

SECTION 9

SEVEN – YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan fulfills the Open Space and Recreation Plan objectives. The objectives address open space, natural resources, recreation, and community development needs because the quantity and quality of accessible open space relates directly to the state of Leverett’s environment; the town’s recreational opportunities; and the quality of future development in Leverett.

The objectives are listed in the far left column of Table 9-1 and are followed in the same row by recommended actions, responsible board or group, start date, and potential funding sources. By implementing the recommended actions, each objective will begin to be realized.

Implementing the Open Space and Recreation Plan will not only require the participation of the Open Space Committee, but it will also necessarily involve many other town groups, including: the Select Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Highway Department, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Community Preservation Committee, and the Historical Commission. In addition, the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust is listed as an active and necessary partner in this Action Plan.

Many of these actions may be constrained by a lack of volunteer time, in addition to funding limitations. Where money is required, such as to permanently protect open space, it does not have to be provided by the town alone. State and federal governmental agencies, private non-profit conservation agencies, and foundations are potential sources of funding. These sources are more likely to invest in land protection projects that have a broad base of community support.

A successful Open Space and Recreation Program, under the primary stewardship of an Open Space Committee, can achieve all of the action steps listed below over time. However, it will be important to establish priorities for the first seven years. The Open Space Planning Committee has prioritized action steps by the goals and objectives listed in the previous chapter. These action steps are represented graphically (where possible) on the Seven-Year Action Plan Map and are outlined in greater detail in Table 9-1.



View of Leverett Pond (Rattlesnake Gutter Trust)

Table 9-1: Recommended Actions of the Open Space and Recreation Plan

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD/GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
GOAL 1: Preserve the Rural Character of the Town				
Preserve historic and cultural resources including historic landscapes, homes, mills and cemeteries.	Implement recommendations of the 2018 <i>Leverett Veteran’s Recognition Project Assessment Report</i> , which examined the conditions of the cemeteries in Town.	Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee	2021	Town funds, State funds, Private funds, CPA funds
	Implement the recommendations of the 2018 Preservation Planning Report based on the 2017-18 Historical Assets Survey.	Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee, Planning Board	2022	Town funds, State funds, Private funds, CPA funds
Explore various zoning options for managing growth and enact appropriate measures.	Explore the use of agricultural zoning, cluster zoning, wetland protection bylaws, Low Impact Development (LID) bylaws, and water supply protection bylaws, and floodplain management regulations.	Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission	2021	Town funds, State funds
Establish restrictions on roadside shade tree removal.	Create a Tree Ordinance that provides guidance for the planting, caring for, and removal of trees within the public right-of way.	Planning Board, Highway Department, Conservation Commission	2024	Town funds
GOAL 2: Protect and Preserve Natural Resources				
Assess major wildlife core habitats (including vernal pools), wildlife corridors, riparian corridors, core habitats, significant soil types, and scenic vistas to determine priority areas to protect and enhance.	Use GIS tools (such as MAPPR from Mass Audubon) and field assessments to prioritize areas for protection.	Conservation Commission	2020	Town funds

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD/GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Pursue ways to protect and enhance identified priority protection areas.	Place Conservation Restrictions on Rattlesnake Gutter lands and town-owned Conservation Areas for permanent protection.	Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Conservation Commission	2020	Private funds, CPA funds
	Work with the Town, private landowners, and state agencies to protect parcels in the Stoddard Hill area to connect state-owned parcels and protect NHESP Priority Habitat of Rare Species	Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Conservation Commission	2020	State Funds, Towns Funds, CPA Funds
	Explore the tax title process for the town to formally acquire lands to be protected.	Planning Board, Select Board, Conservation Commission	2021	Town funds
	Set aside protected lands for wildlife that limit or prohibit active and/or passive recreation.	Select Board, Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust	2022	Town funds
Assess critical water resources and strengthen their protection.	Investigate ways to mitigate the use of road salt in the winters.	Highway Department, Conservation Commission	2023	Town funds
	Conduct a town-wide drinking water study to map groundwater sources and potential vulnerabilities, including septic systems.	Conservation Commission, Select Board, Zoning Board, Planning board, Board of Health	2025	Town funds, State funds
Assess ways to increase resiliency due to climate change.	Become a MVP certified community and implement recommendations from the MVP planning process.	Select Board, Planning Board, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Highway Department	2020	Town funds, State funds

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD/GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
GOAL 3: Improve and Maintain Public Education Related to Open Space				
Develop and make available trail maps/guides/signage to Leverett's trails, open space, and recreation areas (ex. hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, etc) and historic landscapes.	Install wayfinding signage, information kiosks, and other amenities at trailheads, parking lots, and other facilities. Create parking facilities at trailheads, when feasible.	Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Trails Committee, Historical Commission	2021	Town funds, Private funds, State funds
	Create GIS-based maps for existing recreational resources (hiking, skiing, fishing, etc.) within town to be published in print and/or online.	Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Trails Committee, Historical Commission	2024	Town funds, Private funds, State funds
Maintain public informational space at Town Library about recreation, open space, historical resources in Leverett and establish online resources.	Work with Library to create an informational space and supply educational materials. Post information on town website.	Conservation Commission, Historical Commission	2021	Town funds, Private funds
	Make resources available to landowners about the benefits and options of private stewardship of land (ex. information about landowner liability for trail usage, tax options, etc.).	Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust	2021	Town funds, Private funds,
	Distribute informational resources about ecological land stewardship to residents.	Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Land Trust	2021	Town funds, Private funds
Continue to organize trail hikes on trails in town.	Create themed hikes throughout the year on trails in town.	Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Friends of Leverett Pond, Trails Committee	Ongoing	Town funds, Volunteer Time

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE BOARD/GROUP	START DATE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
Goal 4: Promote wide recreational usage of Leverett's natural resources				
Continue to work with the Friends of Leverett Pond to increase recreational use of Leverett Pond (ex. for swimming, fishing, boating, skating, and birding).	Continue to implement Nuisance Aquatic Plant Management Plan.	Conservation Commission, Friends of Leverett Pond	2023	Town funds, Private funds, State funds
	Make kayaks available for public use at Leverett Pond.	Recreation Committee, Friends of Leverett Pond	2020	Town funds, Private funds
Expand trails around Town to increase interconnections and promote the community's natural resources and historic landscapes.	Continue to explore possibility of creating a trail around Leverett Pond and to increase the accessibility to the Pond.	Conservation Commission, Friends of Leverett Pond, Trails Committee, Historical Commission	2025	Town funds, Private funds, State funds
	Work with willing private landowners to establish trails to connect public conservation areas and historic resources.	Conservation Commission, Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, Historical Commission	2021	Town funds, State funds
Improve access to open space for all residents.	Create an ADA accessible public trail that all residents could use, either at the Elementary School or in other locations.	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, Recreation Committee	2020	Town funds, State funds.
	Improve accessibility to existing resources by implementing recommendations of the 2018 ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan.	Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, Recreation Committee, Select Board	2020	Town funds, State funds
Implement Complete Streets improvements on roadways to more safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.	Participate in the MassDOT Complete Streets funding program.	Select Board, Highway Department	2020	Town funds, State funds

Implement the recommendations of the 2018 Preservation Planning Report based on the 2017-18 Historical Assets Survey.

Work with the Town, private landowners, and state agencies to protect parcels in the Stoddard Hill area to connect state-owned parcels and protect NHESP Priority Habitat of Rare Species

Place Conservation Restrictions on Rattlesnake Gutter lands and town-owned Conservation Areas for permanent protection.

Work with Library to create an informational space and supply educational materials.

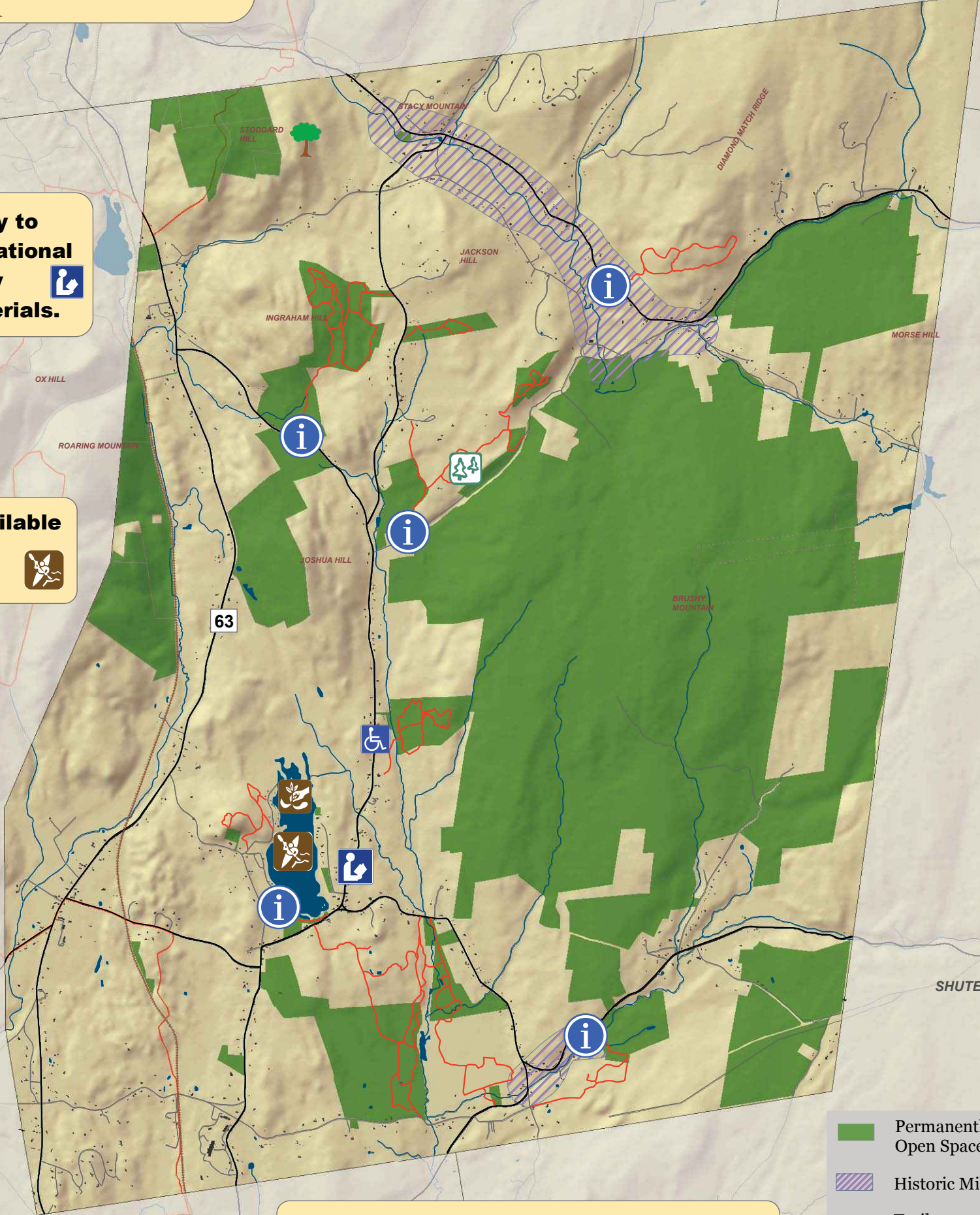
Make kayaks available for public use at Leverett Pond.

Install wayfinding signage, information kiosks, and other amenities at trailheads, parking lots, and other facilities. Create parking facilities at trailheads, when feasible.

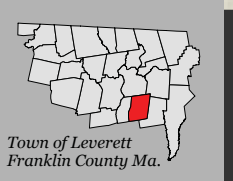
Create an ADA accessible public trail that all residents could use, either at the Elementary School or in other locations.

Continue to implement Nuisance Aquatic Plant Management Plan at Leverett Pond.

Note: The Leverett OSRP contains many action items. Many of them apply to policies or locations that are Town-wide. The action items depicted on this map are associated with specific locations. Please see Section 9 of the OSRP for the complete Seven-Year Action Plan.



- Permanently Protected Open Space
- Historic Mill Area
- Trail
- Major Road
- Local Road
- River, Stream
- Water Body



Town of Leverett Open Space & Recreation Plan 2018-2019

Action Plan

0 0.5 1 Miles

