

# SECTION 8

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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The following goals and objectives were formulated from the results of the 2022-2023 Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey and meetings of the Open Space Committee. Many of these goals and objectives will be pursued and implemented within the context of increasing and strengthening Shelburne's resiliency to climate change.

**Goal A: Sustain and enhance the small town, rural feel of Shelburne as reflected by large tracts of farm and forested lands, its ridgelines with views, and its lively village in Shelburne Falls.**

Objectives:

- A1. Promote and support the economic viability of farming and forestry in Shelburne.
- A2. Identify and protect lands that have ecological, agricultural, historical, cultural, and recreational significance, including places that are significant to indigenous people.
- A3. Create public spaces in Shelburne Falls village where residents of all ages can meet, socialize, eat together, stay active, and enjoy arts and culture.
- A4. Propose changes to zoning bylaws that reflect desired characteristics in the village and rural areas, enabling trail construction and housing diversity while still protecting open space.
- A5. Explore adopting zoning measures that protect water resources, encourage climate resiliency, keep skies dark at night, enhance access to recreation and trails, and preserve scenic views.

**Goal B: Maintain and improve the quality of Shelburne's natural resources for today and the future, in the face of a changing climate.**

Objectives:

- B1. Propose and assist development of strategic land conservation to protect natural habitats, wildlife corridors, forests with significant carbon sequestration potential, contiguous undeveloped tracts of land, and plants or places that are significant to indigenous peoples.
- B2. Execute water quality protection initiatives to conserve and protect rivers, groundwater, wetlands, and lakes, along with riparian areas.
- B3. Identify infrastructure and property vulnerable to extreme flooding, droughts, and extreme temperatures resulting from climate change and complete projects that reduce Shelburne's vulnerability.
- B4. Identify and promote land use practices that improve and sustain healthy landscapes that can provide local food, recreation, wildlife habitat, and community living for current and future generations.

**Goal C: Offer recreational facilities and programming for residents of all ages and abilities, especially those that connect people with Shelburne's rich natural environment and landscapes.**

Objectives:

- C1. Continue to offer high quality recreational programming and facilities
- C2. Identify, protect, and enhance river access points on the Deerfield River.
- C3. Work with nonprofit and private landowners to expand the number of trails in Shelburne.
- C4. Identify the best prospects for future roadside biking and walking, and paths for hiking, walking and jogging; work to develop those facilities.
- C6. Provide access to natural areas for village residents.
- C7. Expand outdoor recreation offerings for children, teens, young adults, and older adults.
- C8. Provide information on the available public recreation resources in town.

**Goal D. Engage residents in discussions about community projects and the town's natural, recreational, and cultural resources, and as volunteers and stewards of these resources.**

Objectives:

- D3. Continue to engage the community in open space and recreation planning efforts.
- D4. Improve availability of public information on recreation and open space in Shelburne.