

Given the length of time since the 1998-2003 plan, this section highlights key actions that have been accomplished under that plan as well as highlighting additional accomplishments that have occurred in the absence of an update plan. Goals 1 to 4 listed below are taken directly from the 1998-2003 plan.

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1. Environmentally Sound Development

A. Goal

The concern for rational land use planning begins with the education of the residents. By identifying areas that are environmentally sensitive, the public can become aware of and help in the promotion protecting these valuable resources.

B. Objective

- Identify areas that are environmentally sensitive
- Establish a strong growth management policy
- Encourage acquisition of lands to preserve for open space
- Identify areas that are suitable for development

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Actions Completed: Zoning Regulations were updated numerous times from 1998 through September 2008. Major revisions included to protect Open Space included:

March 1999: Rezoning of major blocks of land comprising 2900+ acres to lower density development such as Rural Residential and Low-Density Residential areas primarily in West Gloucester.

October 1999: Adopted Lowland Requirements (Section 5.5.4 of the Zoning Ordinance) requiring a Special Permit for construction on land less than 10 feet in elevation.

December 1999: Rezoning of 20+ lots in West Gloucester from Residential to Rural Residential.

August 2000: Drainage and Grading Requirements (Section 1.3.3 of the Zoning Ordinance) – Now regulated by DPW

August 2002: Open Space Residential Development (Section 5.15 of the Zoning Ordinance) To encourage permanent preservation of open space, agricultural land, forest, forestry land, wildlife habitat, other natural resources including aquifers and watershed, water bodies and wetlands, and historical and archeological resources.

August 2006: Amendments to the Cluster Development Regulations (Section 5.9.7 and 5.9.8)

Subdivision regulations last update:

Major provisions to protect Open Space include: cluster zoning allowed, Open Space Residential Development Ordinance and Regulations adopted, and Steep slope protection.

The City’s Wetland Ordinance was reviewed and the jurisdictional areas of the Commission were expanded in May 2000.

2. Protect Water Resources

A. Goal

The preservation of Gloucester's water resources to ensure the abatement of pollution. This is to be accomplished through collaboration with the Board of Health, education of the public, long range planning, and upgrades of municipal drains.

B. Objectives

- Continue to work with the Board of Health in indentifying failed septic systems
- Monitor water bodies and water courses for pollution levels
- Develop water conservation and public education programs
- Encourage the DPW to upgrade the drainage system to include stormwater regulations

Action Completed:

2001 Daylor Study looked at wastewater treatment status in West Gloucester and alternative strategies for dealing with old and/or failing septic systems.

Significant stormwater and wastewater separation projects to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) have been conducted and continue to improve coastal water quality.

Water quality at beaches is monitored regularly during the bathing seasons by the Health Department.

The City developed approved Resource Management Plans for the Good Harbor Beach Watershed and Wingaersheek Beach.

In the fall of 2009 this City enacted a Stormwater Utility Ordinance will begin to assess and correct water quality impacts from private development.

3. Protect Resource Areas

A. Goal

The preservation of Gloucester's resources is important in maintaining the unique environment that is within the city. State and government agencies have been utilized in implementing a management plan.

B. Objectives

- Continue to preserve coastal wetlands through enforcement of state and local regulations
- Work with Mass. Bays and CZM to implement coastal resource protective actions
- Work towards maintaining public landings to preserve public access
- Include habitat and woodland preservation in acquisition of important resource areas

Actions Completed:

1. DPW management plan for beaches.
2. Implemented Mass Bays Comprehensive Management Plan
3. Identified public landings in need of maintenance. Implemented improvements at the following landings since 1998:
 - Dunfudgin?
 - Solomon Jacobs
 - Cripple Cove
 - Saint Peter's
 - Lobster Cove
4. Identify areas of estimated habitat for rare wildlife during development review processes.
5. Implemented Mill River tidal flow restoration project
6. Secured grant for Little River Stream Habitat and Restoration project. Permitting ongoing.
7. Conducted a sea grass restoration project off Pavilion Beach.

4. Recreation Facilities

A. Goals

The accessibility of recreation facilities to all persons including those with disabilities. These facilities within the city should be passable for all to participate in and enjoy. Research is needed into the existing lands available abutting established open space areas.

B. Objectives

- Increase public use and awareness through increased access and stewardship
- Work towards acquiring land adjacent to existing conservation land to ensure contiguous areas
- Collaborate with other departments in obtaining funds to cope with changing demands for recreation
- Continue the research into public landings and pursue enforcement on encroachments
- Work towards developing and adopting a land protection policy
- Continue to work with Essex County Greenbelt, DPW, Trustees of Reservations, Mass. Audubon in the promotion, acquisition and maintenance of recreation areas.
- Responsibility to handicap persons availability to recreation sites

Actions:

1. Worked with Coastal Zone Management for the 2005 update of the Massachusetts Coast Guide for Boston & the North Shore. This guide identifies the public landings in all sections of Gloucester.
2. Obtained funding for recreation areas.
 - a. Implemented the following expansions:
 - Built the Magnolia Woods recreational fields on top of the former city landfill. This encompasses acres of land and has six fields.
 - b. Implemented the following major rehabilitations:
 - Stage Fort Park
 - Boudreau Little League Field replaced in 2008
 - Installed outdoor shower at Parisi Field
 - Parisi Field Infield Replaced in 2009
 - Replaced picnic grills
 - Replaced lifeguard stand
 - Replaced basketball light fixtures
 - Added drinking fountain for visitors
 - Good Harbor Beach
 - Replaced parking fee collection booth

Gloucester Open Space Plan – APPENDIX F – Accomplishments since 1998 6/11/2010 Draft

- Replaced signage
- Added lighting
- Bathroom rehabilitation 2010

- Wingersheek Beach
 - Improved bathroom venting and lighting
 - New parking lot drainage
 - Replaced signage
 - Replaced parking fee collection booth
 - Bathroom rehabilitation 2010

- East Gloucester School Playground: Rehabilitated
- Ciaramitaro/Gemellaro Playground
 - Complete Rehabilitation 2006
- O'Maley School
 - Football Field rehabbed in 2003
 - Nate Ross Little League Field: Lights installed in 2004
 - Wilson's field: infield replaced in 2007
 - Skate Park installed

Over the last 10 years play equipment has been installed at seven locations in all five wards.