

## SECTION

## 9

### SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan is intended to provide concrete steps towards implementing the objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Open Space Committee developed the action steps outlined below.

The goals and objectives are listed in the first two columns of Table 9-1 in the same order as they appear in Section 8. They are followed in the subsequent columns by recommended actions, the board or group responsible for implementation, start dates, and potential funding sources. By implementing the recommended actions, each of the objectives will begin to be realized. The Open Space Committee prioritized the action items to assist in the implementation process. Successful implementation will require the participation of existing town boards, committees and staff, including but not limited to the Selectboard, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Council on Aging, Board of Assessors and others.

The Open Space Committee established the following priority action items to assist in the successful implementation of the Plan. (Information in parentheses after each Priority Action Item identifies the corresponding number of the item on Table 9-1 in Section 9: Seven-Year Action Plan.) These Priority Action Items are also included on the Action Plan Map at the end of this section. Following are the Priority Action Items, presented in order of priority from higher to lower:

- Continue to implement a clear tracking procedure protocol for the Town to process conversions of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B parcels to uses that trigger the granting of right-of-first-refusal to the Town. (Action Item A3a)
- Work with local land trusts, nonprofit conservation agencies, and state and federal programs (such as MDAR's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program and the USDA Forest Legacy Program) to protect local farm and forest landscapes. (Action Item A6a)
- Meet with Greenfield Water Department staff and representatives of the Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) to discuss the potential for collaboration on water quality monitoring town-wide. (Action Item A4a)
- Revise zoning bylaws to continue adding components like a natural resource protection overlay district and an accessory apartment bylaw to help ensure that future development conserves the town's rural character and environmental quality where possible. (Action Item B2a)

- Review results of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation survey and determine which new programs and facilities are most needed and have the best chances of succeeding. Once the desirable programs and facilities are identified, seek to provide them. (Action Item B7a)
- Submit an annual article in the Town Newsletter that explains choices that landowners have in regards to the long-term stewardship of their land, which can include donating land in fee, donating money into the town's existing Land Acquisition Fund, or donating the development rights to the Town of Leyden. (Action Item A2b)
- Continue to implement procedures for the assignment to third parties (such as local land trusts), where appropriate, of the right of first refusal on conversions of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B parcels. (Action Item A3b)
- Request the Town Clerk and local realtors to provide landowners with a packet of information that addresses land stewardship issues dealing with both development and conservation choices. (Action Item A7a)
- Encourage broad public participation in the local planning process to ensure that appropriate solutions for land use and growth management are identified. (Action Item B2b)
- Work with the Trustees of Reservation's Highland Communities Initiative (HCI) to fund or otherwise support a conference focusing on strategies to support farm and forest-based businesses and involve CISA, MWC, and NEFF.<sup>1</sup> (Action Item B4a)
- Include an occasional column on land use, open space, and cost of community services issues and information in the newsletter. (Action Item B6a)
- Identify areas with the greatest potential for providing public access to the Green River. (Action Item B8a)
- Meet with corresponding boards and committees in neighboring towns and consult with FRCOG staff to help identify opportunities for collaboration on events and recreational programming. (Action Item B11a)

Accomplishing the actions identified in this section will require time and commitment from dedicated volunteers. Where money is required, it may be sought from state and federal governmental agencies, private non-profit conservation agencies, foundations, and individual donations in addition to municipal funds. A broad base of community support for the Open Space and Recreation Plan should facilitate fundraising to achieve its goals and objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> CISA=Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture; MWC=Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative; NEFF=New England Forestry Foundation.

**Table 9-1: Recommended Action Steps to Implement the Leyden Open Space and Recreation Plan**

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<p>A. Ensure that the Town of Leyden maintains the integrity of drinking water, clean air, streams and wetlands, working farms and forests, remaining contiguous forests, scenic views, and the diversity and integrity of native fauna and flora through the conservation of locally important natural and open space resources.</p>	<p>A1. Encourage landowners interested in protecting their land from development to work with Franklin Land Trust, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and state and federal conservation agencies.</p>	<p>a. Produce a landowner workshop on estate planning and land protection options.</p>	<p>Open Space Committee</p>	<p>2011</p>	<p>Volunteer time; local land trusts; HCI</p>
	<p>A2. Accept donated conservation open space and conservation restrictions from willing landowners that conserve working farms and forests, large blocks of contiguous forestland, drinking water supplies, streams and ponds, open fields, scenic views, and wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>a. Accept donated conservation open space and conservation restrictions from willing landowners.</p>	<p>Conservation Commission</p>	<p>2011-2017</p>	<p>Volunteer time</p>
		<p>b. Submit an annual article in the Town Newsletter that explains choices that landowners have in regards to the long-term stewardship of their land, which can include donating land in fee, donating money into the town's existing Land Acquisition Fund, or donating the development rights to the Town of Leyden.</p>	<p>Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Newsletter Committee</p>	<p>2011-2017</p>	<p>Volunteer time</p>

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
	A3. Take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Town's right-of-first refusal with regards to the sale and or development of Chapter 61 parcels or assign the right to a third party.	<p>a. Continue to implement a clear tracking procedure protocol for the Town to process conversions of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B parcels to uses that trigger the granting of right-of-first-refusal to the Town.</p> <p>b. Continue to implement procedures for the assignment to third parties (such as local land trusts), where appropriate, of the right of first refusal on conversions of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B parcels.</p>	<p>Selectboard; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Board of Assessors; Tax Collector</p> <p>Selectboard; Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Board of Assessors; Planning Board</p>	2011-2017	Volunteer time
		<p>c. Determine whether the existing Land Acquisition Fund could be used for the purposes of receiving private donations for open space protection. If it can be used in that way, promote its use in the Newsletter.</p>	<p>Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Selectboard; Municipal Assistant</p>	2011	Volunteer time

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
	A4. Facilitate a program of water quality monitoring for the rivers, brooks, streams and ponds in Leyden in conjunction with the Deerfield River Watershed Association, the Greenfield Water Department, and other entities.	a. Meet with Greenfield Water Department staff and representatives of the Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA) to discuss the potential for collaboration on water quality monitoring town-wide.	Board of Health; Conservation Commission; Open Space Committee	2011-2017	Volunteer time; DEP 604b grants; DRWA volunteer monitors; Riverways Program stream teams; CT River Watershed Council; EPA equipment loans
	A5. Consider ways to encourage and support residents' regular testing of their private water supplies.	a. Disseminate information on appropriate tests and testing intervals and explore potential funding sources to assist private well owners.	Board of Health; Conservation Commission; Open Space Committee	2013	UMass Cooperative Extension Service; DEP staff services and grants
	A6. Promote state and private investment to protect local farm and forest landscapes.	a. Work with local land trusts, nonprofit conservation agencies, and state and federal programs (such as MDAR's Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program and the USDA Forest Legacy Program) to protect local farm and forest landscapes.	Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission; Agricultural Commission	2011-2017	Local land trusts; conservation agencies (such as MassAudubon and NEFF); MDAR APR Program; USDA Forest Legacy Program
	A7. Develop a land protection education program for landowners to include estate planning, land protection options, and presentations by local land trusts.	a. Request the Town Clerk and local realtors to provide landowners with a packet of information that addresses land stewardship issues dealing with both development and conservation choices.	Open Space Committee; Town Clerk	2014	Volunteer time; local land trusts

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
<p>B. Ensure that Leyden maintains its rural, small-town character and a strong sense of community, including providing recreational opportunities to residents of all ages and abilities.</p>	<p>B1. Support the continued development of festivals and events to provide residents with year-round opportunities to get to know each other and become more involved in their community.</p>	<p>a. Support an active Recreation Committee to create and supervise recreational programs and services for residents of all ages and abilities.</p>	<p>Selectboard; Agricultural Commission; Council on Aging; Library Trustees; Cultural Council; PTO</p>	<p>2011-2017</p>	<p>Volunteer time</p>
		<p>b. Develop and implement a year-round schedule of events, including a Leyden Maple Syrup Festival.</p>	<p>Selectboard; Agricultural Commission</p>	<p>2011-2017</p>	<p>Volunteer time; Cultural Council</p>
	<p>B2. Continue to explore changes to local zoning and subdivision regulations that would help to protect remaining farms, open fields, and large blocks of forest from adverse impacts by approval-not-required (ANR) and residential subdivision development.</p>	<p>a. Revise zoning bylaws to continue adding components like a natural resource protection overlay district and an accessory apartment bylaw to help ensure that future development conserves the town's rural character and environmental quality where possible.</p> <p>b. Encourage broad public participation in the local planning process to ensure that appropriate solutions for land use and growth management are identified.</p>	<p>Planning Board; Open Space Committee</p>	<p>2011-2017</p>	<p>Volunteer time; Smart Growth or other grants secured by FRCOG staff</p>
	<p>B3. Support and contribute to the efforts of the Massachusetts Zoning Reform Working Group and others working to revise the state's zoning act to provide towns better tools for</p>	<p>a. Continue to provide ongoing support to the Zoning Reform Working Group and other reform advocates directly through the Franklin</p>	<p>Planning Board</p>	<p>2011-2017</p>	<p>Volunteer time</p>

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
	controlling growth.	Regional Council of Governments.			
	B4. Encourage local cottage industries and farm and forest-based economic activities through the use of both zoning and non-zoning techniques.	a. Work with the Trustees of Reservation's Highland Communities Initiative (HCI) to fund or otherwise support a conference focusing on strategies to support farm and forest-based businesses and involve CISA, MWC, and NEFF <sup>2</sup> .	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2015	Volunteer time; HCI; Smart Growth, MDAR or other grants secured by FRCOG staff; CISA; MWC; NEFF
	B5. Seek to increase the market value of local agricultural and forest-based goods and services by expanding opportunities for direct sales to consumers via farmers markets, roadside stands, etc.	a. Consider establishing a seasonal farmers market to provide a venue for local farmers to market their products directly to the public.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission	2015	Volunteer time; CISA
		b. Consider developing a list of local farms and farm stands that sell directly to the public to be published in the Newsletter and/or as a brochure.	Agricultural Commission	2011	Volunteer time; CISA
	B6. Provide information to townspeople on the costs of services and benefits of residential, commercial, and industrial development through the newsletter and other methods.	a. Include an occasional column on land use, open space, and cost of community services issues and information in the newsletter.	Open Space Committee; Planning Board	2011-2017	Volunteer time

<sup>2</sup> CISA=Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture; MWC=Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative; NEFF=New England Forestry Foundation

GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
	B7. Identify recreational needs of residents of all ages and abilities and develop new programs and facilities as appropriate.	<p>a. Review results of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation survey and determine which new programs and facilities are most needed and have the best chances of succeeding.</p> <p>b. Once the desirable programs and facilities are identified, seek to provide them.</p>	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee; Council on Aging	2011-2017	Volunteer time
	B8. Evaluate the feasibility of providing access to existing valued recreational resources.	<p>a. Identify areas with the greatest potential for providing public access to the Green River.</p> <p>b. Work with willing landowners to create access to trails in the Leyden State Forest.</p>	Open Space Committee; Recreation Committee	2016	Volunteer time; DCR Recreational Trails grant; DFG Office of Fishing and Boating Access funds
	B9. Support the development of multi-user (walking/hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing) trail systems that tie into existing ones, which can be accessed from publicly owned land or private lands with trail easements from willing landowners.	<p>a. Consider creating a Trails Committee to work with Town officials and willing landowners to identify potential locations for multi-user trails and then develop them.</p> <p>b. Support the development of a trail system on the Leyden Wildlife Management Area.</p>	Open Space Committee; Trails Committee	2011-2017	Volunteer time; DCR Recreational Trails grant
			Selectboard; Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Conservation Commission	2011	Volunteer time; DCR Recreational Trails grant
			DCR; Trails Committee; Open Space Committee; Conservation	2011-2017	Volunteer time; DCR Recreational Trails grant



GOAL	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD or GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
			Commission		
		c. Prepare and disseminate a map and brochure showing public trails and private trails where willing landowners have provided public access.	Recreation Committee; Trails Committee; Open Space Committee	2013	Volunteer time; DCR Recreational Trails grant
	B10. Continue to maintain Library programming, the Avery Ball Fields, and access to the Pearl Rhodes Playground at the level residents have come to expect.	a. Develop clear guidelines for who is responsible for providing and maintaining existing programs and facilities.	Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Library Trustees; School Committee	2011-2017	Volunteer time
	B11. Consider joining with neighboring towns to share resources for community events, library programming and other recreational needs.	a. Meet with corresponding boards and committees in neighboring towns and consult with FRCOG staff to help identify opportunities for collaboration on events and recreational programming.	Selectboard; Recreation Committee; Open Space Committee; Library Trustees; FRCOG staff	2011-2017	Volunteer time; Cultural Council; grants secured by FRCOG
	B12. Take a proactive approach to environmental problems related to the spread of introduced pests, including invasive species.	a. Sponsor educational events and material for residents and the Highway Department regarding the management of invasive plant species.	Open Space Committee; Highway Department; Conservation Commission	2011-2017 (as needed)	Volunteer time
		b. Sponsor educational events and materials for residents concerning the management of invasive pests and diseases impacting vegetation, including food crops and trees.	Open Space Committee; Agricultural Commission; Tree Warden; Conservation Commission	2011-2017 (as needed)	Volunteer time; MDAR grants