

Chapter VII
Recreation and Open Space

West Warwick Comprehensive Plan

CHAPTER VII RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Shall include an inventory of recreational resources, open space areas and recorded access to such resources and areas. The element shall also contain an analysis of forecasted needs and policies for the management and protection of such resources and areas. The policies and implementation techniques must be identified for inclusion in the implementation program element.

-- Rhode Island Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act

VII.1 Introduction

The purpose of the Recreation and Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan is to serve as a guide to implement a Townwide program which would serve present community needs as well as provide for future needs within a framework of the comprehensive plan. This element is an update of the 1987 West Warwick Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plan which was prepared to qualify the Town for recreational and open space funding from the Federal and State governments.

The objectives of this element are as follows:

- To develop an effective recreation and open space preservation element of the comprehensive community plan;
- To provide a system of parks and playgrounds oriented toward serving the everyday recreation needs of the neighborhoods and community;
- To provide various types of recreational facilities which serve all age groups of the population;
- To continue an active program of site acquisition and to continue a capital improvement program to meet future needs;
- To qualify for state and Federal grants available for acquisition and development of open space and recreation lands;
- To protect surface water resources;
- To develop a linear park system associated with the Pawtuxet River;
- To continue to cooperate and coordinate with the State and private interests to protect valuable unique areas which are classified under the heading of Conservation and Open Space.
- To continue to acquire recreation, conservation and open space land as it becomes available, and maximize the use of existing land areas.

VII.2 Scope and Methodology

This plan generally follows the guidelines set forth by the State for open space and recreation components of the comprehensive plan and the standards for local recreation, conservation and open space plans. To meet these guidelines and standards, the following planning elements are addressed as part of the scope:

- **Planning Context** - historical overview, socio-economic factors, climate, topography, form of government, population, and growth and development patterns;

