

## Northfield Open Space Committee

### 2007 Annual Report

During 2007 the Open Space Committee (OSC) focused on tasks related to implementing the Northfield Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), approved by the town in November 2005. The committee met monthly during 2007 and completed or made substantial progress on a number of the actions items specified in the OSRP. The OSRP, the associated committee work-plan, committee meeting minutes, other documents, committee membership, and meeting times, are on the OSC page of the town's website, [www.northfield.ma.us](http://www.northfield.ma.us).

The major accomplishments of the year include:

- OSRP A1 (Citizen Stewardship): The OSC designed an annual Citizen Stewardship Award process, helped select the first recipient, and acquired a plaque for the town hall to commemorate each annual recipient; Sam and Barb Richardson are the first recipients, for their many years of trail work in Northfield.
- OSRP A2 (Cost of Community Services): The OSC completed a Cost of Community Services (COCS) analysis for Northfield and published a summary of the results in the town's newsletter; a COCS workshop for town committees is being organized.
- OSRP A6 (Conservation Priorities): The OSC initiated an arrangement between the town and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to use TPL's GIS technology and expertise to help the town develop a comprehensive set of conservation priorities; this will extend and refine the OSC's initial criteria for evaluating open space.
- OSRP B1 (Chapter 61, 61A, 61B): The OSC sponsored a town workshop on the changes to the Chapter 61, 61A and 61B laws; the OSC has been intimately involved with recommendations regarding the town's right-of-first-refusal on chapter 61 and APR land.
- OSRP A5, A8 (Committee Partnerships): The OSC has established ongoing partnerships with the Agricultural Commission and the Historical Commission on items of mutual interest. In addition, the OSC participated in the town's booth at the Northfield Arts Festival in August and shared a booth with the Agricultural Commission at the Athol Garlic and Arts Festival in September.
- OSRP B4 (Stream Monitoring): The Greater Northfield Watershed Association (GNWA), a local non-profit 501(c)3 organization, has received a grant to study the tributaries of the Connecticut River. GNWA volunteers are being organized into "stream teams", with each such team taking responsibility for a particular tributary. The OSC is supporting and partnering with the GNWA and its stream teams, as this work is required of the OSC in OSRP B4.
- OSRP C4, C5 (Trail Work): A Northfield Trails Association is in the process of being formed with a principal purposes of providing trail information and developing, maintaining, and managing various trails in the town. The trails are in the process of being mapped and publicized; the design and installation of trail signs is in the works. One of the activities currently in the planning stage is the rehabilitation of the King Philip's Hill trail and associated benches; this particular activity is in part being funded by the stream teams grant, and the OSC is collaborating on this work since it falls within the scope of OSRP C4 and C5.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Wagener, OSC Chair