

Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Implementation Actions (7/1/2026 DRAFT)			
ID	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Parties
OS-A1	Update the Bristol Open Space Plan to reflect completed projects, changing recreational needs, updated mapping, climate resilience priorities, and the recommendations of this Comprehensive Plan.	Short-Term	Department of Community Development
OS-A2	Prepare a Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan to prioritize investments in parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, waterfront facilities, trails, accessibility improvements, and other recreational infrastructure.	Short-Term	Parks & Recreation Department
OS-A3	Develop and maintain a GIS-based inventory of parks, conservation lands, recreational facilities, trails, and public shoreline access sites to support planning, maintenance, and capital improvements.	Short-Term / Ongoing	Department of Community Development
OS-A4	Complete a comprehensive inventory and condition assessment of public shoreline rights-of-way and prepare a prioritized improvement program for signage, accessibility, parking, seating, erosion control, shoreline stabilization, and other public amenities.	Short-Term	Department of Community Development
OS-A5	Implement applicable recommendations of the Harbor Management Plan that improve public access to Bristol Harbor, Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay, and the Kickemuit River, including improvements to boat launches, transient boating facilities, kayak launches, fishing access, docks, and shoreline amenities.	Ongoing	Harbor Commission
OS-A6	Complete improvements to the State Street boat ramp and public dock to improve public boating access, safety, accessibility, and long-term resiliency.	Short-Term	DPW
OS-A7	Expand connections between parks, neighborhoods, schools, conservation lands, downtown, and waterfront destinations by implementing priority bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, and trail improvements identified in adopted transportation and recreation plans.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development
OS-A8	Identify and pursue opportunities to expand Bristol's greenway and trail network through conservation easements, subdivision review, redevelopment projects, and partnerships with adjacent property owners and neighboring communities.	Medium-Term	Department of Community Development
OS-A9	Evaluate municipal parks, recreational facilities, waterfront infrastructure, and public open spaces for vulnerability to flooding, erosion, sea level rise, and extreme heat, and incorporate resilience measures into future capital improvement projects.	Short-Term / Ongoing	Department of Community Development/ DPW

OS-A10	Implement priority recommendations of the Bristol Tree Canopy Plan by expanding tree planting and increasing shade within parks, playgrounds, trails, school properties, parking areas, and other public open spaces.	Ongoing	DPW
OS-A11	Continue implementation of watershed restoration, stormwater management, and green infrastructure projects that improve water quality while enhancing recreational and ecological resources, particularly within the Silver Creek and Tanyard Brook watersheds.	Ongoing	DPW
OS-A12	Evaluate opportunities to expand passive and nature-based recreation opportunities throughout the community in response to changing recreational interests and community needs.	Medium-Term	Parks & Recreation Department
OS-A13	Pursue grants, partnerships, conservation easements, and strategic land acquisition opportunities to preserve significant open space, protect environmentally sensitive lands, improve recreational facilities, and expand public access to parks and the waterfront.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development
OS-A14	Partner with Roger Williams University, URI Cooperative Extension, the Bristol Land Conservation Trust, Audubon, and other organizations to expand environmental education, stewardship programs, and interpretive signage within parks, conservation lands, trails, and shoreline access sites.	Medium-Term	Parks & Recreation Department
OS-A15	Periodically evaluate recreational programming, facility conditions, and community needs to inform future capital improvements and updates to the Open Space Plan.	Ongoing	Parks & Recreation Department
OS-A16	Continue improving accessibility at parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities, public shoreline access points, trails, and waterfront amenities through implementation of ADA improvements and universal design principles as facilities are renovated or replaced.	Ongoing	DPW / Parks & Recreation Department
OS-A17	Evaluate the feasibility, potential partnerships, funding opportunities, and community demand for development of an indoor aquatics facility or other year-round aquatic recreation opportunities.	Long-Term	Town Administrator / Parks & Recreation Department
OS-A18	Periodically evaluate the capacity, condition, and utilization of athletic fields and recreational facilities to ensure they continue to meet community needs.	Ongoing	Town Administrator / Parks & Recreation Department