

# Acknowledgements

## **Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee**

Daniel Hart - Chairman  
Kevin Hughes  
James Maher  
Stephanie Radner

Clarissa Robyn  
Mac Sterling  
Tracey White

## **Parks & Recreation Committee**

Chuck Dello Iacono - Chairman  
Jonathan Briggs  
Tye Donahue

Salvatore Ledda  
James Maher

## **Parks & Recreation Director**

Robert Stanley

## **Open Space & Recreation Committee**

Fred Civian  
Dennis Cunningham  
Brendan Keogh  
Michael Podolski

Stephanie Radner  
Georganna Woods  
Jonathan Briggs

## **Town Departments**

Assessors  
Building Department  
Conservation Council on Aging  
Economic Development  
Endicott Estate  
Engineering  
Environmental  
Facilities & Maintenance  
Finance  
Fire  
GIS  
Health

Human Resources  
Library  
Parks & Recreation  
Planning & Zoning  
Police  
Public Works (DPW)  
School Department  
Town Clerk  
Town Manager  
Treasurer/Collector  
Veterans Services  
Youth Commission

## **Boards & Committees**

Board of Selectman	Endicott Estate Commission
School Committee	Dedham Retirement Board
Parks & Recreation Commission	East Dedham Revitalization Committee
Planning Board	Finance & Warrant Committee
Board of Library Trustees	Historic Districts Commission/Historical Commission
Board of Assessors	Housing Authority
Building, Planning & Construction Committee	Master Plan Implementation Committee
Board of Health	Human Rights Commission
Bylaw Review Committee	Open Space & Recreation Committee
Capital Expenditures Committee	Sustainability Advisory Committee
Civic Pride Committee	School Building Rehabilitation Committee
Commission on Disability	Town Meeting
Coalition for Drug & Alcohol Awareness	Public Service Recognition Committee
Council on Aging Board	Transportation Advisory Committee
Commissioners of Trust Funds	Youth Commission
Conservation Commission	Zoning Board of Appeals
Cultural Council	
Design Review Advisory Board	

## **Youth & Community Organizations**

Dedham Public Schools	Dedham Youth Soccer
Dedham Adult Soccer	Dedham Pop Warner
Dedham Girls Softball	HSL (Hebrew Senior Life)
Dedham Recreation Dance	Dedham Historical Society
Dedham Recreation Flag Football	Dedham Community House
Dedham Recreation Gymnastics	Noble & Greenough School
Dedham Recreation Karate	Ursuline Academy
Dedham Recreation Swim Team	Dedham Country Day
Dedham Recreation Wrestling	Dedham Jr Woman's Club
Dedham Land Trust	Manor Neighborhood Association
Livable Dedham	Mother Brook Community Group
Dedham Youth Baseball	Oakdale Square Alliance
Dedham Youth Basketball	Dedham Square Circle
Dedham Youth Hockey	Dedham Girl Scouts
Dedham Youth Lacrosse	Dedham Boy Scouts

## A. Executive Summary

A strong Parks and Open Space system is an important component of any healthy community. The system of recreational and green spaces contributes directly to a town's social, cultural, environmental, and economic prosperity. Socially, these spaces create safer neighborhoods by building a stronger social fabric and community connections. They allow people of all ages to grow and explore, and they improve public and environmental health. Culturally, parks and recreation programs can nurture a sense of place in a community and the spaces provide opportunities to engage many different people, who otherwise may not meet.



This Recreation Master Plan (the “Plan”) was developed as a community-supported, long-range strategic plan to guide the management of Parks and Recreation resources in the Town of Dedham. The Recreation Master Plan was developed in parallel with and in support of the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The Plan will serve as a guide to keep Dedham Parks and Recreation (DPR) focused on its goals, values, vision and mission, including its mission-led programs. The Plan provides strategic direction and actions to help realize the goals, while anticipating future challenges and changing community needs and trends. As a long-range plan, it aims to provide a sustainable and balanced, equitable, accessible and inclusive park and recreation system for the community.

### The Strategic Goals of the Plan...

#### 1. Mission and Vision for why we are here

**The Mission** - The mission of DPR is to enhance the quality of life for Dedham's residents by providing opportunities to learn, play and grow.

**The Vision** - The vision of DPR is a healthy, active, and engaged community that is built on the principles of preservation, communication, collaboration and inclusion.

#### 2. Core Value, the foundation for our Mission and Vision

Dedham's Core Value: Healthy and Engaging Community

#### 3. A mission led department serving the community

DPR provides facilities, programs and services that meet the recreation needs of the community. DPR's focus should include areas pertinent to its “Mission” such as:

- Neighborhood Parks and Facilities
- Community Parks and Facilities
- Special Use and Signature Facilities
- Recreational Programming

#### 4. Develop a Park Classifications System

DPR wants all of its parks to support active and diverse lifestyles, provide spaces that are safe and secure, and support economic development in the community. These spaces should also provide green space for the community and visitors where they can play, pause, relax, enjoy, grow and socialize.

In providing these spaces it is important to recognize that there are varying roles and purposes for different types of parks. Some parks attract visitors from throughout the region while others welcome neighborhood users such as a toddler learning how to navigate a slide.

The Plan recommends a Park Classification System to help DPR develop and design parks that serve unique roles in the community. At one end of the spectrum are neighborhood parks that provide safe playgrounds or small amenities within a 10 to 15 minute walk for everyone in the community. At the other end are regional destinations like the planned Manor Park where people gather for spectacular community events and bring their out-of-town guests. In between are community parks offering sports fields, spray parks, skate parks or other amenities where people can socialize, be active, take part in organized recreation programs, enjoy special events and more.



#### 5. Maintenance

DPR strives to maintain parks and recreation facilities as safe, attractive, positive amenities for the community and the neighborhoods in which they are located. The Plan includes a maintenance plan to maintain parks and recreation facilities equitably through a tiered system of maintenance.

#### 6. Capital Improvements

DPR has identified a list of suggested improvement projects for facilities that it maintains as well as for those whose maintenance is shared with partner organizations. These projects address needs identified in the planning process through public outreach and evaluation. Projects were assigned a priority based on needs, schedule, potential for funding and a variety of other metrics. This capital improvement plan is a living document that will change on an annual basis. Priorities will also change over time based on the immediate needs of the community and available funding.

#### 7. Performance Measures

Performance measures are tied to the goals noted in the Plan. These measures will help DPR identify areas in which it is successful at meeting Plan goals as well as areas that need improvement. A variety of methods may be used to measure Plan implementation. These methods may require unified data collection and tracking as well as surveys and assessments in the following areas: program participation and attendance, revenue and costs, inventories, condition assessments and customer satisfaction.

## 8. Engagement and Communications

The cornerstone of this plan and priority focus for DPR over the next ten years should be communication. DPR will strive to build a brand and partnerships that are focused on its mission. DPR will engage and involve residents and stakeholders in park and recreation facility planning, develop recreation programming with community input, facilitate project understanding, and build public support for its initiatives.

The next 10 years will be critical as the department works to preserve and protect Dedham's park and recreation system and provide for the future. The Plan will help guide staff and elected officials.

The Plan is not a finished document to set on a shelf. Rather, it should be an ever changing guide and tool that responds to changing trends and needs of the community. DPR will continue to seek the community's input and advice as it moves forward in implementing and monitoring the Plan, so that the department continues to provide an exceptional system of parks and recreation facilities for the community. DPR will need volunteers and partners to make the vision a reality.

