

Section 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section synthesizes and expands the community goals outlined in Section 6 and the analysis of needs data from Section 7 to create a comprehensive set of goals and objectives for Grafton's open space and recreation resources. Although Goals 1 and 2 are separately defined below, they are inherently linked by the connection between land use and water quality.

GOAL 1: Preserve and Enhance Grafton's Water Resources

Objectives

- 1) Protect water resources vital for the sustainability of the community
- 2) Secure additional protection for groundwater resources
- 3) Take measures to improve the quality of Grafton's surface waters
- 4) Support regional efforts to improve and maintain the quality of the Blackstone River and its watershed in order to maximize its use
- 5) Protect and restore significant wetland areas

GOAL 2: Protect and Conserve Grafton's Land Resources

Objectives

- 1) Protect land resources vital for the sustainability of the community
- 2) Permanently protect those Town owned open space resources necessary for provision of recreation opportunities and/or preservation of natural/visual/cultural/historic resources
- 3) Protect ecologically sensitive lands
- 4) Protect Grafton's farms through local actions
- 5) Provide education on the functions and requirements of land use regulation

GOAL 3: Preserve Grafton's Town Character

Objectives

- 1) Encourage the continuation of Grafton's historic patterns of development where they are discernible
- 2) Address the preservation of Town character through comprehensive planning
- 3) Encourage the use of both Grafton's and the BRVNHC's design guidelines
- 4) Encourage a comprehensive approach to protecting and preserving Grafton's historic, cultural, and scenic landscape resources
- 5) Protect "special places" in town, i.e., the Town Common, Silver Lake, Hassanamesit Woods, and others

GOAL 4: Provide Grafton with Varied and Geographically Well-Balanced Recreational Facilities and Opportunities

Objectives

- 1) Develop a system of Town-wide trails to provide a variety of recreational opportunities, such as hiking, jogging, skiing, biking, and horseback riding
- 2) Improve and expand swimming facilities and water-based recreation opportunities
- 3) Plan for the development of more winter activity areas
- 4) Pursue the development of active and passive recreation facilities and opportunities within walking distance for all residents
- 5) Maintain fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities
- 6) Support the BRVNHC and DEM's goals for the Blackstone River and Canal by facilitating the development of park lands and recreational opportunities in their vicinity
- 7) Encourage programs for all age groups and user groups within the population

GOAL 5: Enhance Utilization of Existing Recreation and Conservation Resources

Objectives

- 1) Improve the maintenance of Grafton's active and passive recreation areas and facilities
- 2) Develop a funding program to finance better management of conservation and recreation lands
- 3) Provide citizens and visitors with information regarding Grafton's recreation/cultural/historic resources
- 4) Improve public access for Grafton's active and passive recreation areas and facilities