

# Section 9: Five-Year Action Plan Extended Two Years

Preserving Hubbardston's rural character and improvement and enhancement of the town's open space and recreation opportunities requires a grassroots, community-based approach. An ambitious action plan for attaining the goals and objectives noted in Section 8 are presented below.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	ACTION ITEMS	SCHEDULE/ACTION GROUP
<b>Land Protection</b>		
Protect water quality Protect wildlife habitat Protect agricultural resources Enhance quality of life Protect priority parcels	1. Review and revise the Land Protection Priority map as needed, based upon changes in ownership, use, status, character, etc.	Year 1-7/OS
	2. Continue to make connections and build relationships with landowners to encourage protection of priority acreage through conservation restrictions and/or environmentally-sensitive development. <i>Malone Road Conservation Area purchased by town in 2007.</i>	Year 1/Ongoing/OS
	3. Continue connections and relationships with land conservation organizations, land trusts, etc. Attend pertinent regional meetings	Ongoing/OS
	4. Encourage town to develop protective protocol for lands being removed from Chapter 61 status	Year 1 (In process)/SB
	5. Continue applications for relevant grants and funding as needed	Year 1/Ongoing as needed/ OS
	6. Advocate for adoption of town bylaws that encourage environmentally friendly "green" development	Ongoing/OS, PB
<b>Town-Wide Improvements</b>		
Increase and improve recreation opportunities Protect water quality Support balanced "green" development Enhance open space protection	1. Work with Board of Park Commissioners regarding specific developed recreation sites, such as possible relocation of tennis and basketball courts, ice-skating rink, opportunities for the disabled, etc.	Year 3-7/OS, BPC
	2. Participate in Community Preservation Act fund allocation decisions. Town has approved CPA projects in each category	Year 1, Year 4/Ongoing/OS, CPC
	4. Work with Planning Board to promote green and low-impact development	Ongoing/OS, PB
	5. Offer assistance in the event of town Master Plan update.	As needed/OS, SB
	<b>Community Involvement</b>	
Increase community involvement Educate residents	1. Sponsor and organize special events and field trips to expose residents to open space and recreational opportunities.	Year 1-7/OS, RC
	2. Develop a "green team" of volunteers for hands-on projects, such as landscape maintenance, trash clean-up, trail monitoring, etc. Continue National Trails Day trail maintenance. Publicize in newspapers, town report newsletters etc	Year 1-7 /OS
	3. Hold public meetings and hearings regarding major land use goals and decisions, e.g. wood harvesting; land clearing; erection of fencing, gates, or other structures; wildlife sanctuary status; allowed uses and designations 2008/9. Mt. Jefferson Conservation Area 2008 timber harvest public meetings complete. Others to be held on as needed basis.	Year 1 and as needed/OS, CC
	4. Consider trailhead user registry	Year 5/OS

## Trail and Open Space Land Improvement

Enhance recreation opportunities on existing open space	1. Continue assessing and mapping existing and historic cart paths and trails within the town; produce a town-wide recreation map	Year 1-7/OS, HC
Increase community involvement	2. Repair, enhance, and maintain existing trails through volunteer and cooperative efforts. Recreational Trails Grant application in process	Year 1-7/OS
Protect water quality	3. Explore possibility of including current and/or future trail and recreation maps with annual town report	Year 5/OS, SB
Promote historically important sites	4. Continue partnership with Montachusett Regional Planning commission and abutting towns with regard to region-wide trail system development	Year 1-7/OS
	5. Explore funding opportunities for improvement of existing trails (culverts, bridges, etc.). Recreational Trails Grant in process	Year 4-7/OS
	6. Plan for and facilitate trail connections wherever practically possible	Year 1-7/OS
	7. Encourage and assist Historical Commission efforts to develop a mill pond/mill site interpretive trail within existing trail network; promote trail access to other significant historical sites	Year 4-7/OS, HC, CPC

## Resource Protection and Enhancement

Protect water quality	1. Locate and engage volunteers to take part in statewide environmental monitoring programs, e.g. Weed Watcher, Adopt-A-Stream	Year 6-7/OS, CC
Protect wildlife habitat	2. Encourage and support the formation of a town lake association which would address local pond issues and concerns	Year 6-7/OS, CC
Enhance existing open space	3. Support and cooperate with efforts to create a town trash "task force" or committee, for the purpose of addressing illegal dumping and littering and town management of same	Year 6-7 /OS, SB
	4. Initiate a project to educate residents about invasive plant species; make efforts to eradicate or control undesirable invasive species on public and open space properties	Year 6-7/OS, GC
	5. Explore open space land plantings of Nonesuch apple trees and/or other fruit trees and plants beneficial to wildlife	Year 5-7/OS, GC
	6. Encourage conservation and reclamation efforts at the Pitcherville gravel pits with regard to aquifer and wildlife habitat protection.	Ongoing/OS, CC, SB

## Mt. Jefferson and Malone Road Conservation Areas Stewardship

Enhance and improve existing open space	1. Improve parking area with regard to location and drainage	Year 4-7/ OS, CC
Educate residents	2. Improve picnic area through clearing/mulching	Year 4/ OS, CC
	3. Explore development of sledding area on hillside	Year 5-7/ OS, CC
	4. Acquire funding and implement landscape plan for south boundary of west field	Year 5-7/ OS
	5. Address illegal ORV/ATV use	Year 4/ OS, PD
	6. Address trash dumping and littering	Ongoing/ OS, HD, BH, SB
	7. Develop self-guided nature trail	Year 5-7/ OS
	8. Involve and engage community in resource management (forests and fields) decisions and land use planning. Accomplished with Mt. Jefferson 2008 timber harvest. to be continued on as as needed basis.	Year 2 and ongoing / OS, CC
	9. Explore use of the property as a forestry management	Year 5-7/ OS

- education site for schools, landowners, community
- 10. Involve community in property stewardship and maintenance Year 1-7/ OS
  - 11. Build new trailhead sign Year 4/ OS
  - 12. Maintain and improve existing signs Ongoing/ OS, SF
  - 13. Develop H/C accessible trails suitable for use with Town's all-terrain wheelchair. Publicize availability Year 4
- Action items 1,2,5,11,12,13 in process pending Recreational Trails Grant application*

**Other**

- Maintain fiscal responsibility 1. Explore potential fund-raising methods for the purpose of raising money for small projects, materials purchases, printing and postage costs, etc. Year 4-7/OS
- Continue relationship with state forest 2. Develop a liaison relationship with local state forest administration and advocate for town open space needs relating to state forest funding and protection issues; consider political advocacy efforts regarding wood harvest funding allocations Year 5-7/OS,SF
- Communicate with legislators 3. Initiate regular informational meetings to include local legislative representatives, open space committees from other towns, and/or regional land trust representatives, for the purpose of discussing mutual concerns Year 5-7/OS
- 4. Explore possible development of a "green" cemetery Year 5-7/OS, Cem, SB

OS=Open Space Committee  
 SB=Board of Selectmen  
 PB=Planning Board  
 PD=Police Department  
 Cem= Cemetery Commission  
 CC= Conservation Commission  
 HC=Historical Commission

SF=Hubbardston State Forest  
 DCR=Department of Conservation and Recreation  
 GC=Nonesuch (Hubbardston) Garden Club  
 HD=Highway Department  
 BPC=Board of Park Commissioners  
 BH=Board of Health