

SECTION 2

INTRODUCTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide an accurate and thorough basis for decision-making involving the current and future open space and recreation needs of the residents of Whately. This Plan represents months of consensus building on the most important recreation and natural resource needs in town and on the best solutions for addressing them. The 5-Year Action plan, when carried out by the Open Space Committee and other town boards and commissions, will successfully implement the town's open space and recreation goals and objectives.

B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An Open Space and Recreation Survey was developed and reviewed by the Whately Open Space Committee (the Committee). The survey was mailed to 650 households in town. The rate of return was 94 surveys (14%). The survey results were compiled into a report (see Appendix A) and presented for review at a meeting of the Committee. A draft of Section 8 – Goals and Objectives was prepared, using information obtained from the survey as well as from a brainstorming session of the Committee.

Including the Public Forum, which was held on June 14, 2006, there have been 6 public meetings of the Whately Open Space Committee. Before each meeting, members were sent drafts of sections to read. This form of work review was a consistent vehicle for public participation in the development of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Committee members represented different town boards, commissions and other groups, including:

- Select Board
- Whately Land Preservation
- Conservation Commission
- Agricultural Committee
- Interested residents

Any comments expressed at the public forum were recorded and included in Section 10 – Public Comments as well as in the final version of the Action Plan. Any ideas, comments, and corrections pertaining to different sections of the plan and the action steps have also been included in the final version of the Whately Open Space and Recreation Plan.