Welcome!
Please sign in and have some refreshments
Public Workshop
Open Space, Natural Resources, Recreation and Programming, and Cultural Resources
Tonight’s Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Open Space and Natural Resources Presentation
- Facilitated Conversations
- Recreation and Programming Presentation
- Facilitated Conversations
- Cultural Resources Presentation
- Facilitated Conversations
- Next Steps
Welcome and Introductions

- Project Team
  - Planning Department:
    - Kristin Kassner, AICP, Josh Morris, AICP, and Elizabeth Bonventre
  - Harriman:
    - Alison LeFlore, AICP and Howard Snyder, RLA

- Steering Committee Members
Burlington Comprehensive Master Plan Project

Develop a Comprehensive Master Plan for the Town of Burlington:

- Close look at where we are today and where we’d like to be in the long-term
- Manage natural, produced, and social capital for the welfare of current and future generations
- Recognize and build upon what we now have as competitive advantages
- Correct any disadvantages in ways that improve the quality of life

Careful planning will improve the quality of life for our residents and protect Burlington’s fiscal and economic stability for the future, providing predictability and direction.
Tonight’s Goal

- Community review of draft recommendations for three elements:
  - Open Space and Natural Resources
  - Recreation and Programming
  - Cultural Resources
- Two big questions to answer for each element:
  1. Have we correctly identified the issues?
  2. Are there things that should be added?

Questions?
Open Space and Natural Resources

Introduction
Open Space and Natural Resources Background

- What is qualifies as Open Space?
Open Space and Natural Resources Background

- Also…
Open Space and Natural Resources Background

- Natural Resources Include
Open Space in Burlington

- 296 Acres of Conservation Areas
- 100 Acres of Recreational Fields / Playgrounds
- C. 61A Agricultural Land (7 acres)
- Town Common and other Municipal Property
- School Facilities
- Conservation Restrictions
- Private Property (ex. Burlington Swim and Tennis, 3rd Ave Square)
Burlington Wetlands and Waterways
Burlington’s Natural Resources

- Drinking Water Resources
  - Surface
  - Groundwater
- Wetlands and waterways
- Rare species
- Vernal Pools (31 PVPs; 12 VPs)
- Wildlife Corridors
  - ROWs
  - Connections to abutting towns
- Mostly secondary succession forest with pockets of mature forests
FEMA Flood Hazard Areas

- Identifies areas likely to flood during various flood events
- Areas subject to flood insurance
Existing Needs
Burlington (2011 OSRP)

- Accessibility to open space properties
- Increasing quantity and quality of athletic fields and parks
- Protect large tracks of land that remain unprotected
- Acquire additional open space to:
  - Protect the town’s water resources (watershed and wetland)
  - Improved quality of life
  - Reduce pollution (protect additional wetland systems)
  - Future planning and preparation- flood control
  - Increase available passive recreation areas for the aging population
  - Connect green spaces (accessibility, recreation and wildlife)
- Diversification of habitat types
- Continued care and maintenance of existing properties
  - Transparency and coordination between town departments and the public
Open Space and Natural Resources as an Economic Driver

- Open Space and Natural Resources contribute to Quality of Life; quality of life is MA’s top-ranked asset for business
- Job attractiveness in the high-tech field increased 33% in a community with high quality of life
- Property values increase with nearby open space preservation
- Open space destinations can increase tourism
- Open space and forests require an average of $0.43 in municipal services for every $1 in tax revenue generated from these resources (American Farmland Trust, 2010)

Open space preservation supports economic development by boosting property values and thereby increasing municipal tax revenues.
Value of Open Space

- Proximity to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge increases the sale price of the average property by almost $2,000. (2009)

- A home in Lynnfield is worth an average of $34,600 more if located near an open space. This is an increase of 6.7% in property value. (2005)

- Homes near the Minuteman Bikeway and Nashua River Rail Trail sell in 21 days on average, 45% faster than other comparable homes, and sell closer to their list price. (2006)

- Increase in property value associated with availability and proximity to open space results in increase property tax revenue – ($8.26 million in Boston in 2008)
Open Space and Natural Resources as a Social Benefit

- Provide opportunity for connection and exercise
- Space for children and adults to play and be active
- Studies show that exposure to nature is restorative and has mental health benefits
- Helps to define community and contributes to the community’s character
- Provides buffers between incompatible land uses
- National Recreation and Park Association:

  “…Parks and open spaces are one of the most direct ways to put a dent in the approximately $147 billion direct and indirect costs of the obesity epidemic. Spending on parks departments is one of the most cost-effective ways to lower long-term health expenditures…”
Environmental Benefit of Open Space and Natural Resources

- Provide flood storage capacity
- Protects the water supply and groundwater recharge areas
- Reduce air pollution
- Protect important critical areas and natural systems (wetlands, vernal pools, streams, etc.)
- Provide space for wildlife and protect habitat
- Contribute to a Town’s unique Character

*Urban trees in the lower 48 states are estimated to remove 783,000 tons of pollution per year, with an estimated annual value to society of $5.6 billion.* (NRPA 2010)
Open Space and Natural Resources:
Discussion (15 minutes)

How do we foster, support and promote:

• Leadership
• Resources
• Maintenance
• Connections
• Awareness
Recreation and Programming

Introduction
Recruitment and Programming Background

Like Open Space, access to Recreation and Programming activities contribute to maintaining a quality of life advantage in an increasingly competitive national and global economic climate.

The Burlington Recreation Department…

- Maintains 285 acres in Town which includes school grounds, athletic fields, playgrounds, and parks
- Provides robust programming options for youth, adults, seniors as well as Therapeutic Recreation for the Town’s special needs population
- Organizes and hosts large community events such as Celebrate Burlington, Truck Day, Farmers Market and Holiday Lights on the Common
- Operates a separate maintenance facility than that of DPW
Recreation and Programming Background

- When deciding to stay or leave Massachusetts, availability of outdoor activities is the 2nd most important factor for recent college graduates.
- Burlington has an incredibly strong Recreation Department and offers more programming than most other communities.
- The Town’s recreationally programming is an often-cited resource that brings new residents to Burlington and is highly valued by existing residents.
- As much as the Recreation Department is doing, there is a desire and demand for more and different programming…
  - Maintenance Concerns and management (If it’s green Rec Maintains)
  - Desire for Community Pool
  - Teen Center
Recreation and Programming
Discussion (15 Minutes)

How do we foster, support and promote:
  Leadership
  Resources
  Maintenance
  Programming
  Awareness
Cultural Resources

Introduction
Cultural Resources Background

- Cultural Resources are:
  - Historic Resources including districts, buildings, structures, sites, public works, transportation corridors, landscapes, etc.
  - The Arts: Visual, Cultural, Musical, Culinary, Applied, Performance, Dance, Media
  - Museums of all Types
- Many of these resources are more fluid and cross between the private, nonprofit, and public sectors
- Exist in Burlington, but are not always as organized or visible
Community Feedback – What do residents value?

- Burlington Players
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation Programming
- Sports
- School Activities, especially the High School Music and Theatre Productions

Burlington Players

Titanic the Musical Presented by Burlington High School

March 19, 20, 26, 27 & 28, 2010
Community Feedback – What do residents value?

- Burlington Players
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation Programming
- Sports
- School Activities, especially the High School Music and Theatre Productions
- Concerts on the Common
- Community and Business Involvement
- Community Celebrations
  - Fourth of July Parade, Pride Day, Truck Day, Christmas Tree Lighting
- Concerts on the Common
- Town Meetings and Public Hearings
Community Feedback — What do residents want?

- Better access to historic buildings and increased awareness of the Town’s history
- Increased awareness of diversity – multicultural and cross-cultural events
- More cultural programming (like art fairs and comedy / musical performance)
- Better advertising and promotion of events
- Promotion and visibility for the “talent within” Burlington
- More funding for cultural resources, especially from big businesses
- Network of Artistic Residents and Small Spaces for Artists to Gather
- Communication!
- More art and performance activities (especially music and comedy)
- Family-Oriented Events
- Balanced spectrum of activities
Cultural Resources
Discussion (15 minutes)

How do we foster, support and promote:
Leadership
Resources
Awareness
How do we tell the story of Burlington
Public/Private Partnerships