

Open Space and Recreation Plan Introduction

History of Leyden's Open Space and Recreation Planning

Began in 1982 first plan completed in 1984

Updated in 2004, 2010 and now in 2026.

Tribute to Jerry Lund for his years of work on the 2004 and 2010 plans.

Leyden's Open Space and Recreation Plan Process

New committee established by Selectboard summer 2025

Current members include:

Pam Brown, Chair-Finance Committee; **Karin Parks**-Library and Recreation Committee; **Bob DePalma**-Board of Assessors; **Jim Brodeur** -Planning Board; **Janell Howard**-Conservation Commission; **Al Woodhull**, Alternate- Community member

For information about serving on the committee, please contact Pam Brown, Chair at pambrown0301@gmail.com or 413.775.3470 (cell)

Citizen Input

- Community Listening Session
- Surveys- 80 returned so far!!!
- Personal interview by OS&R Committee member
- Attend monthly Open Space and Recreation Committee meetings (Tuesday evenings)
- Join mailing list to get notice of OS&R Committee meetings/events and minutes.
- Join committee and regularly monthly meetings, commitment to assist in plan implementation, three-year commitment
- Assist committee with writing sections of the plan
- Attend future public forums:
 - Input/review of goals and objectives
 - Review of draft plan
- Vote at Town Meeting to approve/disapprove of the final plan

The current plan is posted on the Town website

https://www.townofleyden.com/files/Open_Space_Recreation_Plan_2010.pdf

Open Space and Recreation Plan Summary

- Establishes goals and objectives to guide the town in its decisions affecting open space
- Not a legally binding document
- Not a plan for large scale acquisition of land by the Town
- May recommend protection of specific areas or acquisitions for specific use
- Help preserve our heritage
- Plan for future needs
- Insure space for recreation
- Safeguard Leyden's rural character

Ways Open Space Can be protected

- Zoning bylaws
- Existing state and federal laws (such as Wetlands Protection Act and the Clean Water Act)
- Individuals placing forest or agricultural land under restriction for tax abatement;
- Farmers selling development rights to the town or state to keep it in production;
- Private donations and/or establishment of conservation restrictions
- Direct purchase with town meeting approval
- Purchase by a land trust
- Some combination of any of these

Ideas/concerns generated in the initial review of the returned surveys: (a starting place)

- Additional walking trails
- Better maintenance of existing trails
- Better information about existing resources and how to access. Trail maps.
- Need for affordable housing
- More events to build community
- Better accessibility of buildings and resources

