



The Seven Year Action Plan outlines specific actions to be achieved by Town staff, boards, organizations, and residents in order to accomplish the goals and objectives articulated during the OSRP planning process. Responsible parties include: Board of Selectmen (**BOS**), Conservation Commission (**ConCom**), Lincoln Land Conservation Trust (**LLCT**), Rural Land Foundation (**RLF**), Parks & Recreation Committee (**PRC**), Agricultural Commission and Ag Subcommittee (**AG**), Cemetery Commission (**CC**), Planning Board (**PB**), and Land Use Groups (**LUG**). Funding sources vary for each action item and should be determined within the suggested timeline of each task and upon detailed analysis of available resources. Funding sources include: Operating Expense (**OE**), Capital Expense (**CE**), Community Preservation Act (**CPA**), Wetlands Protection Fund (**WPF**), Town Meeting Warrant Article (**TM**), private party donations (**PP**), and local, state, and federal grants (**GR**).

Lincoln's goals and objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of MAPC's *MetroFuture* including sustainable growth, better housing choices, community vitality, prosperity, better transportation, connectivity, and a healthy environment.

Goal #1 (Highest Priority): Identify, acquire, and protect land for agriculture, conservation, habitat protection, and recreation to ensure the character of Lincoln remains intact for future generations.

Objectives:

Identify and acquire Lands of Interest including:

- land that enhances and increases connectivity within the trail and path network
- easements for trail and roadside path connections where acquisition is not possible
- high-value water resources and natural communities
- high-value scenic vistas
- open space for a variety of recreational purposes
- Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands
- privately-owned farms in agricultural use
- visual corridors, buffers, and scenic vistas along trails, fields, and meadows
- outstanding natural features

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Print & distribute OSRP to boards & organizations	ConCom	2017	OSRP Budget
Support GIS & Permit Tracking for workflow efficiency	IT, BOS, PB, LUG	2017	OE, CE, GR
Prioritize & acquire land with multiple interests	All Boards & Orgs	Ongoing	CPA, WA, PP
Maintain open communication among land use staff, boards, and organizations to act quickly on acquisitions	ConCom, LLCT/RLF, AG, PRC, BOS, PB, CPA	Ongoing	OE
Review criteria for evaluating lands of interest	OSRP Advisory Group	2024	OE
Provide incentives to private property owners to place a CR or APR on non-protected agricultural land	ConCom, AG, LLCT	Ongoing	PP, CPA, TM

Protect the various open spaces listed above from conversion

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Place use agreements or restrictions on municipal land	BOS, PB, LUG, CC	Ongoing	OE
Protect options for un-identified use on municipal land	BOS, PB, LUG, CC	Ongoing	OE
Identify a co-holder for new conservation restrictions	ConCom, LLCT	Ongoing	OE
Maintain compliance with bylaws and regulations	BOS, LUG, LUC	Ongoing	OE, CE
Secure deed restrictions to protect buffer zone	ConCom	Ongoing	WPF
Conduct land use & habitat studies	ConCom, LLCT, PB	Periodically	OE, CB, GR
Implement roadside, invasive-species mgmt. program	ConCom, DPW, BOS	2017	OE, CB, GR

Expand agriculture, habitat diversity, and recreation, including trails, where appropriate

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Evaluate current use of municipal & conservation land	BOS, PB, ConCom	Periodically	OE, CE
Support farmers who wish to license conservation land	ConCom, AG	Ongoing	OE
Purchase and construct land for a new athletic field	PRC, ConCom, CPC, BOS	2017	TM, CPA
Continue agricultural licensing program	ConCom	Ongoing	OE
Provide & advocate for ag-related recreation activities	AG, PRC, ConCom, PB	Ongoing	OE, CE
Work on habitat enhancement projects	ConCom, LLCT, AG	Periodically	OE, PP, GR

Goal #2 (High Priority): Steward conservation, agricultural, and recreational lands to promote long-term sustainable production, ecological diversity, resiliency, and community access.

Objectives:

Ensure that trails and roadside paths remain accessible for public use

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Fund required maintenance of trails and roadside paths	PB, ConCom, DPW, BOS	Ongoing	OE, CE
Fund projects to enhance, stabilize, and widen trails where appropriate to accommodate multiple uses	PB, ConCom, DPW, BOS	Ongoing	TM, OE, CE, GR
Set up an independent stewardship fund	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing	PP

Maintain the conservation-land baseline inventory and monitoring program

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Dedicate funds and staff to maintain program	LLCT, ConCom	Annually	OE
Acquire legal records for new acquisitions	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing	OE
Acquire legal records for new trail easements	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing	OE, GR
Add to and build conservation-land database	LLCT, ConCom, PB, IT	Ongoing	OE, GR
Prepare baseline inventory reports for new acquisitions	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing	OE, PP
Conduct scientific studies on conservation land	Interns, Residents	Ongoing	GR, PP

Monitor conservation properties as scheduled	LLCT, ConCom	Annually	OE
Resolve encroachment incidents when found	LLCT, ConCom	Annually	OE
Evaluate effectiveness of stewardship program	LLCT, ConCom	2020	OE

Encourage best land management practices including:

- o sustainable farming practices that are compatible with natural resource values
- o ecologically sound woodlot management
- o scientifically sound management of existing open farm ponds
- o environmentally responsible turf management of parks and athletic fields

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Review/revise existing field and forest mgmt. plans	LLCT, ConCom	2022	OE
Adhere to policies consistent with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices.	ConCom, PRC, DPW, AG	Ongoing	OE
Monitor and build organic soil health	ConCom, AG	Annually	OE
Use scientific studies to inform management decisions	ConCom, PRC, DPW	Ongoing	OE, PP
Monitor compliance with Ag. licenses annually	ConCom, AG, LLCT	Annually	OE
Provide educational materials on sound management	LLCT, ConCom, PRC, PB	Ongoing	OE
Explore drought resistant design and high efficiency irrigation with regards to ag and turf management	PRC, DPW, LWD, ConCom, AG	Ongoing	OE, CE, CPA

Acquire funds and resources for long-term land stewardship and scientific study

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Fund special projects to enhance natural habitat areas	LLCT, ConCom, PRD, PB	Ongoing	CE, GR, PP
Set up an independent stewardship fund	LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing	OE

Goal #3 (High Priority): Promote appropriate access to, and use of, open space and recreation land.

Objectives:

Enhance connectivity and wayfinding within the trail and roadside path network

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Acquire trail easements on existing, unprotected trails	PB, LLCT, ConCom	Ongoing	OE, PP, GR
Acquire and build proposed trails and roadside paths	PB, ConCom/LLCT, DPW	Ongoing	CE, CPA, GR
Improve existing trail and roadside path connections	PB, ConCom/LLCT, DPW	Ongoing	OE, CE, GR
Establish and promote “special-interest loops”	PB-SLPIC, ConCom, PRC	Ongoing	CE, GR
Develop wayfinding strategies to inform users of their whereabouts on the trail and roadside path network without compromising the desired character of network	PB-SLPIC, ConCom, LLCT, DPW, PRC	Ongoing	OE, CE, GR

As appropriate, encourage multiple uses on the open space and trail network

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
As appropriate, provide opportunities for universal access to recreation land and facilities	PB, PRC, DPW, ConCom, LLCT, BOS	Ongoing	CE, GR
Maintain suitable trails for multiple user groups	ConCom, LLCT, DPW	Ongoing	OE, CE, GR
Construct compatible destinations and play areas (observation boardwalk, natural playground)	PB, ConCom, PRC	2017/2018	CE, CPA, GR

Manage inappropriate uses and protect the integrity of the open space and trail network.

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Create regulations to balance varied and over use	LLCT, ConCom, PRC	Necessary	OE
Preserve the natural atmosphere for people using trails	LLCT, ConCom, DPW	Ongoing	OE, CE, GR
Preserve the ecological integrity of wildlife habitats	LLCT, ConCom, DPW	Ongoing	OE, CE, GR

Respond to changes in land use by reviewing access criteria and developing plans to accommodate new and shared uses where appropriate

Goal #4 (High Priority): Educate residents and officials about best practices for achieving open space and recreation goals. Coordinate on programs and policies at the local and regional level.

Objectives:

Coordinate with boards and organizations to promote current goals

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Inform responsible parties of their required actions	ConCom	2017	OE
Solicit individuals to work on accomplishing actions	ConCom, PRC, PB, BOS	2017	OE, CE, GR

Partner with regional organizations to promote conservation and recreation goals

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Coordinate with local organizations on shared projects	PB, DPW, PRC, ConCom	2017	OE, GR, PP
Participate in regional initiatives	PB, BOS, PRC, ConCom	2017	OE, CE, GR

Foster a long-term stewardship ethic among all property owners in Town including:

- water conservation measures
- ecological landscaping practices
- energy and resource conservation

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Educate residents and the public on stewardship topics	ConCom, PB, LWD	Ongoing	OE
Participate in state, national and global initiatives	PB, BOS, DPW, GETC	Ongoing	OE, CE, GR
Educate new residents about stewardship ethics	ConCom, LLCT	Ongoing	OE

Provide opportunities for community-building and individualized recreation

Actions	Responsible Party	Timeline	Funding
Sponsor public activities and events year-round	PRC, ConCom, COA, PB	Ongoing	OE, GR
Create public activities and events for all age groups	PRC, ConCom, COA, PB	Ongoing	OE, GR
Reach out to and organize events with Drumlin Farm, Minute Man National Historical Park, Farrington Nature Linc, Walden Woods Project, Codman Community Farms, Birches School, Lincoln Nursery School, etc.	PRC, ConCom, COA, AG	Ongoing	OE, CE
Sponsor multi-media presentations	ConCom, LLCT, PB, COA	Ongoing	OE, GR

Continue to retain professional and highly-competent staff to support OSRP goals

Lands of Open Space and Recreation Interest

