NORTHBRIDGE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

GOALS and OBJECTIVES	Item Number	ACTION PLAN ITEMS	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIME LINE					FUNDING
				FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	
MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CHARACTER OF NORTHBRIDGE	1	Invest in a GIS system	Selectmen		X				Grants/ Appropriation
	2	Encourage development in village centers	Planning Board	X					-
	3	Preserve historic districts, sites and structures	Historic Com.	X	X	X	X	X	-
	4	Continue partnership with the BRVNHC	Selectmen	X	X	X	X	X	-
	5	Maintain and add public shade trees and street trees	DPW	X	X	X	X	X	DPW budget
STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	6	Adopt the Community Preservation Act	Town Meeting		X				-
	7	Save recovered "Ch. 61 A&B" taxes to fund purchase of open space	Town Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	-
PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE TOWN'S NATURAL RESOURCES	8	Protect environmentally sensitive areas through acquisition or conservation restrictions	Open Space Comm.	X	X	X	X	X	Grants / Appropriation
	9	Hire a Conservation Agent to assist Conservation Com. in enforcing its regulations	Conservation Com.	X	X	X	X	X	Appropriation
	10	Identify waterways with signs placed along the roadways	Conser. Com.		X				Grants
PRESERVE WILDLIFE CORRIDORS	11	Sponsor annual biodiversity day	Open Space Com.	X	X	X	X	X	Volunteers
PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND EXPAND PROTECTED OPEN SPACE IN TOWN	12	Set higher standards governing the quantity and configuration of open space in flexible	Planning Board		X				-
	13	Encourage participation in the farmland and forest land tax reduction programs (MGL Ch. 61A and 61B)	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	-
	14	Acquire conservation easements from property owners of prime open space	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	Grants/ Appropriation
	15	Develop an education program to inform land owners about land preservation techniques	Open Space Committee	X					-
	16	Form an interconnected network of conservation lands in the community	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	Grants/ Appropriation
	17	Create a booklet describing all open space and recreational facilities	Open Space Committee		X				Grants/ Volunteers
PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT VIEWS	18	Preserve view sheds from Look Out Rock and Shining Rock & other significant locations	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	-
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION	19	Improve existing canoe access sites, create new ones and connect access sites to each other	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	Grants/ Appropriation
	20	Identify locations for linking Northbridge open space areas and trails to a regional system of trails and conservation areas	Open Space Committee	X					-
	21	Re-create footbridge crossing Mumford River near Middle School on Linwood Avenue	Open Space Com. + Con. Com.		X				Grants
	22	Develop town wide trail system that will connect to abutting towns	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	Grants
	23	Improve access to water bodies for passive recreation	Open Space	X	X	X	X	X	Grants
	24	Provide a uniform signage system at each recreation and open space facility	Recreation Com. & Con.Com.		X				Grants
	25	Create a guidebook and map of open space areas	Open Space			X			Grants
	26	Inventory town sidewalks, establish a sidewalk maintenance plan	DPW	X					Grants/ Appropriation
	27	Provide funding to extend sidewalks	Town Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	Grants/Appro.
	28	Support the Blackstone Valley Bikeway	All Boards	X	X	X	X	X	-
	29	Create a waterfront park on Fletcher Street where the DPW yard is currently located	Town Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	Grants
	30	Find a suitable use for Electric Pond	Conser. Com.		X	X			-
	31	Create a boardwalk through Mumford Riverwalk wetland	Open Space Com		X				Grants
ENHANCE EXISITING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND CREATE NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	32	Prioritize capitol improvements needed at recreation facilities	DPW + Capitol Planning Com.	X	X	X	X	X	-
	33	Include park and recreation facilities maintenance in DPW budget	Finance Committee	X	X	X	X	X	Appropriation
	34	Do an analysis of recreational needs in underserved areas	Recreation Com.	X	X	X	X	X	-
	35	Evaluate existing playing fields and courts and determine the number needed to meet the community's needs.	Recreation Commission	X	X				-
	36	Discontinue the use of Plummer Park as playing fields due to inadequate space and lack of parking	Selectmen				X		-
	37	Create a new playing fields and play ground to replace Plummer Park	Town Meeting					X	Grants/ Appropriation
	38	Advocate for an ice skating rink for area residents	Various boards					X	-
	39	Create seasonal ice skating facility for children	Recreation Com.		X	X	X	X	Volunteers
	40	Create an outdoor swimming facility in Rockdale	Selectmen				X		Grants
	41	Plan a skate park for young people	Recreation Com.					X	Grants
	42	Reclaim "Northbridge Center Field" on Fowler Rd. (Access has been incorporated into abutters lawn)	Selectmen	X					-
DISTRIBUTE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES EQUITABLY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY	43	Create a tot lot in the Rockdale section	Recreation Com.				X		Grants/ Appro.
	44	Require that developers include recreational facilities in large developments	Planning Board	X	X	X	X	X	Developers
	45	Develop mini-parks in high density neighborhoods	Open Space Com & Plan. Board		X	X	X		Grants
PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO USE AND ENJOY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	46	Bring all conservation areas, recreational facilities and programs into compliance with ADA	Recreation	X	X	X	X	X	Grants/ Appropriation
	47	Provide handicap access to waterways and facilities that allow those with disabilities to enjoy boating and fishing	Open Space Committee	X	X	X	X	X	Grants/Appro.
	48	Provide parking facilities at conservation sites and adequate access to the site facilities for all visitors	Conser. Com. & Open Space	X	X	X	X	X	Developers/ Appro.

NORTHBRIDGE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

***GOAL 1*: MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE CHARACTER OF NORTHBRIDGE BY MANAGING FUTURE GROWTH**	
OBJECTIVES	
1-a	Invest in a GIS system to enable the town planner, town assessor and other local authorities to access visual information on existing land use patterns and evaluate proposed changes
1-b	Update existing zoning bylaws to encourage development close to village centers and discourage sprawl
1-c	Preserve historically significant sites
1-d	Support the John Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor
***GOAL 2*: STRENGTHEN THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**	
OBJECTIVES	
2-a	Adopt the Community Preservation Act
***GOAL 3*: PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE TOWN'S NATURAL RESOURCES**	
OBJECTIVES	
3-a	Protect land in environmentally sensitive areas through acquisition or conservation restrictions
3-b	Enforce regulations controlling uses and activities in wetlands, floodplains and aquifer protection zones
3-c	Increase the public's awareness of the town's surface water resources such as rivers, ponds, streams and brooks using signage along the roadways designating the location of these features
***GOAL 4*: PRESERVE WILDLIFE HABITATS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**	
OBJECTIVES	
4-a	Sponsor an annual biodiversity day
***GOAL 5*: PRESERVE, PROTECT AND EXPAND THE PROTECTED OPEN SPACE IN THE TOWN**	
OBJECTIVES	
5-a	Preserve significant parcels of agricultural land as agricultural land.
5-b	Create an interconnected network of protected open space weaving through the community
5-c	Create a brochure providing information about each of the conservation and recreation facilities in the town.
***GOAL 6*: PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT VIEWS**	
***GOAL 7*: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PASSIVE RECREATION**	
OBJECTIVES	
7-a	Develop a town-wide trail system that connects with trail systems in abutting communities
7-b	Make water bodies more accessible to the public for swimming, boating, fishing and skating
7-c	Improve access to open space areas by providing small parking areas adjacent to entrances to open space areas
7-d	Mark existing open space areas with signage stating that the name of the site, a description of the activities available on the site, the managing authority and the site rules
7-e	Create a guide book and map of all of the open space areas within the town
7-f	Improve and expand the town's sidewalk system
7-g	Support the completion of the Blackstone Valley Bikeway
***GOAL 8*: ENHANCE EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND CREATE NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**	
OBJECTIVES	
8-a	Develop strategies to manage open space and recreational facilities
8-b	Establish a prioritized list of the capitol improvements needed at existing recreation facilities and begin to work through the list
8-c	Include park and recreation facilities maintenance and improvements in the annual budget of the DPW
8-d	Create new types of recreational facilities such as a skating rink , skate board park or other
***GOAL 9*: DISTRIBUTE RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES EQUITABLY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY**	
OBJECTIVES	
9-a	Create new recreation facilities in underserved areas
9-a	Require redevelopers of large subdivisions include recreation facilities in the subdivisions
9-b	Develop mini-parks in high density neighborhoods
***GOAL 10*: PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WITH DISABILITIES TO USE AND ENJOY OPEN SPACE AREAS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**	
OBJECTIVES	
10-a	Bring all recreational and athletic facilities in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA)
10-b	Provide suitable parking areas and ADA compliant access to open space areas and waterways

Northbridge, Massachusetts

2002 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN

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