

## Section 9

### Five Year Action Plan

**(For the full text of each action item, see the preceding section)**

The following schedule represents our current estimate of the time scale of the above projects. This schedule will be controlled largely by the availability of funding and active volunteers.

<b>Ongoing Action Items: Years 1 through 5</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Work with other municipal boards and private organizations to implement the Stow Open Space and Recreation Plan.	Open Space Committee
Evaluate large parcels of open land and assist the town in working proactively to protect the most important areas and in making decisions about priorities as parcels become available.	Open Space Committee
Identify and secure sites to meet future (long-term) municipal needs	Municipal Land Use Committee (lead), Board of Selectmen, Capital Planning Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee
Priority for the open space portion of CPA funds should be given to acquisition of land and rights in land and to projects that are consistent with the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Projects that leverage funds from other sources should be given additional priority.	Community Preservation Committee
Encourage joint affordable housing-open space projects where appropriate to the site in order to foster support for both of these important municipal needs (in conjunction with OSC, SCT, HP)	Community Preservation Committee (lead), Open Space Committee, Stow Conservation Trust, Housing Partnership
The town should continue to make an annual appropriation of funds to the town's conservation fund to provide seed money for land acquisitions and assist with land management and maintenance.	Conservation Commission (lead); Board of Selectmen
Seek EOEA Self Help funds and other outside funds for open space projects where they are consistent with the goals of this plan.	Conservation Commission (lead); Board of Selectmen
In contemplating taking and disposition of tax title lands, the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer should consult with the Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board and other key municipal boards. Lands that are important for conservation should be transferred to the control of Conservation Commission; lands important for other uses should be transferred to the appropriate board.	Board of Selectmen, Town Treasurer (lead); Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Municipal Land Use Committee
Ensure that any proposals to modify zoning to promote economic development, affordable housing or compact development either will result in a reduction of overall density or are neutral with regard to Stow's overall buildout.	Planning Board (lead); Open Space Committee

<b>Short Term Action Items: Years 1 and 2 (FY09 &amp; FY10)</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Create Open Space Coordinating Council to meet regularly to coordinate open space protection efforts; work to strengthen relationships	Open Space Committee (lead); Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee; Stow Conservation Trust
Develop a formal policy for processing notices of withdrawal or sale of lands enrolled in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B that ensures that such parcels are given due consideration for municipal needs.	Open Space Committee (lead); Board of Selectmen
Review and Update Parcel Ranking Methodology	Open Space Committee
Actively seek to protect land in the southwest quadrant of Stow and create a network of trail linkages in this part of town. Develop a land conservation master plan for this area.	Open Space Committee (lead); Planning Board
Provide high quality, credible information to municipal leaders, civic organizations and residents about the property tax implications of various growth scenarios.	Open Space Committee (lead); Stow Conservation Trust
Complete protection of the remainder of Crow Island/Track Road.	Stow Conservation Trust (lead); Board of Selectmen
Identify and work to protect or secure easements over missing links in the Emerald Necklace walking trail network.	Stow Conservation Trust (lead); Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee
Encourage the creation of a town committee, perhaps the newly created Agricultural Commission, or a new nonprofit organization, possibly working in cooperation with the Stow Conservation Trust, that will focus on promoting Stow's "green" tourism potential including the promotion of local products. Consider the potential for marketing "Stow Apples" as a recognized "brand" in Massachusetts and New England markets.	Open Space Committee (lead); Agricultural Commission, Stow Conservation Trust
Improve the current Assabet River boat ramp at Sudbury Road and secure this site permanently through acquisition by the Town or conservation restriction/easement.	Recreation Commission (lead); Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee
Advocate for continued enrollment in the Community Preservation Act.	Community Preservation Committee (lead); Stow Conservation Trust, Open Space Committee
Consider an overlay zone in the Southwest quadrant of Stow that encourages or requires planned conservation development with a land conservation "master plan" for the open space designed to foster such linkages.	Planning Board (lead); Open Space Committee

Develop standard procedures for the provision of open space in conjunction with development projects and develop a list of cases where applicants have not met their requirements to transfer land to dedicated open space and work with the landowners to complete these conveyances.	Conservation Commission (lead); Planning Board
Consider adoption of a bylaw that would provide for a temporary annual building permit cap as needed to provide time to plan for desired growth and development.	Planning Board
Consider adoption of a bylaw that would provide for submittal of a open space development plan ('cluster' or planned conservation development (PCD) plan) for developments of greater than 5 units (including ANR), with the Planning Board given the discretion to determine whether a PCD or conventional plan should be developed, given site conditions.	Planning Board
Amend zoning bylaws to make clear that the order of preference for the set aside of open space and revise regulations to address timing of these conveyances and payment of due diligence costs (survey, title, etc.) by the applicant; develop regulations as needed for Ch. 41, Section 81U set-asides of park and open space land	Planning Board, Conservation Commission
Identify and secure sites to meet the town's identified need for active recreational fields. Make provision for recreational fields to accommodate a portion of future town needs within any future school site.	School Building Committee (lead); Recreation Commission, Board of Selectmen
Report annually on progress toward the 1:1 land protection to land development goal identified above. Included in the protected category should be land permanently set aside as open space through the development review process.	Open Space Committee; Stow Conservation Trust
Complete a more detailed evaluation of the feasibility of improving access for persons with disabilities and the conservation and recreational areas identified in Section 7. Build accessibility into any new recreational facility development.	Conservation Commission; Open Space Committee; Recreation Commission
<b>Mid-Term Action Items: Year 3 and 4 (FY11 &amp; FY12)</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Seek opportunities to protection additional open land around Lake Boon and to improve the Lake Boon boat ramp.	Open Space Committee (lead); Conservation Commission, Community Preservation Committee
Complete a Scenic Resource Inventory.	Open Space Committee (lead); Historical Commission
Support and adopt a Scenic Roads Bylaw that limits alteration of trees and stone walls along the town's scenic roadways.	Planning Board, Historical Commission; Open Space Committee
Update and improve the recreation portion of Stow's Community Preservation Plan.	Community Preservation Committee (lead); Recreation Commission

Consider bylaw that requires PCD development when parcels identified as a priority are proposed for development	Planning Board
Seek opportunities to lease existing appropriate parcels of conservation land for agricultural purposes.	Conservation Commission
Maintain existing Recreation-Conservation zoning, and assess the feasibility of expanding it to include important surface water resources.	Planning Board
Map important wildlife corridors and connections between protected areas and adopt a Wildlife Habitat Corridor overlay zoning district.	Conservation Commission (lead -mapping); Planning Board (lead-bylaw)
Update Stow's wetlands regulations to create standards for bylaw provisions relative to wildlife habitat, wetland buffers and vernal pools.	Conservation Commission
Consider increasing planning/conservation staff to focus on implementation of the actions in this plan as well as in the master plan.	Board of Selectmen (lead); Planning Board, Conservation Commission
Continue to investigate the feasibility of a transfer of development rights bylaw that will concentrate development in appropriate areas with infrastructure and reduce development in areas that are a high priority for conservation, as identified in this Plan.	Planning Board
Continue to expand the town's sidewalk network in appropriate locations – such as an extension of the existing sidewalk westward from Harvard Road toward the Bolton line.	Planning Board (lead); Highway Dept.
Continue to coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the review and implementation of their management plan for the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. Encourage expansion of the Refuge boundary to allow for important future acquisitions.	Board of Selectmen (lead); Open Space Committee
Continue to expand the network of volunteers that assist with trail maintenance and land management.	Conservation Commission
The town should seek to replace any shade trees that must be removed along public ways.	Highway Supervisor, Tree Warden
Encourage the use of Green Building Design and "Low Impact Development" techniques to minimize the impact of new development on natural resources, maximize groundwater recharge, and foster connectivity of wildlife habitat	Planning Board and Conservation Commission
<b>Long-Term Action Items - Year 5 (FY13)</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Complete Any Outstanding Action Items and Continue to Implement Ongoing Action Items	Responsible Party
Update Open Space and Recreation Plan	Open Space Committee (lead); Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission