



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

February 2, 2015

Tom Tidman
Director of Natural Resources
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Dear Mr. Tidman:

Thank you for submitting the "Town of Acton Open Space and Recreation Plan 2014-2021" to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review. The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

Consistency with *MetroFuture* - *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistently with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as 13 detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities to become familiar with the plan by visiting the web site at <http://www.mapc.org/metrofuture> and scrolling down to the PDF of the implementation strategies.

The Acton Open Space and Recreation Plan does not specifically mention *MetroFuture*. We encourage communities to include a brief paragraph about *MetroFuture* in Chapter III under Regional Context. Ideally this paragraph should explain ways in which the Acton Open Space and Recreation Plan will help to advance some of the goals and implementation strategies that relate specifically to open space, recreation, and the environment generally.

In the case of Acton's plan, this shouldn't be too hard to do since we see many positive connections between your plan and *MetroFuture* such as the discussion of regional open space resources and adoption of the Community Preservation Act.

The Acton Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and it should serve the town well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
Executive Director

Cc: Frances Osman, MAPC Representative, Town of Acton
Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Resources