

## Section 9

# Ten Year Action Plan Update

### 2.1 Ten-Year Action Plan (2019-2029)

In accordance with the guidance from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Open Space and Recreation Plan originally laid out an action plan for the next seven years. In May 2025, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs allowed the Town to extend the Action Plan by three years, thereby creating a 10-year Action Plan.

The process to update the action plan for an additional three years included the following:

Implementation of this plan, like all community-driven plans, will need to be a joint effort among many parties. For each action within the plan, there is additional information provided relative to implementation of each specific action. The following further defines the information within each of those categories.

## Section Ten Year Action Plan

**TABLE 9-1**  
Action Plan Definitions

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Fund Source</b>	The potential source of funding to accomplish the action. More than one funding source may be needed for many actions. Each funding source identified has not been secured and would need to be sought through normal processes.
<i>Local</i>	Funds allocated through the annual Town budget. Assignment of this funding source does not mean this action has been approved for funding through the Town budget, but rather that approval of Town funds would need to be sought.
<i>Grants</i>	State, Federal, Non-profit and others
<i>Don</i>	Donations from private parties
<b>Plan Years</b>	The anticipated years within the seven-year time period for which this plan will be approved that the action will be accomplished. Some actions are anticipated to be on-going and will span all seven years.
<b>Priority Ranking</b>	This is the relative importance of the action in terms of achieving the goal for which it is identified under.
<i>High</i>	Very important for accomplishing the stated goal. Resources for accomplishing this task should be prioritized.
<i>Medium</i>	Somewhat important for accomplishing the stated goal. Resources for accomplishing this task should be allocated after high priority tasks are accomplished.
<i>Low</i>	Important for accomplishing the goal but of lowest priority. Resources for accomplishing this task should be allocated after high and medium priority tasks are accomplished.
<b>Lead Responsibility</b>	The primary entity responsible for initiation and oversight of task implementation. Coordinates activities of "Additional Responsible Parties".
<b>Additional Responsible Parties</b>	Entities to support the "Lead Responsibility" in some aspect of task implementation. Specific responsibilities to be coordinated by the Lead entity.
<i>Planning &amp; Conservation Department</i>	Refers to the staff of this department, i.e. Planning Director, Conservation Administrator
<i>Conservation, Planning, Selectboard</i>	Refers to the board/commission members; tasks to be coordinated by staff assigned to these boards
<i>Recreation</i>	Refers to the Recreation Department staff
<i>Schools</i>	Refers broadly to School Committee, Superintendent, principals, and teachers. Lead entity will need to identify appropriate contact(s) to work with on task implementation.
<i>Health</i>	Refers to the Public Health Department staff and Board of Health
<i>Assessors</i>	Refers to the Town Assessor and Board of Assessors

**2.0.1 Goal 1: Connectivity**

**Goal 1:** Connectivity – Safe walking and biking connections between residential areas, open space, recreation properties, and commercial centers are provided.

1. Expand community-wide and regional non-motorized connectivity.
2. Provide links to natural and cultural attractions around town.
3. Improve access to the Connecticut River, the Mount Holyoke Range and municipal recreational and conservation areas.

Goal 1 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Inventory and assess conservation lands and lands that could provide linkages.	Local/ Grants	X	X			Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	
Maintain trail network in good conditions.	Town/ Vol	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Bike Walk Committee
Enhance the hiking/biking trail system to Connecticut River, Bachelor-Stony Brooks Conservation Area, South Hadley Falls & Mount Holyoke Range.	Local/ Grants/ Don			X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Bike Walk Committee, Conservation, DPW
Maintain/improve existing Conservation Areas' walking trails.	Local/ Vol	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Bike Walk Committee
Increase parking and access to the central part of the Mount Holyoke Range (Lithia Springs).	Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Town Administrator	Planning & Conservation Dept., DCR, Selectboard, Bike Walk Committee, FD#2- Water Commissioners
Link park and open space resources with multi-use recreation paths for biking and walking	Local/ Grants		X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Selectboard, DPW

**Section 2 References**

Goal 1 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
connecting the Falls area to the Connecticut River.								
Provide marked bicycle routes in/through South Hadley.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	DPW, MassDOT
Promote existing access to the Connecticut River.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Town Administrator, Selectboard, Bike Walk Committee
Develop a Town-wide pathway system including sidewalks and bike lanes that will link neighborhoods to open spaces, recreation facilities, schools, and shopping centers.	Local/ Grants		X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Selectboard, DPW, Bike Walk Committee
Develop and implement Sidewalk Master Plan to improve and expand sidewalk systems. Prioritize filling in gaps in the sidewalk system to provide Safe Routes to Schools as identified in the 2016 Comprehensive BikePed Plan.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Schools, DPW, Selectboard
Incorporate "Complete Streets" concepts as streets are improved.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	DPW	Planning, Selectboard

**Section 2 References**

Goal 1 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Seek opportunities for greenway connections.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Planning, Selectboard
Seek opportunities to open views of the CT River within South Hadley Falls to connect people with the River.	Local	X	X	X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Planning
Provide a link between Beachgrounds and Lower Riverside Park.	Local/ Grants			X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Bike Walk Committee
Develop trails and linkages proposed in the 2016 Comprehensive BikePed Plan, including year-round bike and pedestrian paths at the Ledges.	Local/ Grants		X	X	X	Medium	Recreation	Bike Walk Committee, Golf Commission, Planning & Conservation Dept.
Identify locations of additional boat launch areas above the Holyoke Dam.	Local/ Grants			X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation
Enhance protection of scenic roadways.			X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation	DPW

**2.0.2 Goal 2: Ecological Integrity and Resiliency**

**Goal 2:** Ecological Integrity and Resiliency – Existing conservation land is well-managed for ecological and resiliency value and target acquisitions support integrity and resiliency.

**Section 2 References**

1. Protect natural resource areas (such as aquifers, floodplains, ponds, streams, vernal pools, and wetlands) through appropriate and enhanced land use controls.
2. Target land for acquisition based on ecological connectivity, including wildlife corridors and opportunities to connect with existing conservation lands.
3. Incorporate resiliency and ecological integrity in land use decisions.

Goal 2 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Inventory and assess conservation lands.	Local/ Grants	X				Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation
Strategically conserve abutting parcels with high conservation value.	Local Grants/ Don	X	X	X	X	High	Conservation	Selectboard, Planning & Conservation Dept, Planning
Permanently protect lands on the Mount Holyoke Range.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Conservation	Planning, Planning & Conservation Dept
Develop protected greenways along rivers and streams.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Conservation	Planning & Conservation Dept, Planning
Evaluate Chapter lands for recreational and conservation value before releasing the Town's rights to acquire.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Recreation, Planning, Conservation, Selectboard
Education of residents about estate planning and future of their land.	Local	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Town Counsel, Town Administrator, Selectboard, Assessors
Work with developers to provide for additional open space and recreation.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	Planning	Recreation, Conservation, Selectboard
Increase education and outreach about	Grants	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Schools, Library, Historical Commission, Town

**Section 2 References**

Goal 2 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
environmental and conservation issues.								Administrator, Sustainability and Energy Commission
Work with stream teams to assess and enhance stream conditions.	Grants			X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	DPW
Manage invasive species.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Tree Warden, Conservation, DPW
Review the Water Supply Protection Overlay District to better address protection of drinking water supply sources.	Local	X			X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Planning, Health, Conservation, FD#2-Water Commissioners, Selectboard, Sustainability and Energy Commission
Prioritize protection of land for aquifer protection.	Local/ Grants	X			X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Health, Conservation, FD#2-Water Commissioners, Selectboard
Protect lands important to ecological integrity and climate resiliency [regionally].	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Planning, Selectboard/ Town Administrator, Sustainability and Energy Commission
Implement tree planting program.	Local			X		Medium	Tree Warden	Tree Committee, DPW, Planning & Conservation Dept.
Conduct a street tree inventory and develop town-wide recommendations for urban forestry plan.	Local/ Grants		X	X		Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Tree Warden, DPW, Tree Committee

**Section 2 References**

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Goal 2 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Assess, prioritize and implement recommendations from the MVP workshops (2019-2020).	Grants	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Planning, Conservation, DPW, Health, Sustainability and Energy Commission
Encourage and promote MS4 stormwater permit compliance.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	DPW	Planning & Conservation Dept.
Require on-site retention and infiltration of stormwater.	Local	X				Medium	Planning	Conservation, Planning & Conservation Dept.

**Section 2 References**

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**2.0.3 Goal 3: Local Farms**

**Goal 3:** Local Farms - Resources and awareness for preservation of agricultural land, continued farm operations, and their contributions as natural, scenic and cultural resources are available.

1. Communicate need and techniques for preservation/conservation of properties for open space, passive, and active recreational purposes.
2. Encourage greater use of the APR Program and other available funding programs to protect the limited remaining farmland.
3. Work with farmers to remove impediments to farming and identify opportunities to encourage farming.

Goal 3 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Educate residents about estate planning and future of their land.	Grants	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Town Counsel, Selectboard, Land Trusts (Kestrel)
Map prime farmland soils.	Local	X				High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	
Target large tracts of prime farmland soils for protection as agricultural and open space.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X		High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Planning
Promote markets for local farm products.	Local			X	X	Medium	Selectboard/ Town Administrator	Gro South Hadley; Redevelopment Authority
Seek opportunities to host a farmer’s market in the Falls (food desert).	Local	X			X	High	Selectboard/ Town Administrator	Gro South Hadley; Redevelopment Authority

**Section 2 References**

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**2.0.4 Goal 4: Recreational Opportunities for All Ages and Abilities**

**Goal 4:** Recreational Opportunities for All Ages and Abilities – Recreational facilities and programs that address the needs of all South Hadley residents are provided.

1. Improve and maintain the Town’s existing passive and active recreational resources.
2. Promote public and private-sponsored recreational opportunities.
3. Improve accessibility when upgrading facilities.

Goal 4 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Provide accessible trails and places.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Selectboard	Recreation, Council of Aging, Planning & Conservation Dept.
Develop municipal tennis courts, pickleball courts and other alternative facilities.	Local/ Grants		X	X		Low	Recreation	Selectboard
Evaluate surplus Town property for recreational facilities and neighborhood parks.	Local	X				Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Recreation, Redevelopment Authority
Evaluate Chapter lands for recreational and conservation value before releasing the Town’s rights to acquire.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Recreation, Planning, Conservation, Selectboard
Work with developers to provide for additional open space and recreation.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Planning
Inventory and map small open spaces and assess feasibility for neighborhood parks.	Local/ Grants		X	X		Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Recreation, DPW

**Section 2 References**

Goal 4 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Provide neighborhood parks close to residential areas.	Local/ Grants		X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Recreation, Planning, Selectboard, DPW
Protect and enhance existing neighborhood parks.	Local		X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Selectboard, Recreation
Improve accessibility and age-friendly recreational opportunities at Woodlawn Park, adjacent to Senior Center	Local/ Grants	X	X			High	Recreation	Planning & Conservation Dept., Council on Aging, DPW
Establish a dog park.	Grants/ Vol	X				High	Friends of South Hadley Dog Park	Selectboard, DPW
Plan for a community center with indoor exercise facilities for all ages.	Local/ Grants			X		Low	Selectboard	Council on Aging, Recreation, Schools
Increase outdoor seating / rest areas for walkers (e.g., benches, low walls, and other accommodations) within neighborhoods and along connecting routes and recreational trails.	Local/ Grants/ Donation	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, DPW, Selectboard
Work with HG&E to expand seasons and hours of the Riverfront Parks to be consistent with Town parks.	Local	X				Medium	Town Administrator	Selectboard, Planning & Conservation Dept.

**Section 2 References**

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**2.0.5 Goal 5: Maintenance and Stewardship**

**Goal 5:** Maintenance and Stewardship – The open space and recreational resources are well-maintained and cared for.

1. Develop plans and costs for maintenance needs for current open space and recreational resources and identify potential funding sources.
2. Promote stewardship of existing open space and recreation resources for their intended uses through a corps of volunteers.
3. Require long-term maintenance strategies for any acquisitions or new facilities.

Goal 5 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Develop a local dedicated funding source for maintenance of open space and recreation facilities.	Local	X			X	High	Selectboard, Town Administrator	Planning & Conservation Dept., Conservation, Planning, Recreation
Finalize baseline document reports and management plans for conservation areas.	Local	X				High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation
Implement property specific management plans.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Recreation, Schools, DPW
Increase maintenance and improvements of active recreational fields.	Local/Vol	X	X			High	Recreation	DPW, School Department
Clean trash on roadside and natural areas.	Local/Vol	X	X	X	X	High	DPW	Conservation, Bike Walk Committee
Develop and implement Sidewalk Master Plan to	Local/Grants	X				High	DPW	Schools, Selectboard, Planning

**Section 2 References**

Goal 5 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
improve and expand sidewalk systems.								
Maintain/improve existing Conservation Areas' walking trails.	Local/ Grants	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Bike Walk Committee
Promote and utilize volunteer conservation stewardship corps.	Local	X	X	X	X	High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Recreation
Work with stream teams to assess and enhance stream conditions.	Grants/ Vol			X		Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation
Manage invasive species.	Local/ Grants/ Vol	X	X	X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Tree, DPW

**Section 2 References**

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**2.0.6 Goal 6: Communication and Marketing**

**Goal 6:** Communication and Marketing – The public is well-informed about existing open space, recreational and historical resources, including their value and threats to them.

1. Enhance access and usability of passive recreation areas through parking improvements, signage, and trail development.
2. Integrate communications that provide residents with clear and useful information about all public recreation opportunities, facilities, parks and open spaces.
3. Support placemaking by communicating the location, history, significance, and current conditions of South Hadley’s environmental, historical and cultural resources and historical landscapes.

Goal 6 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Increase education and outreach about environmental and conservation issues.	Local	X	X	X	X	Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Conservation, Schools, Library, Historical Commission, Town Administrator
Structure website and social media better to promote all recreational resources, including trail systems.	Local	X				High	Town Administrator	Planning & Conservation Dept., Bike Walk Committee, Recreation, Conservation, Council on Aging
Include on Town website information regarding HG&E parks, including a map of their locations and entrances.	Local	X				High	Town Administrator	Planning & Conservation Dept.
Identify commercial recreation facilities and programs on the Town website.	Local	X				High	Town Administrator	Recreation, South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce

**Section 2 References**

Goal 6 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years				Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7	8-10			
Develop a user-friendly on-line map of trails.	Local/ Vol	X				Medium	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Bike Walk Committee, Town Administrator, Assessors
Provide consistent way-finding signage for open space and recreation facilities.	Local/ Grants	X	X			High	Planning & Conservation Dept.	Planning, Recreation, DPW
Provide electronic maps of trail systems via apps.	Local/ Vol		X	X	X	Low	Planning & Conservation Dept.	
Collaborate with Mount Holyoke College to promote activities open to residents.	Local/ Vol	X	X	X	X	Low	Recreation	Mount Holyoke College