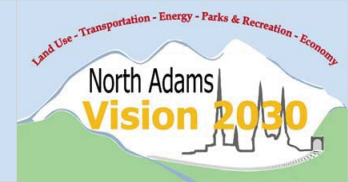


Parks, Recreation and Open Space GOALS, POLICIES, AND ACTIONS



The following goals, policies and actions have been developed from community and stakeholder input, and were reviewed at a public workshop on February 28, 2013. Comments from the public workshop are noted on the right. Participants were given three sticky dots which they placed next to the individual actions or overarching policies they believe should be priorities. The numbers following the actions indicate the number of priority dots received.

Goal 1: Offer a High-quality and Diverse Recreation System to Support The Health, Enjoyment, and Economic Needs of the City.

Comments Received:

Policy 1.1: Make the parks and recreation offerings of the city more visible to residents and visitors. (4)

Action: Develop Comprehensive North Adams Recreation Guide (2)

Action: Improve Recreation Amenity Wayfinding Signage

Action: Coordinate and Maintain Comprehensive Trail Map Data

- . Community garden Heritage Park
- . Promote Cascade Trail area with signage; it's a beautiful trail to waterfall that many locals are not even aware of
- . Better signage and access to recreation guides ("Things to Do") in our city
- . In-town directory with maps and guides of local outdoor resources (Fish Pond, Cascades, Natural Bridge)

Policy 1.2: Maintain a high level of service for different user groups across the city.

Action: Maintain an Up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan

Action: Centralize the Organization of Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Outreach

Action: Prioritize Existing Facility Maintenance (1)

Action: Provide Safe Routes to Recreation (1)

Action: Expand Use of Existing Recreational Facilities through Joint Use Agreements, Streamlined Special Event Permitting, and expansion of Seasonal Uses (2)

Action: Catalyze and Coordinate Development or Protection of Priority Sites

- . We need NEW green spaces and pocket parks in downtown
- . Events like Wilco festival with camping at Noel Field are great for the city and businesses.
- . Repair and expand Noel Field basketball courts including signage for more visibility and promotion of summer league and activities
- . Community gardens
- . Non-athletic, non-skate park

Policy 1.3: Leverage city park and recreation amenities to support business development, tourism, and resident attraction and retention efforts. (2)

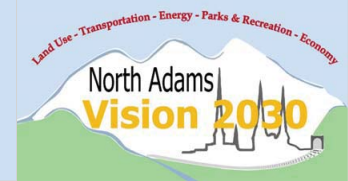
Action: Cultivate System of Mountain Biking Trails (1)

Action: Increase and Leverage Presence of Winter Outdoor Recreation (1)

Action: Market North Adams Businesses to Outside Racing Events and Attractions (3)

- . Proposed action: Support land conservation so outdoor recreation flourishes
- . We could also get more leverage out of our existing recreational spaces by adding equipment that intensifies their use, i.e. adult outdoor gym equipment, benches, etc.

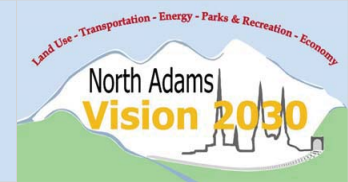
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| Goal 2: Implement Western New England Greenway Course Through the City | Comments Received: |
|---|---|
| <p>Policy 2.1: Implement Bikepath as Part of Western New England Greenway Vision (4)</p> | |
| <p>Policy 2.2: Cultivate Riverway Multi-use Path as Asset for Recreation and Enjoyment (4)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Focus on River Greening and Increased Access within Community Core (2)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Secure or Create River Access Points for Recreational Use</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Create Recreation-Supporting Infrastructure</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the river running right through the center of town it's important to make it a focus of recreation and local gathering spots. With very little expense, we could make incremental improvements that make the river more walkable. For instance, working with the scrap yard to relocate the fence so we can stroll on both sides of the river. Or planting trees along the river for beauty and shade. Would like to see the river greening and access combined with bike trail wherever feasible. |
| <p>Policy 2.3: Employ the River Corridor Greenway as Wildlife Habitat and Movement Corridor (5)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Employ Wildlife-Friendly Landscaping (1)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Ensure Conservation Commission Involved In Development Review Process</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The city should stop planting invasive species. Perhaps there could be a city ordinance against the sale of invasive plant species. |
| Goal 3: Promote Year-round Healthy Living and Active Lifestyles for All Ages (1) | |
| <p>Policy 3.1: Promote healthy active living within the community. (1)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Increase Healthy Activity in City's School System (1)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Establish Network of Walking Routes and Trails (5)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Make More Healthy Heart Trails Locally (2)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Create an Annual Mayor's Fitness Challenge (4)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Love the Mayor challenge! The fitness challenge would be a low cost, fun way to promote healthy habits, community spirit, and a friendly competition. Love the Mayor's Fitness Challenge idea! |
| Goal 4: Respect the City's Place within Important Habitat Areas by Providing Wildlife Corridors and Connections to Support Biodiversity (2) | |
| <p>Policy 4.1: Work with local conservation partners to implement the regional Conservation Framework within the city. (2)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Refine and Adopt Conservation Framework (1)</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Coordinate and Maintain Comprehensive Trail Map Data</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBRC has great organized trail hikes, animal life hikes, need to get info into a North Adams recreation guide. Land conservation, both public and private, should be supported for habitat, recreation – environmental sustainability must be part of the plan! |
| <p>Policy 4.2: Develop appropriate tools and practices to support wildlife-friendly development, prioritizing important habitat areas as identified within the Conservation Framework.</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Facilitate Safe Wildlife Movement Across Route 2</p> <p><u>Action:</u> Develop Resource Sensitive Design Tools</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building, for housing and commerce, should be centrally located as much as possible – zoning can favor infill development. (Williamstown just made zoning changes to this end.) |

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Goal 5: Continuously Work to Improve the Health and Integrity of the Natural Environment In and around the City

Comments Received:

Policy 5.1: Improve the data environment to inform decision-making around environmental quality and natural resources. (5)

- Action: Advocate for and Support a Hoosic Watershed Rare Species Survey
- Action: Develop Comprehensive Understanding of Municipal Conservation Issues
- Action: Continue Water Quality Analysis and Pollution Reduction Strategies
- Action: Create and Maintain Comprehensive Brownfield Site Inventory

- . Save money by fixing storm water going into water treatment plant.

Policy 5.2: Protect and enhance the water quality of rivers and lakes throughout the city. (7)

- Action: Work with Army Corps of Engineers and other River Partners to Improve Water and Habitat Conditions in Chutes
- Action: Implement Urban Tree Program along River
- Action: Address Dams and Other Sources of Stream Fragmentation
- Action: Engage in Local Education About Non-point Source Pollution
- Action: Offer Programs and Incentives for Property-Owner Runoff Reduction

- . Tree planting along river for wildlife is a good idea, as well as walking trails along the river.

Goal 6: Broaden Range of Tools and Partners to Achieve Efficient Recreation and Open Space Management. (4)

Policy 6.1: Diversity funding and stewardship resources to benefit open space and recreation amenities.

- Action: Adopt Community Preservation Act
- Action: Pursue Corporate Sponsorship Arrangements (1)
- Action: Gradually and Consistently Pursue Grants to Implement Improvements
- Action: Encourage Community Members to Adopt a Park or Trail
- Action: Engage Local Youth to Care for their Recreation Facilities (1)

- . Great idea to offer opportunities for local youth to have ownership in their sports/athletic areas
- . Community Preservation Act is crucial.
- . We need to model a teenager program like the 'Greenagers' of Great Barrington. Engaging our youth outdoors is critical.

Policy 6.2 Coordinate Maintenance to Maximize Impact of Scarce Resources

- Action: Coordinated Recreational Resource Management
- Action: Identify and Promote Financial Benefits for Private Owners (1)