**Town wide recreation trails master plan**

In November 2011 the Board of Selectmen adopted a town wide recreation trails master plan. This was the conclusion of over 3 years of work by a special appointed recreation trails master plan steering comm. The plan was assembled by Scott Linnenburger of Kay Linn Enterprises. Scott is being assisted by Woody Keen of Trail Dynamics and Jeremy Wimpey PhD of Applied trails. All three are accepted members of the Professional Trail Builders Assoc. Their work and the deliberations of the Steering Committee have been guided by the Town Planner Ms Jean Bubon, and follow the basic format use by the Town in developing its overall Master Plan.

The plan presented an overall vision to guide the town in recreation trail development.

The vision for Sturbridge trails as presented in the plan is: “ *The Sturbridge Recreation Trails Master Plan seeks to highlight the community’s small town character, vast open spaces, scenic character, and abundant natural resources through the development of a diverse, interconnected system of recreation trails and signed touring routes. These facilities will provide improved access to protected lands, public waters, community gathering places, and cultural/historical sites. The trail system will bolster Sturbridge’s brand as a conservation leader and the ample recreation opportunities will incentivize visitors to spend additional time in Town exploring our protected land and waters.”*

The plan continues with a list of 5 goals to achieve that vision. The goals are:

**1.** Develop a diverse system of forest‐based, environmentally sustainable trails that highlight the

ecology, topography, vistas, rural character, and historical/cultural significance of protected lands within Sturbridge.

**2.** Provide an uninterrupted riverside greenway from Brimfield to Westville Reservoirs with direct connectivity to the Commercial Tourist District.

**3.** Create a safer and more efficient bicycling/pedestrian infrastructure, including connections to

historical, business, and commercial areas and scenic, rural touring routes.

**4.** Establish effective and readily available education, outreach, and marketing materials that direct residents and visitors to trails, provide information on volunteer opportunities, and highlight events related to the Sturbridge trails and protected lands.

**5.** Implement the Plan in an aggressive manner to provide maximum benefits to residents and visitors, identifying and employing a variety of funding sources, volunteer assistance, and Town resources to optimize the inputs of all stake holding parties.

The plan continues by listing 15 objectives to reach the goals. These objectives give outline and more specific details and designs for the town to use in moving forward with trail development not only on its open space lands, but in partnership with the various other local private property owners, lands trusts, and State and Federal landowners in Sturbridge.

Due to its size, the plan is posted on the Sturbridge Trail Comm town website:

<http://www.town.sturbridge.ma.us/Public_Documents/SturbridgeMA_RegionalTrails/index>