

# CHAPTER 8

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The following Goals and Objectives are based on a summary of individual municipal Open Space and Recreation Plans as well as comments of the Deerfield River Watershed Open Space Planning Committee during its meetings in November 2003, and January and February 2004. The Goals and Objectives form the basis of the Ten-Year Action Plan.

### **Natural Resources Goals:**

- Conserve or enhance the Watershed's regionally significant natural resources (e.g. aquifers, lakes, streams, and ponds, prime farmland soils, active farmland, and contiguous blocks of forestland);
- Sustain the viability of native plant and animal populations through the conservation of locally and regionally important open space resources; and,
- Produce sustainable communities and economic development based on agriculture, forestry, and renewable energy.

### **Natural Resources Objectives:**

- Oversee the implementation of the Deerfield River Watershed Open Space and Recreation Ten-Year Action Plan
- Protect and conserve agricultural lands.
- Strengthen the long-term viability of the regional agriculture and forest products industries by supporting farm and forest-based businesses and products.
- Identify and conserve parcels of conservation, wildlife, and recreation interest.
- Promote the enhancement, or creation, of fish and wildlife corridors.
- Coordinate with state, regional, and local entities to maximize protection of joint open space resources.

- Promote a land protection education program for landowners to include estate planning, land protection options, and presentations by regional land trusts.
- Maintain and improve the quality of surface water and groundwater.
- Promote the Massachusetts Chapter 61, 61A, and 61 B Land Classification and Taxation Programs to local landowners to help keep undeveloped lands in active farming, forestry, and recreational uses.

**Rural Character and Scenic and Cultural Resources Goal:** Ensure that the Watershed sustains its rural atmosphere characterized by both rural and traditional village land use patterns, a rich community spirit, affordable housing, and an abundance of long-range scenic views and historic agricultural landscapes.

**Rural Character and Scenic and Cultural Resources Objectives:**

- Identify and seek to protect unique natural and cultural areas including outcrops, waterfalls, vernal pools, and archaeological sites, etc.
- Encourage land use and development patterns that manage growth and preserve scenic, rural character, open space, and water resources, and agricultural and forested lands
- Focus new development in the most appropriate areas.
- Protect historic landscapes and the scenic character of the watershed (including long-range scenic views).
- Encourage discussions amongst town officials and residents on the costs of services associated with commercial, recreational, industrial, and residential development, and farm and forestland.
- Create opportunities to develop a greater sense of community by sustaining existing levels of programming offered by libraries and through other methods.

**Recreational Resources Goal:** Preserve and enhance recreational opportunities in the Watershed.

**Recreational Resources Objectives:**

- Promote, protect, and enhance the recreation value of the Deerfield River and its main tributaries for flat and white water activities, fishing, swimming, tubing, and other related activities.

- Promote and provide access to existing and new recreational trail networks on public and private lands in the watershed (e.g. walking, hiking, bicycle, snowmobile, canoe, raft, and kayak trails, paths, lanes, and water trails for hunting, hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, swimming, bird watching, Off-Highway Vehicles, bicycling, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, etc.).
- Develop access to information concerning the locations of designated recreational resources within the watershed.
- Provide recreational safety information throughout the watershed for land and water-based activities.
- Resolve recreation-based land use conflicts in the watershed in a manner that improves the quality of the resources while strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to be able to promote sustainable practices among their constituencies.

