

6 | OUTDOOR RECREATION

Overview

The Town's outdoor recreational spaces serve a variety of purposes: swimming and walks along the shore at Town Beach; biking, jogging and walking on the East Bay Bike Path; hiking at Osamequin Park, Haines Park, Veterans Park and elsewhere; boat-launching at Walker Farm; and baseball, football and other sports at parks such as Sherwood and Chianese. These resources are assets for people of all ages, contributing to a sense of community and providing opportunities for a healthy enjoyment of the outdoors.

Existing Conditions

Outdoor Recreation Properties

Outdoor recreational properties are depicted on **Map OR-1**.

Multi-Use Parks and Recreation Areas

Barrington has many parcels of public recreational open space: neighborhood parks, large multi-use parks, woodlands with trails and other passive recreation features. (See **Table 1**, next page for a full listing of Multi-Use Parks.)

Overall, the Town maintains nine parks and recreation areas totaling approximately 192 acres of land. Barrington's parks include Latham Park, Bicknell Park, Sherwood Park and other neighborhood-oriented parks; large community parks including Veterans Memorial Park, Chianese Park and the Town Beach. New park sites developed since 2000 include:

- *St. Andrews Farm, Middle Highway.* The Town in the early 2000s acquired the 28.5-acre tract from St. Andrews School for active and passive recreation. The Town constructed a soccer field on the front portion



View of Narragansett Bay from Bay Spring.

of the property. The rear of the site consists of an open field to be preserved for passive recreation.

- *Sowams Road open space parcel.* An upland area within the 5.9-acre site near Sowams Road has been converted to a practice field with parking.

Serving the greater region is the State’s 80-acre Haines Park and a 3.5-mile section of the East Bay Bike Path; Barrington is at the mid-point

of the 14.5-mile bike path, which travels from India Point Park in Providence to Independence Park in Bristol.

Haines Memorial State Park is a significant recreational asset for the community. Under a lease agreement with the State, the Town maintains the portion of Haines Memorial State Park within the town limits. The 73-acre park, on Washington Road and Narragansett Avenue, features three baseball fields and several multi-

Table 1: Multi-Use Parks / Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Site	Location	Acreage	Uses
Town Properties			
Latham Park	Latham Avenue	3.26 acres	Playground, path with benches, parking, fishing areas
Town Beach	End of Bay Road, on Narragansett Bay	Approx. 4 acres	Beach; beach house with restrooms, showers; boat storage area, approx. 100 parking spaces
Sherwood Park	Congress Road	4.47 acres	Baseball field, practice area, walking path, concession stand
Police Cove	County Road at Barrington River Bridge	3.26 acres	Boat ramp, Bike Path parking, undeveloped park
St. Andrews Farm	Middle Highway west of Federal Rd. intersection	28.53 acres	Multi-use field, trails, parking (and St. Andrews School maint. facility)
Bicknell Park	Walnut Rd, Alden Rd, East Bay Bike Path	4.86 acres	Ball field
Chianese Field	Prince’s Hill Road, Centennial Ave., Foote St.	15.21 acres	Multi-use field, tennis, basketball courts, parking (capped landfill areas to include 2 soccer fields)
Veterans Memorial Park	Brickyard Pond, West Street, Legion Way	123 acres (plus 101-acre pond)	Softball field, picnic areas, trails, boat access, Legion Way rink, parking
Town Hall/Library	281/283 County Rd.	Approx. 2 acres	Playground; gazebo on pond; walking paths; bike racks; benches; kayak launch
Sowams Rd. Park Site	Sowams Road	5.87 acres	Practice field, parking area
Lincoln Ave. park	Lincoln Avenue across from High School	Approx. 5 acres	Tennis courts (6) w/ lighting; little league fields; practice field; parking at school
Middle Hwy athletic facilities	Middle Highway next to Middle School	Approx. 13.5 acres	Basketball courts (2); little league field; multi-purpose fields (2); tennis courts (4); “ball wall”
High School facilities	Barrington High School	Approx. 15 acres	Baseball fields (3); multi-use fields (3); track; parking at school
Primrose Hill School	Primrose Hill School	1.3 acres	Practice little league / multi-use field
Sowams School	At Sowams School	2.4 acres	Little league field; practice little league field; playground
Nayatt School	At Nayatt School	1.6 acres	Practice little league/multi-use fields (2); playground
Subtotal – Town		231.26 acres	
State Properties			
Haines Memorial State Park (portion within Barrington)	Narragansett Ave., Washington Rd., Haines Park Rd.	73 acres	1 Sr. League, 2 Little League, 2 multipurpose fields, dog park, picnic areas, trails, boat ramp
Subtotal: State		73 acres	
Total		304.26 acres	

Source: Tax Assessor Database, Town Open Space Plan (2011)

use fields, a fenced-in dog park and a meandering trail system bifurcated by Annawamscutt Brook that runs through the middle of the park.

Schools—Athletic Facilities

Schools provide critical outdoor recreational facilities that benefit the community at large. In addition to providing access to multi-use fields, schools are sites of little league fields, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a paved track (see Map OR-1 and Table 1). A practice wall for lacrosse, soccer and tennis was built in 2014 at the Middle School.

Playgrounds

Barrington’s three elementary schools – Nayatt, Primrose Hill and Sowams Schools also feature playgrounds accessible to the public. Other playgrounds are located at Latham Park and behind the Bay Spring Community Center. The newest playground is outside the Library/Town Hall. Called “Kids Kove,” this playground is unique in that it features equipment that appeals to older children as well as a section that is handicap-accessible.

Town Open Space: Use to be Determined

The Town also owns several open space parcels where the future use has not yet been determined. For example, the Town razed the old barn known as “The Place” on College Lane, but there are no formal plans for the vacant 4.5-acre site. Other undeveloped sites that have been identified as potential outdoor recreational resources are Currier Park on Old County Road adjacent to Primrose Hill School, and a two-acre site between Sherbrooke Road and Hazelton Road. (See **Table 2**)

Natural Areas with Restricted Public Access

In addition to wooded areas within Veterans Park and Haines Park and the rear meadow at St. Andrews Farm (all listed in Table 1 as a multi-use parks) Barrington has open space parcels where the public has access to a system of designated trails (see Table 1 in the Natural and Cultural Resources element).

Open Space Acquisitions

The Town in recent years also has purchased properties that hold significant conservation value but also provide opportunities for passive recreation:

- *The “Brickyard Wetlands”* located between the Barrington Shopping Center and the YMCA. The 10-acre site, which is mostly wetlands, features trails that branch off the Bike Path and the end of Bosworth Street, providing access to Veterans Park.
- *Vitullo Farm* on Wampanoag Trail. A section of the former farm just off Wampanoag Trail was converted in 2014 for use as the Barrington Community Garden. Environmental constraints include wetlands and a high water table. The Town has plans to install a gravel parking lot and to relocate the driveway that provides access from Wampanoag Trail. Plans to establish trails within the rear portion of the property, extending northward into the Divine Vargas conservation area, are at the conceptual stage.

Park Improvements

Town voters helped address recreational needs in 2006, approving a \$2 million bond to help

Table 2: Town Open Space Parcels—Future Use to be Determined

Site	Location	Acreage	Uses
“The Place”	College Lane	4.75 acres	Undeveloped (former site of “The Place”)
Undeveloped park	Between Sherbrooke Rd & Hazelton Rd	2.04 acres	Undeveloped park
Currier Park	East of Primrose Hill School	Approx. 5.3 acres	Informal trails
Total		12.09 acres	

Source: Tax Assessor Database, Town Open Space Plan (2011)

the Town make needed park improvements, including:

- *Reconstruction of the Lincoln Avenue Tennis Courts*, including new lighting and an additional court (for a total of six). Grant funding offset \$225,000 of the cost.
- *Reconstruction of the Middle Highway Basketball Courts*, replacing two outdoor courts on Lincoln Avenue removed as part of the tennis court project.
- *Kids Kove Playground*. Bond funds together with private donations built the playground, located at the Library/Town Hall complex.
- *Sherwood Park*. Projects included reconstruction and relocation of the Little League field, development of a walking path and establishment of a small multi-use field.

Other recent/ongoing park projects include:

- *Town Beach*. The Town in 2011, utilizing unspent recreation bond funding, replaced a 1950s cinderblock restroom building with an elevated office/restroom facility elevated out of the flood zone. In 2014, the Town completed a \$360,000 overhaul of

the beach parking area, which also included drainage and erosion control-related improvements and new site amenities.

- *Chianese Park*. The Town created two new multi-use athletic fields through the closure of Landfills Number 1 and 2 on either side of Princess Hill Avenue. The project included the addition of parking within the Princess Hill Avenue right of way.
- *“Police Cove” park* (see **Figure 1**). Plans for the park at Police Cove involves the redevelopment of a waterfront site formerly occupied by the Police Station, demolished in 2001. The park will feature a seating plaza with public art on the water, a large landscape lawn, an expanded parking lot, bike racks, walkways, benches, picnic tables and an area with hook-ups for food trucks. The reconstruction of the boat ramp is also included in the project. Funding is coming from RIDOT, RIDEM and the federal CMAQ program. A contract to build the park was awarded in 2014, with construction expected to be completed in 2015.
- *Latham Park*. The park redevelopment project includes reconstruction of the parking lot, a rebuilt stone revetment with a new

Figure 1: Site of Town Park at “Police Cove” (Before Construction)



The “Police Cove” site on County Road at the Barrington River will be redeveloped as a park.

small boat access ramp to the shore, and a walkway along the water with benches. (Completed in 2014)

Trail System

The Town has a network of trails throughout Barrington that provides a variety of experiences, passing through woods and open fields, and along the shore. Some are well-known, such as the Osemequin Nature Trails that offer views of Hundred Acre Cove. (Trailhead locations, and associated parking areas, are shown on **Map OR-2**.) The most expansive trail systems are within Veterans Park and Haines Park. Others sites mostly serve adjacent neighborhoods, such as those that wrap around a large meadow at St. Andrew's Farm, a Town park on Middle Highway.

The Town has begun creating a more consistent, coherent trail system. The trails within Veterans Park, for example, have been the focus of a volunteer-Town effort that began with planning assistance from the National Park Service. A \$100,000 trail improvement grant from RIDEM will fund upgrades to most of the trails within Veterans Park in 2014, to include new bridges over wetlands, overlooks, and resurfaced trail treads that have become eroded or wet.

The Veterans Park project included development of trailhead kiosk and trail marker prototypes that are being used elsewhere, to create more consistent trail infrastructure. The trail markers have been used at the Tall Cedars conservation area, installed by the Land Conservation Trust. Other sites are being considered for similar trail markers and kiosks.

Public Boat Facilities

Barrington has several boat launch facilities (see Map OR-2) that provide boat access to area waters:

- *A boat ramp at Walker Farm*, located on the Barrington River. The East Bay Rowing Club has operated a rowing club based at the site in conjunction with the Town's Recreation Department. A dock facility adjacent to the ramp is used for fishing. The area has a gravel parking lot for vehicle and trailer parking.
- *A boat ramp at the "Police Cove" park site* on near the Barrington River bridge. The Town has \$200,000 from the State to complete the reconstruction of the boat ramp, which was damaged during the bridge reconstruction project. The construction of the park will include an improved area for boat trailer parking.
- *The Haines Park boat ramp* is technically in East Providence, but is in close proximity to the Barrington town limits. This ramp provides access to Bullock Cove.

Public Rights of Way to the Shore

Map OS-2 also depicts shore access points as listed in the Town's Harbor Management Plan. Many of these access points lack parking, and most are not marked with signage or other markers identifying the right of way as public access.

Issues and Opportunities

Evolving Outdoor Recreational Needs

The outdoor recreational needs of the Town will be evolving in the coming years. First, as discussed in other elements, Barrington's population is projected to decline over the next 25 years – by approximately 4.5 percent, according to the Statewide Planning office. School enrollment is projected to decline as well – by an estimated 19.5 percent by 2023-24. Strategies to increase the supply of senior and affordable housing, however, will help offset some if not all of this decline.

Table 3: Comparison of Athletic Field Needs Assessments

Field Purpose	Need: 1992	Need: 2015
Little League	9 additional fields: 5 regulation; 2 transitional (75 foot base paths); 2 full (90 foot base paths)	1 new Little League field 3 replacement baseball/softball fields*
Soccer	8 additional fields: 4 regulation; 4 smaller	
Softball	2 additional fields	1 new field
Rugby	1 additional field	
Multi-Use Fields		2 new fields*
Total	20 new fields	4 new fields; 3 replacement fields**

* This number requires re-evaluation with the addition of two new multi-use fields added on either side of Prince's Hill Avenue as part of the closing of Landfills 1 and 2

**Replacement of the "unsafe" fields at Nayatt, Primrose and Sowams Schools may require new sites.

Source: 2002 Comprehensive Community Plan (1992 numbers), 2007 *Report on Athletic Field Use in Barrington and the Need for New Fields*

While the overall population of Barrington is unlikely to change significantly, the Town will need to plan to meet the recreational needs of an aging population, an issue described in the Housing & Neighborhoods element. The provision of passive recreational spaces (as opposed to athletic facilities such as ball fields) may benefit people of all ages, but are particular important component of efforts to enable the growing population of older adults to "age in community."¹

In response, future park development and maintenance programs will need to focus on providing quality, accessible outdoor amenities, including trails, walkways, and access to the shore.

Athletic Fields

A need for additional athletic fields has been an ongoing issue since at least 1987, when the Park and Recreation Commission released a report on recreational needs. The issue: Heavy demand for fields from Barrington's numerous organized leagues, both youth and adult, has resulted in a shortage of available playing fields for the various sports. As a result, scheduling and long term proper maintenance of the fields has proven difficult. The 2002 Comprehensive

Community Plan, based on findings made in 1992, identified a need for 20 additional fields.

In 2007, The Park and Recreation Commission updated its field needs analysis for the 5-Year Update of the Comprehensive Plan. The document, "Report on Athletic Field Use in Barrington and the Need for New Fields," utilized the methodology developed by the National Recreation and Park Association and other variables as the means of determining the number of athletic fields needed in the town of Barrington. It predicted growth of all youth sports except lacrosse (expected to grow by 150%) to be "somewhat flat" in Barrington, based on projected enrollments of the Barrington public schools.

The report concluded that to meet current demand, Barrington needs one new little league field, one new softball field and two new large multiuse fields, one of which would be for periodically resting the heavily used fields that typically suffer overuse. Also recommended is the replacement of under-sized little league fields at Nayatt, Primrose and Sowams Schools.

Table 3 shows the need for additional playing fields as determined in 1992, compared to the

<http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/documents-2014/Harvard-Housing-Americas-Older-Adults-2014.pdf>

updated assessment completed in 2007 by the Park and Recreation Commission. Note that the projected need varies because of differing methodology used for the analyses, not due to a change in the number of athletic fields in Barrington (just one new multi-use field has been built since 1992).

It is unclear whether the Town owns sufficient land to meet the goal of additional athletic fields. The landfill closure process resulted in two new regulation-sized multipurpose fields on either side of Prince's Hill Avenue. The master plan for the site proposed a second Little League field at Chianese; however, there is no room to add one at the site. One potential location for an additional baseball or multi-use field is on the front of the St. Andrew's Farm property on Middle Highway where a house and a storage building are located. Site planning completed for the Sowams Road parcel revealed that, due to site constraints, a full-sized field along with sufficient parking does not appear feasible at that location (though a smaller practice field for football, lacrosse, etc., may be suitable).

Given the scarcity of available land, options should be explored to minimize the need for new sites for athletic fields. For example, rebuilding the three under-sized little league fields at Nayatt, Sowams and Primrose Hill Schools in the same location should be studied in greater detail by a professional before considering alternative sites. Fields that are slightly smaller than regulation size may be preferable to the costly option of developing fields in new locations, which could also involve land acquisition. Also, the conversion of a grass field to an artificial turf field, as has been proposed for Victory Field at the High School, would allow for greater utilization of the facility and reduce the wear and tear of other natural turf fields.

Parks and Playgrounds

While most established areas of Town are within a short drive or walk to a playground or neighborhood park, development of the Zion

Bible Institute site as a "Senior Residential Village", as contemplated in this plan, would create greater demand for parks and recreational amenities within the development as well as in the vicinity of the site. Opportunities to add a new neighborhood park and playground, either at Zion or at the former site of the Place, should be considered as a requirement as part of future development of that site as a mixed-use neighborhood.

Throughout the community, the Town should focus its efforts on improving existing properties identified for outdoor recreational use, rather than acquire new sites. Recent projects provide examples for the future:

- *Construction of the "Police Cove" site* on the Barrington River, the former site of the Police Station.
- *Improvements at Town Beach*, with a new restroom/office building built out of the floodplain, and new drainage projects designed to capture storm water runoff, addressing water quality and erosion issues.
- *Improvements at Latham Park* on Bullock Cove, where the Town completed a shoreline enhancement project in 2014 that established an improved walkway with benches along the water, repaired the stone revetment protecting the northern portion of the park, and rebuilt the parking lot.

Other opportunities to build on existing assets include:

- *The Legion Way recreational area*. The area includes an outdoor rink (repaved in 2014) and a boat launch, with public parking and access to trails.
- *Chianese Field*. The Town has provided multi-use fields on top of capped landfills to either side of Princes Hill Avenue, including adding parking within the street right of way. Unused green space within this complex may provide opportunities for additional amenities, such as walking paths.

- *The former site of “The Place”*. The 4.75-acre parcel on Middle Highway has been vacant since the Town demolished “The Place” barn in 2007. While the sloping site has no formal use at this time, the property still must be mowed and otherwise maintained by the Town.
- *The “Currier Park” site* on Old County Road. The Town has no plans to develop the site, which is more than 5 acres.

Haines Park Lease Agreement

The Park and Recreation Commission’s 2007 field needs analysis cited above assumes that the Town would continue to have access to the athletic fields at Haines Park (one senior league, two Little League plus two multi-purpose fields). Finding alternative sites for the athletic fields within Barrington would be difficult and expensive, underscoring the importance of the facilities at Haines Park.

The Town’s lease with the State for utilizing the portion of Haines Park within the Town of Barrington has been extended to 2019. Given the importance of the facilities at the park in meeting the Town’s recreational needs, future extensions of the lease should be a priority.

Needs—Trail System

In addition to coordinating and prioritizing future open space acquisitions (see the Natural & Cultural Resources element), a desired outcome of this Plan is consistency within these areas for the trails within these open spaces, in particular Town and Land Trust properties where public access is promoted. Consistent infrastructure – for example, the use of materials, signage and trail markers – would help create a cohesive trails network for Barrington.

The Open Space Ad Hoc Committee has evaluated the need for adding new and improving existing trails throughout the town (the committee has since been dissolved). The committee recommended establishment of a trail system

with well-marked trail loops connecting destinations such as scenic vistas within open space properties or recreation areas, ultimately returning to the point of origin.

These trails, for the most part, already exist. The challenge is enhancing the quality of the trails – with new signage and maps, as well as completion of maintenance and improvement projects. Maintenance is labor-intensive, involving regular efforts to pick up trash, remove invasive vegetation, and repair eroded surfaces. There are also larger, more extensive projects that are needed, including construction of formal crossings over streams/wet areas (subject to environmental permits). Volunteers – including Scouts – have played a critical role in completing trail projects.

It is recommended that the initial improvement target areas where there would be a community-wide benefit – in areas where there are convenient places to park in proximity to trailheads. Trail needs are described below.

- *Veterans Park*. In 2011, the Town of Barrington began working with the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers & Trails Program on a plan to improve Veterans Park, with a focus on trails (see **Figure 2**, next page). The Town sought the services of the NPS to create a plan for the park, to serve as a template for improvements to parks and trails throughout the town.

The plan calls for establishing a trail loop around Brickyard Pond; designating areas where bikes are appropriate and where they are not permitted; creating a “water trail” on the pond; fixing erosion problems; improving trail surfaces; creating new trails at and near the YMCA and bike path; and other improvements.

The plan also provides specifications for trail markers and other types of signage, tables and benches, and other types of improvements. The Town in 2013 received a \$100,000 RIDEM grant to improve the

trails based on the plan developed with NPS assistance. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2015.

- *Hampden Meadows Greenbelt.* The main trail in the Hampden Meadows Greenbelt provides access from Linden Avenue north to Kent Street, a wide path with a gravel surface suitable for bikes. The trail north of Kent Street to the rear of Sowams School follows along a creek, a narrow pathway that is accessible by foot despite uneven surfaces and wet areas. It narrows further from Sowams School to Christine Drive. Another trail segment, just north of Linden Avenue, provides east-west access to the main trail from New Meadow Road. These trails, with proximity to Sowams and Hampden Meadows Schools, are alternative routes to school for students.

Efforts should be made to improve the trail surfaces and enhance signage, to address safety concerns and improve visibility. The Town should also explore extending the trail south to New Meadow Road from Linden Road, which would require either

acquiring easements or property, and east through the Town-owned park on Sowams Road north of Sowams Nursery. Another opportunity is the extension of the trail north of Christine Drive to Land Trust property at the end of Ferrier Avenue. Trails that branch off the main north-south trail should be evaluated to determine whether any should be closed or rerouted.

- *St. Andrews Farm and Tall Cedars.* St. Andrews Farm is strategically situated on Middle Highway, at the end of Federal Road where there are plans to extend a biking/walking trail along the north side from the High School to the park. A short walk from St. Andrews Farm is the Tall Cedars conservation area, which also includes trails. A few blocks to the west are more trails, in Haines State Park. The trail system at St. Andrews Farm is well-marked, looping around the rear perimeter of the site as well as crossing through to the end of Fountain Avenue.

Improved trailblazing signage for each trail segment and directional signage near Middle

Figure 2: Veterans Park Trail Planning



Figure 5. In 2011, the Town began working with the National Park Service to develop a passive park improvement plan for Veterans Park.

Highway and from points to the south and west of the park would help encourage neighborhood use of the park. The easement on the property put in place when the land was donated restricts the use of bicycles in the park; it is recommended this be revisited to allow limited bicycle use on the east-west trail segment, which connects at Fountain Avenue and at the park's parking lot. The Town should also improve linkages (for example, with signage) from the park to Tall Cedars and Haines State Park to the west.

- *South Lake Drive.* South Lake Drive is a narrow, winding and scenic Town street that passes to the south and east of Echo Lake, past the Land Trust's "Sowams Woods" site on Washington Road and alongside the RI Country Club golf course.

The street is in poor condition. People have voiced concerns about potential safety issues that arise as vehicles and pedestrians and bicyclists share the same narrow roadway. The Town should consider measures to slow vehicles, as well as designate areas on a portion or just off the street for pedestrians. The Town should also improve the connection between South Lake and the nearby East Bay Bike Path.

- *Haines Memorial State Park.* State-owned and Town-maintained, Haines Park has an established, well-used network of trails. The trails have been mapped by the Town using GPS. A more detailed trails assessment is needed to identify and close off duplicate trails, as there are areas where trails run parallel to one another. The trails would also benefit from clear trailhead markers and trailblazing signs.

Past plans for the park called for extending a pedestrian bridge across Annawumscutt Creek; this idea needs further evaluation and consultation with the State. An informal trail runs through the old O'Bannon Mill property into the park from the south, along the eastern shore of a pond, an im-

portant habitat and nesting area. Requiring a formalized trail connection as part of the future redevelopment of the former mill site, or acquisition by the Town or other entity for open space / trail purposes, either of the property or an easement, should be evaluated.

- *Osamequin Park / Walker Farm.* Osamequin Park has a well-marked network of trails and features a location map at the parking area on Wampanoag Trail. The location map is in need of replacement, and eventually the trailblazing signs, though effective, should be replaced with markers that are consistent with those to be installed at Veterans Memorial Park. The Town should also consider creating a connection through to the public parking area in Walker Farm. Currently a trail in Osamequin Park terminates at Walker Farm at the leaf refuse area. There are no signs directing people from Walker Farm to the Osamequin trails. The Barrington Garden Club is co-steward of the property, along with the Department of Public Works.
- *Vitullo Farm.* Vitullo Farm on the Wampanoag Trail features cultivated farmland near the road, but also forested wetland areas and unused open fields to the rear. The Town has plans to install an improved gravel parking area near the road that would serve as parking for the Barrington Community Garden as well as for future public trails developed at the site. Continued input from the community will be needed as plans are implemented.

"Blueway" Trails

A blueway, or water trail, is a mapped water route that includes launch locations and other points of interest for paddling (canoeists and kayakers). The Town has multiple sites that could become part of the Blueway trail maps maintained by the RI Land Trust Council. Warren and Bristol have canoeing and kayaking routes on the map. No routes are shown within

Barrington, despite opportunities to launch at sites across town, including Police Cove, Barrington Beach, Haines Park, and Walker Farm.

The Town should work to become part of the Blueway mapping project and seek to add new sites where feasible. One new launch will be added on the Barrington River near the Public Library. As part of a passive park improvement project, with funding from an \$84,000 RIDEM grant, the Town will be adding a canoe/kayak launch at the water's edge, as well as benches and an improved path, within a Town-owned grassed area that abuts the water.

Public Access Points

Public rights of way provide connections to the water at the shore, often at the ends of streets, but also through open space properties such as Walker Farm and Osamequin Park. To date, the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) has designated only two shore access points as public rights-of-ways where CRMC for the general public's use: the Daunis right-of-way at end of Nayatt Road along Mussachuck Creek and Teed Avenue at the west end of Mason Road.

However, there are many more public access points to the shore throughout town, according to the Town's Harbor Management Plan. That Plan identified 45 access points in Barrington based on reports and other information from CRMC, the Coastal Resources Center, Town Assessor's Plat maps and public input at Town Council meetings on the issue.

Please refer to the Harbor Management Plan for the complete inventory of access ways, as well as a list of recommendations to identify, regulate and manage public access points to the water. The development of hiking trails, as well as "Blueways" trails on the water, should take advantage of these rights-of-way, in a manner that is consistent with the Barrington Harbor Management Plan.

Goals, Objectives, Policies and Actions

Goal OR-1: Meet the community's evolving recreational needs, both passive and active, by providing high quality multiple-use outdoor recreation facilities benefiting people of all ages.

Policy OR-1.1.1: Emphasize improving existing facilities over acquisition of new properties in order to fully realize the potential of the Town's assets and limit conversion of natural areas into active recreational facilities.

Actions

- A. Develop park master plans in order to establish capital improvement priorities. Priority sites are as follows:
 - Veterans Park (east side of Brickyard Pond)
 - Veterans Park (Legion Way area)
 - St. Andrew's Farm on Middle Highway
 - Walker Farm on County Road
 - Currier Park on Old County Road
 - "The Place" on Middle Highway and College Lane
- B. Include park improvements in long-term capital budget planning based on master plan priorities. Budgeting for the park improvements will put the Town in the position of leveraging local funding with grants that require a match.
- C. Continue lease with State for use of facilities at Haines Park within town.
- D. Pursue the installation of synthetic turf at Victory Field, subject to an evaluation of the costs and benefits compared to natural turf.
- E. Require public outdoor recreational space within "Senior Residential Village" and "Village" sites, per Appendix II.

Goal OR-2: Create an "emerald chain" of parks by establishing and improving linkages between and within recreational areas throughout town, including facilities at schools, to provide passive

recreation opportunities and alternative routes to parks and other areas throughout town.

Policy OR-2.1.1: Support creation of a cohesive system of open space properties and trails.

Actions

- A. Generate a plan for developing trails and other connections between recreational areas in coordination with open space planning, including working with the State (Bike Path) and the Water Authority (Nayatt well-field) to establish formal, clearly marked linkages to Town properties.
- B. Create standards for trail markers, park signage and other improvements are needed to create a consistent, high-quality system of open space, trails and passive parks throughout town.
- C. Establish a sustainable funding program to continue with the trail improvement program and assist with acquisition. The funding source could be used to provide the local match for open space acquisition grants or trails grants and help cover soft costs related to acquisition, such as surveys and legal fees.
- D. Complete trail improvements, starting with Veterans Park, including updating trailblazing signs, and adding informational signage and maps. Other priority sites include: the former Vitullo Farm site/Divine Vargus conservation area and Haines Park.
- E. Seek to acquire property or easements to extend trails at Veterans Park and in the Hampden Meadows Greenbelt.
- F. Establish South Lake Drive between Washington Road and North Lake Drive as a multimodal facility providing a safe walking/biking area within the right of way while also maintaining vehicular traffic.
- G. Require trail connections when key sites are developed, including the O'Bannon Mill site and the former Zion Bible Institute campus.

See the Implementation element for information on implementation schedule, priorities, estimated costs, responsibilities and action types.

Goal OR-3: Provide access to the shore through public recreational sites and public rights of way.

Policy OR-3.1.1: Enhance and protect public access to the shore and waterways through public recreational sites and designated public rights of way.

Actions

- A. Work with East Bay communities on locating and mapping water trails. In Barrington, the mapping should show access points, destination areas and significant features along the trail route within the Barrington River and Hundred Acre Cove, and the Providence River / Narragansett Bay / Bullock Cove.
- B. Provide amenities at the Police Cove park site to create a Blueway Trail destination for paddlers – including construction of a transient dock and completion of the planned boat ramp reconstruction.
- C. Assess public access and evaluate maintenance needs at all public rights of way to the water. The Harbor Commission should work to ensure the rights of way are clearly marked and safe for pedestrians; consider installation of granite markers. Surveys might be needed to identify and eliminate encroachments.