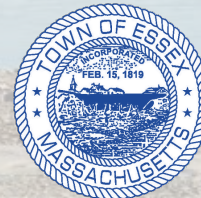


# Town of Essex Open Space & Recreation Plan 2026 Update

Open Space Committee Meeting #6

May 7, 2026



# Agenda

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- Where we are in the process
- Takeaways from the Virtual Community Forum
- Draft 10-Year Action Plan
- Next steps for finalizing the OSRP plan
- Essex County Greenbelt Association – presentation + Q&A
  - *Presentation of ECGA's Prioritization Maps*
  - *Becca Smalley, GIS Specialist*
  - *Abby Hardy-Moss, Vice President of Stewardship, Planning, & Technology*

# Group agreements

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- Listen for understanding, not disagreement
- Consider the opinions and experiences of others
- Bring a spirit of experimentation and creativity
- Take space, make space (take turns speaking, make room for others to speak)
- Speak for yourself and/or the group you represent, not for others



A scenic view of a lake or bay. In the foreground, there is a stone wall on the left and a wooden chair on a small platform. The water is blue and calm, with a few buoys visible. In the background, there is a forested shoreline under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

**Where we are in the process**

# Timeline

## Task 1. Setting the foundation

Aug – Sept 2025

## Task 2. Environmental and Land Analysis

- Regional context
- Population characteristics
- Growth and Development Patterns
- Environmental Inventory
- Conservation & Recreation Land Inventory

Sept – Dec 2025

## Task 3. Community Engagement

- Online survey
- Event #1
- Event #2

Oct 2025 – April 2026

## Task 4. Needs Analysis

January – April 2026

## Task 5. Draft 10-Year Action Plan


April – May 2026

## Task 6. Writing a Plan

June 2026



# Timeline – detailed

Event	Date	Outcome
Open Space Committee Mtg #6	Thurs May 7	Revise draft action plan 
Internal Draft (Draft v1) for review by Town Staff & OSC	Friday May 15	
Comments from OSC due	Friday May 29	Committee to provide a consolidated set of comments and edits to MAPC
External Draft (Draft v2) for review by the public + official letters of review	Friday June 5	
Comments from the public due	Friday June 19	
Open Space Committee Mtg #7	June 22 or June 24 TBD?	Discuss final revisions prior to submission to the State
Final Draft (Draft v3) for submission to the state	End of June	

A scenic view of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, a wooden chair sits on a small, elevated platform made of rocks. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a clear, light blue with scattered white clouds. The background shows a dense line of trees and a grassy area. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

# Findings from the Virtual Community Forum

# Recap

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- 7 total participants (excluding OSC/MAPC members)
- Recording, slides, and follow-up feedback form were also made available
- Overall, all draft goals received strong support.

# Recap – Goal A (Conservation)

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- Highest ranking strategies:
  - **Strategy A.2.** Strategically expand conservation areas to achieve wildlife corridors of contiguous parcels that protect the major habitat types in Essex.
  - **Strategy A.1.** Continue to restore and protect the singular and threatened habitats of Essex. // **Strategy A.3.** Preserve and protect the unique scenic open spaces of Essex.
- No other written comments

# Recap – Goal B (Recreation)

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- Highest ranking strategies:
  - **Strategy B.1.** Improve maintenance of existing town-owned recreational facilities and trails.
  - **Strategy B.3.** Support the MESD's need to expand athletic facilities; // **Strategy B.6.** Improve kayak/canoe access to water-based recreational resources in Essex.
- Write-in comments:
  - *“Excellent list”*
  - *“Good set of goals, but need action path” and “implementation”*
  - *“Given accessibility of Memorial Park to Essex residents, priority should be given to strategies 1 and 2.” (i.e., improve existing Town-owned facilities and playgrounds)*
  - *“We need to fix the tennis courts in memorial park. it’s a disgrace and should be top priority. honestly all the goals are good and needed.”*
  - *“Ipswich River Watershed Association places emphasis on the enjoyment and recreation of the river, tying that access to education and advocacy about the watershed and ecology and public water supply”*

# Recap – Goal C (Public education)

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- Highest ranking strategies:
  - **Strategy C.2.** Grow the network of known supporters of open space and recreation in Essex.;
  - **Strategy C.3.** Use creative outlets to disseminate information about the challenges and opportunities to protect Essex’s natural resources.
- Write-in comments:
  - *“Town administration and website need much improvement”*
  - *“Preference for activities and access, leading to engagement and education, leading to advocacy and networks of supporters.”*

# Recap – Goals D & E (Governance)

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- Ranking of strategies not requested
- Write-in comments
  - *“Very important to improve communication, which is often lacking, between Town Boards. Respective board duties and jurisdictions should be made much clearer. Town organization flow char for decision making is needed”*
  - *“Building expertise and capacity for open space advocacy is critical.. Are there any Essex town administrators participating tonight or in the past?”*
  - *“I would like to see a Park and Rec Board established consisting of liaisons from the BOS, DPW and Finance committee as well as citizen members.”*
  - *“(1) Missing: a citizens’ network of supporters and advocates. (2) Centralize, don't compartmentalize.”*

# Recap – General comments

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- Comment about climate resilience and wetlands
- Comment about prioritizing tennis courts and need to improve Memorial Park given its accessibility
  - Written comment (email) about resident support for tennis court renovation
- Written comment (email) about more parking for mountain biking trails

A scenic view of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, a wooden chair sits on a small, elevated stone platform overlooking a body of water. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a clear, bright blue with scattered white clouds. The background shows a line of trees and a distant shoreline. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# 10-Year Action Plan

# Action plan requirements

	Priority	Timeline	Funding	Responsible Party
<b>Goal A.</b>				
<b>Strategy A.1.</b>				
Action				
Action				
<b>Strategy A.2.</b>				
Action				
Action				
<b>Goal B.</b>				
<b>Strategy B.1.</b>				
Action				
Action				
etc.				

# Action plan draft

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- See draft action plan sent as an Excel attachment
- We will walk through each section

# Focus for today's discussion

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For each goal, let's discuss:

1. MAPC/Town questions highlighted in red
2. Open Space Committee members  
highest priority edits and/or comments
3. Are you comfortable with the actions  
listed as 'Open Space Committee (lead)'?



<b>Draft Action Plan - Essex OSRP 2026 Update</b>								
<b>For discussion with the Open Space Committee on 5/7/2026</b>								
		<b>Priority</b>	<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Was this action also in the 2016 OSRP?</b>	<b>Notes and questions</b>	
<b>Goal A. Protect, Preserve, and Enhance Conservation Areas and Scenic Open Spaces in Essex</b>								
<b>Strategy A.1. Restore and protect the singular and threatened habitats of Essex.</b>		<b>High</b>						
<b>Action A.1.1.</b> Schedule a meeting with The Trustees of the Reservation (TTOR) to identify ways the Town can support ongoing restoration of The Great Marsh.			Short term (2026-2027)	Selectboard/Staff (lead) TTOR	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Action A.1.2.</b> Continue to provide Town funding for ongoing work at Chebacco Lake to improve water quality and water quality.			Ongoing	Selectboard/Staff (lead)	Town funds (same source as those currently used)	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Action A.1.3.</b> Schedule a meeting with the Chebacco Lake Watershed Association to identify other ways the Town can support restoration of the lake and watershed			Short term (2026-2027)	Selectboard/Staff (lead) Chebacco Lake Watershed Association	No funding required	<i>Yes, but modified</i>		
<b>Action A.1.4.</b> Support nonprofit organizations such as Cape Ann Vernal Pond Team, who are working to certify and protect additional vernal pools			Ongoing	Nonprofit organizations (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Action A.1.5.</b> Support the adoption of a local wetlands bylaw			Short term (2026-2027)	Conservation Commission (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Strategy A.2.</b> Strategically expand protected conservation areas in Town to achieve wildlife corridors of contiguous parcels that protect the major habitat types in Essex, thereby meeting overlapping goals of biodiversity, connectivity, and climate resiliency.		<b>High</b>						
<b>Action A.2.1.</b> Schedule a meeting with Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust to identify ways the Town can support ongoing expansion of protected conservation lands in Manchester-Essex Woods			Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead) MECT	No funding required	<i>Yes, but modified</i>	<i>This is about NEW conservation areas</i>	
<b>Action A.2.2.</b> Schedule a meeting with Essex County Greenbelt Association to identify ways the Town can support ongoing expansion of protected conservation lands as identified in ECGA's prioritization maps			Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead) ECGA	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>	<i>This is about NEW conservation areas</i>	
<b>Action A.2.3.</b> Organize an annual meeting with Select Board, Planning Board, Community Preservation Committee, and nonprofit land trust representatives to review properties currently under Chapter 61, 61A and 61B protection and plan a strategy in case of chapter program refusal.			Short term (2026-2027) and ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead) ECGA	No funding required	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Val had noted that this would be good to do periodically, even if already done from 2016 OSRP</i>	
<b>Action A.2.4.</b> Partner with the Community Preservation Committee on Town CPA funding for Chapter 61 opportunities.			Short term (2026-2027) and ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead) Community Preservation Committee	CPA funding & grants	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Action A.2.5.</b> Adopt a townwide strategy, which could include zoning changes, to enhance protections for highest priority conservation areas and focus allowable development in appropriate areas.			Medium term (2028-2030)	Planning Board (lead) Town Meeting	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Strategy A.3. Preserve and protect the unique scenic open spaces of Essex.</b>		<b>Medium</b>						
<b>Action A.3.1.</b> As part of the townwide strategy noted in Action A.2.5, explore adoption of a Scenic Zoning Overlay Districts along John Wise and Southern Avenues			Medium term (2028-2030)	Planning Board (lead) Town Meeting	No funding required	<i>Yes</i>		
<b>Action A.3.2.</b> Designate Lufkin and Island Roads as Scenic Roads under the Town's Scenic Road Bylaw and per MGL Chap 40 Section 15C, and explore whether John Wise Ave (State Route 133) can be designated as a Scenic Road			Medium term (2028-2030)	Open Space Committee (lead) Planning Board	No funding required	<i>Yes</i>	<b>For discussion with OSC. Flag MGL limitations</b>	
<b>Action A.3.3.</b> Partner with nonprofit land trusts to educate the public about the value of farmland and preservation opportunities for landowners (Chap 61A)			Medium term (2028-2030)	Nonprofit organizations (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>	<b>Ask OSC for any additional suggestions</b>	
<b>Strategy A.4.</b> Partner with neighboring municipalities on conservation goals for natural resources that cross municipal boundaries.		<b>Medium</b>						
<b>Action A.4.1.</b> Continue to coordinate with the Towns of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Gloucester, and Hamilton regarding key open spaces.			Ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
<b>Strategy A.5.</b> Have the Open Space Committee take a more active role in advocating for the preservation of high priority, strategic open space uses.		<b>Medium</b>						

	<b>Action A.5.1.</b> Advocate for the preservation of high priority, strategic open space uses at public meetings and other venues for civic engagement		Ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Action A.5.2.</b> Support the adoption of a local wetlands bylaw by the Conservation Commission		Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Action A.5.3.</b> Actively participate in the Regional Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 planning process		Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Strategy A.6.</b> Support and promote related climate resilience initiatives, locally and regionally	High						<b>Proposed new strategy based on feedback from members of the public. This calls it out more clearly</b>
	<b>Action A.6.1.</b> Continue to actively participate in the Northeast Coastal Communities regional partnership		Ongoing	Selectboard/Staff (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Action A.6.2.</b> Undertake the Regional Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 planning process and implement other climate resiliency and coastal resiliency work underway in Essex		Short term (2026-2027)	Selectboard/Staff (lead)	MVP 2.0 grant funding already confirmed	<i>No, this is new</i>		
			<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Funding</b>			
	<b>Goal B. Improve and Expand Recreational Opportunities and Access for All Essex Community Members</b>							
	<b>Strategy B.1.</b> Improve the maintenance of existing town-owned recreational facilities and trails.	High						
	<b>DELETE? Action B.1.1.</b> Renovate and rehabilitate the existing tennis courts at Memorial Park. <b>MODIFY TO?</b> Explore potential locations for new tennis courts?		Short term (2026-2027)		Town funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>	<b>Val: NEEDS TO BE DROPPED - longevity, decision made last month. Flooding/other issues make this not feasible.</b>	
	<b>Action B.1.1.</b> Identify ways to improve access and use of Centennial Grove for all residents (e.g. communicate hours open to the public during the summer)		Short term (2026-2027)	Selectboard/Staff (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Action B.1.2.</b> Create/identify regular maintenance schedule for Centennial Grove, and trails on town-owned properties		Medium term (2028-2030)	DPW (lead) Centennial Grove	Existing Town set-aside for feasibility study	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Strategy B.2.</b> Improve and/or expand the existing playgrounds at Memorial Park and Essex Elementary School.	Medium						
	<b>Action B.2.1.</b> Identify funding to undertake a study of the Town's playgrounds and desired improvements.		Medium term (2028-2030)	DPW (lead)	Grant funding	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Strategy B.3.</b> Support the Manchester-Essex Regional School District (MERSD)'s need to expand athletic facilities for students, name,y tennis courts, regulation-size softbal/baseball diamonds, and track & field; support the implementation of the Manchester Athletic Fields Master Plan.	Medium						
	<b>Action B.3.1.</b> Schedule a meeting with the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea and the MERSD to identify specific pathways through which the Town of Essex could support proposed new facilities or upgrades, whether financially or through other means.		Medium term (2028-2030)	Selectboard/Staff (lead) Town of MBTS and MERSD	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Action B.3.2.</b> Identify funding sources for these investments		Medium term (2028-2030)	Selectboard/Staff (lead) Both towns can support grant ideas	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Strategy B.4.</b> Support the possibility of other new recreational amenities in the Essex region, such as pickleball courts and soccer fields.	Low						
	<b>Action B.4.1.</b> Ensure that consideration for new recreational amenities is included in the next Townwide Strategic Plan		Long term (2030-2036+)	Selectboard/Staff (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Action B.4.2.</b> Conduct preliminary explorations for possible sites for new recreational amenities.		Long term (2030-2036+)	Selectboard/Staff (lead)	Grant funding	<i>No, this is new</i>		
	<b>Strategy B.5.</b> Implement new bicycle lanes, which both improve access to open spaces and also represent a form of recreation in and of themselves.	Low						
	<b>Action B.5.1.</b> Determine feasibility of implementing bicycle lanes on Southern Avenue and potentially other locations in Essex.		Medium term (2028-2030)	DPW (lead)	Shared Streets, other	<i>Yes, but modified</i>		
	<b>Action B.5.2.</b> Schedule a meeting with Manchester-by-the-Sea to discuss bicycle lane connections from Southern Ave to School St		Medium term (2028-2030)	DPW (lead)	No funding required	<i>No, this is new</i>		

	<b>FOR DISCUSSION Action B.5.3.</b> Explore the expansion of parking access to mountain biking trails and/or ADA access improvements at trailheads with MECT and ECGB		Medium term (2028-2030)	MECT, ECGB (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	Proposed by a member of the public - not sure if we want to include. Get the Committee's feedback.
	<b>Strategy B.6.</b> Improve kayak/canoe access to water-based recreational resources in Essex, including Chebacco Lake, Essex River and River Basin, and Conomo Point	Medium					
	<b>Action B.6.1.</b> Continue to issue permits for non-resident use of the Town Landing		Short term (2026-2027) and ongoing	Harbormaster (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Action B.6.2.</b> Identify areas where parking access could be expanded at key water access sites, as a way to facilitate kayak and canoe access.		Medium term (2028-2030)	Harbormaster (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Strategy B.7.</b> Strengthen recreational programming for all demographic groups, with a focus on youth and families, seniors, and persons with disabilities.	Medium					
	<b>Action B.7.1.</b> Work with the Essex Council on Aging to implement recommendations from the "Living in Essex: A Community Needs Assessment" (May 2025)		Short term (2026-2027)	Council on Aging (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Action B.7.2.</b> Support the Greater Beverly YMCA efforts strengthen and expand programming for youth		Medium term (2028-2030)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Action B.7.3.</b> Implement ADA improvements at key sites identified in the ADA Survey included in the Appendix, as funding becomes available.		Long term (2030-2036+)	Varies depending on parcel ownership	Mass MOD potential funding sources	No, this is new	
			<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>Funding</b>		
	<b>Goal C. Improve Public Education and Increase Civic Engagement around Open Space Resources and Needs</b>						
	<b>Strategy C.1.</b> Provide more information online (e.g., Town website and social media) about existing open spaces and recreation resources in Essex and the surrounding region.	High					
	<b>Action C.1.1.</b> Post more information on the Town website about the Open Space Committee and how to get involved with them.		Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Action C.1.2.</b> Publish the interactive map of recreational resources in the region prepared by Town staff, and post information about existing open spaces in Essex that are available to the public.		Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Strategy C.2.</b> Grow the network of known supporters of open space and recreation in Essex.	High					
	<b>Action C.2.1.</b> Create an Open Space Committee email listserv or social media page to communicate more regularly and easily with open space supporters		Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Strategy C.3.</b> Use creative outlets to engage supporters and share information about the challenges and opportunities to protect Essex's natural resources.	Medium					
	<b>Action C.3.1.</b> Share the one-pager about the value of open space for the Town and surrounding region		Short term (2026-2027)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Action C.3.2.</b> Co-author an op-ed with the Gloucester Times about open space in Essex		Medium term (2028-2030)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	No, this is new	
	<b>Action C.3.3.</b> Organize stand-alone Open Space Committee events, such as lectures or nature walks with local historians / conservation experts		Medium term (2028-2030)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	Yes, modified	
	<b>Action C.3.4.</b> Advertise events and disseminate resources from other active organizations, such as Greenbelt, MECT, the Trustees, Town Green, etc.		Medium term (2028-2030)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	Yes, modified	
	<b>Strategy C.4.</b> Update, digitize, and promote the Open Space Committee's brochure guide to the open spaces of Essex	Low					
	<b>Action C.4.1.</b> Hire a graphic designer to update the brochure with more updated information and maps		Long term (2030-2036+)	Open Space Committee (lead)	Funding required	Yes, modified	
	<b>Action C.4.2.</b> Upload the digital version of the brochure to the Town website		Long term (2030-2036+)	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	Yes, modified	

		Timeline*	Responsible Parties	Funding		
<b>Goal D. Strengthen the Town's capacity and governance for preserving and protecting open space strategically and proactively</b>						
<b>Strategy D.1. Improve communication among Town Boards and NGOs regarding open space in Essex.</b>		High				
<b>Action D.1.1.</b> Evaluate the Town's Open Space & Recreation Plan on an ongoing basis to ensure effective implementation of these strategies. Provide annual updates to Selectboard.		Ongoing	Town Planner (lead) Open Space Committee	No funding required	Yes, modified	
<b>Action D.1.2.</b> Strengthen relationship between Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee - have the Open Space Committee attend an upcoming Conservation Commission meeting to discuss OSRP implementation		Short term (2026-2027) and ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead) Conservation Commission	No funding required	No, this is new	
<b>Action D.1.3.</b> Continue to foster strong ties between the Town and nonprofit land trusts active in Essex, including ECGA, TTOR, and MECT		Ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead) Selectboard/Staff	No funding required	Yes	
<b>Strategy D.2. Increase the capacity and training available for the Open Space Committee</b>		Medium				
<b>Action D.2.1.</b> Actively recruit new members		Short term (2026-2027) and ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead)	No funding required	Yes	
<b>Action D.2.2.</b> Attend trainings such as those offered by Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC), Massachusetts Open Space Network, or the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, and resources available through Division of Conservation Services		Ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead) Town Administrator & Staff	No funding required	Yes, modified	
<b>Strategy D.3. Identify grant opportunities and apply for funding to pursue actions outlined in this OSRP</b>		Medium				Note that I modified this strategy and deleted the one about tools
<b>Action D.3.1.</b> Keep track of funding opportunities through the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (e.g. grants such as Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity; Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities; Land and Water Conservation Fund; Landscape Partnership Drinking Water Supply Protection, and also the Commonwealth Conservation Land Tax Credit)		Ongoing	Town Administrator/Town Staff (lead) Open Space Committee	No funding required	Yes, modified	
<b>Action D.3.2.</b> Work with the Community Preservation Committee for open space and recreation needs generally, including Chap 61 opportunities as previously noted in Action A.2.4.		Ongoing	Open Space Committee (lead) Community Preservation Committee	No funding required	Yes, modified	
<b>Strategy D.4. Seek additional resources to strengthen the Town capacity for open space management.</b>		Medium				
<b>Action D.4.1.</b> Secure financial resources to hire a surveyor to locate parcels that are under Care & Custody of the Conservation Commission and parcels in Essex Forest		Short term (2026-2027)	Selectboard	Funding required	No, this is new	
<b>Action D.4.2.</b> Conduct an annual assessment of all accessible, town-owned open space parcels (e.g., walk the bounds, check for encroachment or other issues)		Ongoing	Varies depending on Department controlling the site	No funding required	No, this is new	
<b>Action D.4.3.</b> Clarify roles and responsibilities for ongoing management of Town-owned parcels, especially Memorial Park and Centennial Grove		Short term (2026-2027)	Varies depending on Department controlling the site	No funding required	No, this is new	
<b>Strategy D.5. Strengthen the Town's administration and documentation of existing and future open space</b>		High				Changed Goal E to Strategy D.5.
<b>Action D.5.1.</b> Work with CAI to update the Town's GIS webpage with the updated open space inventory shapefile created as part of this OSRP update		Short term (2026-2027)	Town Planner/MAPC working with Town Administrator	No funding required	No, this is new	
<b>Action D.5.2.</b> Assign a specific Town Staff or Board member to regularly update the open space inventory		Short term (2026-2027)	Town Planner/Assessors working jointly	No funding required	No, this is new	
<b>*Timeline options:</b>						
Ongoing						
Short term (2026-2027)						
Medium term (2028-2030)						
Long term (2030-2036+)						

# Next steps

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- **MAPC & Town**

- **Essex OSRP Draft v1 due Friday May 15 for OSC review**
- Essex OSRP Draft v2 due June 5 for public comment and official letters of review (2-week comment period)
- Essex OSRP Draft v3 due June 30 to the State

- **Open Space Committee**

- **Please send us a set of consolidated comments by EOD Friday May 29 (~ 2-week review period)**
- **Pick a date for our last Open Space Committee Meeting**
  - **June 22 or June 24**, after we receive comments from the public and letters of review?

# Guiding questions for review

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- Generally: Refer to the [state's OSRP Workbook](#)
- Are there any major gaps or inaccuracies that need to be addressed?
  - Focus on substantive corrections rather than minor edits.
- Does the information meaningfully contribute to understanding community needs and shaping the action plan?
  - “So what?” Why does this matter?
- Does it clearly convey the key trends and patterns at a high level?
  - Prioritize big-picture insights over overly granular or technical points.



# **Essex County Greenbelt Association**

Presentation and Q&A



# Thank you!

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