

Goal 6: Preserve and Enhance Town-owned Assets	6			
Objective 1: Protect Town-owned open space	1			
<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Initial Cost</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
Preserve and acquire open space - Support the implementation of Acton's Open Space and Recreation Plan (2002) and the update being prepared for 2011. - Define primary purpose of protecting open space and develop criteria for prioritizing parcels(e.g. conservation, views, active recreation, protection of water resources, etc) - Create a short list of open space protection priorities and stay focused on that list - Insure broad public understanding regarding which open space is not protected and to what degree protected space is indeed protected	Planning			
Support Morrison Farm committee plans	Morrison Farm Committee, BOS, Planning			
Utilize other regulatory tools and incentives to protect open space - Actively support agriculture - Provide tax incentives to protect open space - Promote community gardens, country fairs and farmer's markets		Regulatory		
Consider multiple ways to fund the acquisition of desirable open space parcels so the Town is in a position to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. - Use tax income from economic development - Consider higher Community Preservation Act assessments and continue to use Community Preservation funds for purchase of high priority sites - Research other fund opportunities - Borrow funds for major purchases	BOS, EDC, CPC			
Continue to support GAB (?) by maintaining and adding new trails				
Preserve farmland - Continue to determine what methods might be used or available for the preservation of all remaining farmland in Acton				

<p>Promote and protect Vegetation and National Wildlife programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to work with the Massachusetts National Heritage program to identify and protect rare species of vegetation and wildlife. - Future acquisition of Open space should be made with goal of improving connectivity to achieve a ring or corridor of protected undeveloped land within the town which enhances wild life. 				
<p>Raise awareness in the public at large regarding the value of preserving open space</p>				
<p>Support bio-diversity education</p>				
<p>Use zoning to protect open space parcels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue existing practice of utilizing cluster zoning for most residential development outside the centers - Provide incentives for transfer of development away from open land to desired growth centers 				

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Objective 2: Support excellence in schools	2			
<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Initial Cost</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
Balance the financial burden from the school system and other town resources appropriately	BOS, SC, ALG			
Continue to develop an active volunteer community to improve and maintain excellence in school activities	SC, ALG			
Ensure that school facilities are well-maintained and updated	Municipal Properties	Management		
Keep the school system up to date using new technology and standards	Municipal Properties, School Committee/Management	Management		
Work through the Acton Leadership Group as enrollments decline and commercial development occurs to allocate increased fiscal capacity to educational improvements (such as reduced class size) and spending on other priorities such as open space acquisition, affordable housing, and investments in transportation improvements and other infrastructure	ALG, SC, BOS			

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Objective 3: Maintain municipal properties and facilities	3			
<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Initial Cost</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>
Develop strategies to reduce reliance on the residential property tax to fund municipal properties and facilities				
Develop, maintain, and encourage the use of Acton's recreational resources				
Plan for new and expanded facilities as needed to serve the community. - Consider putting in a fourth fire station in North Acton to serve the needs of the growing population in North Acton - An updated senior center to meet the needs of the growing population of seniors in town - Enhance community education programs - Continue to improve and maintain accessibility for persons with disabilities				
Conduct an energy audit of Town buildings and identify ways to increase energy efficiency				
Continue focus on preserving and enhancing historic sites within Acton villages				
Continue to support and maintain Acton Libraries. - Consider hiring additional staff at the Acton Memorial Library due to increased circulation				
Continue working with water district to providing good quality and quantity of water				

<p>Enhance the level of services that the Town can provide by continually seeking operational efficiencies and by using federal, state, and private funding sources to supplement Town funds</p>				
<p>Explore ways in which Town Hall can use more recent technology to provide services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating the contents, aesthetics and access of the town website - Setting up payments and notifications of taxes and other bills online for residents, thus making the transactions easier for residents and also cut down costs of labor and materials - Make permitting process simpler by establishing online application forms, database and converting all files into digital records 				
<p>Implement relevant 1998 Master Plan goals and objectives</p>				
<p>Use the transfer station for solar power generation and as a model for sustainability</p>				