

## 1 PLAN SUMMARY

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Hadley has already shown itself to be a town committed to the protection of open space with roughly thirty-five percent (35%) of its land area under some form of protection. Under the guidance of an active Conservation Commission, and with the help of the state and local non-profit organizations, Hadley has permanently protected a notable amount of its prime agricultural land. This accomplishment is especially important given the rising development pressures in the region, which have increased the potential profit of turning a farm into a subdivision.

Since the original Open Space and Recreation Plan was written for Hadley in 1998, steps have been taken to protect other open land as well. The town has purchased parcels with recreation potential, and hopes to expand these efforts to create riverfront connections. Plans are in place to increase the recreation opportunities at the Hadley Reservoir. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation has continued to examine and acquire parcels in the Mount Holyoke Range, with the cooperation and guidance of the towns in the area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also active in protecting habitat for grassland birds and other wildlife in Hadley. The historical value of Hadley's open spaces is also in the spotlight, with initiatives to protect the farmlands of the Great Meadow and the character of the land surrounding the town center.

The goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in this report were identified after carefully looking at a number of sources, and in comparison to the 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Overall, the goals from the previous plan remain current and continue to inform the revised Action Plan presented in Chapter 9.

We have identified the following list of primary goals, some old and some new:

- Protect Hadley's Agricultural Land.
- Protect Hadley's Public Water Supply.
- Preserve and Protect Historic and Scenic Landscapes.
- Protect Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat/Biodiversity
- Improve and Expand Recreational Opportunities to Hadley Residents.
- Develop Improved Administrative Practices.

This report provides the background to understand these goals, and specific strategies to use in working towards them over the next seven years in Hadley.