



Section 8 – Public Comments

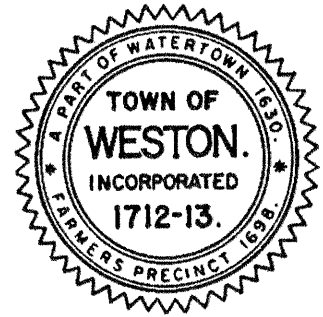
In this section, letters from several town boards and committees are provided indicating they have had the opportunity to review and comment on the 2026 Weston Open Space and Recreation Plan.

- Town of Weston Select Board
- Town of Weston Planning Board
- Town of Weston Conservation Commission
- Town of Weston Recreation Commission
- Town of Weston Historical Commission
- Town of Weston Traffic & Sidewalk Committee
- Weston Forest and Trail Association
- Land's Sake Farm
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council

TOWN OF WESTON

Town Hall, 11 Town House Road
Post Office Box 378
WESTON, MA 02493-0002

(781) 786-5020 FAX (781) 786-5029
selectboard@westonma.gov
SELECT BOARD



Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Members,

The Select Board has reviewed the revised draft of Weston's 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan following our meeting with your staff and committee on February 24, 2026. The Board would like to express its support for this draft and a commitment to the values it represents.

During the past year, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee has worked with input given by members of the public, other committees, boards, and organizations, and Town staff members to update the Weston's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Our Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Commission, the Historical Commission, Weston Forest and Trail Association, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council have also reviewed and supported this draft.

This new plan will serve Weston well for years to come, offering guidance for endeavors related to open space and recreational assets, such as:

- pursuing land and easement acquisition opportunities
- stewarding and management existing resources
- enhancing public outreach
- improving non-motorized vehicle travel routes throughout town
- meeting the needs of people with accessibility concerns

We would like to thank the members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, who contributed their time and expertise to this endeavor. We look forward to supporting the many people, committees, and groups that will help to make progress on the Action Plan over the next seven years.

Sincerely,

Lise N. Revers
Chair of the Weston Select Board

Letter from Planning Board to be included upon receipt. The OSRP project team received comments from the Planning Board on April 3, 2026 and has revised the plan accordingly. A letter has been requested.

WESTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 378
WESTON, MA 02493
TELEPHONE: 781-786-5068
CONSERVATION@WESTONMA.GOV
FAX: 781-786-5069

March 3rd, 2026

TO: The Committee on Open Space & Recreation Plan (COSRP):

RE: Support for the Town of Weston 2026 Open Space & Recreation Plan

The Weston Conservation Commission reviewed the 2026 Open Space & Recreation Plan and discussed it at our March 3rd, 2026 public meeting. We are in unanimous agreement that this well-researched and thoroughly updated document does an excellent job of capturing the Weston community and its demographics, its land use history and evolution over time, its place in the regional context, as well as providing an in-depth analysis of the needs and challenges facing Weston's open space and recreational resources over the next decade as well as measurable goals and objectives to meet those needs.

We were particularly impressed with the level of public outreach and engagement that was conducted during this latest OSRP update. The public survey that was created to help gauge the level of need for improved open space and recreational facilities, services, and programs in Weston was completed by over 654 respondents; that is significantly greater than the 420 responses received during the 2017 OSRP update. It is notable that the COSRP took the effort to translate the survey into simplified Chinese, which received an additional 49 responses.

We would like to highlight four themes that emerged from this extensive public outreach- (1) the need for improved connectivity between open space and recreational resources, schools, neighborhoods and the Town center through non-motorized options, (2) the need to continue to pursue our work managing invasive plant and forest pests, including deer pressure, (4) the need to incorporate climate resilience into all aspects of our forest and meadow management program (3) and the need to preserve the semi-rural character of Weston by protecting the scenic viewscapes that are under our care. We are committed to working on these important goals, and the 10-Year Action Plan provides a helpful guide for us to accomplish this long-term work.

Finally, we are grateful for the hard work and contributions of the COSRP in the creation of this new plan that will serve Weston over the next decade. We would also like to thank the Weston residents who participated in the public survey and public forums- your feedback is important and meaningful and we are committed to working on this collective vision for the future of Weston's open space and recreational resources.

Respectfully,



Rees Tullos, Conservation Commission Chair

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WESTON**

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www.weston.org



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

February 26, 2026

Dear Committee for Open Space and Recreation Plan;

The Weston Recreation Commission was presented with an overview of the 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan via email and given the opportunity to provide feedback through surveys, public forums, and in other ways. Additionally, Commissioner Drew D'Amato helped develop the plan through his participation on the COSRP. We feel our interests have been well represented and believe many of the OSRP goals and objectives align with our priorities.

We look forward to working with all interested parties to help realize the vision of this plan, particularly those portions that relate to our priorities such as: better and safer connections to recreational facilities, enhancing programming options to better serve teens and those over 70, and exploring ways to create or enhance recreation facilities in areas of Town that are underserved.

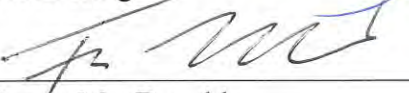
Thank you for leading such an inclusive development process, and helping us better plan for future recreational needs in Weston.

Sincerely,

Recreation Commission



Eric Rosenthal, Chair


Adam King


Trevor MacDonald


Jess Catlin


Andrew D'Amato, COSRP representative


Chika Toure


Ajit Puri



TOWN OF WESTON

781-786-5066
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 10, 2026

Re: **Historical Commission Comments - 2026 Weston Open Space and Recreation Plan**

To: Committee on Open Space and Recreation

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on this important and comprehensive Plan. Here are our notes:

Goals & Objectives: (p7)

Goal 4: Preserve the Semi-Rural Character of Weston by Protecting Open Space, Preserving Scenic and Historic Features, and Implementing Thoughtful Development Strategies and

Objective B: to Acquire parcels in fee, easements, or conservation/agricultural/preservation restrictions on parcels that are important from an environmental, recreational, historic, or scenic perspective (See Appendix A: Lands of Open Space Interest List).

The Commission appreciates the OSRP's integration of these goals and statements, as they align with many of the Historical Commission's goals and objectives.

V. Historic Preservation (p27)

Please correct paragraph 2: Weston currently has **eighteen** historic resources protected by perpetual preservation restriction [not seventeen]. Several more are in the works. Properties with executed restrictions can be found here:

<https://www.westonma.gov/925/Buildings-with-Preservation-Restrictions>

Inventory and Analysis

4A. Geology, Soils, and Topography (p49)

In the discussion of various geological stages that remain across Weston, there is a reference to the Walgreens Pharmacy. This should be called **former** Walgreens Pharmacy.

IV. Public Shade Trees (p72)

As issues with many species are noted, consider mentioning that in 2021a new blight-resistant **Princeton Elm tree** was planted to replace the historic Burgoyne Elm tree which was lost to disease many years before. It is located just east of the Fiske Law Office on Boston Post Road. After the Battle of Saratoga on October 17, 1777, the **Burgoyne Elm** sheltered General Burgoyne's captured army as prisoners on their way to Winter Hill under the escort of General Glover.

2nd paragraph: Out of curiosity, how are street trees "cleaned?"

VI. Agricultural Land (p78)

Examples of active privately owned farms should no longer include the **Carter Farm off Boston Post Road** as that is now a 40B construction project.

4F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments (p95 - 104)

Consider mentioning **Louisa's Wall** in the **Case Estates** section on p 99-100. According to the 2006-Fall Bulletin of the Weston Historical Society, the wall is ten feet high, six feet thick and 200 feet long and has been called "the largest free-standing dry wall in New England," although this statement would be hard to prove definitively. It is a unique and iconic structure, which contrary to initial understanding, sits entirely on town-owned land. The far side, however, is accessible only from private property at 101 Wellesley St. Recent deterioration along the private side was repaired with permission from the Town. At the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, a vote that would have authorized the Select Board to convey Louisa's Wall to the owner of private abutting property failed. The Town then undertook a Conditions Assessment of Louisa's Wall and did some initial repair work. Conditions should be monitored for future necessary upkeep of this historic resource.

Consider mentioning the **Rhododendron Garden** in the Case Estates section on p 99-100.

Consider mentioning the historic **Norumbega Tower** itself on p 104. This Tower in the Charles River Reservation is a significant historic resource built in 1889 by Eben Norton Horsford. Intended to commemorate the location of a legendary Norse fort and city, it sits at the confluence of Stony Brook and the Charles River. The structure is 38 feet tall and is crafted using mortared fieldstones with an interior spiral staircase. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is currently repairing masonry and metal work and upgrading accessibility there.

III. Cultural, Archeological, and Historic Areas (p105 – 106)

The third paragraph of this section reads.... "To date, forty-one areas, 1,290 buildings, four burial grounds, five objects and forty-nine structures have been entered into MACRIS." This should be updated to include **51** structures. Please also review the number of buildings on MACRIS as several have recently been added.

Map 6A: Historic Resources (p108)

Map is missing the most recently documented and inventoried Areas and needs to be updated to include: **Rivers Country Day School Area, Aberdeen Road Area, Partridge Hill Road Area, Golden Ball Road Area, Legion Road Area.**

III. Historic Buildings, Neighborhoods and Districts Contribute to the Semi-Rural Character of Weston. Important Open Spaces Within these Neighborhoods and Districts Need to be Protected (p132 - 133)

Consider adding a note at the conclusion of the section to acknowledge that several historic preservation restrictions currently in place will help protect certain open spaces including the property at 118 Conant Road.

5C. Summary of Management Needs

Weston Needs to Strategically Provide More Diversity in Housing Type and Affordability in a Way that Complements the Town's semi-Rural Character and Preserves Valuable Open Spaces (p145-146)

In the last sentence on p 145, add **historic preservation** to the list of interests that could be involved in a partnership project at The Campion Center.... *The Campion Center is an example of an area where a partnership project involving open space, recreation, **historic preservation** and affordable housing interests may be possible that is on the Lands of Open Space Interest list (Appendix A).*

Goal 4: Preserve the Semi-rural Character of Weston by Protecting Open Space, Preserving Scenic and Historic Features, and Implementing Thoughtful Development Strategies (p150-151)

Consider adding a final bullet point: **K. Support the preservation and development of the Historic Heritage Overlay Designation as it applies to appropriate properties.**

7C. Action Plan p 153-167)

Consider adding **MWRA** to table, either as a responsible party or a possible funding source. (MWRA should be a responsible party for Goal 3: to develop Japanese Knotweed monitoring, etc. on p 159)

Goal 1: Improve access to and connectivity among open spaces, recreational facilities, and other important resources.

B. Improve user experience on Trails (p154-155)

Consider adding bullet point 5: **Additon of signage to identify historic resources along Mass Central Rail Trail**, in conjunction with WHC and in coordination with similar signage in other towns.

Beyond the above comments, the Historical Commission endorses the 2026 Weston Open Space and Recreation Plan. It is thoughtful, wholistic and ambitious, and integrates many aspects of concern that are shared by the Historical Commission. We thank the Committee responsible for this work and provide our support.

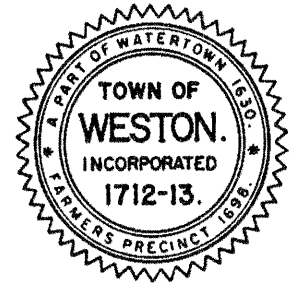
Sincerely yours,

Phyllis Halpern and Steven Wagner, Co-chairs

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March 16, 2026

Dear Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Members,

The Weston Traffic & Sidewalk Committee (T&SC) is writing this letter of support for the 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) prepared for the Town of Weston by the Committee on Open Space and Recreation Planning with technical assistance from Barrett Planning Group, LLC. The 2026 OSRP will replace the last plan completed in 2017.

Several of the top recommendations and priorities in the OSRP involve improving access to and connectivity among open spaces, recreational facilities, and other important town resources in Weston, particularly for pedestrians and bicyclists. These broad transportation related goals in the OSRP align closely with the mission and goals of the T&SC and the town-wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan that our committee is currently working on, with expected completion in Spring of 2026. We look forward to coordinating with the Weston Recreation Department on the details of potential projects that emerge from the OSRP as they are defined and advanced.

In summary, the Weston Traffic & Sidewalk Committee has reviewed the 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan and supports its submission to your office for approval.

Respectfully,

Weston Traffic & Sidewalk Committee

T&SC Members

James Doyle
Richard Flynn
Richard Gula
Rebecca Mercuri
Ann Wiedie



Weston Forest and Trail Association, Inc.

*Dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of open space in Weston
Incorporated 1955*

P.O. Box 665 Weston, MA 02493
WestonForestTrail.org

March 5, 2026

Weston Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Weston Town Hall 11 Town House Road

Weston, MA 02493

RE: Support for the 2026 Weston Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update

Dear Members of the OSRP Committee,

On behalf of the Weston Forest and Trail Association Trustees, I am writing to formally support the 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan update. As President of WFTA, I am proud of our team's contributions and the comprehensive results presented in this update.

We particularly acknowledge the Committee's effort to incorporate diverse viewpoints. The intentional outreach ensures the OSRP reflects our entire community's needs. Some 2026 survey results deserve a call out: **80% (hundreds of respondents) use our trails** — it is Weston's #1 activity. **72% prefer accessing open space by walking or biking.**

WFTA supports the conclusions of the 2026 OSRP and will continue our partnership with the Weston Conservation Commission to act upon priorities including trail linkages:

- **Awareness and Education:** We support expanding trail map and open space information distribution as appropriate and will continue digital outreach.
- **Stewardship and Maintenance:** We will continue trail maintenance through our seasonal workers and monthly "Stewardship Saturday" projects. Moreover, we regularly monitor and enforce Conservation Restrictions.
- **Trail Infrastructure:** We recognize the 42% of respondents requesting "Better Boardwalks" and will continue installing bridges and boardwalks with community stakeholders. Additionally, we support finding appropriate trail heads and scenic vistas for Picnic Table and Benches.
- **Priority Trail Connections:** WFTA will prioritize a number of new trails given the OSRP survey results; connecting the existing trail network to sidewalks, MBTA, and parking for recreation.

WFTA remains committed to stewardship that contributes to Weston's character while adapting to evolving needs.

Sincerely, **Eli Mather**

President, Weston Forest and Trail Association



Board of Directors

Chris Sanzone
President

Miriam Levy
Vice-President

Brian Clymer
Treasurer

Leila Otis
Secretary

Theodore Bascom
Margo Flint
Emily Grisct
Kate Kinlin
Richard Kraska
JJ Moeller
Michael Stephens
Rick Waechter

Date: February 24, 2026

To: Town of Weston: Committee on Open Space and Recreation Planning

Re: Letter of Support, Weston Open Space and Recreation Plan (2026)

Dear Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Land's Sake Farm's staff, board, and broader community, we are pleased to offer our strong support for the Town of Weston's 2026 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Land's Sake has long benefited from Weston's deep commitment to land conservation, stewardship, agricultural preservation, and accessible outdoor experiences. The updated OSRP thoughtfully reflects these values while providing a clear and forward-looking framework to guide decision-making over the coming decade. We especially appreciate the plan's emphasis on connectivity among open spaces, inclusive access to recreational resources, climate resilience, and the protection of Weston's semi-rural character.

The plan's collaborative development process, including broad community engagement, public forums, and cross-departmental coordination, mirrors the type of partnership that is essential for effective stewardship of shared resources. Land's Sake is particularly encouraged by goals that prioritize agricultural preservation, habitat restoration, improved trail access, and enhanced coordination among local organizations working toward common conservation and recreation objectives.

As a nonprofit community farm stewarding conservation land while providing educational programming, food access initiatives, and agricultural experiences, Land's Sake sees this plan as a meaningful opportunity to strengthen collaboration across municipal departments, community organizations, and residents. We are committed to continuing our role as a dedicated partner in advancing open space stewardship, environmental education, agricultural viability, and inclusive community access to Weston's natural resources.

We appreciate the thoughtful work that has gone into this plan and look forward to continued collaboration as Weston implements its goals and priorities.

Sincerely,

Pam Hess
Executive Director
Land's Sake Farm

Chris Sanzone
Board Chair
Land's Sake Farm



March 16, 2026

Melissa Cryan
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St. – Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Town of Weston recently submitted its updated Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review. The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires every community in the Commonwealth to submit their Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to their respective regional planning agency (RPA) and receive a letter of review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While your office reviews open space plans for compliance with OSRP guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with [MetroCommon 2050](#), the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

Consistency with MetroCommon 2050 – MetroCommon 2050 is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted in 2021 in accordance with Massachusetts General Law. The plan seeks to advance equity across the region and envisions a more prosperous, resilient, and sustainable Greater Boston for current and future residents. This vision is supported by five (5) action areas, eleven (11) goals, twenty (20) recommendations, sixty-eight (68) strategies, and more than 200 policy actions. MAPC encourages all communities within the region to become familiar with the plan by visiting metrocommon.mapc.org.

Weston's Open Space and Recreation Plan aligns with several action areas and core goals of MetroCommon 2050, particularly those related to promoting regional recreational opportunities, equitable access to recreation, climate resilience, and regional connectivity.

Consideration of regional goals and priorities in the plan – In developing the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Town reviewed and incorporated relevant regional and statewide planning frameworks, including MAPC's MetroCommon 2050. The OSRP explicitly "aims to complement the objectives outlined in MetroCommon 2050." These regional goals and priorities are reflected throughout the needs analysis and recommendations and are summarized in a table on pages 20–21. The table compares MetroCommon 2050 goals with aligning goals in Weston's 2026 OSRP. The level of detail provided in connecting to regional goals is notable.

Goals and Objectives relevant to the regional priorities – Several goals within the Open Space and Recreation Plan directly support MetroCommon 2050's regional priorities. Notably, the plan thoughtfully acknowledges the importance of balancing open space preservation with incremental development while maintaining Weston's semi-rural character. For example, Goal 4 states: "Preserve the semi-rural character of Weston by protecting open space, preserving scenic and historic features,



and implementing thoughtful development strategies.” To advance this goal, the Town has established objectives that include supporting the Affordable Housing Trust in expanding affordable housing options and utilizing publicly owned land, such as Case Estates, to plan for an appropriate mix of agricultural, historic, recreational, conservation, and other uses. It is a great demonstration of how Open Space and Recreation Plans can incorporate and support the goal of housing production.

Collaboration with Surrounding Communities and Regional Partners – The Plan emphasizes active collaboration with surrounding communities and regional partners. Action items include collaborating with the MBTA and DCR to pursue a feasibility study for the Fitchburg Line Trail concept; continuing partnerships with DCR to improve the existing trail system along the Charles River; and developing a feasibility study for a shared-use path on Norumbega Road in partnership with DCR and the Weston Select Board.

Weston’s Plan is very comprehensive and provides a strong foundation for the Town’s ongoing efforts to improve open space, increase connectivity, and address the evolving local and regional open space and recreation needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan. We wish you success in implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JFiala", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Josh Fiala, AICP AIA LEED AP
Director of Land Use

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