

Action Plan Update 7/15/19

Meetings with Steve Johnson, Open Space Agent; and Paul Piscitelli Recreation Director.

- 1) Continue to acquire properties that meet the desirable open space characteristics defined by this chapter and supported by local and state open space definitions.

Update: The City buys land as needed and when resources are available. The recommendations of the 2022 plan pages 28-32 still apply.

- 2) Acquire properties or obtain conservation easements along the City's Greenbelts and Greenways.

Update: Land as opportunities arise and resources arise. In the 2022 plan emphasis was placed on the city acquiring land along long Island sound both Beachfront and Tidal Marshlands for increased flood protection and adaptation for anticipated sea level rise. The recommendations of the 2022 Plan 28-32 still apply.

- 3) Enact an Open Space Tax Credit (Tax relief) Program per PA-490.

Update: This is a program available to owners of land that meets the requirements of PA-490. Milford Participates in the tax relief for Agricultural land. The program reduces the tax burden for lands for a 10 year period. Further open space tax credit information for other types of land is spelled out in the 2022 plan on page 32 and is still current. For Open Space and Forest land, the specifics of the type of land, its characteristics such as size, to receive tax relief would need to be spelled out in the POCD, with the specific parcels being identified. The Definition for the land type would need to match the specific land definitions in PA-490. The Board of Alderman would ultimately use that information to determine the tax reduction.

- 4) Create a permanent Open Space Land Manager position.

Update: This was done, Steve Johnson was hired.

- 5) Create an open space inventory and assessment.

Update: Done. Steven Johnson provided A report and 2 spreadsheets found in the POCD 2033 Dropbox file, in the Open Space and Park File folder.

- 6) Develop a Property Management Plan for Passive Open Space areas such as a schedule for trail maintenance, etc.

Update: According to Stephen Johnson this is done on an as needed basis, with a focus on the Solomon property.

- 7) Develop a Property Improvement Plan for Passive Open Space areas.

Update: According to Stephen Johnson this is done on an as needed basis,

- 8) Develop a Restoration Plan for passive open space areas where appropriate

Update: According to Stephen Johnson this is done on an as needed basis and when resources are available.

- 9) Create public education tools such as mapping, trail head markings, and educational displays for passive open space properties

Update: Done and continues. Trail maps provided created and provided through SCRCOG. The Solomon property has marked trails.

- 10) Update the Zoning Map to accurately reflect open space parcels including privately owned open space subdivision set-asides.

Update: Rezoning has been done for "Large Parcels". Many open space set asides are not standalone parcels and are part of developed parcels so changing the zoning designation to open space wouldn't be accurate. Groups of undeveloped contiguous parcels that have no development potential (Parcels located in wetlands for example) could potentially be reclassified as open space.

- 11) Institute the recommendations and improvements of the Eisenhower Park Plan

Update: According to Paul Piscitelli, some elements have been incorporated into the park such as the splash pad and more parking.

- 12) Review a reconfiguration plan for Fowler Field for possible inclusion of a greenway along the river and re-routing the boat ramp roadway, with future consideration of field reconfiguration if commuter parking is relocated.

Update: According to Paul Piscitelli this was discussed within the City and the conclusion was this will not be done.

- 13) Assess additional city-owned or acquired properties to determine whether additional fields can be created to accommodate additional playing fields, particularly for lacrosse.

Update: According to Paul this was done with the creation of new fields on Orange Avenue, adjacent to the YMCA.

- 14) Add lighting to playing fields where appropriate to maximize usage of existing park properties

Update: According To Paul Piscitelli, lighting has been added to all parks where the need was identified.

- 15) Add community gardens in neighborhoods where vacant city-owned properties or under-programmed park space is available.

Update: According to Paul Piscitelli, (The staffing of the community Gardens is overseen by his department). Limited resources and not enough public interest have prevented the expansion of the community gardens. Resources have been put into improving the Eisenhower Park Community garden.

- 16) Assess where dog parks may be added on vacant city-owned properties or at under-programmed park areas, particularly in dense residential neighborhoods.

Update: According to Paul Piscitelli, although other sites were explored, the limited resources available were used to update and expand the existing dog park within Eisenhower Park.