



# Mansfield Open Space and Recreation Plan



# What is an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP)

A document that describes a community's open space and recreation resources



It is also a blueprint for action for open space and recreation stakeholders in a community

Conservation  
Commission

Parks  
Commission

Cemetery  
Commission

Planning  
Board

Local  
Citizens

# Why have an OSRP?



**Collect Data**



**Learn about community priorities**



**Protect & Manage existing open spaces**



**Acquire funding from the state**

# OSRP Process

1. Develop a Steering Committee.

2. Evaluate previous plan for completed actions.

3. Conduct a public workshop and outreach.

4. Summarize public input and create action items.

5. Draft plan.

6. Present results in second public workshop

7. Submit plan to the state.

We are here!



# Public Engagement



Public Survey: 934 total responses



Public Events:

Mansfield Family Fun Night  
Mansfield 101



First Public Workshop on 10/23/23



Tonight's final presentation!



# Key Public Engagement Findings

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# Key Public Engagement Findings

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## Who are we?

- Population of 23,184
- Average Household Size of 2.7
- Median age of 42.1 years
- Population Structure:
  - “School Age” (under 20): 23.9%
  - “Working Age” (20 – 59): 56.7%
  - “Retirement Age” (60+): 19.4%



# Key Public Engagement Findings

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## **We favorite things about Mansfield's Open Spaces are the . . .**

- Pedestrian / Bike Paths
- Hiking / Walking Trails



## **Our top preservation concerns are. . .**

- Drinking water supplies
- Open Space for Passive Recreation
- Forests / Woodlands



# Key Public Engagement Findings

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## What do we need more of?

- Swimming Facilities / Waterfront Access
- Walking / Biking Paths
- Dog Parks
- Community Events

## Where do we need upgrades?

- Memorial Park
- Plymouth Street Recreation Area
- World War II Veterans Memorial Trail  
(bike path)



## Tonight's Goal:

*To review the plan contents and process, as well as discuss the action items.*

# What are Action Items?

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- They are based off the wants and needs identified in the public engagement findings.
- They are a wish list and road map on how to achieve those wants.
- They are not set in stone and are flexible and responsive to the needs and abilities of the town to address them as time goes on.
- Some Actions Items are already in progress, while others will be addressed as opportunities (such as grant funding) present themselves.

# The Main Goals of the Mansfield OSRP:

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1. Establish a robust maintenance plan and reasonable budget for the management and implementation of the Open Space portion of the OSRP.
2. Expand, diversify, and improve existing open spaces and recreational areas.
3. Promote the use of trail systems within Open Spaces with use of social media, websites, wayfinding signs, and community outreach programs.
4. Develop and implement a comprehensive climate change resiliency program for the Town of Mansfield.
5. Preserve Mansfield's Natural Resources, wildlife habitats, and remaining agricultural lands.

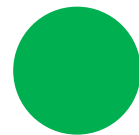


# Tonight's Workshop:

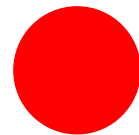
*Did we get it right?*

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- Do you agree with the proposed action plan?
- Did we miss anything?
- What are your top priorities?



Agree with this action item



Disagree or concerns with this action item

*Do you have any final  
questions or comments?*

# Public Comment Period open through June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Send comments to [enviro@srpedd.org](mailto:enviro@srpedd.org)



Visit the project webpage!

[www.srpedd.org/mansfield-osrp](http://www.srpedd.org/mansfield-osrp)



Project Page

# MANSFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 1. ESTABLISH A ROBUST MAINTENANCE PLAN AND REASONABLE BUDGET FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPEN SPACE PORTION OF THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN.</b>			
1	Establish a robust maintenance and land management plan for Mansfield's conservation sites overseen by a dedicated conservation and parks maintenance staff position.		
1-A	Establish routine maintenance activities such as landscaping around parking areas, paving driveways and parking areas, replacing kiosks and signs, removal of trash and debris, trail/tree clearing, and maintaining existing structures.		
1-B	Finalize the Annual Trail Maintenance Plan that will detail and itemize all of the routine maintenance activities necessary to keep all Conservation Areas safe and well-maintained over the course of a year. This plan will help to determine the cost to maintain these areas and establish a baseline budget.		
1-C	Continue to promote Trail Steward Program to engage community volunteers in maintenance of land.		
2	Create a municipal staff Land Use Team from various departments such as GIS, Planning, Conservation, DPW, and Engineering. This team would meet to discuss various action items for the ongoing maintenance of the Open Spaces and provide recommendations of cost of actions.		
3	Explore funding and finance opportunities to establish dedicated funds for open space & recreational improvements.		

DISCLAIMER: These action items may be subject to revision prior to their inclusion in the finalized Open Space and Recreation Plan. Revisions may include, but are not limited to, the action item, responsible party, timeline for implementation, and funding source.

 Agree with this action item

 Disagree or concerns with this action item

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#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 2: EXPAND, DIVERSIFY, AND IMPROVE EXISTING OPEN SPACES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.</b>			
1	Apply for grants to acquire, improve, and/or maintain Open Spaces.		
1-A	Work with developers to obtain gifts of land, conservation restriction, easements, etc.		
1-B	Create a list of potential priority parcels that would increase the continuity of greenway corridors of Mansfield's open spaces and recreation areas. Prioritize the acquisition of these priority parcels.		
1-C	Apply for grants to update existing equipment, replace outdated equipment, and develop new recreation programs.		
2	Communication to boards / Municipality.		
2-A	Work with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Capital Improvements Committee and Town Meeting to secure funding for the acquisition of these key parcels as they become available.		
2-B	Communicate the Town's priority acquisition areas to landowners.		
2-C	Work with various boards to promote the allocation of funding for recreation and open space infrastructure (new and existing) such as new kiosks, trailhead signage, athletic fields/ equipment, and playgrounds.		
3	Community improvement to public spaces.		
3-A	Create and improve access to the Canoe River and other water bodies.		
3-B	Evaluate possible location for an off-leash dog park.		
3-C	Create a new swimming and/or splash pad facility.		
3-D	Focus on Memorial Park as a high-need area and implement Memorial Park Master Plan.		
3-E	Improve bathroom facilities and access.		
4	Public Accessibility broadening diversity, equity, and inclusion.		
4-A	Design a plan to connect the greenway corridor to existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure, including accessible trails and connection to downtown.		
4-B	Expand and diversify existing open space and recreation facilities to be more accessible. Identify trails with potential to modify and become ADA compliant.		
4-C	Introduce interactive playgrounds, circuit training facilities, and modular play structures that encourage inclusive play for users of all abilities and generations throughout the community.		

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 Disagree or concerns with this action item

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#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 3: PROMOTE THE USE OF TRAIL SYSTEMS WITHIN OPEN SPACES WITH USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBSITES, WAYFINDING SIGNS, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS.</b>			
1	Expand the Town's recreation website and social media presence to highlight each of Mansfield's unique natural resources and sites.		
1-A	Provide one centralized source of information on open space locations and amenities.		
2	Use GIS mapping to create accurate trail map and to promote use of trails.		
3	Install wayfinding and park entrance/trailhead signs throughout town to direct people to open spaces, athletic fields, and conservation areas.		
4	Host more on-site events and programs, such as bird walks, guided hikes, farmers markets, seasonal events, and other nature walks, to increase awareness of Mansfield's conservation areas and appreciation of its resources.		

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 Disagree or concerns with this action item

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#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 4: DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY PROGRAM FOR THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD.</b>			
1	Continue to work with regional programs such as SNEP to identify, develop, and implement climate change to resiliency projects.		
2	Update the outdated 2010 Hazard Mitigation Plan through FEMA Grant Program to include all of the Town's ongoing effort of climate change preparedness planning.		
3	Continue to apply for grants, such as Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to implement climate change resiliency projects.		
4	Create a Climate Change Resiliency Planning webpage on town website.		
5	Promote education of the community on residential climate resilience plans.		

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 Disagree or concerns with this action item

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#	Action Items	Prioritization Votes	Comments
<b>GOAL 5: PRESERVE MANSFIELD'S NATURAL RESOURCES, WILDLIFE HABITATS, AND REMAINING AGRICULTURAL LANDS.</b>			
1	Continue to pursue land acquisition and conservation easements to protect forest, farmland, and other open spaces.		
2	Continue to preserve the protected Canoe River Aquifer and associated town wellheads.		
2-A	Collaborate with surrounding communities on projects that share the same single source aquifer.		
3	Amend and implement relevant laws and regulations pertinent to the protection of the aquifer and drinking water.		
3-A	Increase public awareness and education of proper land use regarding drinking water.		
4	Continue to certify potential vernal pools on town-owned land to ensure their preservation.		

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 Agree with this action item

 Disagree or concerns with this action item