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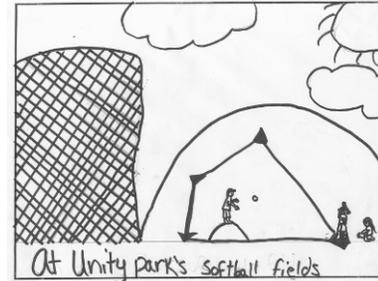
## SECTION 6

“I do not believe any equal plot of New England ground has had so many varied visions, at different times, under such varied circumstances, of a golden age waiting for it in the future” (Pressey, 1910).

### COMMUNITY VISION

#### A. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The Town of Montague’s open space and recreation goals were developed through the following planning process:



- In September 2009, Open Space and Recreation Surveys were made available electronically on the Town’s website and as hard copies at the Town Hall and the three libraries. A notice was also posted in the newspaper to alert residents of the survey. Surveys from 40 households were returned (See Appendix for a copy of the survey and results). Although the responses may not reflect the opinions of all residents, they do represent a significant source of community input, which was used to identify the open space and recreation resources most important to Montague residents.
- From September 2009 to December 2010, the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee and staff from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments developed this update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The planning process used several methods for involving public participation:
  - The results of the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Survey were used as the basis for the development of goals and objectives as well as the overall open space and recreation vision.
  - Six public meetings were held by the Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee.
  - A public forum was held on September 23, 2010, where people reviewed and discussed the inventory, analysis, community goals, objectives, and seven-year action plan. All public comments were recorded and considered for incorporation into the plan.



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## B. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL GOALS

Residents who responded to the Open Space and Recreation Survey and participated in the process of developing this plan have a vision for the future of Montague's natural, agricultural and recreational resources. Montague residents appreciate the town's historic villages and rural character. They value Montague's diverse landscapes, which include a mix of farms, extensive forests, hillsides and river corridors that provide many scenic views. They like living in a town with clean air and water, a great diversity of native plants and animals and abundant opportunities for outdoor recreation.



In an ideal world, the Town's uninterrupted forests and the banks of the Connecticut, Sawmill and Millers Rivers will be permanently protected as a result of cooperative efforts between residents, private landowners, local and state agencies and private non-profit organizations. The town's rivers and streams will be clean enough for fishing and swimming. Residents will continue to enjoy ample supplies of high-quality drinking water, but they will have learned not to take this precious resource for granted.

Agricultural and forestry businesses will be thriving on land dedicated to these uses, and residents will take satisfaction in eating fresh vegetables, fruit and meat produced close to home, and buying nursery and forest products raised by their neighbors.



Residents of all ages and abilities will enjoy the town's well-maintained recreational facilities, including parks in all five villages and an outdoor aquatic facility. The performance space in Peskeomskut Park will draw crowds to downtown Turners Falls to hear concerts on summer evenings. An accessible system of recreational trails will connect well-known and well-cared for public and privately-owned open space and recreational facilities. Residents will speak proudly of their successful efforts to maintain and restore historic buildings in each of the villages.



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There will be a diverse mix of prosperous businesses in downtown Turners Falls and Millers Falls, catering to the needs of both residents and tourists who have come to visit the Great Falls Discovery Center, bike along the Canalside Rail Trail, hike and hunt on the Montague Plains and the forests east of Federal Street. Residents will enjoy a high quality of life and municipal services at a reasonable cost, due to their smart decisions to invest in agriculture and forestry, protection of natural resources, the preservation of historic neighborhoods, brownfields redevelopment and sustainable industrial development in selected areas.