

Open Space and Recreation



Window on the Cove

11. Open Space and Recreation

11.1 Overview

The natural beauty of Orleans' woodlands, beaches, ponds and estuaries is important to the residents and visitors of the town. This natural beauty is one of the main reasons many choose to live in or visit Orleans. Open space lands are also important to those who live, work or play in Orleans because they provide the benefits of pristine natural resources people cherish. Open space provides natural buffers between developed neighborhoods, adding to a sense of place on public as well as private lands. They protect vital drinking water, provide habitat for wildlife and plant life, and help to preserve the water quality of coastal estuaries and fresh water ponds. Natural open space areas allow for scenic vistas and provide places for recreation. Furthermore, they enhance the semi-rural seaside character of the Town.

It is an inescapable fact that nearly all remaining open land that is capable of development will eventually be developed unless action is taken to preserve it. Orleans is a community where one can still drink high quality water, breathe fresh sea air, walk forested land and meadows, catch and eat healthy fish, swim at magnificent beaches and take pride in 350 years of maritime history. Protection can come through a variety of methods such as acquisition, conservation restrictions, easements and regulations designed to preserve natural, cultural and historic resources. Though small in geographic area, the Town's ecological, cultural and recreational blessings are great and we must be vigilant in preserving them. As a community, we need to manage the growth of the Town's economy in a way that offers both protection for this special natural environment and new opportunities for our recreation.

11.2 Goals & Policies

Goal

To protect as open space as much land as possible, in order to preserve a healthy natural environment, safeguard ground water quality, provide habitat for wildlife, provide extensive opportunities for recreation and retain the picturesque quality of the Town.

Policies

- Management of shared open space and natural resources such as Nauset Beach, Town Cove and Pleasant Bay should be done in cooperation with neighboring towns, when appropriate.
- The design of proposed developments should fully protect water resources, historic and archaeological sites, scenic vistas and wildlife habitat areas.

- Open space within proposed developments should be contiguous and interconnecting with adjacent open space when present, and be subject to permanent conservation restriction.
- Development located adjacent to already preserved conservation land should be planned in a way that prevents adverse impact to that land and maximizes the overall area of contiguous open space.
- Management plans should be created and maintained for all open space lands under Town stewardship.
- Ecologically sensitive land and water bodies should be protected to enhance ground water recharge, wildlife habitats, scenic views, salt and fresh water quality, and the small seaside character of the Town.
- Acquisition of open space land in Nitrogen Sensitive Areas should be a priority consideration.

Goal

To provide reasonable access to protected conservation and recreation lands for persons with varying physical abilities due to age and mobility factors or a disability.

Policies

- Suitable access for disabled or otherwise severely physically disadvantaged persons should be provided to open space lands, as appropriate to and if possible in each area.

Goal

To provide, improve and, where needed, expand opportunities, programs and facilities for passive and active recreation during all seasons to support the needs of residents and visitors of all ages.

Policies

- Current information about recreation programs and facilities should be made available to the public.
- Year-round recreation programs for all age groups should be provided.
- Adverse impacts to salt and fresh water resources should be prevented in order to ensure their continuing viability for water recreation purposes.

- The use of beaches should be fully compatible with natural resource protection requirements, including the preservation of wildlife habitats.
- Bike trails should be developed separate from roadways if possible.
- Periodic surveys of residents should be conducted to assess current recreational needs.
- The need for small neighborhood recreation sites that meet the desires of local residents and fit in with the surroundings should be determined periodically.

11.3 Inventory

11.3.1 Open Space Land

Orleans currently has more than 2,700 acres of protected open space land that is owned and managed by a variety of public and private agencies, and by individuals. The primary open space providers in Orleans are the Town and the Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT). Town-owned conservation and recreation lands represent roughly 20% of the Town totaling 1,477 acres. OCT is the single largest private landholder in the community owning 427 acres of natural areas and protecting another 54 acres through conservation restrictions. There are 368 additionally protected lands held by other agencies and trusts.

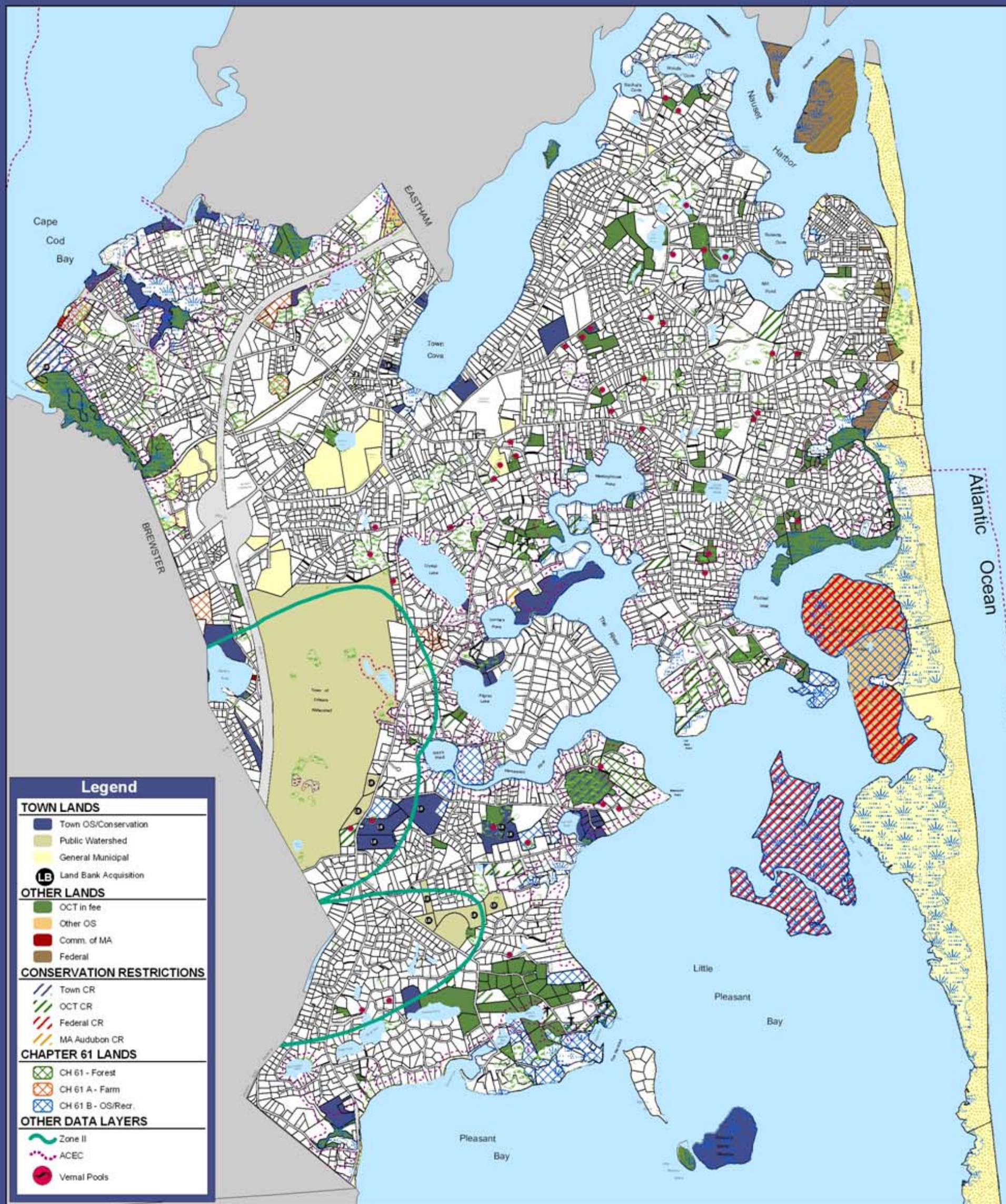
The table below displays the acreage of protected open space owned by the various agencies or trusts responsible for its protection. The corresponding town Open Space Map displays the location of these parcels throughout town. The Conservation, Recreation and Open Space (CROS) Plan includes a detailed inventory of all open space, conservation and recreation lands. This inventory section summarizes relevant data from the CROS plan and includes a summary of protected lands recently purchased by the Town and other agencies.

Table: 11 - A

Open Space Summary			
Agency		Acres	% of Town
<i>Publicly Owned Open Space</i>		<i>1894</i>	<i>21%</i>
Town	Owned outright	1725	19%
Town	Conservation Restriction	64	1%
Federal		104	1%
State		1	<1%
<i>Privately Owned Open Space</i>		<i>849</i>	<i>9%</i>
OCT	Owned outright	427	5%
OCT	Conservation Restriction	54	<1%
Other		368	4%
TOTALS		2743	31%



Town of Orleans: 2004 Open Space Inventory



Legend

TOWN LANDS

- Town OS/Conservation
- Public Watershed
- General Municipal

Land Bank Acquisition

OTHER LANDS

- OCT in fee
- Other OS
- Comm. of MA
- Federal

CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS

- Town CR
- OCT CR
- Federal CR
- MA Audubon CR

CHAPTER 61 LANDS

- CH 61 - Forest
- CH 61 A - Farm
- CH 61 B - OS/Recr.

OTHER DATA LAYERS

- Zone II
- ACEC
- Vernal Pools



This map is illustrative and intended for planning purposes only
Map created by the Town of Orleans Planning Department



The Town has an active preservation history purchasing more than \$10 million worth of open space in the 1980's, over \$2.5 million in the 1990's and over \$5.7 million since the year 2000. Orleans continues to maintain the policy of acquiring open space for the protection of its natural resources. These efforts include the major purchases of extensive woodlands to secure a 500 acre watershed for preserving drinking water resources and the purchase of nearly all of Nauset Beach for the purposes of recreation and conservation. The majority of the 1,725 acres of land under Town management is permanently protected. A portion of the Town protected land is used for General Municipal purposes such as the 38 acres, comprising 9 park sites and the green space areas of the Nauset Regional Middle School and the Orleans Elementary School. These general municipal lands are not preserved as open space in perpetuity but are likely to remain protected as public parks and green space.

As mentioned, conservation land trusts have played a major role in shaping open space protection in Orleans. As a non-profit, charitable organization recognized by the IRS, a land trust can offer tax advantages to a landowner for gifts of land. The Orleans Conservation Trust (OCT) is directly involved in acquiring and managing land in town for its natural, recreational, scenic or historic qualities.

11.3.2 Recreation Facilities

Orleans is fortunate to have a variety of protected lands for both active and passive recreational opportunities.

Active Recreation Facilities

The Town recreation area for active sports is the Eldredge Park / Middle School / Elementary School complex, which contains a variety of playing fields, two playgrounds and a band shell. Cape Cod League baseball games, and other high level sports events are held at Eldredge Park, recently cited as one of the finest amateur baseball fields in the country. Other field space is located on the school fields, including a baseball and three softball diamonds, six tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, a ¼ mile stone-dust track, and soccer fields. These facilities are used by the schools during the school year and by the Recreation Commission year-round. The complex also contains a skateboard park operated by a non-profit group.

The other active recreation field is the Little League field adjacent to Town Hall on School Road.

Passive Recreation

The many beautiful beaches include more than 800 acres of Atlantic Ocean frontage, a beach on Cape Cod Bay, and fresh water beaches at Pilgrim & Crystal Lakes. All are extensively used year-round by residents, summer residents and tourists.

In addition to beaches, the Town has purchased a number of strategically-located parcels throughout the Town, and made them open to the public for walking, birdwatching, and other passive types of recreation. There are 11 other parks in town with a total of 126 acres, ranging in size from the single acre Window on the Cove up to the recently acquired 42-acre John Kenrick Woods. The majority of this land acreage was acquired between 1998 and 2004 using funding supplied through the Cape Cod Land Bank.



Orleans Comprehensive Plan: Recreational Facilities



Orleans possesses a variety of recreational areas for use by residents and visitors. These protected lands provide a variety of recreational opportunities for both passive and active recreation. **Error! Reference source not found.** summarizes the current inventory of the open space dedicated to recreation, and identifies the management responsibility..

Table: 11 - B Town Recreation Lands

		Managed By
Active Recreation Lands		
Nauset Regional Middle School	13 acres	Regional School District
Orleans Elementary School	11 acres	Orleans School Committee
Eldredge Park	6 acres	Parks & Beaches Dept.
Little League Field	1 acre	Parks & Beaches Dept.
Passive Recreation Lands		
Nauset Beach	858 acres	Parks & Beaches Dept.
Skaket Beach	4 acres	Parks & Beaches Dept.
Crystal Lake Beach	1 acre	Conservation Commission
John Kenrick Woods	42 acres	Conservation Commission
Kent's Point	27.7 acres	Conservation Commission
Baker's Pond	16 acres	Conservation Commission
Council On Aging	12 acres	Council on Aging
Rail Trail	10 acres	MA DCR
Christian Property	7.5 acres	Conservation Commission
Pilgrim Lake Beach	4 acres	Parks & Beaches
Window on the Cove	2.4 acres	Conservation Commission
Windmill on the Cove	2.2 acres	Conservation Commission
Village Green, Main St.	1 acres	Parks & Beaches Dept.
Meadow on the Cove	1 acre	Conservation Commission

Several natural amenities in Orleans also serve a recreational function. Nauset Beach provides ocean-surf recreation on the Atlantic Ocean and includes supporting facilities for visitors such as extensive restroom facilities, a food vendor and generous parking facilities. Skaket Beach on Cape Cod Bay, offers an especially safe beach environment for young children, a snack bar, restrooms and ample parking. Pilgrim Lake, Baker's Pond and Crystal Lake offer convenient fresh water beaches with limited parking. There is also a beach located on Pleasant Bay, just off Route 28.

Management plans for public open space parcels managed by the Conservation Commission have been developed with broad public input on the best public use of facilities and protection of

natural resources. Management plans are on file for Kent's Point, Baker's Pond, John Kenrick Woods, and Paw Wah Point. These efforts have been aided by private groups, often composed of citizens who reside near a particular open space area and want to have input into its use.

Several parks are also available to the public for passive recreation, including the Jonathan Young Windmill Park on Route 6A and the Window On The Cove Park on Main Street at Academy Place. Conservation sites such as Kent's Point, Baker's Pond, John Kenrick Woods, and Pah Wah Point also provide hiking trails and other passive recreation amenities. In addition, there are boat launching ramps at some town landings.

11.4 Analysis

11.4.1 Public Opinion Survey

In 1999 a public opinion survey of residents was conducted regarding their needs for open space and recreation. Survey questions dealt with the types of open space to be protected, the kinds of recreational amenities desired, and the preferred methods of preserving land for conservation and recreation. The following bulleted items briefly summarize the survey results.

- The characteristics best describing Orleans, in order of preference (top 3), were: "a town that actively encourages preservation and conservation" (72%), "a retirement community" and "a community that has preserved its small town character"
- Respondents considered most important the preservation of "open spaces to meet our water and conservation needs" (53%), followed by "semi-rural character of the town" (28%) and "public access to the shore" (26%);
- Among objectives for protection under the Land Bank, respondents chose "wellfields, aquifers, recharge areas for drinking water" (44%), "ocean/pond frontage, beaches and dunes" (25%) and "fresh and salt water marshes" (24%);
- Concerning residential growth policies, 79% desired to "regulate growth in existing developed areas" 82% desired to "regulate growth in undeveloped areas" and 45% did not wish to "encourage higher density in the Village Center"
- As for the type of housing/zoning favored in order to preserve open space, 42% preferred cluster housing for this purpose, 48% desired larger than one-acre zoning, and duplex housing was cited by 35%;
- In response to the desired method for preserving open space, by land acquisition or by conservation restriction, 84% favored "vote for Town-supported land acquisition" with "donate money to buy land" as the second choice (39%);
- Regarding the level of satisfaction with the places in Town for children/youth recreation and for adult recreation, 81% were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with children/youth facilities and 82% were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with adult places;
- Of the 15 choices for new or expanded recreation facilities, the following, in order, were preferred: "public access to fresh and salt water shorelines" (39%), "conservation areas" (38%), "bike trails" (27%), "swimming pool (indoor)" and "neighborhood parks" (tie) (18%);

- Of 6 choices for “the very highest priority action the Town should take” in the open space/recreation arena, 54% responded “acquire additional open space” and 17% favored “improve conservation land with low-key amenities”.

11.4.2 Recent Open Space Transactions and Costs

Over the past decade the Town has acquired a significant amount of conservation and recreation lands. More than \$8 million of Town funds were expended in these efforts to protect land from development permanently, by fee simple acquisition or the purchase of a permanent conservation restriction or easement. Table 11 - D details open space obtained by the Town since 1987 for the purposes of conservation or recreation.

Table: 11 - C : A timeline of Open Space Transactions

Year	Property	Acres	Price	Grant/Gift \$	Town Cost (excl. int.)
1987	Window on Cove Park	1.0	\$390,000	\$0	\$390,000
	Crystal Lake/ Dickinson	1.0	\$235,000	\$148,050	\$86,950
	Pah Wah Pond	11.5	\$1,600,000	\$360,000	\$1,240,000
	Sea Call Farm	6.3	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$1,600,000
1988	Baker's Pond	15.6	\$1,456,165	\$839,500	\$616,665
	Kent's Point	27.7	\$1,800,000	\$0	\$1,800,000
1989	Tar Kiln (Poor)	10.5	\$680,000	\$0	\$680,000
1994	Skaket Beach**** (Alemian)	4.0	\$300,000	\$156,000	\$144,000
	Rock Harbor Rd. (Heyelman)	1.7	(donation)	\$0	\$0
1997	Skaket Beach** (Hamilton)	0.9	(donation)	\$0	\$0
1998	Skaket Beach (Gavigan)	1.9	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000
	Skaket Beach*** (Gavigan)	1.0	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$0
	Portanimicut* (Gallagher)	2.4	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
	Namequoit Bog*	22.5	\$185,000	\$85,000	\$100,000
1999	Portanimicut Rd. (Christian)****	7.8	\$345,000	\$250,000	\$245,000
	Route 28 (Town Cove) (Smith)	2.4	\$650,000	\$0	\$650,000
	Namskaket (Sea Path) (Furst)	17.0	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
2000	Gullquist	25	\$1,675,000	\$0	\$1,675,000
	Sparrow	10.8	\$575,000	\$0	\$575,000
2002	Earle	8.7	\$474,300	\$0	\$474,300
	Sparrow****	12.0	\$789,000	\$500,000	\$289,000
2003	Sparrow	20.3	\$2,200,000	\$134,180	\$2,065,820
TOTALS		747.3	\$15,994,465	\$3,097,730	\$12,896,735

* Conservation Restriction

** Gift from the Community of Jesus

*** Gift from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**** Self Help Program Grant from DCS application pending (first Land Bank acquisition)

+ \$50,000 grant from Commonwealth of Massachusetts, \$50,000 grant from Barnstable County

\$50,000 provided for maintenance purposes, saving Town expenditure

It should be noted that the Gavigan and Christian transactions were fee simple acquisitions of developed land, rather than parcels without any structures. The Alemian, Gallagher, Furst and Namequoit Bay transactions involved the purchase of conservation restriction rights, on

essentially undeveloped land: "All other transactions were fee simple acquisitions of undeveloped land." This illustrates that a combination of approaches can and should be employed to maximize opportunities for purchasing permanent protection.

11.4.3 Funding Open Space Protection

Since the Land Bank was approved by voters in 1998, Town Meeting has approved 9 recommendations for the acquisition of 15 parcels of approximately 111 acres. An additional two parcels of almost 14 acres were also protected due to these purchases, resulting in approximately 125 acres preserved by the Land Bank.

The Land Bank provided the Open Space Committee with the credibility to pursue major land preservation priorities set by the first Open Space Committee in 1986. This was due to the Land Bank's defined 20 year surtax and the resultant ability to bond large acquisitions. These will not be available under the CPA. There is conservatively \$300,000 of bonding authority remaining in the Land Bank account. The Committee's current land protection priorities exceed this remaining balance. These priorities may become significant opportunities for any future CPA funds.

In May of 2005 the Town of Orleans adopted the Community Preservation Act. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides matching funds for CPA communities for at least 2005 through 2009. For the first two years of the program funds are anticipated to be matched by 100% of the CPA levy. In the future, Orleans will rely on the CPA as the source for future Open Space protection funding. In order to achieve the 400-acre goal, both the public and private sectors together will have to continue to fund open space and recreation lands protection at this recent historical level.

To further supplement these funding sources, the Town will need to continue to aggressively pursue grant funding from the Commonwealth and Barnstable County in the future, particularly targeting the Self Help, SAND and SCORP programs offered by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA). (OS-5) Success in obtaining grants for projects that preserve the natural environment or protect land for recreation or conservation can result in very substantial assistance to the Town. The Town has recently updated its Conservation, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (CROS) in order to remain eligible for this funding source. In addition, the OS/LBC should periodically encourage landowners to preserve land parcels as open space through conservation restriction, deed restriction, sale or donation and educate them concerning the financial and environmental benefits of doing so. (OS-6). Finally, the Town should continue to support and actively encourage the private Orleans Conservation Trust to sustain its substantial efforts to acquire or otherwise protect open space lands.

Working together as a team --- individual landowners, the OCT and Town government --- is the key to accomplishing the ambitious goal of preserving 400 acres over the next 20 years. If this goal is reached, or even nearly reached, we will have laid the foundation for securing the environmental health and semi-rural character of the Town for future generations.

11.4.4 Open Space Land Protection Goals

The Regional Policy Plan (RPP) of the Cape Cod Commission established a goal for each town to preserve 50% of its remaining developable (vacant) land. For Orleans to achieve this goal would require the protection of about 302 acres. Assuming a conservative average price of \$150,000 per acre, nearly \$45 million would be needed today to acquire that much open space land (not considering donations and conservation restrictions), and the future price tag would undoubtedly be appreciably greater. It is readily apparent, therefore, that the RPP goal of preserving 50% of Orleans' remaining developable, vacant land as open space is fiscally unrealistic.

Orleans needs to set a more practical and relevant goal for preserving its open space. The Open Space Committee has developed and maintains current a list of parcels that are candidates for protection by acquisition or permanent conservation restriction/easement, as charged by the Board of Selectmen. That list contains approximately 400 acres that meet one or more of the Town's objectives for open space preservation as reflected in the CROS Plan and that are consistent with the requirements of the Land Bank legislation. (OS-3) The Town and private efforts could acquire or otherwise protect open space parcels from this list using funding built up over time in a new "Open Space Preservation Reserve" accrual account of the Budget (OS-1)

CROS Plan

Goals have been established in the CROS Plan by the Open Space Committee for open space protection in order to "protect the water supply," preserve and manage natural resources, special places, wildlife habitats and the Town's semi-rural seaside character. The Open Space Committee pursues these goals in maintaining a list of potential properties to acquire or put under CR status. The goals of this Plan are consistent with the Orleans CROS Plan.

SCORP

The Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) describes the open space and outdoor recreation policies of the EOE. The document is used by the EOE to guide expenditures authorized by the legislature. The most recent SCORP (*For Our Common Good – Open Space and Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts 1988-1992*) presents the goals and objectives for outdoor recreation for a five-year period.

The SCORP states that the influx of tourists onto the Cape and Islands each summer is a critical issue. The provision for water-based recreation, ocean access and the emphasis on conservation of the wildlife habitat and water supply require special planning attention.

11.4.5 Improving Public Access and Recreation Facilities Management

The limited access and amenities afforded the public to most town landings and to some beaches and other conservation and recreation areas is a continuing problem, particularly

during the summer season with the major influx of part-year residents and tourists. Insufficient or limited parking is the primary constraint at most town landings, Crystal Lake, Baker's Pond and Pilgrim Lake beaches, and at the Kent's Point and Pah Wah Pond conservation sites. (T-30)

Amenities such as benches and informational signs describing the uses available at each location are also limited. (OS-7) Management plans should be drafted for all recreation and conservation sites not already covered by such documentation to guide those responsible for the proper stewardship of these areas and to inform the public of authorized and unauthorized activities in each area. (OS-8) In addition, the Town needs to publicize these recreation/conservation sites and their features more thoroughly and more frequently. The Town should promote the need for open space protection and publicize its benefits by developing and disseminating educational materials, working closely with private conservation organizations and with County and State agencies. (OS-19) A detailed brochure and map should be made available for this purpose, as well as descriptions of recreation and conservation areas and information on recreation programs and schedules listed on the Town's web site. (OS-10) A video of these facilities and programs should be shown periodically on cable television. In addition, all recreation programs should be evaluated periodically to make sure that they fully meet the needs of residents. (OS-11)

Village Pocket Parks

Another way to access public recreation opportunities is through the creation of pocket parks. The need for pocket parks in areas of the town should be studied. If the recreation need can be determined and land acquired, they should be planned and constructed for the convenience of local people. (OS-12, OS-13) Pocket parks could contain amenities such as small playgrounds, basketball courts, drinking fountains, and play equipment. (OS-14) It may also be necessary to provide parking, but park design should emphasize that the primary means to access these small recreation areas is on a bike or on foot. To emphasize the local nature of these village recreation sites, sidewalks to and within their boundaries should be created and ample space provided for bike parking. Village pocket parks not only would expand the recreation opportunities for East Orleans, South Orleans, Rock Harbor and Skaket Beach area residents and visitors, they also would alleviate the occasional congestion and crowding at the main Eldredge Parkway/ Nauset Regional Middle School/Orleans Elementary School recreation complex.

Aiding Public Access

Public access can be enhanced by providing amenities appropriate to each conservation or recreation site. (OS-7) Some expansion of vehicle parking at certain town landings, beaches and recreation sites would be highly beneficial. The need for additional parking spaces at town landings having boat launch facilities is especially acute. (CF-12) Signs at each site to inform the public of its intended uses and capacities are required.

Active management of recreation sites is necessary to ensure that their quality is maintained, and that expansion commensurate with the rate of residential and tourism growth is carefully planned. (OS-17) Information as to the location, purpose, available amenities, and hours of operation for all recreation facilities, town landings and conservation/park sites should be

maintained at the Information Center and listed on the Town web site. Publicity regarding recreation areas, programs and hours of operation should also be periodically posted on the cable television public access channel and in newspapers and information brochures. (OS-10)

Community Center

The idea of a multi-purpose community center and pool facility constructed in or near the Village Center would represent a major financial undertaking for the Town. It would have to be studied carefully based on definite feedback from residents as to its required social, cultural, and recreation capacities. If this kind of new multi-function recreation facility is clearly wanted and would be financially supported, then its design and construction should foster the intended social interaction among residents. It should be culturally and aesthetically pleasing, and the features of its indoor swimming pool and other recreation capabilities should fully satisfy the needs of residents of all ages. (OS-18)

Town Cove Waterfront Park

The Town Cove Landscape Preservation Project Final Report, July 1991, stated that, although Town Cove should be a prominent place in Orleans due to its central location, its major role played in the Town's history and the broad expanse of water views it affords, it "remains an undervalued resource." Over the years, changes in the built landscape have gradually shifted focus away from Town Cove, reducing both visual and physical access to the water. Areas that once provided open views have been obscured by commercial developments that have favored a more prominent orientation to the street. Among the recommendations of the Town Cove Plan was the creation of a waterfront park that would integrate Town-owned parcels, including Sea Call Farm, Window On the Cove, Jonathan Young Windmill and the town landings at Cove Road and Goose Hummock. The Town Cove Waterfront Park Study Committee was formed at that time to address the environmental and aesthetic issues involved and to develop a recreation plan linking the Town-owned properties bordering the Cove. The recent purchase of the Smith property on Route 28 by the Town fulfills another step in the ultimate creation of a along suitable recreation area along the Town Cove waterfront. Many of the proposals in the 1991 Report remain viable today for aesthetically enhancing the Route 28 and adjoining Route 6A border of this special area, including brick sidewalks and decorative lighting, and Zoning Bylaw changes to afford more unobstructed views of Town Cove. (OS-19)

Recreation Committee

The Town has an active Recreation Committee that consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The Recreation Committee works with the community, the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and the Recreation Director to improve and/or expand recreational programming and facilities through a commitment to provide quality recreation programs to all population groups in the Town.

Bike Paths Network

The bike paths existing today are heavily used during the warmer seasons, especially the Rail Trail, the Main Street/Beach Road path to Nauset Beach, and other short stretches in the Village Center. However, these paths are fragmented and are thus inherently unsafe for regular bike transportation. (OS-21) Planning needs to commence for the rest of a network of bike paths between villages that would link the fragmentary pieces already in place and afford contiguous routing to the Village Center. A bike path network will relieve vehicle traffic congestion only if it is well used, and it would be well used only if it is safe from vehicles' interference and convenient for bike riders. As the network is extended outward from the Village Center, care should be taken to connect it with pocket parks and shopping areas. (OS-22)

Extension and creation of bicycle trails are further addressed in the Transportation Chapter.

Cape Cod Pathways Walking Trail

In addition to creating bike trails, Orleans should complete the segment of the Cape Cod Pathways "Sea Path" Walking Trail and connect to the Brewster segment by the purchase of contiguous open space lands that connect with parcels already acquired in the Namskaket Creek/Skaket Beach area. (OS-23) The Town should also consider other areas for which pathways are appropriate.

11.5 Implementation Program

	Action	Time for Completion	Resources Required	Lead Responsible Agency
OS-1	<i>Create an "Open Space Preservation Reserve" account/line item in the budget for the accrual of Land Bank and annually appropriated funds to be used for open space, conservation and recreation land permanent protection.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	L	<i>Board of Selectmen</i>
OS-2	Using Community Preservation Act and budget appropriated funding, plus private funding, preserve 400 or more acres of high priority parcels for ground and surface water protection, conservation, recreation and other environmental purposes.	FY 11-20	H	Open Space Committee
OS-3	Continue to maintain a list of priority open space parcels to acquire, or otherwise protect from development, based on goals in the CROS Plan.	Ongoing	L	Open Space Committee
OS-4	<i>Fund the Open Space Preservation Reserve account of the budget at an amount consistent with the goals of this plan for preserving open space, conservation and recreation lands.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	H	<i>Board of Selectmen</i>
OS-5	Continue to aggressively pursue State, County and Federal grant funding by devising suitable projects that support open space protection, recreation lands acquisition and natural resources preservation.	Ongoing	M	Open Space Committee
OS-6	Encourage owners of undeveloped land to preserve it through conservation restriction, deed restriction, tax deferment (MGL Chapter 61), donation, gift or other suitable means.	Ongoing	L	Open Space Committee
OS-7	<i>Continue to improve public access to open space and conservation sites by making them handicap-accessible where possible, and by adding information signs, benches, trail route markers, limited parking and other unobtrusive amenities as appropriate to each site.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	M	<i>Conservation Commission</i>
OS-8	Draft and produce management plans for Town-owned open space lands not already covered by such documentation, including parks, town landings, the watershed and conservation sites, and publicize their existence in information brochures.	FY 07-10	M	Conservation Commission
OS-9	Promote the need for open space protection and inform the public periodically of its benefits by developing and disseminating educational materials, working closely with private conservation organizations and with County and State agencies.	Ongoing	L	Open Space Committee

OS-10	Provide and maintain a brochure, including a map that describes the recreation features of all pocket parks, beaches, town landings, hiking areas, bike paths and all other recreation facilities.	Ongoing	M	Parks & Beaches Department
OS-11	Evaluate recreation programs periodically to ensure that they are meeting the needs of residents. Inform the public on a seasonal basis of available programs by information brochure dissemination and other appropriate means.	Ongoing	L	Recreation Department
OS-12	<i>Define the specific recreation needs for small pocket parks in East Orleans, South Orleans, Rock Harbor and Skaket, as appropriate to each neighborhood site.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Planning Department</i>
OS-13	<i>Plan, design and construct appropriately outfitted pocket park recreation areas in designated neighborhoods based on assessed local recreation needs</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Planning Department</i>
OS-14	Install drinking water and toilet facilities at appropriate recreation areas.	FY 07-10	M	Parks & Beaches Department
OS-15	Define the recreation features and capabilities as desired by residents for the capped landfill site, including the provision of ample parking, water fountains and toilet facilities.	FY 07-10	L	Planning Department
OS-16	Build a suitable recreation facility on the capped landfill site.	FY 07-10	H	Planning Department
OS-17	Draft and produce management plans for all publicly owned recreation areas not already covered by such documentation, to ensure that they are properly maintained and meet the current needs of residents of all ages.	FY 07-10	M	Parks & Beaches Department
OS-18	Based on the results of CF-2, and if supported by residents, plan, design and build a multi-purpose municipal community center.	FY 11-20	H	Board of Selectmen
OS-19	<i>Plan and design a Town Cove Waterfront Park incorporating recommendations of the 1991 Town Cove Landscape Preservation Project, and coordinate this effort with the Village Center improvement project.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>Planning Department</i>
OS-20	<i>Consider establishing a Recreation Advisory Committee to provide needed advice and technical assistance to the Recreation Department.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>Board of Selectmen</i>
OS-21	<i>Complete construction of the Orleans segments of the Cape Cod Rail Trail bike pathway, including urging the State to expedite construction of a bridge over Route 6, to link the Rail Trail with the completed Brewster and Eastham segments.</i>	<i>Addressed See Appendix</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Highway Dept.</i>

OS-22	Determine optimal routes and construct bike and walking pathways to connect the Village Center with the East Orleans, South Orleans, Rock Harbor and Skaket areas.	FY 11-20	H	Bikeway's Committee / Highway Dept.
OS-23	Complete the Orleans segment of the "Sea Path" portion of the Cape Cod Pathways Walking Trail and link it up with the Brewster segment by preserving contiguous open space that connects with parcels already protected.	FY 07-10	M	Open Space Committee