

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Introduction

The Open Space and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan addresses North Smithfield's need to provide a variety of recreational opportunities for all segments of the population and addresses open space and conservation needs and opportunities. This local plan strives to comply with State Guide plan by offering a system of outdoor recreation facilities and conservation areas to meet the needs of Its residents and visitors, RI SCORP goal 2.; provides for a diverse, well-balanced system of public outdoor recreational facilities, LU 2025 objective 2c; preserve and expand access to the



Slatersville Reservoir

state's, rivers, lakes, ponds, streams and other inland waters for recreational use, while maintaining water quality, RI SCORP policy 16., and promotes recreational activity among the population as a means of improving their health and general welfare, RI SCORP policy 8.

State & Local Protected Lands

Town open space and recreational facilities owned and managed by the State is limited to 4.2 acres at the Slatersville Reservoir Fishing Access area, 7.5 acres at the North Smithfield Wildlife Marsh, and the 117 acres at the Blackstone Gorge.

The Blackstone Gorge, a bi-state property purchase, was one of the first steps taken towards the implementation of the *Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor* and the *Blackstone River Park Master Plan*. In addition to the Blackstone Gorge preservation, these plans propose a greenway along the Branch River from the Slatersville Reservoirs to the confluence with the Blackstone (see Map 1 Protected Open Space). Various forms of active and passive recreation and a system of trails and bikeway links to those along the Blackstone Corridor are proposed. The Branch River Greenway will be complemented by rehabilitation and historic preservation programs in Slatersville and other heritage sites in North Smithfield.

The designation of the Woonasquatucket and Blackstone Rivers as American Heritage Rivers has provided opportunities for recreational activities including the development of bikeways from Providence. The RI Rivers Council has designated two groups to serve as Watershed Councils in North Smithfield, and both, the Woonasquatucket and Blackstone River Watershed Councils have already begun assisting the Town with protecting and preserving the watersheds in which these rivers are located.

We must be mindful of the cost of maintaining active recreational areas. Any program to acquire new recreational facilities must be matched by a long-term capability of maintaining and managing the same. The adoption of a Capital Improvements Program will provide the necessary structure to address this need.

Existing Open Space and Recreational Areas and Facilities

Table 1 provides an inventory of existing open space and recreation areas and facilities in North Smithfield. Map 1, shows their location.

The major Town-owned facilities include the playfields at Pacheco Park and the Junior-Senior High School; playfields at the "Paul S. Kelly Recreation Complex"; playfields at North Smithfield Elementary School; 8 playgrounds; two small parks; and the Mowry Fire Tower property.



State facilities include the Slatersville Fishing Access and the North Smithfield Wildlife Marsh. Also listed is the Blackstone River Gorge, where RIDEM acquired the land on the west and east banks of the River. Additionally, the State purchased the development rights of Christiansen's Orchard (23 acres) and West Wind Farm (86 acres).

Private and semi-public areas accessible to the public include the Centennial Memorial Park (owned by the North Smithfield Public Library) and the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's nature preserve. Although not listed in Table 1, the privately-owned Slatersville Reservoirs are available for public use.

Open space properties not accessible to the public for protection of water supply purposes are the reservoirs and city-owned watershed properties of the City of Woonsocket Water Supply; their combined area is 596.3 acres. There were another 32 parcels in 2004 that were privately owned and certified as "Open Space", i.e., a certification that allows for a reduction of taxes meant to encourage the preservation of large, undeveloped parcels of land.

Recreation Standards

According to the state guidance handbook #3, planning for recreation, three important areas of recreational need must be addressed and consider existing and future population needs:

1. geographic distribution of recreational resources.
2. suitability of recreational options; and
3. access to recreation

According to the National Recreation & Parks Association 2017 Agency Performance Review, the median for all agencies with less than a population of 20,000 typically set aside 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Similarly, the median park requirement standard is one park per 1,331 residents. Based on the town's 2010 Census population estimate of 11,967, the town should offer 9 parks and a minimum of 126 acres of open space. The form, content and location of both parks and open space is important in terms of usefulness and accessibility. Based on Table 1 and Map 1, the town does not have deficiencies, and the open space areas do not appear to be out of balance but evenly distributed. For more comprehensive information see NRPA website: <http://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf> See Map 1 to understand site locations when reviewing the table below.

Table 1 Existing Open Space And Recreation Areas And Facilities, 2017

ID	Name	Acreage	Facility Type	Service Area	Uses/Facilities
State of Rhode Island					
S-1	Slatersville Fishing Access	4.2	SP	S	Fishing/boat launch
S-2	N. Smithfield Wildlife Marsh	7.5	CS	S	Conservation
S-3	Blackstone River Gorge	117	SP	S	Walking Trail
S-4	Christiansen Orchard	22.7	DR	T	Farm Fields/Orchard
S-5	West Wind Farm	85.9	DR	T	Farm Fields
	TOTAL	237.3			
Town of North Smithfield: Active/Passive Recreation/Open Space Areas					
T-1	Carroll Park	.2	SP	T	Heritage Park, walking trail potential
T-2	Pacheco Park	23.8	PF	T	Baseball, BB, playground equip.
T-3	Halliwell Sch Plygrnd	4.0	PG	N	BB, playground equip.
T-4	Kendall-Dean School Playground	1.0	PG	N	Baseball
T-5	School St Playground	2.0	PG	N	
T-6	Waterford Playground	0.7	PG	N	Playground equipment
T-7	Kelly Park/Mammoth Mill (meadows)	14.8	PF	T	Soccer, baseball, future bikepath, heritage park
T-8	Branch Village Park	7.5	SP	N	Open space
T-10	Bushee School Playground	0.5	PG	N	Playground Equipment
T-11	Union Village Playgrnd	0.5	PG	N	Playground Equipment
T-12	Primrose Playground	0.7	PG	N	Playground Equipment
T-13	Jr./Sr. High School	24.0	PF	T	Baseball, tennis/volley, BB
T-14	NS Elementary School	9.7	PG	N	Soccer, Playground Equipment
T-18	Blackstone Gorge	65.5	SP	R	Walking Trail
T-22	Main Street	8.9	SP/LP	T	Walking Trail/Wellhead Protection
T-23	Conservation Commission	69.5	CS	T	Cedar swamp trail area
T-24	Conservation Commission	10	CS	T	Monica's Garden trail, picnic area
T-25	Booth Pond	40.1	CS	T	DEM grant/easement. Protected

	Conservation Commission				land in conjunction with Dowling Village.
	TOTAL	283.4			
Subdivisions					
T-9	Oakwood Estates Sub.	1.5	PG	N	Meadow
T-15	Slatersville 88 Sub.	4.5	SP	N	Pond, Proposed Equip to be Installed
T-16	Rolling Acres Subdiv.	1.7	PG	N	Proposed Equip to be Installed
T-17	Nipsachuck Estates Subdivision	1.5	PG	N	Playfield, Proposed Equip to be Installed
T-19	Trout Brook Pond Sub.	17.2	SP	T	Cross Country Trail
T-20	Brookside Estates Sub.	.3	SP	N	Equestrian/Pedestrian Easement
T-21	Sunnycrest Subdivision	1.3	PG	N	Wooded lot
	TOTAL	28.0			

ID	Name	Acreeage	Facility Type	Service Area	Uses/Facilities
Conservation Areas					
TC-1	Halliwell School	15.0	CS	N	Wellhead Protection
TC-2	NS Elementary School	17.0	CS	T	Nature Trail
TC-3	Secluded Pines	2.7	CS	N	Wooded grove, detention pond
TC-4	Stone Ridge Subdiv.	9.7	CS	N	Conserv. Ease./no public access
TC-5	Scott Farm Subdivision	1.6	CS	N	Conservation Easement
TC-6	Rustic View Subdiv.	1.7	CS	N	Wooded grove, detention pond
TC-7	Christy Court Subdiv.	22.0	CS	N	Conservation Easement
TC-8	Tiftt Road Well	4.9	SP	N	Wellhead Protection
TC-9	Old Oxford Rd. Subdiv.	6.3	CS	N	Wooded lot, wetland
TC-10	Spooner Property	26.9	CS	T	Conservation-No access – Proposed rezone to Village Residential
TC-11	Valley View Estates Subdivision	8.2	CS	N	Watershed Protection/no public access
TC-12	Gold Prop. Mattity Rd	11.5	CS	N	Conservation Easement/no access
TC-13	Nipsachuck Hill	5.7	CS	N	No access
TC-14	Pine Estates Subdiv.	3.8	CS	N	Conserv. Ease./no public access
TC-15	Mowry Fire Tower	7.0	SP	T	No public access
	TOTAL	144.0			
Private and Semi-Public					
P-1	Centennial Memorial Park	1.2	SP	T	Heritage Park, benches
P-2	Audubon and/or Private	230.5	SP	R	Nature Trails
P-3	R/Goal Park	20.1	XC	T	Cross-counrty Trail
P-4	Land Trust/Mattity Swamp	17.3	CS	T	Conservation
P-5	Land Trust/Village Wy	42.5	CS	T	Conservation
P-6	Iron Woods Driving Range	17.0	SP	T	Golf
P-7	RI Sports Center, Ice Rink		SP	R	Ice skating
P-8	Land Trust Rocky Hill	22.2	CS	T	Conservation nature trail

	Rd				
	TOTAL	350.8			
City of Woonsocket					
W-1	Reservoir #3 Water	156.3	SP	R	No Access, Water supply
W-2	Reservoir #3 Watershed	287.4	SP	R	No Access, Water supply
W-3	Reservoir #1 Water	7.1	SP	R	No Access, Water supply
W-4	Reservoir #1 Watershed	145.5	SP	R	No Access, Water supply
	TOTAL	596.3			
TOTAL All Facilities 1,516.0					

* Facility Type: PG=Playground; PF=Playfield; SP=Special; XC=Cross Country Trail; DR=Development Rights and CS=Conservation

** Service Area: N=Neighborhood; T=Town; R=Region; and S=State

Recreation and Open Space Facility Types

Playgrounds / Minor Parks

Minor Parks are generally small in area and have a specialized purpose. Some, as in the case of Carroll Park and Centennial Memorial Park, may serve a community-wide purpose. Others are oriented towards a local neighborhood.

Playgrounds are active recreational areas for children between the ages of 5-15 but may include tot lots and trike parks for the 1-5 age group and have sections set aside for the passive activities of all age groups. Frequently, they are located next to an elementary school. Site standards range from 3 to 15 acres. In North Smithfield, playgrounds, such as the one-half acre Union Village and Bushee School Playgrounds, are equipped to serve younger children but are not large enough for field sports.

Playfields / Major Parks

Playfields typically range in size from 12 to 20 acres and are equipped with facilities for active sports such as tennis, baseball, softball, soccer and basketball. Those served are generally ages 13 and older.

Major Parks serve more passive activity needs such as boating, swimming, skating, walking, picnicking, day camps and the like. Facilities such as the Slatersville Fishing Access and adjoining reservoirs, the Blackstone River Gorge, Trout Brook Recreation area and the Audubon area allow for some of these activities.



playground, Pacheco Park

Linear Parks

Typically, these relate to some form of recreational travel such as biking, canoeing, horseback riding and hiking. Such facilities often serve as a regional resource and may be related to unique natural features or an available corridor such as those provided by utility rights-of-way. A bike path would be a form of linear park. There are no standards for linear parks.

Existing Recreational Resources, Programs, Deficiencies and Needs

The Town Parks and Recreation Division and along with community organizations, run a number of recreational programs including:

- Youth winter basketball at several of the schools.
- Annual events include: an Easter egg hunt at the North Smithfield Junior-Senior High School and Christmas Tree lighting ceremonies at the Municipal Annex and Slatersville Church Commons.
- Little League baseball and softball are independent organizations that use Town ball fields as follows: 1 at Kendall-Dean School; 3 at Pacheco Park; 2 at Junior-Senior High School; 1 at the Kelly Complex. Fields change to meet general standards.
- There is an independent Youth Soccer Program that approximately 400 children participate in. A recreation complex completed in the late 1990's at the North Smithfield Elementary School provides field space for the Youth Soccer Program. Private programs exist at Wide World of Indoor Sports which contains indoor field complexes along with a newly-opened trampoline park in 2017.
- The RI Sports Center (indoor ice rink).
- There are no swimming programs as there are no public swimming areas in North Smithfield.

Open Space / Conservancy Deficiencies and Needs

As stated above, there are no standards which can be applied to conservancy requirements in a community. As a general guideline, the State of Rhode Island encourages rural and suburban communities such as North Smithfield to protect large percentages of land and water to compensate for the lack of same in more urbanized areas.

In North Smithfield, open space and conservancy actions should be focused on the preservation of critical natural resources including but not limited to: rivers, ponds, reservoirs, streams, flood plains, freshwater marshes and wetlands, groundwater aquifers and their recharge zones, unique geography and geology, special habitats and vegetation such as those identified by the RI Natural Heritage Program, farmlands, trees (remaining tracts of forest and street trees) and natural

vegetation. Accordingly, this chapter is consistent with the Natural Resource and Economic Development elements and would support preservation of the areas depicted on Map 1 of those two chapters entitled, "Potential Preservation and Development Areas" (see appendix A for map).

As general practice, existing playgrounds and playfields should be examined for modification to reflect new needs prior to creating new playgrounds and playfields. A capital improvements program containing a recreational element is a great way to organize needs, and provides the town with a predictable expense schedule.

Major park projects such as the Branch River Park and formal river access to the Rivers through the construction of a canoe/kayak launch will add major areas for passive recreation. These areas are often enjoyed independently or in small groups of people and serve to compliment organized team sports that occur on playfields. In combination with existing open areas such as the Audubon Society lands and those to be protected under open space conservancy proposals, North Smithfield will have recreational resources enhancing the living environment for all its citizens.

Playgrounds and Parks

As noted in the Introduction to the Open Space and Recreation Element, there are advantages to concentrating the playing fields in several locations. To accomplish this goal, proposed playfields are in two concentrations; one in the northern and the other in the southern end of Town.

Northern Part of Town

Implement Phase I improvements to Pacheco Park multi-purpose fields, walking trails, parking and access road. Phase II of the Pacheco Park expansion may include development of several additional tennis courts.

Southern End of Town

Existing playfield facilities are located at the Junior-Senior High School. The existing playfields could be expanded by acquisition of the Mowry land across a street.

Close by is the North Smithfield Elementary School which has a small playground and four soccer fields. The Town owns an additional 17-acre portion of the 40-acre site that because of wetlands and other constraints is not suited for active recreation. Acquisition of an adjacent 45-acre parcel could aid in future expansion of facilities in the area.

Branch River Greenway and Blackstone River Park

The Blackstone River Greenway is an essential component of the overall plan for the Blackstone River Park which extends from North Smithfield to Providence and northward into Massachusetts. Both are important components of the *Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor*. Partnership with the National Park Service, including finding them a home in Slatersville, will be critical to securing future resources to construct the Greenway.

Major points of interest in North Smithfield which are tied into the two parks include the following:

- The dam at Slatersville Reservoir
- Centennial Park
- The Slatersville Historic District with its proposed rehabilitation of residences and adaptive reuse of the Slatersville Mill complex
- The Blackstone Gorge
- The Mammoth Mill ruins acquired by the Town along Canal Street in Waterford
- Sections of the Blackstone Canal
- The playing fields at the "Paul S. Kelly Recreation Complex" site adjoining Mammoth Mills.

Details of the overall plans are to be found in the *Blackstone River Master Plan*, prepared by RIDEM in 1986.

Blackstone River Bikeway

The Blackstone River Bikeway, paralleling the Blackstone River, ultimately will provide a connection through Providence to the East Bay Bike Path. Sections of the Blackstone River Bikeway will pass through North Smithfield in two locations as follows: between Manville Road and the Blackstone River in the eastern corner of Town and along Canal Street in the Waterford neighborhood.

As discussed in the Circulation Element, an alternative route to Slatersville would be along the right-of-way of P&W's Slatersville Spur in the event rail service is discontinued.

Trails / Greenways

Map 1 conceptually shows a system of trails connecting major conservation and recreation areas in the Town. Where possible, the trails follow utility line rights-of-way. It is recommended that a Trails / Greenways Plan be developed so that appropriate links can be retained as subdivision occurs in the larger undeveloped sections of the community.

Open Space and Conservancy Areas to be Protected/Enhanced

In addition to the protection of lands that contain critical natural resources as well as those land areas identified on Map 1 (appendix A) of the Economic Development and Natural Resource chapters, development protections generally apply to the following locations:

Branch River and Tributaries

This conservation area includes the Branch River, the Slatersville Reservoirs, Trout Pond and two major tributaries, Tarkiln and Trout Brooks. Actions to create a linear Branch River Greenway are discussed above in the Recreation Facilities proposals. Permanent protection of the tributaries is proposed. In the case of Tarkiln Brook, which is fed in small part by Tarkiln Pond, the cooperation of the Town of Burrillville will be essential.

Screech Hole Bog

Screech Hole Bog is located primarily in Burrillville near the point where the Town lines of North Smithfield, Burrillville and Uxbridge meet, and extends into Massachusetts. The Bog has been identified for protection by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program. Subject to further study, part of the buffer area for its protection may extend into North Smithfield. Included in the State's 1983 inventory of significant sites, this Bog has the physical and biological characteristics of a fen – a unique wetland in Rhode Island. The area serves as a habitat for unique flora, is a good example of a glacial esker and is of critical importance as a groundwater resource because it contributes to the Ironstone Reservoir in Massachusetts. Its neighboring areas should be closely monitored to ensure that infill or run-off from development does not harm the Bog.

Cherry Brook / Cedar Swamp

Cedar Swamp is the largest wetland in North Smithfield; further encroachments should be limited. As proposed in the Circulation Element, wetland replication for any wetland filling should be required.

Cherry Brook flows through Cedar Swamp and drains some of the most urbanized sections of Town. The brook and its flood plain must be protected. Drainage, flood and water quality impacts of new development within the brook's watershed require careful scrutiny when development proposals are reviewed.

Crookfall Brook/Woonsocket Water Supply

The Crookfall Brook watershed is located primarily in North Smithfield but does extend into Smithfield and Lincoln. A tributary brook, which forms near Rocky Hill Road, feeds Woonsocket Reservoir No. 3 through one subdrainage area. The second subdrainage area is focused on another tributary brook which starts near Smithfield Road to the east of the Route 146/146A merge. This brook enters Crookfall Brook above Woonsocket Reservoir No 1.

Woonsocket has prepared a *Water Quality Protection Plan* which calls for additional land acquisition within North Smithfield by the City to protect the watershed. See the Natural and Cultural Resources Element of this plan for further discussion of watershed protection.

Crookfall Brook was originally the means for moving water from Woonsocket Reservoir No. 3 to No. 1. To replace this pollution-prone method, Woonsocket constructed a 24-inch pipeline parallel to and connecting the reservoirs.

Todd's Pond

In the 1990 Weston and Sampson water supply study and again later in the 1992 Maguire study (see Services and Facilities Element), the Todd's Pond area was identified as a potential aquifer for public water supply purposes. Although the Slatersville Aquifer is considered to be a more productive aquifer, the long range consequences of its being impacted by two EPA Superfund sites is impossible to determine at this time. Accordingly, high priority should be given to protecting Todd's Pond, its tributaries and their combined watershed.

Woonasquatucket River Watershed

The headwaters of the Woonasquatucket River are formed in North Smithfield from wetlands and small streams. Among these are the brook passing through the Audubon Society's property,

the stream and wetlands associated with Primrose Pond, a small brook starting to the east of Grange Road, and Nipsachuck Swamp. The Woonasquatucket River was designated a National Heritage River in 1998. This designation, the formation of the Woonasquatucket Watershed Council and the implementation of the Watershed Action Plan are crucial steps toward protecting the watershed. Similar to the authority given to the Blackstone River Watershed Council, the RI Rivers Council designated the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council as a player in the Watershed's protection. A recent regional effort led by the Watershed Council resulted in several maps containing this Plan which were prepared under the auspices of the Woonasquatucket Greenspace Project.

The Blunders

This unique area combines interesting geological formations with historical artifacts and an ecology supporting rare species selected for protection by the Rhode Island Natural Heritage Program. A 17-lot subdivision is being constructed on the property, however the historic district area and the large area containing the rare species has been protected as open space.

Audubon Property

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island developed a plan for its 250 acre property along Providence Pike. A nature education center, along with continued passive use is contemplated. Hunting and the use of motorized vehicles is prohibited.

Techniques for Conservation

In recognition of growing constraints on the availability of State and Federal grant funds for the acquisition and development of recreation and conservation areas, there must be greater emphasis on viable alternatives to fee simple acquisition (ownership). Several, which may be applicable to North Smithfield, are described below.

Land Trust

A Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of open space, conservation areas, and significant cultural amenities. It can acquire property, receive donations of same, and manage the land in accordance with the appropriate conservation goals. Although many of its functions are similar to those of a public agency, a Land Trust has the advantage of being able to move quickly when a critical property becomes available. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island assisted the North Smithfield Conservation Commission with the establishment of a Land Trust. North Smithfield's Land Trust has, in fact, been very effective since its inception, in acquiring ownership of certain parcels worthy of protection.

Conservation Easement

According to *The Conservation Easement Handbook*, prepared by the Trust for Public Land, "A conservation easement is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that takes place on his or her property. Each easement's restrictions are tailored to the particular property and the interests of the individual owner."

Easements have the advantage of being less costly than fee simple acquisition. If public access is allowed, a donation of an easement to the Land Trust or public agency will allow the donor to take an income tax deduction. The IRS has special criteria applying to such donations.

Zoning Enabling Act

The 1992 Rhode Island Zoning Enabling Act, through its statement of General Purposes, allows communities to use a broader range of techniques to advance conservation, open space and recreation purposes. Several of those applicable to this discussion are stated below:

Provide for the protection of the natural, historic, cultural, and scenic character of the city or town or areas therein.

Provide for the preservation of agricultural and forest land.

Provide for the preservation of open space for wildlife protection, flood water storage, air and water pollution abatement, and to shape and balance urban and rural development.

Provide for the preservation and enhancement of the recreational resources of the city or town.

The above-stated purposes permit municipalities such as North Smithfield to develop special regulations in the form of overlay districts with special review requirements relating to the resources that are being protected. All land development proposals, for example, can be subject to consideration of conservation issues.

Rhode Island State Guide Plan Consistency

The Open Space and Recreation Element is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act and is consistent with relevant State Guide Plan Elements:

State Guide Plan Element 152, *Ocean State Outdoors Rhode Island's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan:*

The proposals of this Element as well as those of the Land Use Plan Element and the Natural and Cultural Resources Element deal with open space preservation on a comprehensive basis.

Local plans were coordinated with the State's efforts to acquire the Blackstone Gorge.

Wildlife habitat enhancement is encouraged by proposed conservation areas and the use of various regulatory techniques to enhance open space preservation.

Water resources, both surface and groundwater, are to be protected through land or easement acquisition and or regulatory techniques such as zoning as described in the Natural Resource element.

The protection of agricultural and forested land, the preservation of historic resources, and the conservation of archaeological resources are encouraged.

A diversity of recreational facilities are offered to serve those of all age and income groups in the Town.

State Guide Plan Element 155, *A Greener Path Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future*

Formal pedestrian paths and bikeways are encouraged along greenways coinciding with the Blackstone and Branch Rivers.

Abandonment of any railroad rights-of-way should be considered for the Rails-to-Trails program and donation to the Town of North Smithfield.

State Guide Plan Element 156, *Urban and Community Forest Plan*

North Smithfield recognizes its small remaining tracts of forest and street trees as having environmental, cultural and economic values. A link to comprehensive state forestry information is available at DEM: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/urban-forestry/>

State Guide Plan Element 161, *Forest Resource Management Plan*

Property owners are encouraged to participate in the Farm, Forest and Open Space Tax program.

Goals	Policies	Actions
1. Provide a variety of active and passive recreational facilities serving town residents and visitors.	1.a. Increase land area of active recreation areas to meet present and future deficiencies.	1.a.1. Implement Phase I and II of the proposed Pacheco Park expansion including construction of a multi-purpose field and three (3) tennis courts, walking trail, parking and new access road.
	1.b. Coordinate Town and school recreational facilities planning.	
		1.b.1. Continue to seek funding for acquisition of key parcels of land and for the development of the Branch River Greenway walking trail in Slatersville linking Pacheco Park, Slatersville Reservoir and Library Island Park and explore the possibility of linking this trail to the Blackstone River Bikeway.
		1.b.2. As part of subdivision or land development approval, continue the option of requiring dedication of land for recreational and open space purposes or a fee in-lieu of dedication.
		1.b.3 Work in collaboration

		with Federal and State authorities to implement the Woonasquatucket Bikeway and complete the Blackstone River Bikeway.
	1.c. Coordinate local historic rehabilitation efforts with recreational planning as a component of the Cultural Heritage and Land Management Plan for the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor.	1.c.1. Develop Trails/Greenway Plan connecting conservation and recreation areas.
2. Protect the Town’s natural resources while preserving rural areas.	2.a. Prioritize areas based on Natural Resources and Economic Development Chapter Map 1 “potential preservation and development areas”.	2.a.1. Preserve land based on criteria including but not limited to: size, adjacent protected parcels, significant natural resources, rare or endangered species or habitat, significant cultural features, development potential, road access etc.
		2.a.2. Work with the Land Trust and other organizations to protect land via conservation easements and land donations along with fee simple purchase.
	2.b. Recognize the value associated with the town’s impressive groundwater resources.	2.b.1. Cooperate with the City of Woonsocket in the implementation of its <i>Water Quality Protection Plan</i> for the City's watershed and reservoir properties in North Smithfield.

APPENDIX A
Maps 1 and 2