



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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July 10, 2019

Nora Loughnane
Department of Community and Economic Development
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Loughnane:

Thank you for submitting the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for Westwood to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. This plan was particularly thorough and has been conditionally approved through July 2026. Conditional approval will allow the town to participate in DCS grant rounds through July 2026 and a grant award may be offered to the town. However, no final grant payments will be made until the plan is completed.

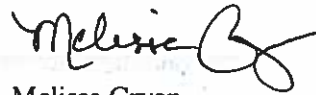
Once the following items are addressed, your plan will receive final approval:

1. Introduction – the Planning Process and Public Participation section should discuss how the public meetings and surveys were advertised.
2. Growth and Development Patterns – the Transportation Systems, Water Systems, and Sewer Systems sections should be separated into three separate sections. The Transportation Systems section include information on pedestrian and cycling access.
3. Water Resources – please add sections on the town's flood hazard areas, wetlands, and aquifer recharge areas.
4. Vegetation – a discussion of public shade trees is required.
5. Fisheries and Wildlife - any wildlife corridors in the town must be described.
6. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments - any unusual geologic features in the town must be discussed. Was the list of scenic landscapes from 2000 revisited to be sure that all are still intact?
7. Environmental Challenges – please include information on landfills, erosion, chronic flooding, sedimentation, and development impact.
8. Section 5 – the table that lists town-owned conservation parcels should include a column on what type of grant, if any, was used to acquire the parcel. Table 14 should be expanded to include columns on recreation potential, type of grant, if any, used to purchase and/or renovate or develop the site, and public access. Any Conservation Restrictions or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions in town should be included. Any state-owned land in the town should be listed as well.

9. **Community Goals** - the Statement of Open Space and Conservation Goals in this section should strictly be at the broad, big picture level. The specific goals and objectives listed are for Section 8.
10. **Analysis of Needs** – the Community’s Needs section should include a discussion of the needs of special groups, such as people with disabilities and teens.
11. **Letters of Review** – letters from the regional planning agency and planning board are needed.
12. **ADA** – facility inventory forms for all town-owned conservation and recreation properties are needed.

Congratulations on working on such an important task for your community! Please contact me at (617) 626-1171 or melissa.cryan@mass.gov if you have any questions or concerns, and I look forward to reviewing your final plan.

Sincerely,



Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager