

**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 Orange. The update of the 2001 Plan represents consensus on the most important recreation and natural resource needs in town and on the best solutions for addressing them. The 5-Year Action plan identifies steps which, when carried out by an Open Space Committee and other town boards and commissions, will enable Orange to successfully achieve its open space and recreation goals and objectives.

B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This update of the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan is based in previous planning efforts including a Master Planning Survey in 1991, an Open Space and Recreation Planning document and survey done by graduate students at the University of Massachusetts Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning in 1996, and a series of nine public meetings and information sessions for the 2001 OSRP Plan.

Including the Public Forum, which was held on July 11, 2007, and the meetings of the Orange Ad Hoc Open Space Committee, there have been 5 public sessions. Before each meeting, members were sent drafts of sections to read. The Committee and public met to provide substantive review of each section of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Committee members represented different town boards, commissions and other groups, including:

- Board of Selectmen
- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Airport Commission
- Interested residents

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