of significant open space and recreation interest in Town.	PLUC, DPCD	Q1, FY13

**GOAL 3: Maximize recreational opportunities to meet the community's evolving needs by maintaining current inventory of facilities and programs and by providing new facilities and programs.**

<b>Objective 3.1:</b> Maintain and improve current recreation areas and provide new recreation opportunities for residents of all ages and levels of ability.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
3.1a	Look for opportunities to increase ease of access for recreation areas for persons with disabilities.	ADA Commission, PLUC	Q4, FY11 - Q3, FY12
3.1b	Prioritize list of non-compliant recreation areas.	ADA Commission, PLUC, RD	<b>COMPLETE</b>
3.1c	Increase handicap accessibility at recreation areas that are currently not handicap accessible or ADA compliant	ADA Commission, PLUC, RD	<b>COMPLETE</b>
3.1d	Provide recycling receptacles at all recreation areas to encourage green initiatives.	DPW, RD	FY11
3.1e	Install solar powered trashcans and recycling bins at heavily used recreation sites.	DPW, RD	FY12

<b>Objective 3.2:</b> Increase usage of existing recreational space and modify existing recreational space as the needs of the Town require and evolve.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
3.2a	Establish Dog Park	RD, DPW	Q4, FY10 – Q4, FY11
3.2b	Create shaded areas at existing playgrounds	RD, DPW, PLUC	Q1-Q4, FY11
3.2c	Add flower gardens, fountains, sitting and picnic areas at existing playgrounds	RD, DPW	FY10 - FY12
3.2d	Establish a community or cooperative garden	PLUC, School Department Senior Center Committee	Q1, FY11 – Q3, FY12
3.2e	Create passive recreation area out of a portion of the Town-owned Pond Street Property (former sewer beds), including a portion of its wooded area along Pond Street.	DPCD, CC, DPW	Q3, FY10 - Q2, FY11
3.2f	Construct bathroom and concession facilities at Beaver Pond Recreation Area.	Conceptual Design - DPW, RD	<b>COMPLETE</b>
		Construction Improvements – DPW, RD	Q2, FY10 - Q3, FY11

<b>Objective 3.3:</b> Increase access to Franklin's waterways for recreation purposes.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
3.3a	Post signage along roads where waterways can be accessed.	DRC, DPW, PLUC	Q4, FY11 - Q2, FY12
3.3b	Identify appropriate areas for canoe and boat launches at Franklin waterways.	RD, CC, DPW	FY11 - FY12
	Develop public access to water at Pond Street Location.		
3.3c	Develop canoe and boat launches in waterways as identified in action 3.3b.	DPW	FY13 - FY15

<b>Objective 3.4:</b> Increase connectivity to and between Franklin's recreation areas, conservation areas, open space properties and the Town's School's and community centers.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
3.4a	Identify major roadways, recreation and conservation areas where bike lanes or paths would be appropriate.	DPCD, RD	Q3, FY11
3.4b	Construct bike lanes on major roadways and bike paths on recreation and conservation areas.	DPCD, DPW	FY12 - FY14
3.4c	Host fundraising events at recreation areas to provide area residents a chance to socialize and improve the recreation area closest to their neighborhood.	PLUC, RD	FY11 - FY13
3.4d	Prioritize lands that have been determined as suitable for future use as recreation land.	PLUC, DPCD, CC	Q4, FY11 - Q4, FY12
3.4e	Acquire land adjacent to existing recreation areas that may be suitable for future recreational use.	Town Council, PLUC, DPCD, RD	FY12-FY15

<b>Objective 3.5:</b> Improve and increase access to the SNETT (Southern New England Trunkline Trail), Franklin State Forest trails, and related recreational and alternative transportation resources.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
3.5a	Obtain support for the SNETT Trail from Town residents, agencies and officials, community organizations, State and Federal agencies, and others to assure incremental development of the SNETT and related recreational resources.	FCRTC	Ongoing
3.5b	Obtain resources including public and private funding, materials, and volunteer hours required to plan, design and engineer, and construct the SNETT, Franklin State Forest trails, and related recreational and alternative transportation resources.	FCRTC	Ongoing
3.5c	Develop a phased approach to plan, design and engineer, and construct the SNETT, Franklin State Forest trails, and related recreational and alternative transportation resources.	FCRTC, DCR	Q3, FY10 – Q1, FY11
3.5d	Prepare preliminary cross section of trail, and other presentation materials for marketing and information purposes.	FCRTC	Q3, FY10 – Q1 FY11
3.5e	Obtain necessary local, state, and federal permits.	DCR	Q2, FY11
3.5f	Restrict use of motorbikes on SNETT and adjacent trails.	DCR	Q3-Q4, FY10
3.5g	Develop plans for Phase I improvements.	FCRTC, DCR	Q3, FY10 – Q2 FY11
3.5h	Construct a parking lot near Grove Street entrance to SNETT.	DPW	COMPLETE
3.5i	Conduct a topographic survey of the SNETT right of way.	FCRTC, DCR	Q2-Q3, FY11
3.5j	Design and install safety and informational signage and additional safety elements at crossing on Grove Street near entrance to SNETT.	DPW	Q4, FY10 – Q2, FY11

<b>Objective 3.5: CONTINUED</b> Improve and increase access to the SNETT (Southern New England Trunkline Trail), Franklin State Forest trails, and related recreational and alternative transportation resources.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
3.5k	Implement Phase I improvements, including creating a smooth gravel/stone dust path within SNETT right of way and on adjacent Franklin State Forest trails, and install bollards and or gates, and signage.	DCR, FCRTC	Q4, FY10 – Q4, FY11
3.5l	Identify points of historical interest along SNETT and adjacent trails (e.g., Wadsworth Farm, Wadsworth diaries), and create and install signage and interpretive markers and displays to highlight.	FCRTC, FHC	Q4, FY10 – Q4, FY11
3.5m	Procure services of an engineering firm to develop plans and engineering specifications for Phase II improvements.	DCR, DPCD, DPW, FCRTC	Q4, FY11
3.5n	Plan and implement on-road and off-road bike route(s) to connect SNETT with the Upper Charles Rail Trail and other regional and local trails.	FCRTC, CC, DPW, PD, DPCD	Q4, FY11 – Q4, FY13
3.5o	Develop preliminary plans for the acquisition and use of adjacent properties in order to expand the regional trail network. These properties include, but are not limited to the CSXT property between the Downtown area and the entrance to the SNETT at Grove Street, and the CSXT property between Union Street and Grove Street.	FCRTC, DPCD	FY12 – FY13
3.5p	Conduct a geotechnical analysis and collect geotechnical data of the SNETT right of way.	Consulting Contractor, DCR, DPCD, FCRTC	Q2, FY12
3.5q	Prepare detailed construction plans and engineering specifications for the Phase II improvements, including but not limited to the following: (a) drainage improvements; (b) rails and fencing; (c) erosion control; (d) bollards; (e) seating; (f) signage; (g) historical placards; (h) Prospect Street culvert; (i) utility improvements; (j) grading; (k) bituminous concrete paved surface; (l) pavement markings; (m) ADA compliance.	Consulting Contractor, DCR, DPCD, DPW, FCRTC	Q2, FY12– Q4, FY13
3.5r	Procure services of contractor to construct phase II improvements.	DCR, DPW	Q1, FY14
3.5s	Construct Phase II improvements.	Construction Contractor, DCR, DPW	Q2, FY14 – Q2, FY16

**GOAL 4: *Protect natural, historical, and cultural resources and maintain Franklin's New England character.***

<b>Objective 4.1:</b> Preserve natural resources for the protection of priority habitats.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
4.1a	Review Natural Heritage Resource Atlas for estimated rare habitat for wildlife and plant species.	CC	Q3, FY10
4.1b	Request information from Division of Wildlife and Fisheries regarding priority habitats in Franklin.	CC	Q4, FY10
4.1c	Plan list of actions needed to protect priority/unique habitat areas in Franklin.	CC	Q1 FY11 - Q1, FY12
	Implement actions needed to protect priority/unique habitat, including installing barriers/fences if warranted.	CC	Q1 - Q3, FY12
4.1d	Develop interpretive signage featuring unique or endangered flora and fauna, and priority habitats.	CC	Q4 FY12 - Q2, FY13
	Install interpretive signage featuring unique or endangered flora and fauna, and priority habitats.	CC, DPW	Q3 - Q4, FY13
4.1e	Develop signs promoting the protection of lakes, ponds and other waterways at bridges, trails and recreation areas.	PLUC; DPCD, DPW	Q4 FY13 - Q4, FY14
	Install signs promoting the protection of lakes, ponds and other waterways at bridges, trails and recreation areas.	DPW	FY15

<b>Objective 4.2:</b> Seek Adoption of Community Preservation Act.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
4.2a	Educate community regarding Community Preservation Act (CPA) via public meetings, press releases, CPA related fact sheets, public access station, and the Town's website.	PLUC	Q3 FY14 - Q1, FY15
4.2b	Work to have CPA on Town ballot.	PLUC	Q1, FY15

<b>Objective 4.3:</b> Implement growth management techniques that will help to preserve the Town's natural, historic and cultural resources.			
<b>ACTIONS</b>		<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>SCHEDULE</b>
4.3a	Incorporate the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy and Sustainable Development Principles as part of Franklin's Best Development Practices.	DPCD, all Town entities	FY11
4.3b	Update zoning regulations to incorporate growth management techniques into the town bylaws.	DPCD	FY12
4.3c	Promote mixed-use development in commercial and Downtown areas to ensure best use of properties in these areas.	DPCD	Ongoing