



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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December 20, 2019

Lawrence Neal
Open Space and Recreation Committee
Town Hall, Broadway
Rockport, MA 01966

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Neal:

Thank you for submitting the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for Rockport to this office for review and compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. This plan was particularly thorough and has been conditionally approved through December 2026. Conditional approval will allow the town to participate in DCS grant rounds through December 2026, and a grant award may be offered to the town. However, no final grant payments will be made until the plan is completed.

1. Water Resources – information on wetlands and aquifer recharge areas must be added.
2. Environmental Challenges – a section on chronic flooding must be added.
3. Section 5 – the table that lists town-owned conservation and recreation properties must be expanded to include a column on condition. The type of grant column must be filled in completely (Article 97 isn't a grant type, it's a level of protection). Any Chapter 61 properties, Conservation Restrictions, and/or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions in the town must be listed. We suggest not listing private parcels that are of interest to the town as it is a good way to put the owner on notice and potentially drive up the asking price.
4. Analysis of Needs – the SCORP is not in draft form, it is final.
5. Action Plan – the goals and objectives should be listed in some sort of priority order with a funding source identified for each. I would suggest formatting this into a table as it would make it easier to read.
6. Maps – the Regional Context map should show more of the region and the Inventory map should denote ownership.

Congratulations on working on such an important task for your community! Please contact me at (617) 626-1171 or melissa.cryan@mass.gov if you have any questions or concerns, and I look forward to reviewing your final plan.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan
Grant Programs Supervisor