



SOUTHAMPTON OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

GOALS AND ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2031
PREPARED BY TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON



September 2025

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update of Goals and Objectives

Building on Prior OSRP

The Town of Southampton developed a detailed Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update 2021-2028 with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), based on extensive community outreach to set our priorities and goals. The Southampton OSRP 2025-2031 goals and objectives build on priorities established during community workshops and surveys conducted in 2019. We have used these surveys and workshops with recent input from multiple commissions to update our OSRP. The Southampton Open Space Committee (OSC) sought input from the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission, Greenway Committee, Highway Department, Park Commission, Planning Board, Water Commission and local farmers to build on the priorities set in 2019 and update our OSRP Goals and Objectives.

Furthermore, these updated goals and objectives build on the work of other town planning processes including:

- 2013 Master Plan
- 2016 Town of Southampton Water System Master Plan
- 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- 2017 Farmland Resources Assessment Project
- 2024 Conanat Park Master Plan

Town organizations that support OSRP

Southampton is proud of our successful work toward achieving the goals of the OSRP. The town created the Open Space Committee (OSC) to help complete the OSRP and to work with land owners, town agencies and land trusts such as Kestrel Land Trust to set priorities for land protection and to undertake new land acquisition. The Conservation Commission continues to oversee multiple conservation properties and to hold Conservation restrictions on environmentally important land. Two years ago, community interest led to creation of the Trail Blazers, a nongovernmental group that has already conducted more than 20 sessions of trail blazing, trail maintenance, and invasive removal as well as bridge building in wetland areas in consultation with the Conservation Commission. The Greenway Committee has ongoing responsibility for development of a shared-use path along the abandoned rail bed. The Friends of the Open Space Committee and Friends of the Greenway are nonprofit groups that support these efforts, raise public awareness and conduct fundraising to achieve the goals outlined in the OSRP.

The town has had a very successful collaboration with Kestrel Land Trust (KLT) with the recent completion of the Mountain Waters Landscape Partnership project that protected over 433 acres in the last 2 years. We are currently working with KLT to protect an additional 67 acres.

These OSRP Goals and Objectives have been revised to extend through 2031 after seeking input from local farmers and several town committees, including the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission, Greenway Committee, Highway Department, Park Commission, Planning Board, Water Commission and local farmers. We are building on the work completed since 2021.

Town-wide progress since 2021:

Land Preservation:

- 85-acre Clearwater Woodland Conservation Area.
- More than 433 acres in town under the Mountain Waters Landscape Partnership project, a leading example of our increased cooperation with Kestrel Land Trust. The project includes an APR on 77 acres at Glendale Ridge Winery.
- 9-acre Clark Family Homestead via donation, in conjunction with Kestrel Land Trust and prior owners.
- Two parcels totaling 90 acres protected on Pomeroy Meadow Road with Drinking Water Supply Protection grants and CPA funding.
- Working with family to conserve 35 acres abutting Clearwater Conservation Area and several parcels of recreational land owned by the Holyoke Beagle Club. This parcel contains streams feeding the Manhan River.
- Agreement with family to purchase conservation property of 40-acre Trincerri parcel on Pomeroy Mountain. This parcel abuts town property and would also provide a potential parking area to access other trails. Funding is available and we are awaiting town vote.
- Agreement with family to purchase and conserve 27 acres abutting Alder Pond. LAND grant completed and awaiting state grant decision and Town vote.
- Assessing preservation of 2-acre lot abutting Szczypta Conservation Area.
- Created a chart of priority lands for protection, based on ecology, wildlife corridor, proximity to already conserved lands.
- Completed inventory of town owned properties.

Trail Work:

- Manhan Meadows Sanctuary, completed trail rerouting, installation of bog bridges, benches with MassTrails grant. Working on a new bridge across the Manhan River.

- Trail clearing, bridge and boardwalk installation, vernal pool restoration at Alice Brown Conservation Area
- Bridge over intermittent stream at Clark Family Homestead.
- Invasives removal at Wolf Hill Conservation Area, with grant obtained by landowner.
- Trail clearing and invasives removal at Clark Family Homestead, Nancy L. Whittemore and Szczypta Conservation Areas.
- New trails in progress at new Breakneck Brook Conservation Area.
- Great Mountain Trail created on town property on Pomeroy Mt.
- Trailblazers founded to recruit and organize volunteers for trail maintenance and support the Conservation Commission by building and installing infrastructure. e.g., bridges, signs.

Recreation:

- Southampton Greenway. The town has purchased the right of way and is working with Tibhe & Bond for design, planning and engineering of the Greenway. Pre 25% design has been submitted to MassDOT.
- Spray park and walking paths in Conant Park through PARC grant. Second PARC grant submitted for installations.
- Two pickleball courts installed with CPA funds.
- Upgrades to ball fields at Conant Park, Norris School, Labrie Field.
- New handicap accessible playground at Labrie Field with CPA funds.
- Working with land-use planners on open space design at the recently purchased, town-owned 54-acre 0 College Highway parcel. This will likely incorporate a connection to the Greenway and walking paths, including access from the planned new Senior Center.
- Obtained grant for shared-use path from College Highway to Norris School. TIP Funding approved for FY28.

Outreach:

- Friends of Council on Aging leading hikes for seniors on local conservation areas.
- Local hikes led by the Open Space Committee, with a botanist engaged to identify plants.
- New pollinator gardens at Labrie Field, along the College Highway side of Conant Park and on Pomeroy Meadow Road. These were created by the Good Earth Gardeners and Open Space Committee.
- New community vegetable garden on town-owned site of former Grange building.

- Created and mailed brochure to all households on the importance of protecting the Barnes Aquifer.
- Created and distributed brochures on work of Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission and Friends of Southampton Open Space.
- Sponsored and promoted public forums on protecting land, drinking water, and creating Greenway.
- Advocated with Select Board, Planning Board, for adherence to Chapter 61 rules.

Water Commission:

- College Highway Phase I water main from Moosebrook Road to Clark Street. This project replaced approximately 1750 feet of 6-inch cast iron with a new 12-inch PVC water main.
- The Water Commission is in the early stages of renewing our Water Withdrawal Permit with the state. Many water restrictions are likely when our permit gets renewed.

Changed/Updated OSRP Goals and Objectives

Our 5 main goals for the OSRP have not changed; however, more detailed subgoals and objectives have been revised to reflect our accomplishments and new opportunities. We will continue to build on our successes and to review areas we have been slower to accomplish. These revised goals and objectives reflect our prior successes, our impediments and our goals for the years 2025 through 2031.

Updated OSRP Action Plan 2025 - 2031 - Goals and Objectives

SECTION 8 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Identify and preserve important parcels for ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical value to create a town-wide green network.

Objectives

- G101. Increase capacity for management of town-owned open space lands and promote public use of existing open space networks.
- G102. Connect open space resources to enhance community livability and wildlife habitat, and to encourage walking and biking.
- G103. Prioritize parcels for permanent protection based on natural resource protection and climate resilience.

Strategies

- G101-S1. Continue to fine-tune a prioritized list of key open space parcels for conservation based on available developable vacant lands, key natural resources, critical habitat, agricultural

lands and soils, recreational lands, and expansion and connection to town-wide green network. This will include attempting to finalize acquisition of parcels identified in the Mountain Waters Landscape Partnership Grant that could not be completed in the grant's timeframe.

- G101-S2. Maintain existing and increase other potential relationships with land trusts like Kestrel Land Trust and other "Friends" organizations to accept more contributions to preserve land.
- G101-S3. Continue to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan to qualify for state and federal grants. The state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant and federal Land, PARC grants and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants provide funding for acquisition of open space, but the town must have an updated OSRP to qualify.
- G101-S4. Continue to maintain a current environmental inventory, implement management plans on existing conservation areas, and improve and maintain existing trail networks. Seek ongoing funding for maintenance and oversight.
- G101-S5. Further refine a comprehensive outreach and education campaign to inform the community about existing open space resources, to improve and maintain trail networks, and to improve signage and access to open space. Develop trail maps, establish a volunteer trail maintenance program, educate the public about conservation as part of this effort.
- G101-S6. Continue planning to enhance Conant Memorial Park and to connect it to other town and open space resources. PARC grant submitted for splash park at Conant with walking paths. The Parks Commission is working on a master plan for Conant Park.
- G101-S7. Continue the work of the Trail Blazers in creation of new trails, maintaining trails and invasive management of conservation lands.
- G102-S1. Continue work to develop a rail trail along the existing rail bed to create a north-south connection between the numerous open space areas along its length. Continue to work with Tighe & Bond and MassDOT with the support of the MassTrails grant program to complete Southampton Greenway from Coleman Road to Route 10. Consider expanding the current plan to Westfield's Columbia Rail Trail.
- G102-S2. Develop a Manhan River Greenway and Wildlife Corridor Management Plan, and develop a list of priority parcels for acquisition or easements to support the development and enhancement of this Greenway and wildlife corridor area.
- G103-S1. Continue regular meetings of the Open Space Committee (OSC) formed in 2019 to identify important parcels to acquire for preservation. The OSC has been influential in protecting over 500 acres since 2021.

Goal 2: Protect Southampton's remaining agricultural lands, promote local farming, and create opportunities for residents to become involved in local agriculture.

Objectives

- G201. Further develop a public outreach strategy to support agricultural activity.

Strategies

- G201-S1. Continue to meet with property owners to explain the importance of farmland and available preservation options. Coordinate these efforts with the community's prioritized list of key open space parcels for acquisition.
- G201-S2. Work with farmers and develop marketing materials to promote agriculture in Southampton.

- G201-S3. Develop educational materials and hold public meetings to stimulate consciousness about agriculture and the tools available to protect it.
- G201-S4. Establish a Farmer's Market in an appropriate location in the community. This would build on existing farm stands.
- G201-S5. Explore possible community garden sites, including the open spaces in town. Three community gardens have already been created: the pollinator garden on Pomeroy Meadow, and vegetable gardens at the former Grange site and at the center church. A community garden has been proposed in the 0 College Highway planning process.

Goal 3: Protect Southampton's water resources.

Objectives

- G301. Continue to protect Southampton's public water supply and the Barnes Aquifer for generations to come.

Strategies

- G301-S1. Continue and strengthen homeowner education and awareness about the importance and vulnerability of the Barnes Aquifer, particularly residential areas that cover recharge areas. While a major portion of town lies within the Barnes Zone II Aquifer Protection area, the main areas where the aquifer is vulnerable are in general most if not all of Pomeroy Meadow Road from Norris School to Flechers Farm; and the cemetery on College Highway. Other areas are the south side of town, the south side of Fomer Road, Gilbert Road and sections west of Brickyard Road. These areas will be a priority.
- G301-S2. Further support the previously conducted water quality education campaign that targets landowners in town. Educate landowners about septic system failures, fertilizer use on lawns and agricultural properties, pet wastes, and other homeowner actions that deteriorate water quality. Develop educational materials and hold public meetings to stimulate consciousness about agriculture and the tools available to protect it.
- G301-S3. Adopt Low Impact Development (LID) standards for stormwater management in the zoning, subdivision, and stormwater regulations. Low Impact Developments are designed to reflect natural hydrology, minimize impervious surfaces, treat stormwater in small decentralized structures, preserve portions of the site in natural conditions, and use natural topography for drainage ways and storage.
- G301-S4. Consider adopting a River Protection Overlay District that minimizes development impacts in sensitive river buffers. This Overlay District can increase community control over activities on riverfront areas not regulated by the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act. The district designates a portion of the riverbank from the shoreline landward up to an established distance from each bank. It provides restrictions on uses and structures that will damage the environmental integrity of the river. Uses permitted by right should be limited to those consistent with the scenic qualities of the river, such as agricultural production, recreational use, reasonable emergency procedures, conservation measures, and residential development on lots with frontage on an existing way.
- G301-S5. Consider developing a larger local buffer zone requirement than the existing state mandated 100-foot protection buffer, to better protect significant wetland resources.
- G301-S6. Consider developing a local wetlands bylaw with an increased setback, with protections greater than the Wetlands Protection Act. The Town approved a local wetlands bylaw at the 10/17/20 Special Town Meeting that was accepted by the AG on 1/19/21.
- G301-S7. Adopt a Reduced Road Salt Policy that minimizes salt application and storage near environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to highways and roads to protect aquifers,

private wells and surface waters. The Highway Department currently uses a salt/sand mixture on winter roads, seeking to balance safety, runoff, and resident expectations, as well as compliance with state regulations.

G301-S8. Re-evaluate participation in a regional committee to address impacts of development on the Barnes Aquifer. The Southampton Water Dept. and other PWS from surrounding communities continue to meet with PVPC through an MVP grant, and the Barnes Aquifer is a frequent topic of discussion. The Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee hopefully will become active again.

G301-S9. Educate landowners on the importance of vernal pools and assist in certifying their pools if they wish. Work to continue to identify and certify vernal pools on public lands.

Goal 4: Promote land use policies that protect the town's natural lands and rural community character.

Objectives

G401. Balance residential development with the protection of the town's natural, scenic and historic resources.

G402. Establish land use and development policies that respond to infrastructure capacity.

Strategies

G401-S1. Establish priority areas and parcels for scenic preservation.

G401-S2. Review and expand the town list of designated scenic roads. Continue to maintain the scenic quality of designated scenic roads.

G401-S3. Adopt overlay zoning districts that protect scenic vistas, for example, along the southern portion of College Highway (Route 10), which include buffers and design standards for developments. Continue to work with landowners for protection of these properties.

G401-S4. Strengthen solar bylaw for ecosystem services and climate adaptation.

G402-S1. Hold a series of public presentations about the benefits of smart growth policies that concentrate development in some places and discourage it in others. Present zoning strategies to preserve rural character within the context of a comprehensive smart-growth zoning strategy.

G402-S2. Hold a series of public presentations about the benefits of cluster development, or the building of homes closer together so that the remaining land on a site can be protected as open space or farmland. The Planning Board and Housing Committee are actively considering creation of a Chapter 40 R district.

G402-S3. Review the zoning bylaws and update regulations to better protect priority natural resources and farmland. Zoning bylaw examples could include: Open Space Residential Development, Green Development Performance Standards, and Resource Protection Overlay Districts, or Transfer of Development Rights.

G402-S4. Promote the use of Southampton's Agricultural Preservation District.

Goal 5: Promote adequate recreational facilities to serve a variety of needs for all residents of Southampton.

Objectives

G501. Manage and maintain existing recreational facilities.

G502. Expand recreational opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities.

G503. Expand sites for recreational opportunities.

Strategies

G501-S1. Use CPA funds for trail restoration.

G501-S2. Consider creation of a Recreation Department. The town budgeting process will need to address funding for management and maintenance.

G501-S3. Recruit and train/manage active trail volunteers. Continue the work of the Trail Blazers.

G501-S4. Continue Labrie Field improvements to include storage equipment, parking lot improvements, composting toilets. CPA funding has been approved for this improvement..

G501-S5. Continue Conant Park improvements

G501-S6. Consider new recreation infrastructure, including a skateboard park. Pickleball courts were recently installed.

G502-S1. Increase the number of sidewalks in the village, starting from Town Hall to the Library and further to the parks

G502-S2. Offer, facilitate, and provide more activities for seniors.

G502-S3 Create additional walking paths in Conant Park (a PARC grant has been submitted for this project).

G502-S4 Create walking paths in recently purchased 0 College highway parcel. The current planning concepts include walking paths connecting to a proposed future senior center on the site.

G503-S1. Continue work to complete the Southampton Greenway.

G503-S2. Develop walking paths and connections to Greenway in plan for newly purchased 54 acre 0 College Highway parcel.

G503-S3. Continue efforts to create new conservation properties through purchase in fee or Conservation Restrictions. Continue creation of hiking/walking paths on these parcels.

SECTION 9 2025 - 2031 ACTION PLAN

The 2025-2031 action plan is based on the vision and objectives presented in the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan. While some actions are carried forward as ongoing or in progress from the prior plan, others are newly presented as a result of revised analysis, new public input, and changing conditions. Input received during the planning process reflects a high level of activity already undertaken on many of these steps. The Action Plan is intended to be realistic and implementable.

With each action, the Town of Southampton identifies the “who,” “when,” and “how” to indicate who will lead the charge on implementation, in what time frame, and with what resources. This approach is critical to ensuring the goals are achieved, or at least advanced, in the next seven years. Even with this delineation of responsibilities, an underlying need persists for the Open Space Committee to ensure implementation on a year-to-year basis of these actions.

There is no one-size-fits all approach to achieving any of Southampton’s goals for open space and recreation. Land conservation will require local, state and federal government investment through ownership and/or funding assistance. Nonprofit land trusts can be critical partners either as outright landowners or holders of conservation restrictions. Private land owners will need access to many potential partners to implement voluntary restrictions, and donations or sale of their land for conservation purposes.

Goal 1: Identify and preserve important parcels for ecological, recreational, cultural, and historical value to create a town-wide green network.

Objective	#	Strategy	Responsible Party	Resources Needed	Target Date for Completion
G101. Increase capacity to manage town-owned open space lands and promote public use of existing open space networks.	S1	Continue to fine-tune a list of priority open space parcels for conservation based on available developable lands, key natural resource areas, critical habitat, agricultural lands and soils, recreational lands, and expansion and connection to town-wide green network.	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Trail Blazers	Volunteer Time, Staff time	FY2025 and ongoing

	S2	Maintain existing and increase potential relationships with land trusts like Kestrel Land Trust and other "Friends" organizations to accept more contributions to preserve land.	Open Space Committee, Planning Board, Town Administrator, Select Board, Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee	Volunteer Time	FY2025 and ongoing
--	----	--	---	----------------	--------------------

S3	Continue to update the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan to qualify for state and federal grants. The state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant and federal Land, PARC grants and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants fund the acquisition of open space, but the town must have an updated OSRP to qualify.	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Town Administrator	Volunteer Time, Staff Time, Consultants	FY2025 and resubmit for 2031
S4	Continue to maintain a current environmental inventory, implement management plans on existing conservation areas, and improve and maintain existing trail networks. Seek ongoing funding for maintenance and oversight.	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Parks Commission	Staff Time, Volunteer Time	FY2025 and on going

S5	Further refine a comprehensive outreach and education campaign to inform the community about existing open space resources, to improve and maintain trail networks, and to improve signage and access to open space. Develop trail maps, establish a volunteer trail maintenance program, educate the public about conservation as part of this effort.	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Parks Commission	Staff Time, Volunteer Time	FY2026
----	---	---	----------------------------	--------

S6	Continue planning to enhance Conant Memorial Park and to connect it to other town and open space resources. PARC grant submitted for splash park at Conant and walking paths. The Parks Commission is working on a master plan for Conant Park.	Highway Department, Parks Commission	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026

	S7	Continue the work of the Trail Blazers in creation of new trails, maintaining trails and invasive management of conservation lands.			2025 and ongoing
G102. Connect open space resources to enhance community livability and wildlife habitat, and to encourage walking and biking.	S1	Continue work to develop a rail trail along the existing rail bed to create a north-south connection between the numerous open space areas along its length. Continue to work with Tighe & Bond and MassDOT with the support of MassTrails grant program to complete Southampton Greenway from Coleman Road to Route 10. Consider expanding the current plan to Westfield's Columbia Rail Trail.	Planning Board, Parks Commission, Highway Department, Conservation Commission	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant, Transportation Improvement Funds, PVPC, MassDOT	FY2029 construction
	S2	Develop a Manhan River Greenway and Wildlife Corridor Management Plan, and a list of priority parcels for acquisition or easements to support the development and enhancement of this Greenway and wildlife corridor.	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Select Board	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, CPA funds, state LAND grant, federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant	FY2026

G103. Prioritize parcels for permanent protection based on natural resource protection and climate resilience.	S1	Continue regular meetings of the Open Space Committee (OSC), formed in 2019 to identify important parcels for preservation. The OSC has been influential in protecting over 500 acres since 2021.	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission	Volunteer Time	FY2025 and ongoing
--	----	---	---	----------------	--------------------

Goal 2: Protect Southampton’s remaining agricultural lands, promote local farming, and create opportunities for residents to become involved in local agriculture.

Objective	#	Strategy	Responsible Party	Resources Needed	Target Date for Completion
G201. Further develop a public outreach strategy to support agricultural activity.	S1	Continue to meet with property owners to explain the importance of farmland and available preservation options. Coordinate these efforts with the community’s prioritized list of key open space parcels for acquisition.	Agricultural Commission, Board of Assessors, Community Preservation Committee, School Committee	Volunteer Time, Staff Time	FY2026
	S2	Work with farmers and develop marketing materials to promote agriculture in Southampton.	Agricultural Commission	Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026 and ongoing

S3	Develop educational materials and hold public meetings to stimulate consciousness about agriculture and the tools available to protect it.	Agricultural Commission, School Department	Volunteer Time	FY2026
S4	Establish Farmer's Market in an appropriate location in the community.	Agricultural Commission	Volunteer Time	FY2026
S5	Explore possible community garden sites, including the open spaces in town.	Agricultural Commission, Select Board, Conservation Commission	Volunteer Time	FY2025 and ongoing

Goal 3: Protect Southampton's water resources.

Objective	#	Strategy	Responsible Party	Resources Needed	Target Date for Completion
G301. Continue to protect Southampton's public water supply and the Barnes Aquifer for generations to come.	S1	Continue and strengthen homeowner education and awareness about the importance and vulnerability of the Barnes Aquifer, particularly residential areas that cover recharge areas.	Conservation Commission, Board of Health, Water Commission	Volunteer time, funding for outreach materials	FY2025 and ongoing

S 2	Further support the previous water quality education campaign that targets landowners in town. Educate about septic system failures, fertilizer use on lawns and agricultural properties, pet wastes, and other homeowner actions that harm water quality. Develop educational materials and hold public meetings to stimulate consciousness about agriculture and the tools available to protect it.	Board of Health, Highway Department, Conservation Commission, Water Department	Staff Time, Volunteer Time	FY2025 and ongoing
S 3	Adopt Low Impact Development (LID) standards for stormwater management in the zoning, subdivision, and stormwater regulations. Low Impact Developments are designed to reflect natural hydrology, minimize impervious surfaces, treat stormwater in small decentralized	Planning Board, Highway Department, Conservation Commission	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026

		structures, preserve portions of the site in natural conditions, and use natural topography for drainage ways and storage.			
	S4	Consider adopting a River Protection Overlay District that minimizes development impacts in sensitive river buffer areas. This Overlay District can increase community control over activities on riverfront areas not regulated by the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act. The district designates a portion of the riverbank from the shoreline landward up to an established distance from each bank. It provides restrictions on uses and structures that will damage the environmental integrity of the river. Uses permitted as a matter of right should be limited to those consistent with the scenic qualities of the river, such as agricultural production, recreational uses, reasonable emergency procedures, conservation measures, and residential development on lots with frontage on an existing way.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Meeting	Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026

	S5	Consider developing a larger local buffer zone requirement than the existing state mandated 100'	Conservation Commission, Town Meeting	Staff Time, Volunteer Time	FY2025
--	----	--	---------------------------------------	----------------------------	--------

		protection buffer, in order to better protect the town's significant wetland resources.			
	S6	Consider developing a local wetlands bylaw with a required increased setback, with protections greater than the Wetlands Protection Act. The Town approved a local wetlands bylaw at the 10/17/20 Special Town Meeting that was approved by AG on 1/19/21.	Conservation Commission, Town Meeting	Staff Time, Volunteer Time	FY2025
	S7	Adopt a Reduced Road Salt Policy that minimizes salt application and storage near environmentally sensitive areas adjacent to highways and roads in order to protect aquifers, private wells and surface waters.	Highway Department, Conservation Commission, Water Department	Staff Time, Volunteer Time	FY2026

	S8	Re-evaluate participation in a regional committee to address impacts of development of regional impact to the Barnes Aquifer. The Southampton water dept and other PWS from surrounding communities have and continue to meet with PVPC through an MVP grant and the Barnes Aquifer is a frequent topic of discussion. BAPAC hopefully will become active again.	Planning Board, Water Commissioners	Volunteer Time. Staff Time	FY2025 and ongoing
	S9	Educate landowners on the importance of vernal pools and assist them in certifying their pools if they are interested. Work to identify and certify vernal pools on public lands.	Conservation Commission	Volunteer Time	FY2026

Goal 4: Promote land use policies that protect the town's natural lands and rural community character.

Objective	#	Strategy	Responsible Party	Resources Needed	Target Date for Completion
G401. Balance residential development	S1	Establish priority areas and parcels for scenic preservation.	Planning Board, Conservation	Staff Time, Volunteer Time,	FY2025 and ongoing

with the protection of the town's natural, scenic and historic resources.			Commission, Open Space Committee	Consultant	
	S2	Review and expand the town list of designated scenic roads. Continue to maintain the scenic quality of designated scenic roads. Continue to work with land owners for protection of these properties.	Highway Department, Planning Board, Tree Warden, Historical Commission	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026
	S3	Adopt overlay zoning districts that protect scenic vistas, for example, along the southern portion of College Highway (Route 10), which include buffers and design standards for developments.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Town Meeting	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026
	S4	Strengthen solar bylaw for ecosystem services and climate adaptation.	Planning Board, Town Meeting	Volunteer Time	FY2027
G402. Establish land use and development policies that respond to infrastructure capacity.	S1	Hold a series of public presentations about the benefits of smart growth policies that concentrate development in some places and discourage it in others. Present zoning strategies to preserve rural character within the context of a comprehensive smart growth zoning strategy.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Local Cable Access Channel, School Department	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026

	S2	Hold a series of public presentations about the benefits of cluster development, or the building of homes closer together so that the remaining land on a site can be protected as open space or farmland. Creation of a Chapter 40 R district is being actively considered by the Planning Board and Housing Committee.	Planning Board, Housing Authority, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Local Cable Access Channel, School Department	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, Consultant	FY2026
	S3	Review the zoning bylaws and update	Planning Board,	Consultant, Staff Time	FY2027

		regulations to better protect priority natural resources and farmland. Zoning bylaw examples could include: Open Space Residential Development, Green Development Performance Standards, and Resource Protection Overlay Districts, or Transfer of Development Rights.	Conservation Commission, Parks Commission, Agricultural Commission, Select Board, Local Cable Access Channel		
	S4	Promote the use of Southampton's Agricultural Preservation District.	Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission	Volunteer Time	FY2026

Goal 5: Promote adequate recreational facilities to serve a variety of needs for all citizens of

Southampton.

Objective	#	Strategy	Responsible Party	Resources Needed	Target Date for Completion
G501. Manage and maintain existing recreational facilities.	S1	Use CPA funds for trail restoration.	Community Preservation Act Committee, Select Board, Town Administrator	Staff Time, Volunteer Time, CPA funds	FY2025 and ongoing
	S2	Consider creation of a Recreation Department.	Parks Commission, Select Board, Town Administrator	Volunteer Time, Staff Time	FY2026
	S3	Recruit and train/manage active trail volunteers. Continue the work of the Trail Blazers.	Conservation Committee, Greenway Committee, Open Space Committee	Volunteer Time	FY2025 and ongoing
	S4	Continue Labrie Field improvements to include storage equipment, parking lot improvements, composting toilets. CPA funding has already been approved for continued improvement.	Parks Commission, Select Board, Southampton Youth Sports Programs	Volunteer Time, CPA funds, State PARC grants	FY2025 and ongoing
	S5	Continue Conant Park	Parks	Volunteer	FY2025 and ongoing

		improvements	Commission, Select Board	Time, State PARC grants	
	S6	Recreation infrastructure including skateboard park	Parks Commission, Select Board	Volunteer Time, State PARC grants	FY2026

G502. Expand recreational opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities	S1	Increase number of sidewalks in the village starting from Town Hall to the Library and further to the parks.	Highway Department	Staff Time	FY2025
	S2	Offer, facilitate, and provide more activities for seniors.	Parks Commission, Council on Aging	Volunteer Time, Staff Time	FY2025 and ongoing
	S3	Create additional walking paths in Conant park (PARC grant has been submitted for this project).	Parks Commission	Staff, Contractor	2026
	S4	Create walking paths in the recently purchased 54 acre 0 College Highway parcel. The current planning process includes walking paths connecting to a hopeful future senior center on the site.	Select Board, Planning commission, Open Space Committee	Staff, Contractor	2027
G503. Expand sites for recreational opportunities	S1	Continue work to complete Southampton Greenway.	Greenway Committee	Volunteer, Consultant	FY 2029 construction
	S2	Develop walking paths and Greenway link in plan for newly purchased 54- acre 0 College Highway.	Planning Board, Consultant, OSC, Com Con	Staff, Volunteer	2029

	S3	Continue efforts to create through purchase in fee or purchase of Conservation Restrictions new conservation properties. Continue creation of new hiking/ walking paths on these parcels,	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission,	Volunteer, Staff	2025 and ongoing
--	----	---	--	------------------	------------------

Some objectives the Town has been working toward are not immediately feasible. Some of these items that may be explored in the future are:

<p>Explore the possibility of securing public access to the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir area with the City of Holyoke. However, due to state regulations, a heightened sense of security, the remote location of this reservoir and its role as Holyoke’s primary source of water, no public access will be granted at the current time.</p>
<p>Develop a plan for an east-west connection from the Rail Trail to the Tighe-Carmody Reservoir. Compile a list of parcels that are critical to creating this link and work with town boards, officials, and local/state conservation groups to acquire or gain public access easements to these priority parcels.</p>
<p>Continue to educate landowners with contaminated wells and determine solutions to tie into the public water system. The Water Commission (WC) has a sampling and testing lab to test water samples monthly. The WC has spoken with landowners and provides sample bottles; the public must be encouraged to test their water regularly. State programs may assist with private wells that are contaminated. One such program, run through UMass, is called Technical Assistance Program (TAP). The USDA will provide low-interest loans to those who meet the requirements for the program, but only after the work is done to tie into the PWS. Thus, an advance funding program is needed.</p>
<p>Build a new water tank to strengthen water capacity for the Ponds area and accommodate growth there. This additional tank is on the long-term capital project list. Not only do we need to expand our reserve capacity\emergency storage for power outages, equipment failures or natural disasters, but the age of our current tank, constructed in 1992, is an issue. With the town growing, we are at the limits of our tank capacity (750,000 gallons). The interconnection with Easthampton alleviates this, at least in the short term, but our distribution system has only one pressure zone (the entire town is fed by the one tank), so adding a tank would benefit the entire town.</p>
<p>Build a new water line to connect to an existing water line on East Street.</p>

Submitted by the Southampton Select Board and the Southampton Open Space Committee

Select Board

Chris Fowles, chair
Jon Lumbra
Ellen DeBruyn
Stephen Johnson

Open Space Committee

Mark Kassis, Chair
Janet Brown
Diana Federman
Stephen Johnson
James Labrie
Paula Maak
Ed Buckley
Don Bernier

Submitted with input from the:

Select Board
Agricultural Commission
Conservation Commission
Greenway Committee
Highway Department
Park Commission
Planning Board
Greenway Committee
Water Commission