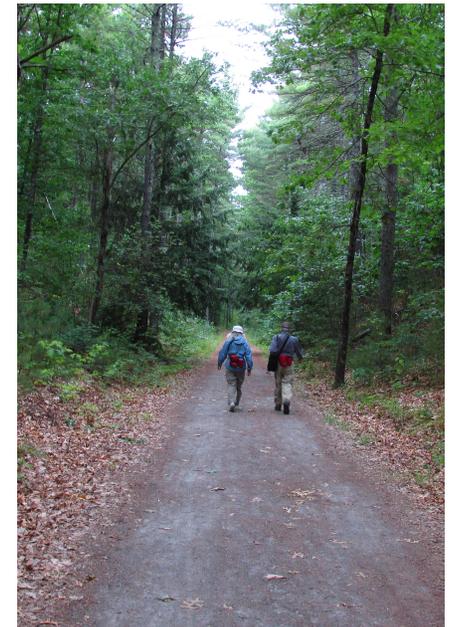


Sterling Master Plan Update: Natural Resources & Open Space

**Master Plan Committee Meeting
October 25, 2018**





From Chapter 41, Section 81D:

(5) An inventory of the significant natural resource areas of the municipality, and policies and strategies for the protection and management of such areas.

(6) An inventory of recreational resources and open space areas of the municipality, and policies and strategies for the management and protection of such resources and areas.

State Requirement

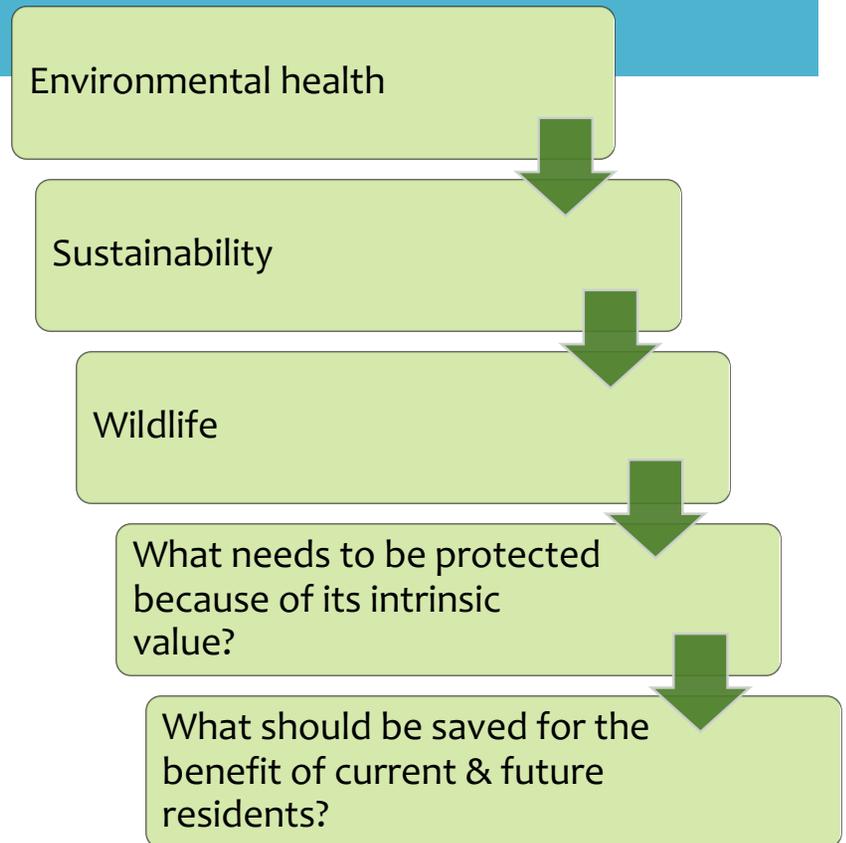
Live ... work ... play ... protect

- Master plan is ultimately about a community's physical evolution ...
- Goal of this element: to document and understand the community's critical natural resource areas, how open space can support protection of those resources, and how to harmonize protection priorities with "active recreation" needs for open space



Typical Scope & Sequence: Natural Resources

- Existing Conditions, informed by:
 - Regional context: e.g., water resources, regional forests and parks, bicycle trails
 - Local inventory review: e.g., water, soils, topography, habitat
- Issues & Opportunities – Risks, challenges, land & water conservation opportunities, education, stewardship, regulatory reform
- Action Plan



Typical Scope & Sequence: Open Space & Recreation

- Existing conditions, informed by:
 - Regional context: outdoor recreation areas & facilities
 - Inventory: e.g., public parks, recreation fields (baseball, soccer, etc.), playgrounds, trails, tennis courts, golf courses – and utilization trends
- Issues & Opportunities – Demographics? Addressing open space & recreation needs, reaching harmony between “play” and “protect”, capital planning, facilities management
- Action Plan

Natural Resources & Open Space

One of the big challenges for town planning is getting local agreement about how to meet needs for undisturbed or “passive” recreation and needs for developed or “active” recreation areas.

Discussion Questions

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR NATURAL RESOURCES & OPEN SPACE IN STERLING?

Questions

- What recreation resources do you use in Sterling? In the larger region?
- What recreation resources do your family members use?
- Does Sterling need additional playing fields? If so, what types of fields are needed and where should they be located?
- Are you satisfied with the available programs and recreational opportunities for you and your family in Sterling?

Questions

- Many people cite open space and rural imagery as among Sterling's greatest assets, but Sterling probably won't have the funds to buy all of the land its residents would like to protect. Aside from land acquisition, what strategies for land conservation would make sense in Sterling?
- Should criteria be established for determining which board or commission should be given care and custody of parcels acquired by the Town? (If those criteria already exist, what are they?)

Questions

- What do you consider to be the most significant threats to natural resources and open space and recreation in Sterling?
- Of these threats, what is within the Town's means to address them? What can Sterling do?

Questions

- Is there more the Town could do to engage developers as partners in protecting open space and providing recreation opportunities?
- Does the Town have an established dialogue with adjacent communities about common natural resource/open space protection efforts? How about common recreation needs?

Sustainability Exercise

	Policies	Projects, Programs, Practices
Air Quality		
Climate Change		
Education		
Energy Efficiency		
Equity		
Green Building		
Integrated Pest Management		
Natural Resources & Habitat		
Operations & Maintenance		
Public Health & Safety		
Transportation		
Water Conservation		
Water Quality		