

Appendix F:

Comment Letters

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Lawrence B. Adams Executive Director
Community Development
Mary Ellen Blunt Transportation
Janet Pierce Regional Services and
Business Manager
Howard Drobner Commission Chair

Celebrating Fifty Years of Service - 1963-2013

August 30, 2013

Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge St., Ste. 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan;

RE: City of Worcester 2013 Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the City of Worcester and its recently completed Draft 2013 Open Space & Recreation Plan. The City and its Department of Public Works and Parks and its Planning and Regulatory Services Division with the assistance of its consultants, Weston and Sampson, along with the hundreds of residents and others who have provided input are to be commended for their hard work putting this Plan together.

The authors have done a very thorough job and the final document appears compliant with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. Worcester has recognized the need to balance new development with the need to protect open space and the desire to maintain a healthy community. The City's leaders participated in the CMRPC's and MAPC's 495 Compact (Prioritization Project) in 2011 and have noted there, as they have in this plan, that open spaces and recreation opportunities, are a key part of the City's character and are vital to its future.

Worcester's Open Space and Recreation Plan provides the City with the specific guidance and action steps needed to accomplish its goals and objectives. Maybe most importantly, Worcester plans to continuously maintain, enhance and improve its open spaces, natural resources and recreation facilities. Also, by establishing a formal committee to oversee the action plan, the city will be "more nimble and more proactive."

The City of Worcester will be well served by having a State-approved, up-to-date Plan in order to plan for its recreation facilities and programs, as well as to preserve and protect its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Draft Plan and the process used to develop it. We find Worcester's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts and its 2004 Update.

Sincerely,

Trish Settles, AICP
Principal Planner

City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



August 12, 2014

Bob O'Connor, Director
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Letter of Review of the Worcester Open Space & Recreation Plan

Mr. O'Connor:

The Worcester Open Space & Recreation Plan (2013) is the result of a collaborative effort between Worcester residents, community stakeholders, and the City of Worcester. Development of the plan was fostered through an extensive public outreach effort that included an on-line survey that generated over 500 responses, targeted stakeholder engagement, and dozens of neighborhood meetings held throughout the city during key study milestones.

The plan updates the prior 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan to reflect many achievements to date, including capital improvements at 25 locations throughout the city and completion of master plans specific to more than a dozen park and open space properties. More than 60 detailed site assessments were conducted, which will serve as valuable resources for current and future park improvement planning activities. Looking forward, the plan's goals and objectives were refined and expanded to incorporate new priorities, such as connecting the existing open space to each other via greenways, tree-lined sidewalks and bike-paths.

I enthusiastically endorse this effort and I respectfully submit the Worcester Open Space & Recreation Plan (2013) for your review and approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Edward M. Augustus, Jr.", is written over the printed name and title.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager

City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Conservation Commission

Stefanie Wood
Chair

John Donahue, *Vice-Chair*
Jordan Berg Powers
Joseph Charpentier



June 4, 2014

Bob O'Connor, Director
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Letter of Review of the Worcester Open Space & Recreation Plan

Mr. O'Connor,

At its meeting on June 2, 2014, the Worcester Conservation Commission formally considered the City's Open Space & Recreation Plan (2013-2010) and voted 3-0-1 (Commissioner Berg Powers abstained) to endorse the Plan.

The Commission fully supports the Plan and believes that it shows a clear vision for the future with respect to the protection of sensitive areas and passive/active recreation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stefanie Wood", is written over a large, faint, circular watermark or seal.

Stefanie Wood, Worcester Conservation Commission Chair

City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Planning Board

Andrew Truman
Chair

Satya B. Mitra, *Vice-Chair*
Robert Ochoa, *Clerk*
John Vigliotti
Andrew Freilich



June 25, 2014

Bob O'Connor, Director
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Letter of Review of the Worcester Open Space & Recreation Plan

Mr. O'Connor,

The Worcester Planning Board has reviewed the City's Open Space & Recreation Plan (2013-2020) and voted at its meeting of June 4, 2014 to offer our support for the Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Truman", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew Truman, Worcester Planning Board Chair