

## Section 8 Goals and Objectives

While many of the goals contained in the 2001 Open Space Plan are still important and continually need to be addressed, the public process and input received during this planning process has resulted in a reassessment of how those goals relate to this updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. Safe and accessible connections such as walkways/sidewalks and bike lanes/paths are a high priority to provide recreational resources and connections from residential areas to villages and local and regional amenities.

Section 6 stressed the importance of continuing to support Town farms, to protect and enhance Egremont's natural, scenic and cultural resources, and to provide recreational resources for all including access to key water resources. Many people noted the amount of permanently protected open space. Future protection of open space lands should be focused on providing connections for wildlife corridors and off-road access. Maintenance and stewardship of existing facilities and resources should also be considered.

The overall goal and the ensuing goals and objectives outlined in this section resulted from comments made throughout the public participation process (including community questionnaire responses and community forums), and a review of the 2001 Open Space Plan.

### **2023-2030 OSRP Goals**

1. Provide for safe bicycle and pedestrian transportation options
2. Preserve and support local farms
3. Preserve and improve the ecological integrity of sensitive natural environments and natural resources
4. Target open space acquisition for connectivity, resiliency and ecological value.
5. Protect and preserve the Egremont's scenic and historic character (Egremont's scenic rural roads, historic structures)
6. Provide recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities

### **Goals and Objectives**

**Goal 1:** Provide for safe bicycle and pedestrian transportation options

1. Expand community-wide and regional non-motorized connectivity.
2. Provide links to natural and cultural attractions around Town.

**Goal 2:** Preserve and support local farms.

1. Encourage use of the APR Program and other available funding programs to protect the limited remaining farmland
2. Work with farmers to remove impediments to farming and identify opportunities to support farmers.

3. Encourage environmentally sensitive farming practices.

**Goal 3:** Preserve and improve the ecological integrity of sensitive natural environments and natural resources.

1. Protect natural resource areas (such as aquifers, floodplains, ponds, streams, vernal pools, and wetlands) through appropriate and enhanced land use controls.
2. Communicate the need and techniques for improving the natural environment.

**Goal 4:**– Target open space acquisition for connectivity, resiliency and ecological value.

1. Target land for acquisition based on ecological connectivity, including wildlife corridors and opportunities to connect with existing conservation lands.
2. Incorporate resiliency and ecological integrity in land use decisions.
3. Improve access to the water resources including Prospect Lake and the Green River.

**Goal 5:** Protect and preserve Egremont’s scenic and historic character (Egremont’s scenic rural roads, historic structures).

1. Maintain and improve scenic roads, including gravel roads.
2. Promote rehabilitation of historic structures.

**Goal 6:** Provide recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

1. Improve and maintain the Town’s existing passive and active recreational resources - Enhance access and usability of passive recreation areas through parking improvements, signage, and trail development.
2. Promote public-sponsored recreational opportunities.
3. Improve accessibility when upgrading facilities.

## Section 9 Seven Year Action Plan

### 9.1 Accomplishments (2001-2023)

The 2023-2030 Action Plan was based to a large degree on the successful completion of the 2001 OSRP's Action Plan. Many successes were achieved including:

- Recent protection of Bow Wow Woods
- Egremont Land Trust has successfully protected key properties
- Agricultural Preservation Restrictions used to protect hundreds of acres of farmland
- Forestry Legacy Program used to protect hundreds of acres of forests
- Jug End fen restoration
- Implemented zoning provisions for common driveways
- Catamount Ski Area has diversified to year-round activities
- Trailhead parking provided at Jug End
- Green River access improved with ELT acquisition of property off Route 71
- Community Forest Stewardship grant from DCR funded first year's implementation of the French Park Forest Management Plan, including invasive species treatment and removal, a complete survey, and delineation of Park boundaries, create educational or interpretive signage, trailblazing, and infested/weakened tree removal.

While not complete, this list of accomplishments highlights the major accomplishments that have been affected as a result of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. What follows is the 2023-2030 Action Plan, which provides guidance and direction for the maintaining, preserving and improving open space and recreation facilities and properties that support Egremont's character. The 2023-2030 Action Plan lists numerous proposed actions, some of which would be undertaken by the Town while others would be supported by the Town, but undertaken by partners.

### 9.2 Seven-Year Action Plan (2023-2030)

In accordance with the guidance from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, this plan lays out an action plan for the next seven years. Implementation of this plan, like all community-driven plans, will need to be a joint effort among many parties. Refer Appendix A, Map X for the Egremont Action Plan figure.

**Goal 1:** Provide for safe bicycle and pedestrian transportation options

1. Expand community-wide and regional non-motorized connectivity.
2. Provide links to natural and cultural attractions around Town.

**Metrics:**

- Number of miles of sidewalks/walking paths
- Number of miles of marked bike lanes and facilities

Goal 1 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Coordinate and collaboration between trail organizations to create an interconnected system	Local/ Grants		X		Long-Term	Conservation	Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), ELT, MassDCR/DFW
Create bike lanes and sidewalks along main roads into town centers	Local/ Complete Streets		X		High	Highway Department	MassDOT
Enhance safety regulations and enforcement. More consistent policing of roadways and speed limits.	Local	X			High	Police	
Provide marked bicycle lanes/shared lanes (sharrows).	Local/ Grants	X			Long-Term	Selectboard	Highway Department, MassDOT
Post "Share the Road" signs in frequently used areas to notify visiting drivers of pedestrians, hikers, and cyclists. Co-site w/ existing signs	Local/ Complete Streets		X		High	Highway Department	MassDOT

Goal 1 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Develop and implement Sidewalk Master Plan to identify which roads should have sidewalks/walking paths (Village Centers, French Park to Prospect Lake).	Local/ Grants	X			High	Planning	Highway Department, Selectboard
Be "A Trail Friendly" Town - A.T. Community	Local			X	Long-Term		<a href="https://appalachiantrail.org/explore/communities/">https://appalachiantrail.org/explore/communities/</a>
Incorporate "Complete Streets" concepts as streets are improved.	Local/ Grants	X			Long-Term	Highway Department	Planning, Selectboard

**Goal 2:** Preserve and support local farms.

1. Encourage use of the APR Program and other available funding programs to protect the limited remaining farmland
2. Work with farmers to remove impediments to farming and identify opportunities to support farmers.
3. Educate the public on farming practices and the Right-to-Farm community to minimize friction between farmers and neighbors.

**Metrics:**

- New acres of active farmland
- Number of local opportunities for farmers to sell their goods

Goal 2 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Support farmers through public education on “right-to-farm”. Educate the public about the value of farming and the day-to-day operations.	Local	X			High	Agricultural Committee, Selectboard	
Educate the public that farmland is private and not necessarily publicly accessible. Add signage to key areas and information on Town website.	Local	X			Long-Term	Agricultural Committee, Selectboard	
Work with Community Land Trust Concept/ APR Program to establish land tracts for working farms.	Local/ Grants	X			Long-Term	Agricultural Committee	Egremont Land Trust
Promote markets for local farm products.	Local		X		Long-Term	Agricultural Committee	

Support efforts to create and promote "agri-tourism"	Local	X			Long-Term	Selectboard	
Encourage participation in the Berkshire Grown program to promote locally-grown products.	Local	X			Long-Term	ELT, Berkshire Grown	

**Goal 3:** Preserve and improve the ecological integrity of sensitive natural environments and natural resources.

1. Protect natural resource areas (such as aquifers, floodplains, ponds, streams, vernal pools, and wetlands) through appropriate and enhanced land use controls.
2. Communicate the need and techniques for improving the natural environment.

**Metrics:**

- Fewer invasive species on public lands
- More environmentally sensitive landscaping on residential properties

Goal 3 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Mitigate erosion in known problem areas such as on Prospect Lake Road and improve drainage on gravel roads	Local/Vol		X		Long-Term	Highway Department	
Educate residents on environmentally sensitive gardening practices, including proper use of herbicides and pesticides.	Local			X	Long-Term	Greenagers	Agricultural Committee
Develop an invasive species management program on public lands.	Local/Grants/Vol	X			Long-Term	Conservation	ELT, Greenagers
Assess, prioritize and implement recommendations from the MVP workshops (2022).	Grants		X		Long-Term	Planning	Conservation, Highway Department, Health, Green Committee



Goal 3 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Use demonstration pollinator garden at French Park as demonstration project for residents. Provide information to residents on pollinator gardens.	Local	X			Medium	Greenagers	Highway Department
Improve stormwater education and expand community outreach about environmental issues	Local	X			Medium	Greenagers	Planning, Conservation
Educate the public on invasives controls.	Local		X		Medium	Conservation	Greenagers
Assess deicing options to protect water quality	Local		X		Medium	Highway Department	
Encourage NetZero construction.	Local	X			Medium	Planning, Building	
Promote use of native drought resistant plant species in new developments and Town landscaping projects.	Local	X			High	Conservation, Planning	

**Goal 4:**- Target open space acquisition for connectivity, resiliency and ecological value.

1. Target land for acquisition based on ecological connectivity, including wildlife corridors and opportunities to connect with existing conservation lands.
2. Incorporate resiliency and ecological integrity in land use decisions.
3. Improve access to the water resources including Prospect Lake and the Green River.

**Metrics:**

- New acres of protected land that provide connectivity.
- Access to water resources

Goal 4 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Develop a local dedicated funding source for acquisition and maintenance of open space and recreation facilities such as the Community Preservation Act.	Local		X		Long-Term	Selectboard	Conservation, Planning, ELT
Provide access to Smiley’s Pond (Mill Pond) for passive recreation.	Local/ State		X		Long-term	MA DFG	Audubon Society,
Work with property owner to obtain public access to Prospect Lake	Local	X			High	Selectboard	
Identify important linkages between existing open space for	Local/ Grants			X	Long-Term	ELT	Conservation, Selectboard

Goal 4 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
potential acquisition or other control.							
Identify, facilitate and support access to the Green River.	Local/ Grants	X			Medium	ELT, MA DFG	
Establish a Greenway Corridor along the Green River.	Local/ Grants			X	Long-Term	ELT	
Encouraging renewable energy production with open space visual preservation							
Educate community of conservation restriction options for private landowners	Local/ Grants	X			Long-Term	ELT	
Evaluate Chapter lands for recreational and conservation value before releasing the Town’s rights to acquire.	Local			X	Long-Term	Conservation, Selectboard, ELT	

**Goal 5:** Protect and preserve Egremont’s scenic and historic character (Egremont’s scenic rural roads, historic structures).

1. Maintain and improve scenic roads, including gravel roads.
2. Promote rehabilitation of historic structures.

**Metrics:**

- Number of scenic gravel roads
- Number of historic structures rehabilitated

Goal 5 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Create a bylaw to protect and preserve Egremont’s historic inventory (demolition delay)	Local		X		Long-Term	Historic Commission	Planning, Selectboard
Create a scenic roads bylaw to enhance protection of scenic roadways.	Local		X			Planning	Highway Department, Selectboard
Implement Road Stream Crossing Management Plan to repair or replace stream crossings at bridges and culverts to address flooding and aquatic connectivity.	Local/ MassDOT Small Bridge Program; DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant		X		High	Highway Department	Planning & Conservation Dept.

Goal 5 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Educate owners of historic buildings on potential funding sources for rehabilitation.	Local		X		High	Historic Commission	Selectboard
Consider implementation of the Community Preservation Act.	Local/ Vol	X			Long-Term	ELT, Selectboard	Planning, Conservation
Update the inventory of historic sites and structures.	Local		X		Long-Term	Historic Commission	

**Goal 6:** Recreational facilities and programs that address the needs of all Egremont residents are provided.

1. Improve and maintain the Town’s existing passive and active recreational resources - Enhance access and usability of passive recreation areas through parking improvements, signage, and trail development.
2. Promote public-sponsored recreational opportunities.
3. Improve accessibility when upgrading facilities.

**Metrics:**

- Addition of recreational amenities and opportunities
- Addition of accessible paths and facilities

Goal 6 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Provide accessible trails and places.	Local/ Grants			X	High	Selectboard	ELT, Greenagers
Conduct a Master Plan of French Park to identify upgrades or new facilities to meet the Town’s needs.	Local/ Grants		X		Long-Term	Selectboard, Trustees of French Park	Selectboard
Improve access via trails on already conserved/preserved lands	Grants/ Vol	X			High	Friends of Egremont Dog Park	
Identify a location and plan for a community center/performance/ meeting center.	Local/ Grants			X	Long-Term	Selectboard	
Re-establish Friends of French Park committee.	Local	X				Selectboard	

Goal 6 Proposed Actions	Fund Source	Plan Years			Priority Rank	Lead Responsibility	Additional Responsible Parties
		1-3	3-5	5-7			
Develop permit system to hunt in French Park	Local			X	Long-Term	Selectboard	
Establish Pickleball Courts and Adult Fitness Playground in French Park.	Local	X			High	Council on Aging, Selectboard (French Park Trustees)	
Monitor progress of OSRP Action Plan with annual meeting.							