



2007

SHERBORN, MASS.

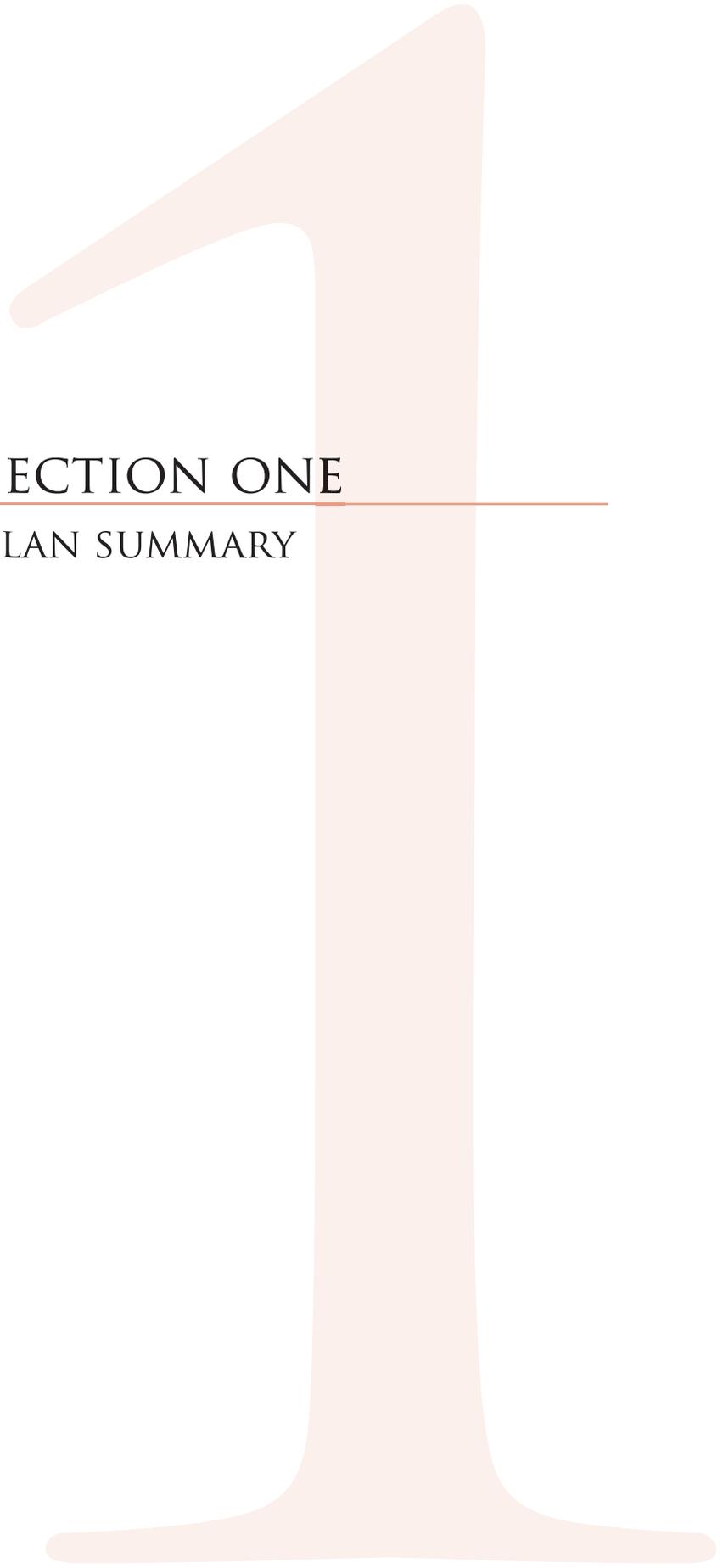
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN





SECTION ONE

PLAN SUMMARY



Plan Summary

Documenting the community's desire to preserve the rural character of Sherborn – its small town qualities, its many scenic roads, the abundance of open space and opportunities for hiking, horseback riding or cross-country skiing on its many trails – is the primary aim of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. Sherborn's character is what makes the town an enjoyable place for its residents to live and raise families.

Sherborn has retained its rural character principally because lands have been acquired as protected open space and because the difficulty of establishing septic systems in Sherborn's soils (e.g., high groundwater, bedrock, wetland, dense soils) has tended to slow growth.

Approximately thirty percent of Sherborn's total area is currently undeveloped but developable under current zoning, assuming compliance with state and local septic and wetland regulations. This percentage includes lands temporarily protected by Chapter 61 programs. Section 8 of this report presents three broad goals that represent residents' expressed concerns and priorities for protecting Sherborn's resources, along with sixteen objectives formed to guide achievement of these goals. It also proposes a vision for Sherborn's open space in which existing open space is connected, forming bands that follow the northwest-to-southeast trend of Sherborn's valleys and ridges. Bands of open space alternate with bands of existing or future residential development.

Bringing about such a vision requires that Sherborn take creative, pro-active steps. Recommended actions include adopting the Community Preservation Act, acquiring and protecting additional open space, actively encouraging landowners to place conservation restrictions on their properties, and involving as many residents as possible in Sherborn's planning process by scheduling discussions and workshops.



SECTION EIGHT

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives have been derived from the 1996 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the 2001 General Plan, public workshops and forums, input from town boards, and analysis conducted by the Conway School of Landscape Design Team.

The following list presents open space goals along with their more specific objectives. The numerical sequence of these goals is not intended to be a rank order but is included for cross-reference use. The actions to achieve these goals and objectives are listed in Sherborn's Five-year Action Plan (Section 9).

Recognizing the community's desire to protect and acquire land for resource protection, preservation of rural character, and recreational opportunities and providing ways to reach these goals, is the overall objective of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

1. Protect Sherborn's Natural Resources

- 1-A. Protect groundwater quality and quantity to ensure a safe drinking water supply
- 1-B. Preserve, extend and create wildlife corridors
- 1-C. Protect habitat diversity for wildlife, especially for endangered species

2. Preserve Sherborn's Rural Character

- 2-A. Preserve scenic areas and views
- 2-B. Preserve Sherborn's historically agricultural heritage
- 2-C. Promote active farms and backyard agriculture
- 2-D. Encourage an attractive, pedestrian-friendly town center
- 2-E. Discourage sprawling suburban development patterns

3. Enhance Recreational Opportunities, Passive and Active

- 3-A. Improve town walkability
- 3-B. Improve knowledge of passive recreational resources
- 3-C. Acquire easements to trails on private land
- 3-D. Extend and create new trails and trail links
- 3-E. Expand active recreation fields
- 3-F. Create a management and maintenance plan to improve recreation lands
- 3-G. Improve handicap accessibility to public facilities