
SECTION 8

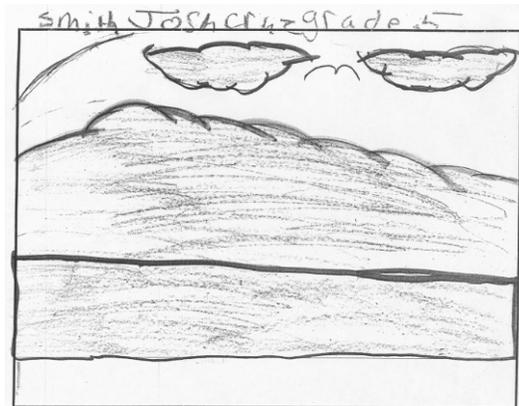
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As described in Sections 2 and 6, the following open space and recreation goals and objectives were formulated through a public participation process that included a survey conducted by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department and a series of public meetings and a public forum held by the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee.

A. Goal: To conserve native plants and wildlife habitat, protect rivers and streams, river corridors and their watersheds and maintain scenic landscapes.

Objectives:

1. Encourage permanent protection of large blocks of contiguous forest and establishment of corridors between existing protected forest parcels.
2. Encourage permanent protection of land along the banks of the Connecticut, Sawmill and Millers Rivers and support ecological restoration efforts in these watersheds.
3. Work closely with the Turners Falls Fire District to safeguard the future of watershed lands.
4. Revise Montague Zoning Bylaws to direct development to appropriate areas without devaluing the land and, where possible, to allow clustering of homes on smaller lots to protect open space when land is developed.
5. Develop standards and priorities for Town acquisition of conservation land and conservation restrictions.
6. Purchase or accept conservation restrictions from willing private landowners in Montague.



-
7. Consider adoption of a local wetland protection bylaw.
 8. Investigate funding mechanisms for Town acquisition of open space, including adoption of the Community Preservation Act by Town Meeting with at least a 1% property tax surcharge. *The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was signed into law on September 14, 2000. The CPA allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund in the municipality to be used for funds through a surcharge of up to 3% of the real estate tax levy on real property for open space, historic preservation and low and moderate income housing. The act also creates a significant state matching fund of more than \$25 million annually, which will serve as an incentive to communities to take advantage of the provisions of this legislation. Local municipalities must adopt the Act. Once adopted locally, the Act would require at least 10% of the monies raised to be distributed to each of three categories: historic preservation, open space protection and low and moderate income housing, allowing the community flexibility in distributing the majority of the money for any of the three categories as determined by the community.*
 9. Discourage expansion of infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer lines to farmland and areas of contiguous forest.
 10. Promote cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned and underutilized industrial and commercial properties.
 11. Participate in region-wide land use planning efforts to ensure protection of the resources Montague shares with other communities.
 12. Encourage private donations of land or interest in land to state agencies and non-profit conservation organizations like land trusts.
 13. Educate landowners about the ecological importance of vernal pools and encourage their certification and protection.
 14. Educate people about existing environmental laws.

B. Goal: To protect Montague's drinking water.

Objectives:

Work with Montague's water districts to:

1. Educate residents and local businesses, including agricultural businesses, on environmental laws and best management practices for protecting water supplies.
2. Include the Delineated Zone II Recharge area for the new well being developed adjacent to Lake Pleasant



in the Water Supply Protection District.

3. Research and implement policies to manage and control new residential development in water supply protection areas.
4. Develop local regulations to address use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials.
5. Prioritize acquisition of land critical to the protection of Montague's drinking water resources.
6. Implement best management practices for road maintenance in water supply protection areas, including limited use of road salt and cleaning of catch basins.
7. Develop water conservation strategies.

C. Goal: To ensure the continued viability of commercial agriculture and forestry in the Town of Montague and to conserve prime farmland soils.

Objectives:

1. Educate Montague residents about the role of commercial agriculture and forestry in ensuring the Town's fiscal stability and continued high quality of life.
2. Determine whether interest exists to reactivate the Agricultural Commission to study and recommend local policies to promote the viability of agricultural business in Montague.
3. Develop a Right to Farm Bylaw to protect farmers from complaints about odors and sounds due to normal farming activities.
4. Enhance the public visibility of agricultural businesses in Montague and promote purchase of local farm and forest products.

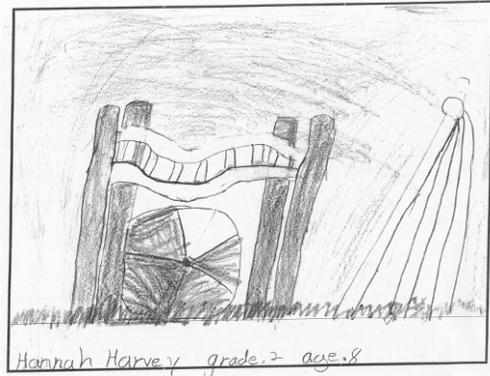


-
5. Promote conservation of valuable agricultural soils and permanent protection of farmland through the APR program, consistent with the plans and desires of landowners.

D. Goal: To ensure that the Town of Montague continues to maintain and improve its recreational facilities in addition to delivering safe, accessible, quality recreational opportunities.

Objectives:

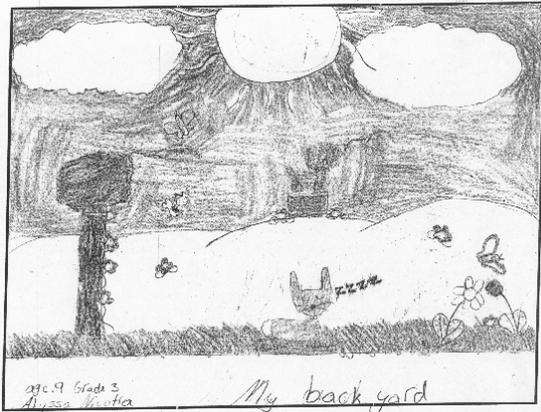
1. Continue to maintain town-owned or managed parks including Unity Park, Highland Park, Peskeomskut Park, Montague Center Park Norma's Park and Rutter's Park.
2. Ensure affordability and accessibility of recreational areas and programs to all Montague residents, including development of at least one ADA-accessible facility.
3. Explore the feasibility of developing a park in Montague City.
4. Encourage the maintenance of all existing recreational facilities including trails.
5. Explore cost-effective methods for developing safe bike routes between village centers and areas of interest.



E. Goal: To increase public support for the conservation of Montague's natural resources.

1. Educate Montague residents about existing areas of protected open space and promote use of those lands that provide public access for recreation.
2. Promote environmental education in Montague schools, with a special focus on local resources.
3. Encourage discussion and promote cooperation between Town boards and committees and special districts about the benefits of conservation.
4. Promote Montague's historic and rural character and outdoor recreation opportunities to tourists.





F. Goal: To safeguard the future of the Montague Plains.

Objectives:

1. Partner with the state Department of Fish and Game to improve management of the Plains.
2. Support formation of a volunteer "Friends of the Montague Plains" group to assist in stewardship and management of the Plains.
3. Work closely with Northeast Utilities and other landowners on the Plains to ensure that development proposals minimize impact on the ecology of the Plains, especially on endangered species.