

Town of Stoughton, Massachusetts

Open Space and Recreation Plan

January 19, 2018



Prepared by:
Horsley Witten Group, Inc.

Town of Stoughton

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SECTION 1. PLAN SUMMARY

The Town of Stoughton Open Space Committee (the Committee) has developed this Open Space and Recreation Plan as part of a larger community effort to encourage sustainable land use practices. This plan not only seeks to identify high priority preservation and recreation opportunities, but also offers strategies that might channel growth to more appropriate areas. The aspirations of the Committee were to be broad-minded in their approach in order to provide a targeted list of action items designed to create a more livable community.

Recognizing the need to integrate open space and recreational planning into a large context, the Committee developed this plan in concert with the concurrent 2014 Master Plan update process. The open space and recreation challenges, opportunities, goals and objectives identified through the Master Plan update process have been incorporated here. In addition, the public participation process for this Open Space and Recreation Plan update was designed based on best practices and lessons learned from the Master Plan Update process.

Finally, pursuant to the guidance provided by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services, the plan will serve the community as a whole as a detailed reference for various information critical to the proper protection of open space and recreational resources. Information provided in the plan includes specific inventories of protected parcels and developable lands that should be targeted for preservation.

SECTION 2. INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide a framework and guide for continued conservation and recreation planning in the Town of Stoughton. Major objectives are the conservation of Stoughton's natural resources, protection of open spaces and the provision of public recreational opportunities. The purpose of the 2017 OSRP is to update the 2007 OSRP and maintain the town's eligibility for state funding assistance for open space and recreation purchases and improvements. This 2017 OSRP update builds on earlier plans and incorporates existing and new goals of protecting natural resources, conserving open space and providing a recreation program that meets the needs of Stoughton's current and future population. The Plan also reviews progress since the 2007 OSRP, identifies new issues or changing conditions since that time, and assesses future needs based on community trends. The 2017 OSRP also provides a realistic action plan to address the issues, challenges and opportunities to meet the community's existing and future open space and recreation needs.

Some of the most recent notable efforts toward open space and recreation planning are related to the property acquisition and improvement of the Glen Echo property with future improvements planned for six acres of the property, including possibly a swimming area.

The 2017 OSRP that follows was created to build upon community goals to address several changes in the Town of Stoughton in the next five to seven years including:

- Encourage smart growth and development at the human scale without discouraging development.
- Properly plan for open space and green space that will enhance quality of life and provide for wildlife corridors.
- Strategically target key open space. In addition to large tracts of land, small open space areas are needed for "pocket parks." The Town has changed in the last seven years in that it is becoming more urban, and pocket parks are needed more than they were before.
- Address pond water quality possibly through improvements to wastewater and stormwater operations and infrastructure.
- Manage aquatic invasive exotic vegetation.

1. Progress Since the 2007 Plan

Stoughton's previous open space planning efforts include the 1998 Open Space Plan, an amended Open Space Plan in the spring of 2001 to include additional parcels of conservation interest, and the most recent 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The primary goals of the 2007 OSRP included:

- To protect the natural areas of Stoughton for wildlife habitat, wetlands preservation, conservation and recreation use.
- To ensure the excellent quality and quantity of Stoughton's water supply.

- To enhance the Town’s capacity to manage conservation areas throughout the community.
- To provide adequate access to safe, well-maintained recreational facilities for all residents of Stoughton.

Over the last seven years, the town has been making progress on each of these broad goals, as described in the sections that follow.

a. Habitat, Wetlands, and Preservation

The Town of Stoughton has historically been committed to protecting its aquatic and land-based natural resource areas, and since 2007, the town has accomplished a number of initiatives.

Beginning in 2008, the Town coordinated an exotic aquatic invasive vegetation management piloting Program in response to a Diagnostic/Feasibility Study for Ames Long Pond. The Town possesses an active Order of Condition to manage aquatic emergent vegetation primarily *Fanwort*, *Cabomba*, and *carolina* from Ames Long Pond. Provisions were to procure services for extraction and harvesting dense growth of aquatic macrophytes in the south basin of Ames Long Pond. This was done with a mechanical aqua rake, a harvester, to improve conditions. In 2008, approximately 30 hours of hydro-raking was performed in the pond covering between four to five acres. The sustainable nature of the project included arrangements for the spoils of the projects to be distributed to several local farmers by the Town for composting and subsequent use as an organic nutritive soil supplement.



Town staff engaged in discussions and attempts to follow through with this program through articles before town meetings to purchase equipment and discussions with the Conservation Commission and the Superintendent of Public Works, in addition to Stoughton’s Recreational Director. Since 2010, project efforts have been met with resistance due to budget constraints. However, the Stoughton Conservation Commission, which is charged with the stewardship of the land under water, plans to continue this effort.

On November 17, 2012, the Town approved non-zoning Wetlands Protection By-Law Regulation amendments of Chapter 191 of the Town Code to protect wetlands, the floodplain, and land adjacent to wetlands. The regulations provide an additional measure of protection of wetland resource values including public water supply, private water supply, groundwater, flood control, erosion and sedimentation control, storm damage prevention, water pollution prevention, fisheries, wildlife, wildlife habitat preservation, recreation, and aesthetic values.

b. Drinking Water Protection and Water Supply Conservation

Stoughton has been continuing their commitment to conserving land for the purposes of drinking water protection is evident.

In addition, Stoughton is offering rain barrels and composting units to residents. The rain barrel being offered is a recycled 65 gallon barrels made of plastic. It comes with a screw top lid that makes it adjustable to insert a down spout. A garden hose can easily be attached to the faucet to allow residents to use rainwater to irrigate gardens and lawns and conserve source water.

The town has also partnered with the Neponset River Watershed Association to help facilitate a grant received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a one year water conservation program. The water conservation program includes:

- leak detection surveys and repair
- residential rebates for the purchase of:
 - qualifying water efficient toilets
 - toilet retrofit kits
 - clothes washers
- development of a water conservation curriculum within the Stoughton schools
- public outreach

c. Management of Conservation Areas

The Department of Public Works (DPW) provides assistance in the care, custody and control of open space by the Conservation Commission. This is coordinated by the Environmental Affairs Officer.

Assistance by the DPW includes: the removal of large trees that inhibit safe access at Conservation Land; installation of wood chips on portions of hiking trails, sign repair, installation of signs at the hiking trail systems; emptying trash cans, managing Phragmites at Meads Meadow, providing manpower and equipment to transport weeds harvested from Ames Long Pond, providing a truck and manpower during community clean up events of our open space, posting areas as necessary; providing support and man power at the Towns municipal hazard waste and tire collection days.

Town Manager, Michael J. Hartman is notified by the Environmental Affairs when illicit dump sites are reported on land under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission. These areas are then posted by the DPW.

Trail improvements were performed by DPW at the half mile length of connecting trail and the red blaze trail at the Bradley M. Lessa Playground Improvements to the Gilbert Quarry. This included the widening of the path and stabilization of the trail with wood chips.

The Town has been continuing its efforts to manage and acquire conservation land. The passing of the Community Preservation Act provided an opportunity for Stoughton Open Space Committee to make larger purchases of land for preservation. Since the 2007 OSRP, the Town has initiated the purchase of an undeveloped 15 acre parcel of open space in the Town of Canton directly abutting the 97-acre Glen Echo Conservation and Recreation Land in North Stoughton. The lack of a clear title has prevented the final sale of the site to the Town. The site features trails under a canopy of White Pine, Oak, Maple, Hickory and Beech. In addition, the site is the location of a historical cranberry bog which has since succeeded into to an ecologically rich, biologically diverse shrub swamp.

On October 28, 2014, the Stoughton Conservation Commission unanimously approved the proposals of the Stoughton Glen Echo Use and Development Committee and endorsed the Glen Echo Park Recreation and Development Plan, prepared by: Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.; dated: October 17, 2014. There are improvements planned for six acres of the property, including: proposed parking, roadway construction, signage, a comfort station, benches, tetherball, bocchhi courts fishing, hiking, picnicking, grills, kayaking, swimming among other activities and a potential bathing beach. The remainder of the 97 Acres will be enhanced with trail development and preservation of the natural condition of the forested site. An application was endorsed by Stoughton Community Preservation Committee requesting funding for the implementation of the phased plan subject to Town meeting approval.

October 28, 2014, the Stoughton Conservation Commission unanimously approved the conclusions and proposals of the Stoughton Capen Reynolds Farm Use and Development Committee. This includes the Capen Reynolds Farm Use and Development Plan; Planning and Preservation Report prepared by B. Goba and Associates, P.C. Architects. An application was endorsed by Stoughton Community Preservation Committee requesting approval of the amount of \$258,000.000 of Community Preservation Committee funding slated for the proposed land use improvements in the report at the Capen Reynolds Farm, 760 Pleasant Street, in Stoughton. The allocation of the CPA funds is contingent upon to Town meeting approval. The innovative plan proposes a new trail on the 35 acre reservation with exercise stations, the first dog park in the Town Of Stoughton, and a community garden.

The Stoughton Conservation Commission voted November 20, 2014 in favor of the report and to request \$32,000 for stabilization of the farm house repairs to the exterior of the dwelling, and to prevent degradation of the dwelling. An application requesting funding to finance the project under the Community Preservation Act was endorsed by Stoughton Community Preservation Committee. The allocation of the CPA funds is contingent upon to Town meeting approval.

d. Provision of Well-Maintained Recreation Facilities

Stoughton's Departments of Engineering, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, and Department of Public Works, along with the Stoughton Library and the Youth Commission, implemented mile long story walk trail from the Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground to Gilberts Quarry in 2012-2013. The project involved trail improvement and maintenance and the design and installation of approximately 25 pedestals and a new kiosk. Pages from environmentally-themed children's' books are placed in the succession of pedestals beneath plexi-glass frames.



In 2012-2013 as an Eagle Scout community service project, John Stewart Racicot coordinated the design and construction of a post and beam entrance gate to the new Glen Echo Conservation and Recreation Land near Glen Echo Boulevard as well as trail clearing and clean up of the 97 acre site. The project took 11 months to complete and nearly all 50 scouts from Boy Scout Troop 516 donated time. The scouts cleared fallen trees and trash from the trails. The Town looks forward to working with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other youth civic associations in the future.

Several Eagle Scout projects since 2007 at the Bradley M. Lessa Playground include a picnic area completed with a new paved patio, multiple picnic tables, and a fabulous new trail head showcase display.

The Town encourages future innovative service projects from the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and other youth civic associations in the future. Interested Parties should contact the Conservation Commission.

Playground improvements also occurred since the 2007 OSRP including improvements to Bradley M. Lessa Playground on the Libby Property and upgrades to the playground at Halloran Park.

In addition, the Old Colony YMCA expanded camp capabilities and space to accommodate nearly 400 children. An outdoor amphitheater was constructed along with a games area, and in the fall of 2013 a forested area was cleared to create a Story Book trail and outdoor library in the woods to encourage kids to embrace a love of literacy.

Currently, the Town employs an Environmental Affairs Officer that handles administration duties of the Conservation Commission, inspections, investigations and enforcement. They also provide support upon request, to the Capen Reynolds Plan use Development Committee and the Open Space Committee. The Recreation Department administers youth programming at the

Ames Long Pond swimming areas and other related programs. The Recreation Director is responsible managing the most of the Town's parks, athletic fields and recreational areas.

The Stoughton Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force was responsible for securing new bicycle parking racks at the Public Library, the Youth Commission and Council of the Aging, the O'Donnell Middle School and the Stoughton High School. A grant with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) funded the purchase of the Bicycle racks. Installation was contracted or performed by the DPW. Continued attention and cooperation from additional agencies needed to further support the modifications of the existing infrastructure to accommodate of bicycles for transit.

More staff is needed and the necessary supporting budget for the continued management and operation of our open space which are evolving into natural "Parks". Budgeting is necessary in order to secure open land acquisitions for prevention of pollution, preservation of wildlife habitat and a more successful cultural transformation to enjoying the outdoors.

Please see Appendix A for the ADA Inventory, which describes current accessibility to conservation and recreation areas.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

1. Public Survey and Public Forum

The Stoughton Open Space Committee (OSC) is responsible for making open space acquisition recommendations to the Town. Open space purchases are funded through Community Preservation Act funds and grant funding. For this 2013 OSRP update, each section was carefully reviewed and revised to provide an up-to-date inventory and assessment of open space and recreation resources, challenges and opportunities, and a realistic action plan for the future. In addition to contributions from local officials, town boards and key stakeholders, public input was integral to the planning process. Public participation was garnered through a community survey (available in Appendix B) as well as a public meeting held on March 1, 2016. The public survey was provided to the community in both hard copy and electronic format via a link on the Town of Stoughton website. The survey was widely distributed to the community through the following mechanisms:

- Mailing of a paper insert in customers' water bills with a link to take the survey online;
- Coordination with elementary school liaisons
- Hard copy versions of the survey were provided at the Town library.

The hard copy survey was also distributed at the communities Earth Day Celebration on April 26, 2014.

Notices regarding the survey, including a link to complete the electronic survey were provided via:

- Town of Stoughton website;
- E-mail distribution to all Town departments, Boards and Committees.

- E-mail distribution to all public school students/parents

The survey was available through summer of 2014. The input gathered from the community survey and public forum informed the community vision as well as the goals and objectives outlined in the 2017 OSRP.

The draft plan was discussed during a public Open Space Committee meeting on October 30, 2014 to review goals and objectives. Action items were then discussed at a second meeting on January 14, 2015. The complete draft plan was then presented at a public workshop held at Stoughton Police Department on March 1, 2016. The draft plan was also provided to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Town Planning Board, and Town Conservation Commission among other departments, committees and boards for letters of review in January 19, 2018. Written public comments were accepted by the OSC through March. Public comments were reviewed and integrated into the final draft 2017 OSRP.

The final draft 2017 OSRP was submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS) for review and feedback on March 31, 2017.

C. Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

The Town of Stoughton made every effort to include all citizens in the public participation component of the 2017 OSRP through the use of both hard copy and electronic surveys, which were posted in a variety of public places that attract all socioeconomic sectors. The public participation process for this OSRP update also used best practices and lessons learned from the Master Plan Update to engage environmental justice populations. To help engage one of the significant minority populations, the Brazilian community, OSC members and HW staff reached out to community leaders and local government liaisons (e.g., Council on Aging and Youth Services) that work regularly with this community. The public workshop was also held within one of the environmental justice communities at the Stoughton Police Department (see Section 3.C.6. Environmental Justice Populations).

SECTION 3. COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

The Town of Stoughton is located about 15 miles south of Boston within Norfolk County (Figure 3-1). Abutting are the towns of Canton, Avon, Sharon, Easton, Randolph, and the City of Brockton. The Town of Stoughton is located about 15 miles south of Boston within Norfolk County. Abutting are the towns of Canton, Avon, Sharon, Easton, Randolph, and the City of Brockton. Stoughton is a medium-sized, primarily residential, suburban community with growing ethnic diversity. The 2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates showed the town's population as 85% white, 10% black or African American, 3% Asian, and 1% some other race. 2016 estimates reported a decrease in residents identifying themselves as white (77%) and an increase in other races and ethnicities: 14% black or African American, 3% Asian, and 3% some other race. According to the Boston Globe (December 10, 2017), there are only four neighborhoods in the Metropolitan Boston area having a significant population of prosperous black residents. Two of those neighborhoods are in Stoughton. The Town is also seeing an increase in the Hispanic and Latino community, growing from an estimated 2.2% in 2010 to 4.1% in 2016.

Stoughton has a population of approximately 27,000 residents. It is an excellent place to live for those commuting to urban centers or other distant communities for work as there are three major highways within five miles of town: Route 24 to the east, Route 93 to the north, and Route 128/95 to the west. Stoughton Station is the terminus for the MBTA commuter rail into Boston. This easy access to convenient transportation for commuters is a significant factor contributing to the transformation of Stoughton's unsecured open space to commercial, industrial and residential development.

Regional recreational facilities and open space includes the 7,000-acre Blue Hills Reservation in Canton, Milton, and Braintree; the 1,300-acre Borderland State Park in Easton; the 347-acre Moose Hill Farm reservation in Sharon; and D.W. Field Park in Avon and Brockton. The Cedar Hill Golf Course, a public 9-hole golf course, covers approximately 77.5 acres on the south side of the community. A number of public and private golf courses are found in adjoining towns.

The town is located on the Neponset, the Fore, and the Taunton watersheds. It shares the Neponset River watershed with its neighbors Canton and Sharon. It shares the Taunton watershed with its neighbors Brockton, Avon and Easton. It shares the Fore River Watershed with Randolph and a portion of Avon. The preservation of undeveloped, clean natural watersheds is vital to the continued vitality of this community because it draws a significant portion of its water from drinking water wells, both municipal and private. Negotiations with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) have opened what was once considered exclusively an emergency water supply network to the community as a regular source of potable water. It is therefore reasonable to assume that a large portion of the community will continue to connect to this water supply as development continues. The arrangement with the MWRA specifies that existing municipally owned and operated public wells cannot be abandoned and replaced with an MWRA connection unless the well ceases to function or the water supply becomes unsuitable for consumption.

The location of Stoughton relative to Boston and several major transportation options has provided for a slowly shifting demographic in the community. What was once a mill-based local economy has gradually shifted to an area of more regional commercial significance with many workers commuting to and from the community. In terms of housing stock, Stoughton remains one of the region's most affordable towns and high levels of Comprehensive Permit applications indicate that the community will be restricting at least 10% of its housing stock to families of low to moderate incomes. In terms of occupational profile, Stoughton residents are consistent with the regional profile, with the greatest number of residents in managerial and professional occupations, followed by sales and office work and services (MAPC, 2004). The Community Development Plan developed by MAPC in 2004 states:

“The proportion of Stoughton workers in managerial occupations is considerably lower than the region's at 36%, even though that category grew more quickly in the 1990s in the town (34% versus 32% regionally). Growth in managerial and professional occupations is consistent with national trends toward “knowledge-based” work and services and away from production of goods. Production and construction categories declined in Stoughton in the 1990s but represent a larger proportion of the local workforce than region-wide.” (MAPC, 2004)

B. History of the Community

Prior to the colonization of Massachusetts by English settlers, the areas surrounding Boston were the territory of the Massachuset people who spoke a dialect of the Algonquin language group. The members of the tribe lived throughout the area and utilized various natural resources for hunting, fishing, planting and cultural activities. Inland areas within the watersheds of the Neponset, Charles, Taunton, Mystic and Merrimac rivers as well as areas bordered by inland ponds and lakes were widely utilized and were of particular importance during winter months. One of these areas included what is now the Town of Stoughton. Archaeological evidence indicates the use of the area for centuries prior to European settlement.

The expansion of English settlement beyond Boston proper and into the Town of Dorchester as well as into other surrounding areas disrupted the use of the lands by the original inhabitants.

Some members of the Massachuset tribe who were displaced by this expansion agreed to convert to Christianity and to move from areas immediately surrounding Boston to Praying towns removed from English settlement. In December 1657, a Dorchester Town Meeting set aside 6,000 acres of land for the formation of the Ponkapoag Praying town. This property, known as the Ponkapoag Plantation, extended south of the Blue Hills and included major parts of what are now the towns of Canton and Stoughton. . The English began calling the residents of Ponkapoag Plantation the Ponkapoag tribe. The residents of Ponkapoag Plantation cultivated their land with fruit orchards and manufactured shingles and harvested from their woodlots. English guardians, or trustees, were appointed to oversee the lands and harvests, and to safeguard the rights of the residents. However through many factors including deception, greed and mismanagement of many trustees most of the Ponkapoag Plantation was was lost by the Massachuset people and transferred to English control and ownership. During the 18th century, the English settlers brought in cows and sheep and grew vegetables in the rich loam soil. With this strong dependence on arable land, the farming community removed most of the forest. The deforested land became pasture and gardens. Today, old stonewalls remind us of that era.

In the late 1600s, Stoughton included what are now the towns of Foxborough, Sharon, Avon, Canton, half of Plainville, plus parcels of Dedham, Walpole, and Brockton. It was the last portion of that area to be settled by the English settlers who had been issued lots in the New Grant from the Town of Dorchester. At the dedication of the monument to the Isaac Stearns house, the first house built in Stoughton, circa 1716, Dr. Loring Puffer recounted how his great-great grandmother, Elizabeth Sterns Esty, described these primeval lands as filled with wide-based, tall trees and heavy undergrowth. The Indian trail into the woodlands was the Bay Path, now known as Old Bay Road, which linked the Massachuset lands north of the Blue Hills to their lands in the south.

Industrial development of the town started in 1814 using the water power offered by two main streams. A “Factory Village” sprung up in northwest Stoughton, but with the advent of electricity, the center of manufacturing shifted to the center of town. The town was a manufacturing community up to the early 1950s. With the passage of the Highway Transportation Bill of 1956 came the establishment of far-reaching roadway networks and the convenience of automobile travel. With easy access to major highways, the character of the town evolved to what it is today – a bedroom community.

C. Population Characteristics

1. Population Changes

Actual recorded population statistics show that Stoughton has experienced very little growth with regard to population, and a slight decline over the last decade (Table 3-1). Green field development and subdivision activity have continued through the past two decades and reflect general household trends in the eastern regions of Massachusetts, particularly those in close proximity to Boston. Specifically, household size has shown a consistent decrease in many parts of the region as couples are marrying later in life and having fewer children. As both men and women enter into more demanding jobs, average household size will continue to decrease and more land could be consumed “per person” if the standard single-family detached dwelling

continues to be the norm. In Stoughton today, the population generally lives in densities of one household per 40,000 square feet owing to historic Zoning Bylaw provisions. Areas of increase housing density have occurred in older neighborhoods and those being developed under Chapter 40B.

Table 3-1. Population Statistics for Stoughton, 1980-2020

Year	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020 (Est)
Population	26,710	26,777	27,149	26,962	27,561
% Change		0.3%	1.4%	-0.7%	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census; Old Colony Regional Planning Council (2012 CEDS)

In terms of the employment of Stoughton's population in the region, the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) described economic trends in the Old Colony Economic Development District as follows:

The District combines the old shoe manufacturing city of Brockton and surrounding towns with similar histories (Abington, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Stoughton and Whitman) with a group of outlying industrial/agricultural communities now becoming suburban. Plymouth contains an old manufacturing center in North Plymouth, now retail and office that was once home of the world-renowned Plymouth Cordage Company, as well as extensive outlying rural areas, which are now becoming suburban.

Similarly, the town of Stoughton northwest of Brockton has a dense urbanized center, a closed major shoe factory and surrounding suburban fringes. A number of the older towns such as the Bridgewaters have or had local factories. Some continue, but the general decline in manufacturing employment has left the local economy more dependent on lower paying retail and service activities, and on employment elsewhere in greater Boston or other labor markets.¹

2. Population Density

The approximately 16.3 square mile town has a year-round population density of about 1,654 people per square mile, which is indicative of a relatively densely populated area.

3. Age Profile

As can be seen in Table 3-2 below, the population of the town is getting older. The number of children under the between the ages of 5 and 15 decreased by about 11%, and the under 5 population decreased by about four%, between 2000 and 2010. This decrease in the youth population is of critical importance in planning educational services for the town. The number of what is generally considered to be "first time home buyers," ages 25 to 44, is also declining. The percent age of the population within the age range of 45 to 64 is the fastest growing segment, and the 65+ age group is also increasing.

¹ Old Colony Planning Council. *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Keeping Our Region Competitive* (2012), p. II-18.

Table 3-2. Age Demographics for Stoughton

Age Group	1990	2000	% Change (90-00)	2010	% Change (00-10)	2020 (Est)	% Change (10-20)
Under 5	1,745	1,522	-12.8%	1,456	-4.3%	1,258	-14%
5-14 years	3,166	3,546	12.0%	3,159	-10.9%	2,730	-14%
15-24 years	3,890	2,862	-26.4%	3,122	9.1%	2,985	-4%
25-44 years	8,829	8,266	-6.4%	6,644	-19.6%	6,708	1%
45-64	5,666	6,850	20.9%	8,162	19.2%	8,627	6%
65 & over	3,481	4,103	17.9%	4,419	7.7%	5,243	19%
Total	26,777	27,149	n/a	26,962	0.4%	27,550	n/a
Median Age	34.8	39.2	n/a	42.9	9.4%	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census, Town of Stoughton

These age trends have impacts on needs related to open space and recreation resources. For example, there may be more of a need currently for passive recreation opportunities for the town's adult population; whereas opportunities for children may be experiencing a lack of enrollment. Further, the acquisition of any open space areas for recreational uses must consider the needs of teenagers and adults in their early twenties, as well as adults over 45 and senior citizens, as those populations exhibit the largest growth.

4. Income

Income statistics provided below in Table 3-3, compare 2010 federal census figures with the prior decennial census averages. Since 2000, median family income and per capita income in Stoughton have increased significantly. Median family income in Stoughton is higher than the Massachusetts average median family income, although lower than Norfolk County. Per capita income in Stoughton was slightly less than the Massachusetts state average and the Norfolk County average in 2010.

Table 3-3. Income Statistics for Stoughton

	1980		1990		2000		2010		
	Stoughton	State	Stoughton	State	Stoughton	State	Stoughton	State	Norfolk County
Median Family Income	\$23,035	\$21,166	\$47,492	\$44,367	\$69,942	\$61,664	\$68,191	\$65,981	\$84,087
% Change	NA	NA	106.2%	109.6%	47.3%	39.0%	-2.5%	7%	NA
Per Capita Income	\$7,425	\$7,458	\$17,313	\$17,224	\$25,480	\$25,952	\$32,363	\$35,051	\$44,191
% Change	NA	NA	133.2%	131.0%	47.2%	50.7%	27%	35.1%	NA

Source: U.S. Census

5. Employment

There has been a national downward trend in median household income and employment over the last decade as a result of the national recession, housing crisis, and related factors. As can be seen in Table 3-4 which summarizes the town's average labor force and unemployment rates for calendar years 2004 through 2013, these trends have trickled down to the state and town.

Stoughton's 2013 unemployment rate (6.8%) is the same as the state average unemployment rate, and despite recent projections that the national economic conditions are improving, the high unemployment rates experienced in Stoughton and across the country have had important repercussions in all sectors of the economy and society over the last decade, including those related to open space and recreation. For example, high unemployment rates lower the economic well-being of the public and its ability to pay for goods and services, such as recreation fees and conservation-related contributions.

Table 3-4. Employment Statistics for Stoughton

Year	Labor Force	Stoughton Unemployment Rate*	Massachusetts Unemployment Rate*
2004	15,090	5.4%	5.1%
2005	15,043	4.8%	4.8%
2006	14,922	4.6%	4.8%
2007	15,056	4.3%	4.5%
2008	15,219	5.3%	5.3%
2009	15,098	8%	8.2%
2010	15,223	8%	8.3%
2011	15,186	6.7%	7.3%
2012	15,282	6.3%	6.7%
2013	15,641	6.8%	6.8%

Source: MA Department of Labor and Workforce

Table 3-5. Employment for Town of Stoughton, Norfolk County, and State of Massachusetts, 2000 and 2012

	State of Massachusetts		Norfolk County		Town of Stoughton	
	2000	2010	2000	2012	2000	2012
OCCUPATION						
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	41.1%	42.8%	48.1%	49.5%	36.3%	50.3%
Service occupations	14.1%	16.6%	11.2%	14.1%	12.7%	13.3%
Sales and office occupations	25.9%	24.2%	26.8%	23.8%	30.5%	24.4%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	7.7%	7.4%	7.0%	6.6%	8.1%	6.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11.3%	9.1%	6.8%	6.0%	12.5%	5.8%
INDUSTRY						
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Construction	5.5%	5.9%	5.5%	5.1%	5.8%	6.3%
Manufacturing	12.8%	9.9%	8.6%	7.2%	11.0%	10.2%
Wholesale trade	3.3%	2.7%	3.6%	2.5%	6.5%	3.2%
Retail trade	11.2%	10.7%	10.9%	10.3%	12.8%	10.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4.2%	3.8%	3.8%	3.5%	4.5%	3.3%
Information	3.7%	2.7%	4.2%	2.6%	3.7%	1.9%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	8.2%	8.1%	12.1%	11.1%	9.3%	10.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	11.6%	12.7%	13.6%	14.3%	12.6%	12.4%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	23.7%	26.7%	23.5%	27.8%	19.4%	25.5%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	6.8%	8.0%	5.9%	7.1%	6.7%	6.9%
Other services, except public administration	4.4%	4.5%	4.0%	4.2%	4.3%	5.2%
Public administration	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	3.3%	4.2%

Source: US Census 2000; US Census 2008 - 2012 American Community Survey

6. Environmental Justice Populations

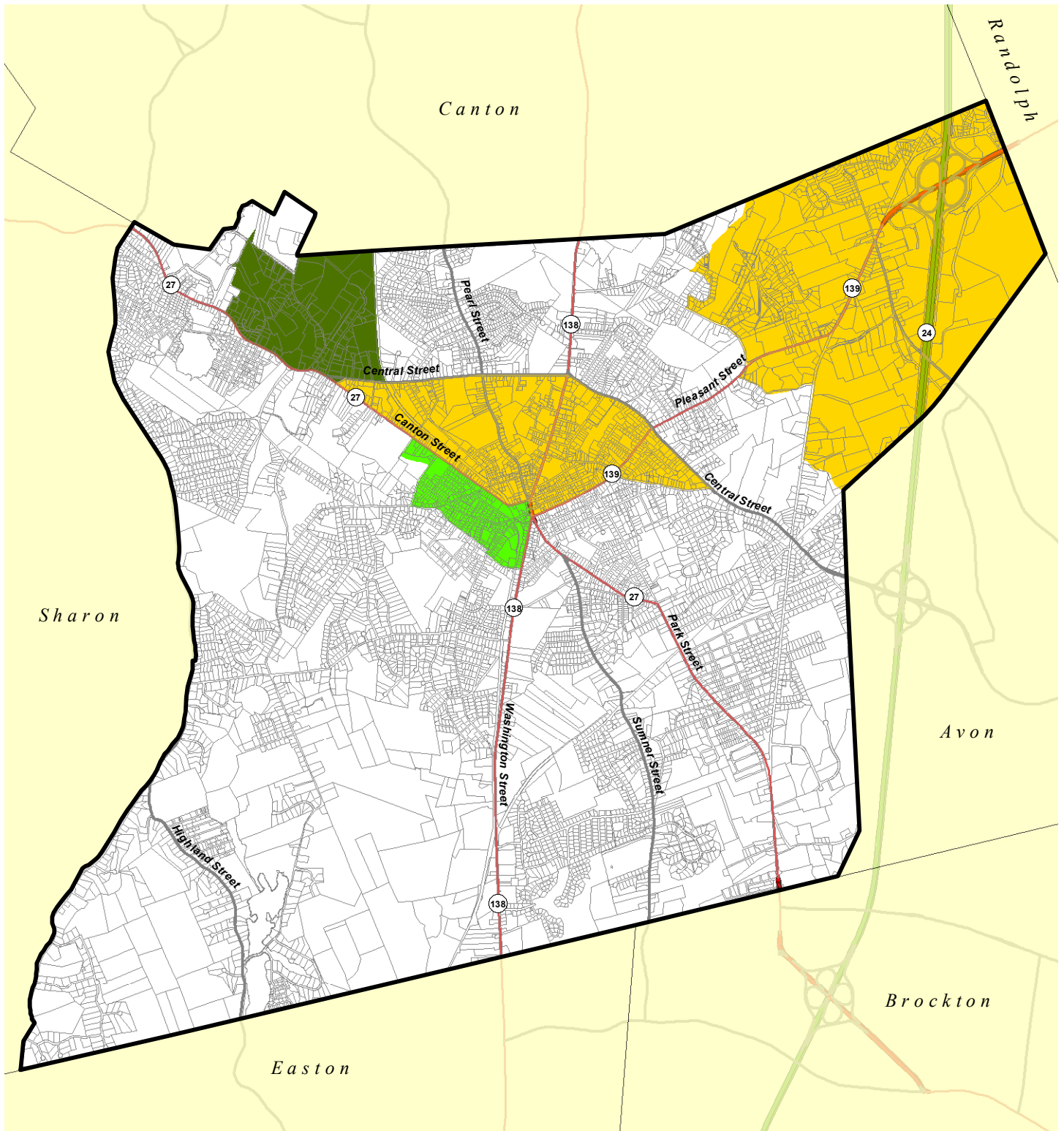
According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), “Environmental Justice (EJ) is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution, and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people with

respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits.”

The Massachusetts Environmental Justice Policy defines EJ populations as “those segments of the population that EOEa has determined to be most at risk of being unaware of or unable to participate in environmental decision-making or to gain access to state environmental resources. They are defined as neighborhoods (U.S. Census Bureau census block groups) that meet one or more of the following criteria:



- The median annual household income is at or below 65% of the statewide median income for Massachusetts; or
- 25 % of the residents are minority; or
- 25 % of the residents are foreign born; or
- 25 % of the residents are lacking English language proficiency.”

The Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS) has mapped environmental justice populations for all communities in Massachusetts. According to the mapping provided by MassGIS, Stoughton currently encompasses EJ populations according to the State criteria summarized above. As illustrated in Figure 3-2, populations that match the minority, income, and minority and income criteria for EJ classification reside in northern Stoughton.






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Legend

-  Town of Stoughton
-  Parcels

EJ Criteria, by Block Group

-  Minority
-  Income
-  Minority and Income

*2010 U.S. Census - Environmental Justice Populations, MassGIS 2012

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Environmental Justice 2010 Populations Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 7/10/2017

Draft - Figure 3-2.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

1. Patterns and Trends

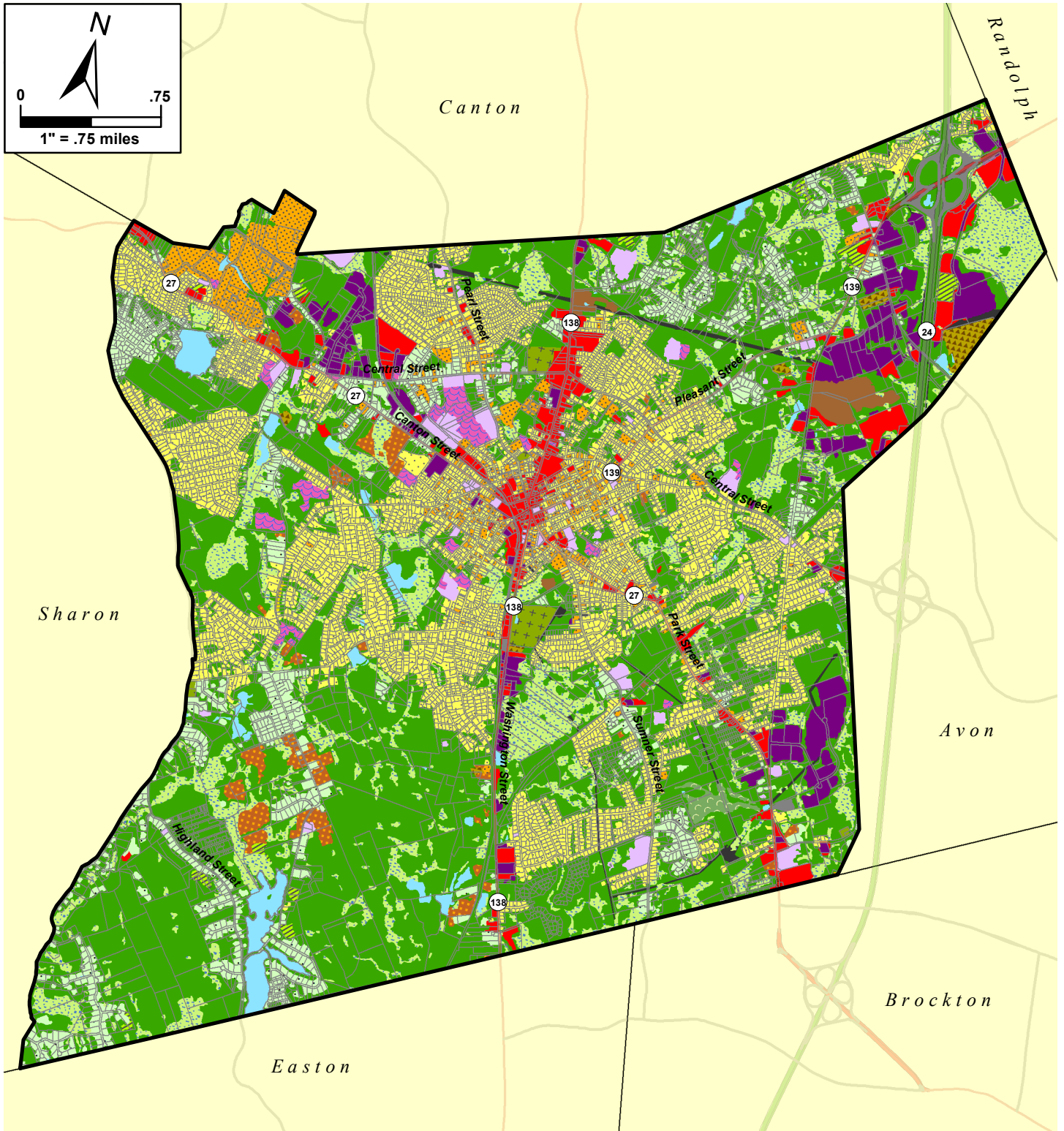
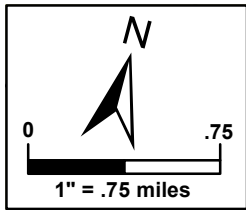
Stoughton is comprised of residential, commercial, industrial, public and recreational uses, and open land (Figure 3-3). According to 2005 data available through the MassGIS, approximately half (54.4%) of the town is undeveloped, which includes forested areas, wetlands, brushland and idle agriculture. Developed land includes residential uses (31.4%), commercial and industrial uses (7.9%), utilities and infrastructure (1.7%), public/institutional uses (1.5%).

There is not much productive agriculture left in Stoughton. Along West Street and on Plain Street there are also several property owners that house a small number of horses and at least one large scale farm housing 43 horses and offering horse training and riding lessons. On Bay Road is a small producing cranberry bog.

Significant areas of open space are in the southwest, west, and north of Stoughton. One of several departments in the town owns most of these parcels. The Conservation Commission controls a little over 1,200 acres. School and Recreation property amounts to nearly 320 acres and other miscellaneous Town-owned land covers just over 310 acres. The DPW manages another 300 acres (not including actual surface waters), either as water supply/watershed protection, or as parks and playing fields.

Industrial development in present Stoughton began in 1814 with the building of a mill located beside Steep Hill Brook in the northwest section of town. This mill was a major employer in the “Factory Village” section of Stoughton, manufacturing cotton and wool fabrics. In 1892, in conjunction with the Stoughton Water Commission, the firm developed two ponds for water power and to aid the Water Works Pumping Station. Other mills were established along the Steep Hill Brook with man-made ponds to provide water power. With the introduction of electrical power to the factories in the late 1800s, there was less need for locating plants near the waterways. As a result, several shoe firms were located near the center of town. Between 1865 and 1965, Stoughton was a major manufacturing community employing the majority of its residents.

Figure 3-3 shows several areas of industrial development in Stoughton. Commercial development, as shown on that same map, has tended to follow the major roadways. There are strip malls, restaurants, auto dealers, and smaller shops up and down Route 138 and along Route 27. Route 139 has not yet seen the same commercial pattern, primarily because the zoning remains mostly residential in keeping with the wishes of the homeowners in the area. The Open Space Committee considers it a high priority to keep this particular corridor primarily residential.



*Land Use, MassGIS 2005

Document Path: H:\Projects\2013\13075 Stoughton_OSRP_Update\GIS\Maps\Report_Maps\3-3_LandUse_.mxd

Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Town of Stoughton | Farmland | Transitional |
| Parcels | Cemetery | Urban Public/Institutional |
| Forest/Open Land | Golf Course | Commercial |
| Water | Recreation | Industrial |
| Wetland | Marina | Transportation |
| Saltwater Sandy Beach | Multi-Family Residential | Powerline/Utility |
| Cranberry Bog | High Density Residential | Mining |
| | Medium Density Residential | Waste Disposal/Junkyard |
| | Low Density Residential | |

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Land Use Map Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 12/28/2017

Draft - Figure 3-3.

Stoughton Square has historically been the center of local government and commerce. Town facilities such as the Library, Town Hall, Historical Society, the Housing Authority, several local churches, banks and the Post Office are located there. The street system essentially radiates out from the square. Development around Stoughton Square followed the dense village pattern from early times. Today, the square is densely developed with basically no open space in the square itself and only a few pocket parks within one-quarter mile. While some of the square's stores are not doing well, many are occupied and several have been updated – a trend likely to continue. Recent restoration of the area took place under a Public Works Economic Development (PWED) grant. In the area west of the square, several large former shoe factories still stand. Some of these have been redeveloped into secondary use; others remain sites for municipal concern.

Beginning in 1949, with the opening of Pinecrest Acres, a development of about 100 single-story “Cape-style” homes, Stoughton entered the post WWII building boom. The town transformed into a bedroom community. This was the first time that the town had to address issues of new building codes and zoning. The residential unit profile of the town today is a fairly large housing stock of older single-family houses, several large condo complexes in northwest Stoughton, and a surprising number of fairly large recent subdivisions given the water-supply emergency that has existed since the 1970s. The rapid development of new residential properties in recent years has led to the depletion of a great deal of open space.

In the early 1960s, the town established a Conservation Commission whose primary purpose was to have care, custody and management of the open land acquired by the town to prevent over development of housing and the consequential need for schools and public services. About the same time, the Industrial Development Commission and the Redevelopment Authority were organized. These two boards actively sought to retain some semblance of commercial growth in the town.

Table 3-6 is a breakdown of the most current land use data available from MassGIS (2005). According to the data, the predominant land cover in Stoughton is forest, followed by residential uses. Table 3-7 lists land uses in Stoughton using MacConnell Land Use Classification from 1971 to 1999. Prior to the 2005 data released by MassGIS, the MacConnell Land Use Classification was used. For both classification systems, the data are most useful for general planning purposes as they may have certain site specific inaccuracies relative to land use interpretation.

Table 3-6. Land Use Classification, 2005

2005 Land Use	Acres	% of Town Land Cover
Agricultural	129.16	1.2%
Cropland	30.40	0.3%
Nursery	4.84	0.0%
Pasture	93.92	0.9%
Commercial	382.87	3.6%
Commercial	382.87	3.6%
Industrial	451.00	4.3%
Industrial	388.79	3.7%
Junkyard	1.71	0.0%
Mining	60.50	0.6%
Other	84.10	0.8%
Cemetery	43.85	0.4%
Transitional (open areas in the process of being developed)	40.25	0.4%
Recreation	109.26	1.0%
Golf Course	24.54	0.2%
Participation Recreation	83.95	0.8%
Water-Based Recreation	0.78	0.0%
Residential	3,309.01	31.4%
High Density Residential	2.79	0.0%
Low Density Residential	703.14	6.7%
Medium Density Residential	2,219.08	21.1%
Multi-Family Residential	324.70	3.1%
Very Low Density Residential	59.30	0.6%
Undeveloped	5,725.02	54.4%
Brushland/Successional	11.88	0.1%
Forest	4330.16	41.1%
Forested Wetland	743.37	7.1%
Non-Forested Wetland	390.54	3.7%
Open Land (vacant, idle agriculture, rock outcrops & barren areas)	78.64	0.7%
Water	170.43	1.6%
Urban Public/Institutional	157.65	1.5%
Urban Public/Institutional	157.65	1.5%
Utilities/Infrastructure	181.50	1.7%
Transportation	83.45	0.8%
Powerline/Utility	59.41	0.6%
Waste Disposal	38.63	0.4%
Total	10,529.58	

Source: MassGIS

Table 3-7. MacConnell Land Use Classification, 1971-1999 (In Acres)

MacConnell Land Use Category	1971 Land Use	1971 % of Town Land	1985 Land Use	1985 % of Town Land	1999 Land Use	1999 % of Town Land
Agriculture	462.7	4%	372.1	4%	269.4	3%
Cropland	218.2	2%	148.7	1%	83.7	1%
Pasture	244.5	2%	223.4	2%	185.7	2%
Commercial	200.3	2%	231.7	2%	274.9	3%
Commercial	200.3	2%	231.7	2%	274.9	3%
Industrial	314.9	3%	481.7	5%	595.9	6%
Mining	155.1	1%	105.5	1%	68	1%
Industrial	159.8	2%	376.2	4%	527.9	5%
Other	271.2	3%	243.5	2%	210.2	2%
Urban Open (parks, cemeteries, public and institutional greenspace, vacant undeveloped land)	271.2	3%	243.5	2%	210.2	2%
Recreation	112.6	1%	125.8	1%	129.4	1%
Participation Recreation	112.6	1%	125.8	1%	129.4	1%
Residential	3,022.3	29%	3,445.3	33%	4,067.2	39%
Multi-Family Housing	38.5	0%	177.6	2%	217.7	2%
Housing at Less Than 1/4 acre	241.5	2%	241.5	2%	241.5	2%
Housing Between 1/4 and 1/2 acre	2,204.5	21%	2,378.4	23%	2,820.7	27%
Housing Over 1/2 Acre	537.8	5%	647.8	6%	787.3	7%
Undeveloped	6,008.20	57%	5,489.30	52%	4,831.10	46%
Forest	5,302.7	50%	4,790.2	45%	4,128.5	39%
Wetland	226.3	2%	227.9	2%	227.4	2%
Open Land	305.1	3%	296.3	3%	298.5	3%
Open Water	174.1	2%	174.9	2%	176.7	2%
Utilities/Infrastructure	138.1	1%	137.5	1%	148.7	1%
Transportation	121.8	1%	132.3	1%	126.7	1%
Waste Disposal	16.3	0%	5.2	0%	22	0%
Total	10,530.50		10,530.50		10,530.50	

Source: MassGIS

There are slight differences in how land uses are classified, the use of different land use categories, and the improvement of photogrammic imagery to accurately interpret land uses for the 2005 data. However, from a planning perspective, general categories of land uses can be compared. In looking at both tables, these data demonstrate a steady increase in residential development over the past four decades.

One of the primary concerns with continuing development trends in Stoughton is the continued push into marginal lands that abut protected resource areas. Many of these lands have recently come under pressure from Comprehensive Permit applications and illustrate the dangers of allowing development to encroach closely on areas with sensitive wildlife habitat or wetland resources. Also, some of the larger remaining undeveloped lands in Stoughton represent a valuable opportunity to connect existing greenways. Fragmentation of wildlife corridors is therefore a primary concern within this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

2. Infrastructure

e. Transportation System

Stoughton is situated in the greater Brockton Area and is located between Route 24 to the east, Route 93 to the north and Route 95 to the west. These routes provide easy, well-integrated access to airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence. Stoughton's principal highways are State Routes 24, 27, 138, and 139. These routes are generally in good condition affording easy access to most parts of town. A few local streets, e.g., West Street in the western part of town, are very narrow. These could be inadequate for significant new subdivisions, but such limitations would not necessarily prevent development. The major problem with Stoughton's transportation system is that Routes 27, 138, and 139 all converge at the center of town. At rush hour, the volume of traffic overwhelms the square.

Pedestrian and bicycle options are limited. Sidewalks exist in business areas and in newer neighborhoods, but not along many of the older, narrower roads. At the same time, there are few pedestrian/bikeways connecting subdivisions to other neighborhoods, schools, parks, stores or other destinations. As a result, pedestrians and bicyclists must go along busy narrow roads to get to destinations which would otherwise be reached by safer, more direct and more pleasant routes. J.H. Gibbons and Joseph R. Dawe, Jr. elementary schools both have participated in the Safe Routes to School program to improve walking and biking for students. Additionally, the Old Colony Planning Council regularly conducts a Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Livability Study and is currently undertaking surveys for their most recent efforts. In its 2013 study,² it made several recommendations to improve walking and biking in Stoughton, including improvements to crosswalks and street lighting as well as locations for new sidewalks.

Railroad service from Canton came to Stoughton in 1845 with the organization of the Stoughton Branch Railroad. The Ames family of Easton financed the expansion of that line to Easton in 1854 and, in 1865, services to Braintree was established. The Braintree services ceased in 1938 and 1958 saw the last train to Easton. Today, Stoughton receives MBTA commuter rail services to its 110-year old historic terminal station. The trains run at frequent intervals, taking the passengers to Boston in about 40 minutes. There are approximately 400 commuter parking spaces adjacent to the station. There are some users of rail freight service located along the central portion of this line.

²

http://www.ocpcrpa.org/docs/projects/bikeped/2013_Bicycle_and_Pedestrian_Connectivity_and_Livability_Study.pdf. Obtained January 19, 2018.

f. Water Supply Systems

Water is supplied by a tubular well field with six gravel packed groundwater wells. Supplemental water is purchased from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). Some Stoughton residents purchase water from the towns of Canton, Easton, Randolph, and Sharon where the town water distribution system does not extend. Certain residents of Canton and Sharon beyond their town system limits limitations also purchase water from the Town of Stoughton.

Data from 2011 indicate that Stoughton's Water Department, with assistance of the MWRA Canton connection, supplies a total of about 695 million gallons of water per year. Average daily consumption is about 1.9 million gallons per day, with the highest day of consumption (August 31, 2011) totaling about 2.5 million gallons. Under the existing agreement with MWRA, the town is required to pay for 500,000 gallons of water per day from the MWRA source and it is the DPW's objective to ensure that at least this much is withdrawn. The supply and distribution system consists of seven recovery sources of drinking water as referenced above, one green sand filtration treatment plant, four storage tanks with a capacity of approximately 14 million gallons, one MWRA supplementary connection, and about 148 miles of distribution mains, and operates on one pressure zone. The town also maintains three emergency inter-municipal connections (Canton, Easton and Sharon).

Groundwater quality and quantity remain important issues when considering open space management and acquisition. Beyond issues of community drinking water supply, Stoughton lies on the divide of the major watersheds, the Taunton River, Neponset River and Fore River Watersheds. The degree to which land use can impact groundwater quality within the community will therefore potentially have regional impacts for communities downstream in these drainage basins.

g. Sewer Service

Approximately 60% of the buildings in town are on the municipal sewer service; the remaining stock is serviced by on-site septic systems. Residential and business developers have easier access to sewer service in Stoughton than to the municipal water system. All of this water leaves town to be processed by the MWRA, effectively transporting water from one watershed to another. This inter-basin transfer prevents wastewater effluents from recharging the municipal water supply via natural filtration.

3. Long-Term Development Patterns

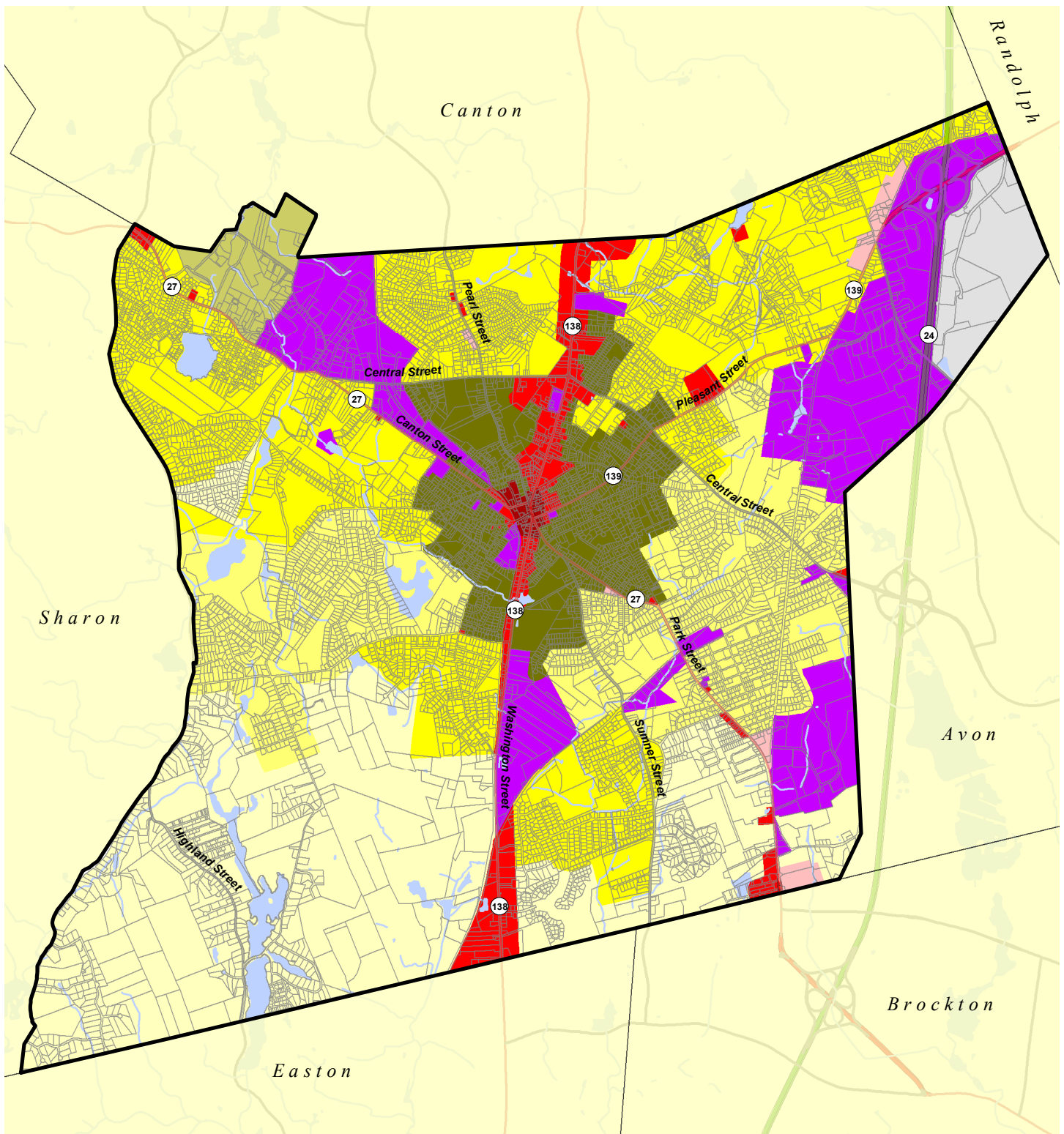
a. Zoning

The town has implemented specific land use controls to minimize the impacts of future development on natural resources. Table 3-8 outlines the town's current zoning districts, and Figure 3-4 shows the town's zoning districts geographically (this is not an official zoning map). Specific overlay districts and bylaws are used by the town to minimize impacts to natural features and gain protected open space and recreational resources.

Table 3-8. Stoughton Zoning Districts and Minimum Lot Size

District	Minimum Lot Size (square feet)
Residential Suburban A	55,000
Residential Suburban B	55,000
Residential Suburban C	40,000
Residential Urban – Two Family	35,000
Residential Urban – Single Family	25,000
Residential Urban	35,000
Any other permitted use	
Residential Multifamily	
Apartment house	12,000 per dwelling per unit +2,000 per bedroom per dwelling unit
Residential Multifamily	
Rowhouse, townhouse, condominium	
Residential Multifamily	
Any other permitted use	
Central Business District	2,500
General Business District	10,000
Neighborhood Business	10,000
Highway Business	20,000 +3,000 per unit
Hotel and Motel	
Highway Business	20,000
Any permitted use	
Industrial	80,000
Cluster Residential Development	30,000
Stoughton Center Mixed Use Overlay District	10,000

The Stoughton Center Mixed Use Overlay District covers the Town Center including portions of the Central Business District (CBD), General Business (GB) district, Industrial (I) district, and Residential Urban (RU) district. As an overlay district, the district does not restrict uses that are already permitted in the underlying zoning district.



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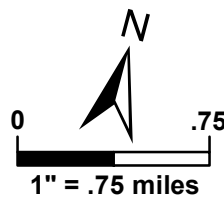
Legend

- Town of Stoughton
- Parcels

Zoning Districts

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Highway Business | Neighborhood Business |
| Central Business District | Industrial |
| General Business | Residential-Suburban A |
| | Residential-Suburban B |
| | Residential-Suburban C |
| | Residential-Multifamily |
| | Residential-Urban |

*Zoning, Town of Stoughton



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Zoning Town of Stoughton, MA

This is not an official zoning map.

Date: 12/28/2017

Draft - Figure 3-4.

The Town of Stoughton Hazardous Materials, Groundwater Protection By-Law prohibit certain land uses in Aquifer Protection Districts, restrict others, and make many commercial, industrial and residential owners modify their property to comply with the bylaw. As a result of the severe limitations on the availability of town water, residential development has been limited to areas where water can be produced by private wells. In an effort to preserve open space and accommodate the town's water restrictions, the lot size in the outer, more rural areas has been increased from 40,000 to 55,000 square feet.

Another provision found in the Town of Stoughton's Zoning Bylaw that is specifically designed to encourage alternative patterns in land use development is their Cluster Residential Development Bylaw. The Cluster Residential Development Bylaw describes the process by which a cluster subdivision may be approved by the Planning Board. The bylaw has seldom been applied and, by design, does not adequately address the development concerns of the community. For example, the minimum land area size for a cluster development is 30 acres and the style of development specified under these provisions is single-family detached dwellings. The minimum area requirement makes it a challenge to apply creative subdivision techniques to many of the buildable parcels in the community. Furthermore, the density and dimensional regulations preclude the use of tightly clustered homes such as town houses or other units that would benefit from the "zero lot line" approach where side yard setbacks are eliminated.

In the 2007 OSRP, it was recommended that the Town of Stoughton consider the use of an Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) Bylaw as a replacement for the existing Cluster Residential Development Bylaw. The 2007 OSRP recommended an approach that could potentially apply to any subdivision in the community and would follow the classic four-step OSRD approach of:

- Identifying existing natural and cultural resources on the site including wetlands, vernal pools, significant trees or forested areas, views, or historic sites. Exclude these from developable areas.
- Placing houses on the plan so that residents would have optimized access to the resources identified in step one without encroaching on any sensitive areas. Similar to cluster development, the number of homes allowed on the site is determined by the number that could be allowed under the original zoning provisions.
- Laying out a road that would service the homes laid out in step 2 above.
- Drawing lot lines on the plan.

This type of approach has been instituted by over a dozen communities in Massachusetts to date with notable success in Newbury, West Newbury and Hopkinton.

By virtue of its layout, Stoughton has many excellent opportunities for what many planners consider to be "smart growth" development. The commercial center of the community, for example, has a high concentration of small-scale retail establishments that could effectively foster a "village center". The presence of the MBTA close to the center of Town provides further opportunity to develop more of an activity center where commuters can enjoy access to commercial amenities and existing public transportation. Enhancing the development potential at the existing community center would also have a direct impact on the Town's capacity to

preserve tracts of unprotected open space that will inevitably feel the pressures of an aggressive housing market. To this end, the Town of Stoughton adopted Article XVI for the Stoughton Center Mixed Use Overlay District (SCMUOD) in 2006 and amended the Bylaw in 2010.

SCMUOD covers the Town Center including portions of the Central Business District (CBD), General Business (GB) district, Industrial (I) district, and Residential Urban (RU) district. SCMUOD does not restrict uses that are already permitted in the underlying zoning district, but if the property owner elects to use the SCMUOD for development purposes, the owner must comply with the requirements of the overlay district in addition to the underlying zone.

SCMUOD was established for the accomplishment of the following purposes:

Maintaining the cultural and architectural integrity of the Center;

- Promoting a range and balance of residential and commercial uses in the Center;
- Promoting efficient use of land within the Town;
- Facilitating integrated physical design and synergies between activities;
- Facilitating an increase in the variety of housing stock available in the Center;
- Enhancing vitality in the Center during both daytime and nighttime;
- Promoting a pedestrian-friendly living and working environment that encourages transit use and bicycling;
- Facilitating economic development of the Center while remaining consistent with the established design guidelines and sensitive to environmental impacts;
- Encouraging building reuse and appropriate infill development; and
- Promoting innovative and sustainable building and site design.

Recent legislation and policy initiatives passed at the state level should be explored to assess the potential for transferring development from outlying areas in the community to established urban centers. One such piece of legislation is the Chapter 40R “Smart Growth District” enabling statute. This law allows qualifying municipalities to delineate a Smart Growth District in which minimum housing densities and affordability thresholds can be implemented to increase density where appropriate, provide a mix of uses, and increase the inventory of affordable units within the community. One of the explicit goals of the program is to alleviate development pressure on existing tracts of open space that would be more valuable to the community if left undeveloped. As such, the Town of Stoughton should consider whether selected areas with the SCMUOD might qualify for Chapter 40R zoning provisions.

Another important consideration for the community is the large amount of land currently enrolled in the Chapter 61 program. Under the Chapter 61 program, lands currently used for forest, agriculture or recreation can receive tax breaks as long as the land remains the same use. This program makes it easier for landowners to maintain these uses, which are beneficial to the community, without being burdened by excessive property taxes. If the owner plans to sell the land, he or she must notify the Town and the Town then has the right of first refusal to purchase the property. If the owner plans to convert the land to another use (e.g. residential), the Town has the right to make an offer to purchase the property at a fair market value as determined by an

independent appraisal. Stoughton currently has 72 acres of land classified as Chapter 61 and 61A, most of which lies in residentially zoned areas of the community.

The Chapter 61 land in Stoughton potentially represents a significant level of future development within the community. Further, due to the high price of real estate in this area of the Commonwealth, it may not be feasible for Stoughton to buy all of the Chapter 61 lands that enter the market in the coming years. As a result, it may be wise to institute zoning controls or incentives that provide more options to potential developers of these tracts. For example, the town may want to consider a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program in which the development potential that exists under current zoning for Chapter 61 lands could be “sent” to another zone in town. This “receiving” zone would be better suited for higher densities and could then be built out beyond the potential already provided by existing zoning. In other words, the development potential from the “sending” zone is used to increase the development potential of the “receiving” zone. As mentioned above, the downtown area of Stoughton and perhaps the adjacent neighborhoods may be well-suited to increases in density due to the existing commercial center and the MBTA station.

b. Buildout Analysis

The most recent buildout analysis performed for the town of Stoughton is the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEA) buildout analysis performed in 2000. This buildout analysis projects the results of development on all existing unprotected open space. Assuming no change to current zoning, that EOEA analysis predicted an additional 772 homes being constructed beyond the year 2000. According to the EOEA analysis, that development would add 324 students to Stoughton’s schools, add 12 miles of new roads, and demand close to one million more gallons of water per day. As of 2000, the density of school age children in Stoughton was 0.55 per household. If this density were to remain constant, the number of actual school age children that would result from the development of 772 homes would be 425.

Because much of the new growth in Stoughton would occur in the Ames Long Pond area, a new elementary school and a new fire substation might be needed. Because West Street in that part of town is narrow, widening that road for improved safety becomes a possible need, which would result in increased traffic and noise on what is now a rural road. It is important to note that there has recently been a significant number of Comprehensive Permit (Chapter 40B) Applications submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals. These applications have typically proposed development on what the EOEA analysis would have considered “undevelopable land” based on zoning or environmental constraints. As a result, it is important to understand that the EOEA number could significantly underestimate the impacts of Chapter 40B development on the town from a buildout perspective.

SECTION 4. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Geology and Soils

1. Geology

Stoughton and the rest of southeastern Massachusetts were blanketed with glacial ice sheets. As the ice retreated, it revealed the region's characteristic north-south drumlins and the area's present north-south drainage patterns. At least one pond, Glen Echo Lake, deciduous hardwood swamps, heath bogs, landscape in the town are associated with ground moraines created through natural geological processes associated with glacial recession. Most ponds are mill ponds. Glen Echo Lake and Muddy Pond may have glacial "kettlehole" characteristics.

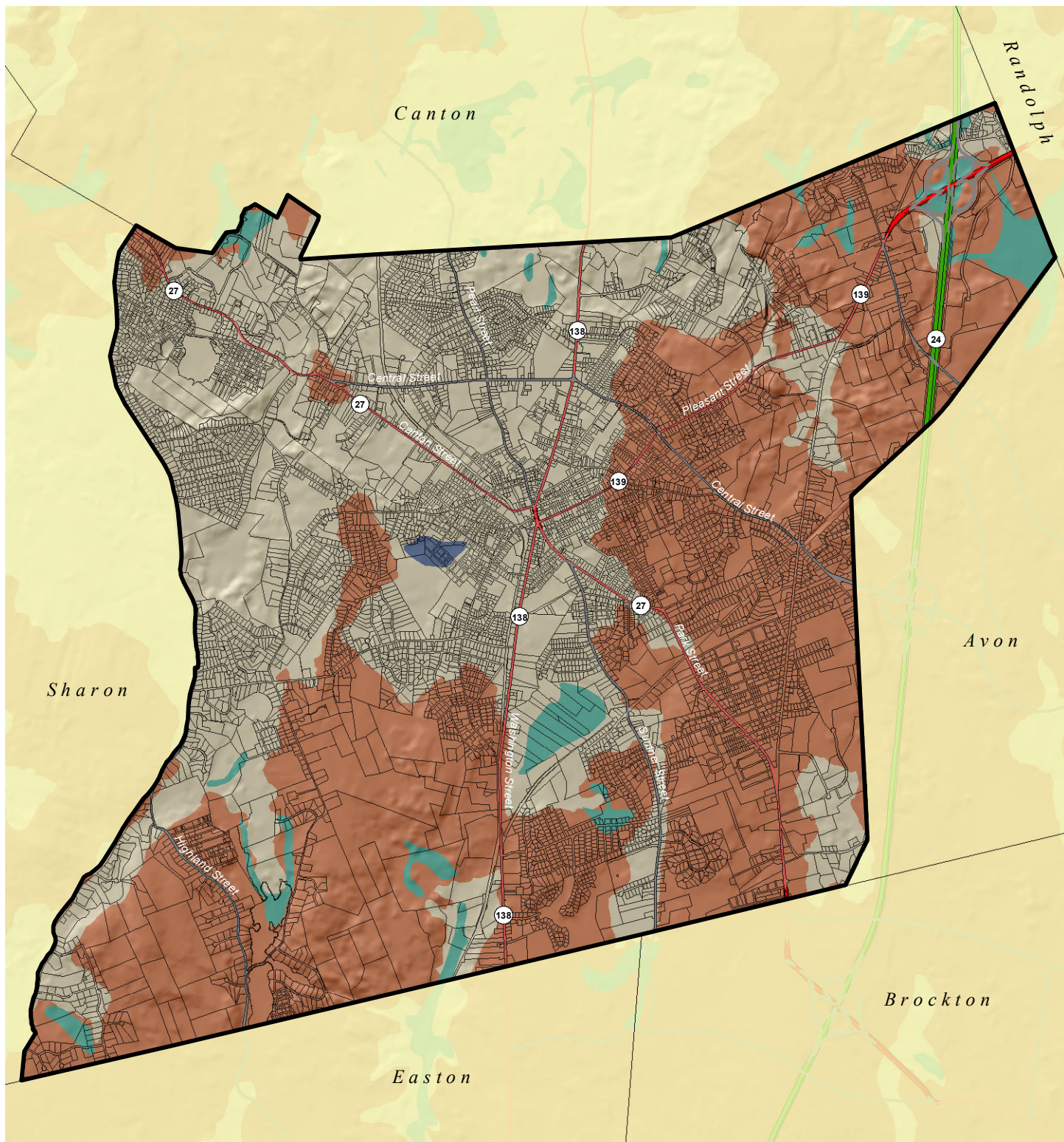
Today, the underlying rock formation of the town is largely igneous in origin. It predominates in the northeast and southwest parts of town where it alternates or mingles with severe shallow hardpan. As expected, there are major outcroppings of ledge and very rocky areas that result in some interesting and scenic sites as well as presenting difficult construction conditions. Of special interest is an outcrop off Pleasant Street in North Stoughton known as *Indian Kettle*, as illustrated in Figure 4-1. The historic Stoughton Railroad Station was built with local granite.

2. Soils

Soil types for the Town of Stoughton have been mapped and described by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and MassGIS. Maps and interpretative data indicating the limitations of individual soil types for different land uses such as on-site sewage disposal facilities, homesites, and woodlands, are available for review through the NRCS or MassGIS. Figure 4-1b depicts Stoughton's soils.



Soils are important because they influence the ability of different parts of town to be developed due to their suitability for on-site sewage disposal. Soil association patterns can therefore help to anticipate development potential of new construction. These layers were used to develop new summaries for the community and new constraints mapping (Figure 4-2).

The overall soil and geologic profile in Stoughton can make it more difficult to develop, but not a degree that is severely limiting. Disposing of wastewater and stormwater in areas of high groundwater and blasting bedrock for the purposes of establishing new foundations is not uncommon within the Town and simply requires more sophisticated and/or invasive engineering practices. On the other hand, the presence of bedrock outcrops and wetlands have provided many excellent opportunities to develop trail systems in conservation lands.



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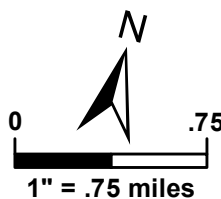
Legend

-  Town of Stoughton
-  Parcels

Surficial Geology

-  Sand and Gravel Deposits
-  Till or Bedrock
-  Fine-Grained Deposits
-  Floodplain Alluvium

*Surficial Geology, MassGIS



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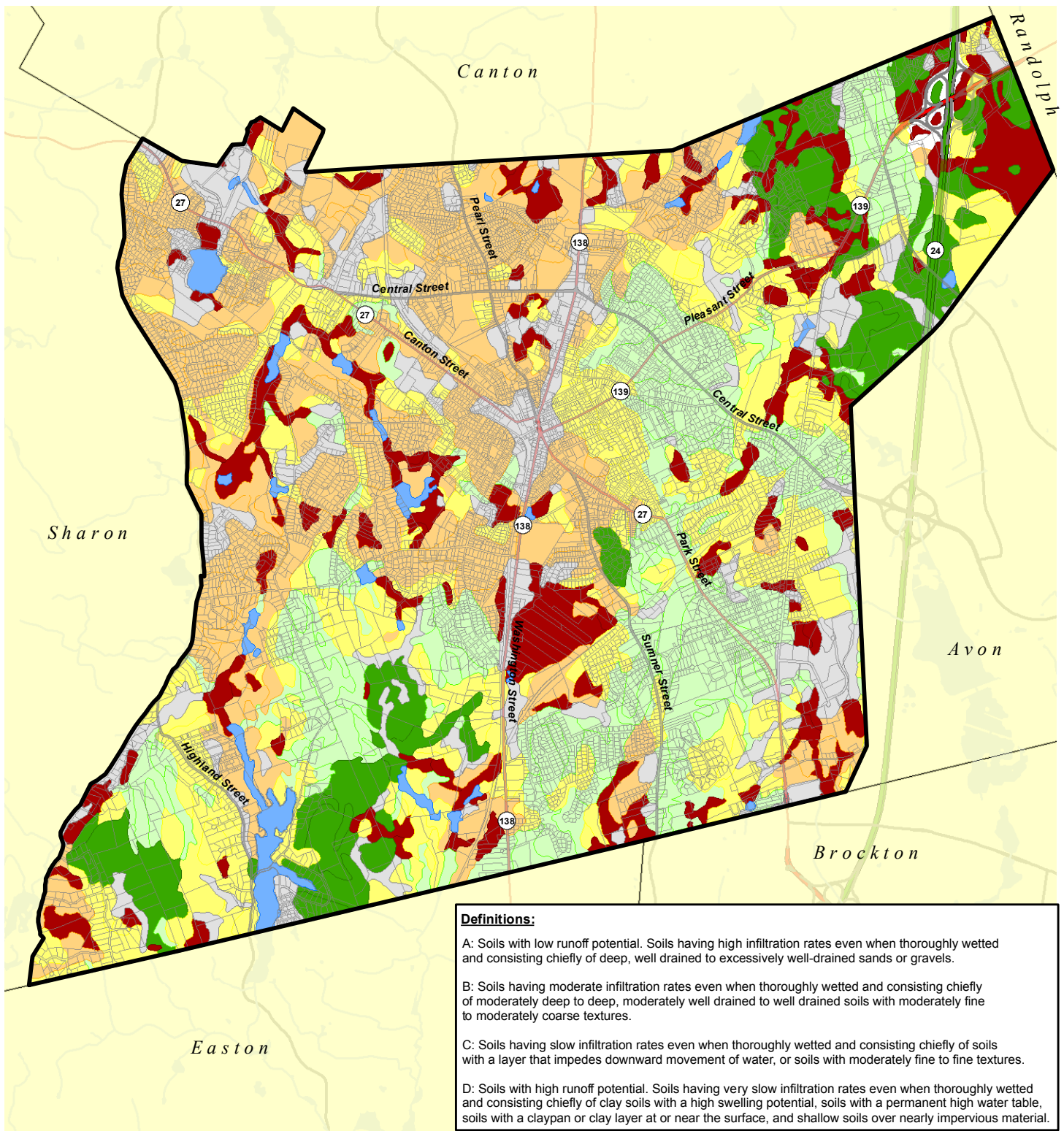
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Stoughton Geologic Features Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-1.



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Legend

- Town of Stoughton
- Parcels

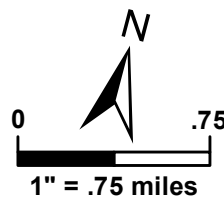
Hydrologic Soil Group

- A
- B
- C
- C/D
- D
- NA
- Water

*Soils - NRCS SSURGO -
Certified Soils, MassGIS 2012

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Stoughton Soils
Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-2.

B. Topography

Stoughton is considered a “top-of-the-watershed” community. As such, the precipitation that falls on land within Stoughton runs off into the surrounding towns. There are two different major river basins accepting Stoughton’s runoff: the Taunton River Basin, and the Neponset River Basin. Stoughton’s general elevation above sea level ranges from 128 feet near Central Street in West Stoughton, to 335 feet off Highland Street and Bay Road. Although this community is relatively flat, with no notable hills, the town is not low down on the coastal plain.

The most variation in topography occurs in the west and southwest sections, particularly around Ames Long Pond. Highland Street, Bay Road and West Street pass over and through some interesting slopes, as do some areas near Sumner Street. Both areas have been impacted by development, and a very large house now tops the highest point in town, the hill west of Ames Long Pond, with views of Boston.

Fortunately for lovers of natural scenery, the steep slopes and hills around Chemung Hill, off Chemung and West Streets, have mostly been protected from development by town ownership and the presence of the important Harris Pond Public Water Supply tubular well fields. This dramatic hilly terrain is crisscrossed by walking trails, indicating its frequent use by Stoughton’s citizens.

West Stoughton also has some steep slopes off Island Street, and as buildable land gets scarcer, rocky slopes are likely to be impacted. In recent years, the steep slopes off Sumner Street have seen two new subdivisions. The west facing steep slope at the north basin of Ames Long Pond is densely developed with the Chapter 40B housing development, The Village at Ames Pond on Conservation Way.

The remaining undeveloped and unprotected land in Stoughton tends to fall in one of two groups: active agricultural land of varying soil type, and ledge-filled boulder-covered wetland and buffer zone lots. There are exceptions to this generalization, but many of the remaining large privately owned parcels contain significant amounts of bedrock, impervious soils and/or wetland, making them relatively difficult to develop. Marginal lots have, however, recently been targeted by Chapter 40B developers who have the option to waive local regulations over these lands including setbacks, which may have precluded development in the past.

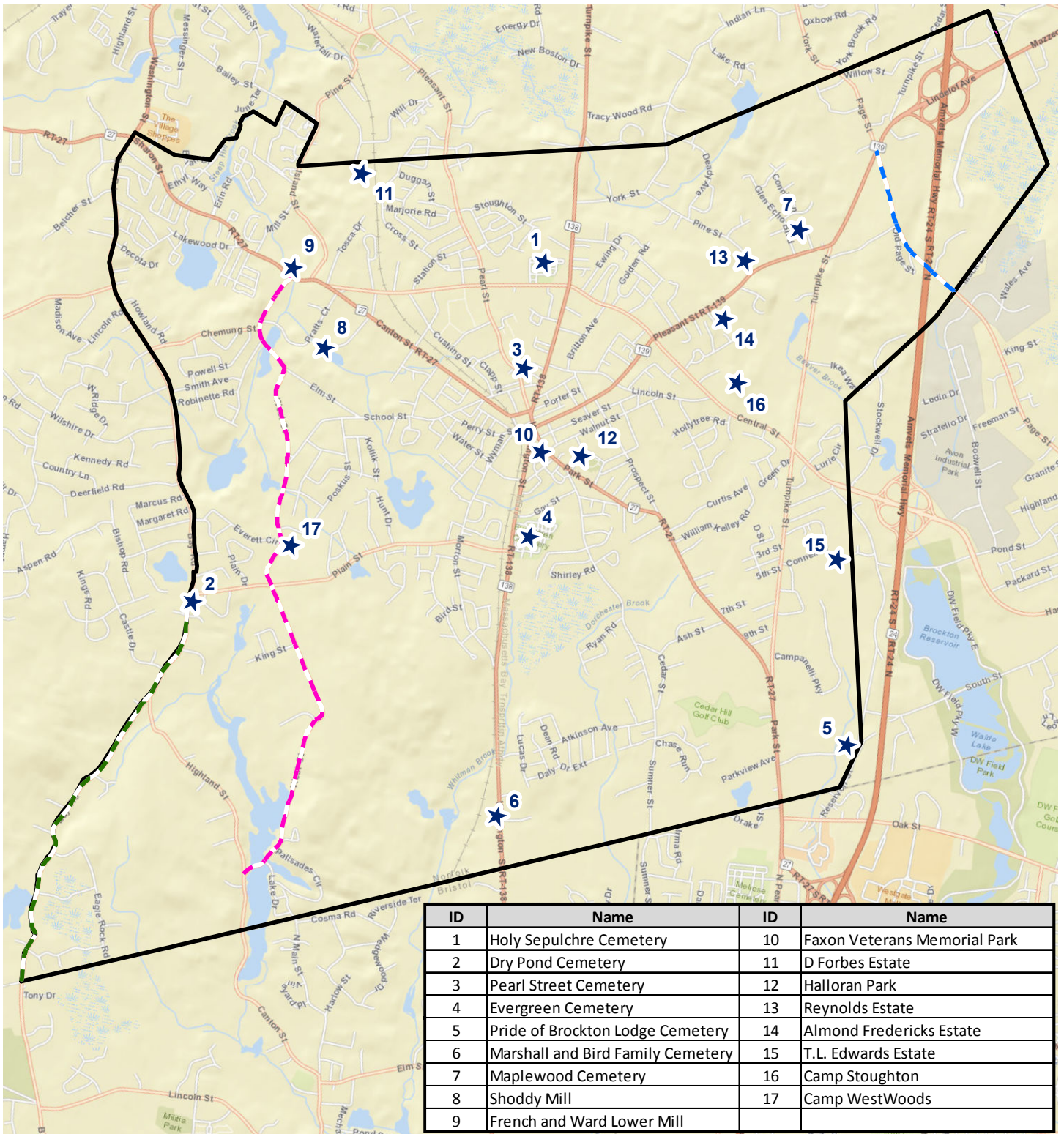
1. Landscape Character

Stoughton’s gently rolling terrain has been significantly and widely altered by human activity since its settlement in 1716. As with much of Massachusetts, essentially every timber tree was cut for lumber, and the rest soon followed as settlers cleared land for farming or firewood. Farmed land saw some of its slopes and elevations change as stump removal and several generations of plowing smoothed the land out. Some sections of Stoughton contained admirable varieties and quantities of granite, and the remnants of quarries can be found in the current woods. When large segments of the East’s population moved West in the great expansions of the late 1800’s, Stoughton’s forests began to gradually make a comeback, wherever the land was not further altered. As Stoughton’s society became more mechanically inclined, wholesale

alterations of the landscape became more commonplace. Instead of farmers with plows and loggers with saws, the agent of landform change became people with bulldozers, backhoes, and giant dump trucks. Stoughton is not the only town with the remnants of sand and gravel excavations scattered around it, and the town also hosts two large sand and gravel pits in different industrial zones. The present landscape character blends the remaining undeveloped forested rocky slopes with interspersed old fields, wetland tracts, and highly urbanized areas.

Stoughton began combating the expected changes in its landscape by acquiring nearly 1,000 acres of open space during the 1960s and 1970s, when a few foresighted and influential Conservation Commissioners and town meeting members saw that “they weren’t making any more land,” so the town had better buy some before it was all gone. With a plan for building a few large nuclei of preserved open space around town, the commission successfully lobbied for and received donations of land, as well as seeking and receiving town funds and state grants to purchase many important parcels. During the 1980s and 90s, the combination of decreasing governmental funds and escalating land prices forced the Commission to stop pursuing the purchase of the remaining large parcels of land, and many are now gone forever under buildings and asphalt. A map of remaining unique features is included as Figure 4-3.

In an effort to slow down development pressure Stoughton increased the square footage required to build in residential zones (Table 3-8). In 1993 and 1997, changes were made in required lot size, so that in the Town’s Residential Zone RA, the smallest allowable lot is 55,000 square feet. Stoughton’s densest residential zone, RM, requires 12,000 square feet plus 2,000 square feet per bedroom. In addition, the requirements associated with Title V for septic systems, along with compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town’s Wetlands Protection Bylaw, make placing house lots on some of the rockier rural sections of town more restrictive, and sometimes impossible. Stoughton’s zoning bylaw does have a cluster or village zoning provision, but it is rarely used, and while open space has been preserved, the village appearance desired from the use of this special zoning provision has not resulted. A more detailed discussion of the Town’s Zoning Bylaws is presented in Section 3.



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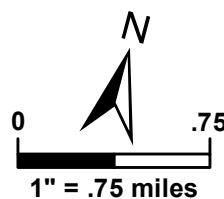
Legend

Town of Stoughton

Scenic Roads

West Street
 Page Street
 Bay Road

*GIS Data, Town of Stoughton & MassGIS



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Stoughton's
Unique Features
Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-3.

C. Water Resources

1. Watersheds and Surface Waters

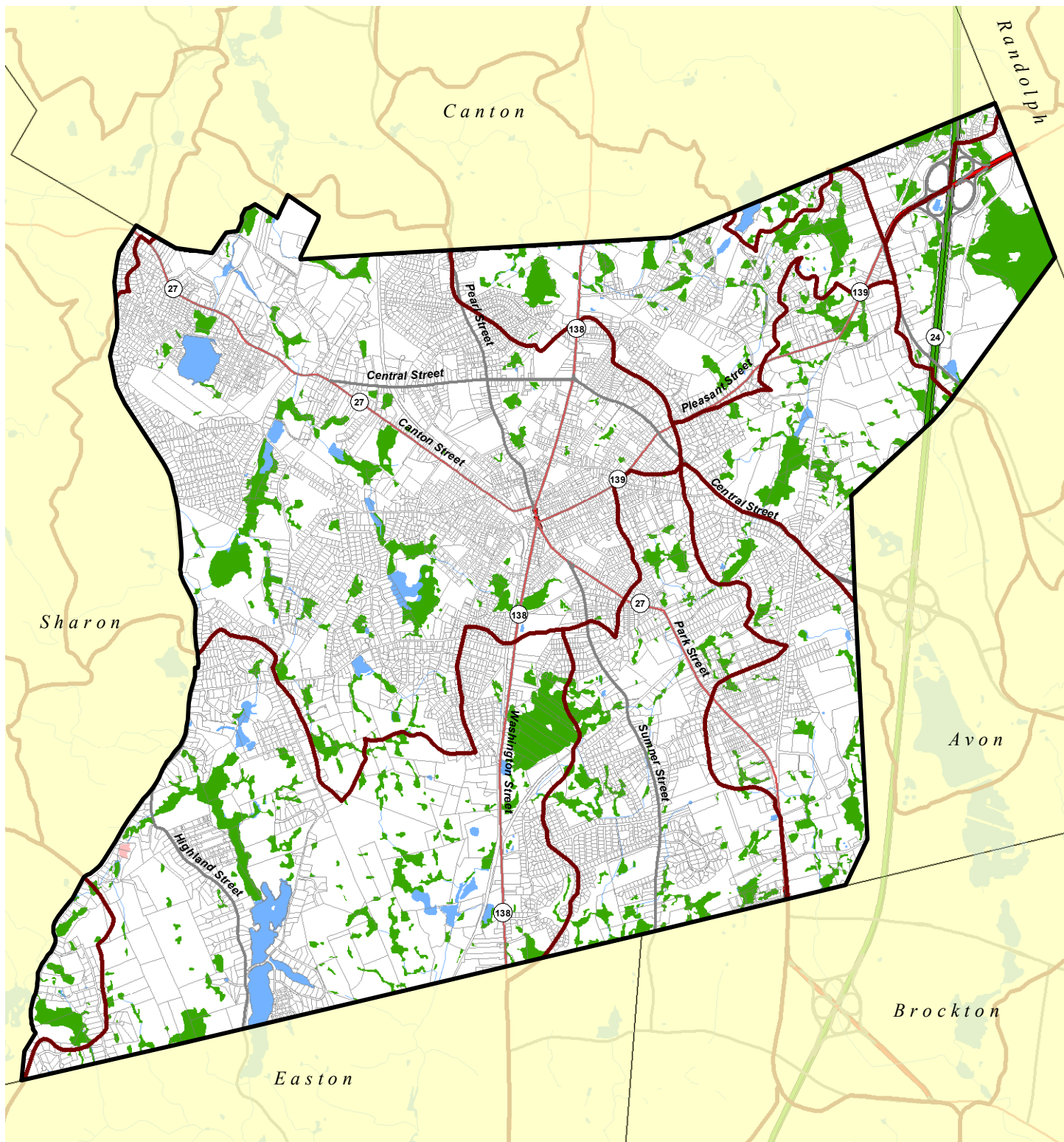
The Town of Stoughton straddles two major watersheds: the Neponset River Basin and the Taunton River Basin. The northeast corner of town lies within the Weymouth River subwatershed, which drains uplands off towards Bear Swamp, through several wetland systems. The southern part of town, which lies within the Taunton River Watershed, feeds wetlands through Dorchester Brook, Lovett Brook, Beaver Brook, Whitman Brooks and their minor tributaries, including several small pond systems and Ames Long Pond. Ames Long Pond is a former stream (Trout Brook) dammed in the early 1800s to produce water power for the Ames shovel factories in Easton. The Neponset River Watershed contains Steep Hill Brook and its tributaries, Redwing Brook (Beaver Meadow Brook), Knolls Brook and Green Brook. At the uppermost reach, they feature Harris Pond (also known as Pinewood Pond) and a host of other smaller ponds, millponds and adjacent wetland systems along these streams. Figure 4-4 depicts water resources within the Town of Stoughton.

Recreation on Stoughton's water bodies is pretty much limited to canoeing, swimming, ice skating and fishing. Limitations in the ability to enjoy these activities are restricted to the extent that the lakes suffer negative impact from the overgrowth and infestation of invasive exotic aquatic vegetative species. Waterfowl hunting on Stoughton's small ponds tends to produce public complaints, so this form of recreation is uncommon. The ponds are designated as B recreational waters, suitable habitat for wildlife and aquatic life, and for primary and secondary contact recreation.

Prior open space plans have listed Stoughton's ponds as all man-made. Due to the heavy use of ponds for recreation and the high value placed on these surface waters by residents, it is essential that Stoughton works to protect the water quality of these resources. Recharge from nutrient enriched groundwater and stormwater runoff can severely impact water quality in ponds and increased levels of vegetation have occurred in Stoughton's important ponds, including:

- Ames Long Pond
- Harris Pond
- Muddy Pond
- Town Pond
- Pinewood Lake
- Glen Echo Lake
- Denison's Pond
- Wood's Pond
- Knollsbrook Pond

Restoration of ponds should begin with an inventory of outdated stormwater management practices that could be upgraded by the Town or by private developers in the near future. Table 4-1 lists Stoughton's water bodies.



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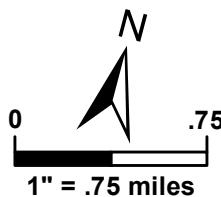
Legend

- Town of Stoughton
- Parcels
- Drainage Sub-basins

DEP Wetlands

- Surface Water
- Wetlands
- Rivers/Streams
- Cranberry Bog

*Water Resource Data, MassGIS



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Stoughton's Water Resources Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-4.

Table 4-1. Summary of Existing Surface Waters in Stoughton

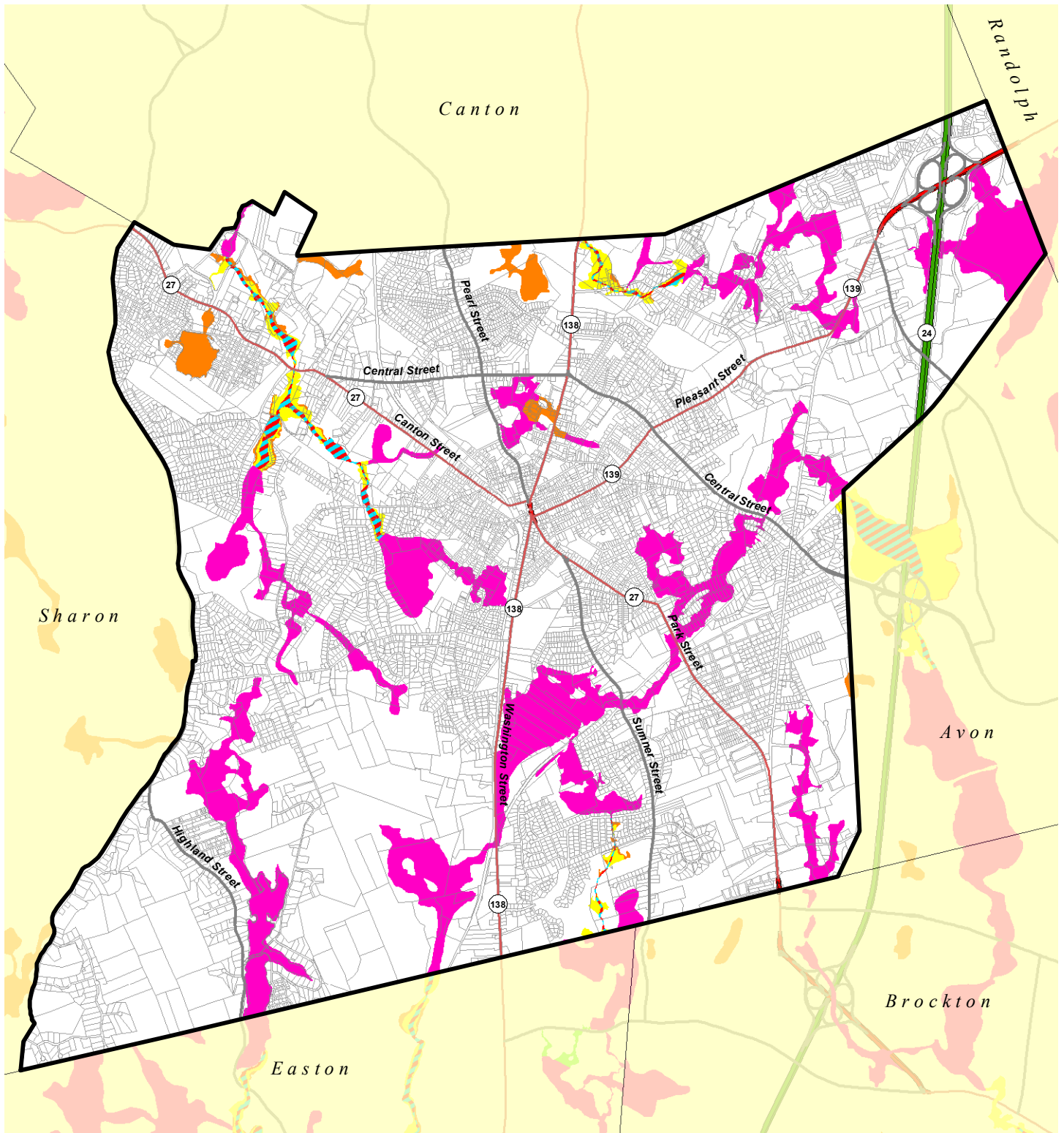
Pond	Acres	Recreational Access	River Basin
Farrington's Pond (AKA Denison's Pond)	3.5	Yes	Neponset
Woods Pond	30.0	Yes	Neponset
Britton's Pond	3.0	No	Neponset
Southworth's Pond	3.5	No	Neponset
Muddy Pond	2.8	No	Neponset
Town Pond	9.0	Yes	Neponset
Pinewood Lake	23.0	Partial	Neponset
Glen Echo Lake	16.0	Yes	Neponset
Unnamed (Turnpike St.)	3.0	No	Taunton
Ames Long Pond	106.0	Yes	Taunton
Bird St. Connor Pond	0.75	Yes	Taunton
C.W. Welch's Pond (Stoughton F&G)	14.0	Partial	Taunton
Totman's Pond (Stoughton F&G)	5.0	Partial	Taunton
Parent's Pond (Cedar Hill Golf Course)	0.75	No	Taunton
Snow's Pond (off Park St.)	5.0	No	Taunton

There are no brackish, tidal, or coastal waters in Stoughton.

2. Flood Hazard Areas

In the mid 1970s, Stoughton had a detailed hydrological study done of the entire town. The resulting maps were placed on mylar overlays and incorporated into Stoughton's zoning wetland protection bylaw in 1976. For each wetland and waterway, no matter how small, Stoughton produced an expected flood elevation, shown on the official maps on file with the Town Clerk, Town Engineer, and Building Inspector. Some wetlands either drain so well, or are so small, that they have no significant flood zone, even under strict Town guidelines. The town's intent in producing these maps was to go one step further than FEMA mapping in protecting Stoughton citizens or potential citizens from flood damage.





Stoughton also refers people to the FEMA maps for official designation of major flood hazard areas. Updated FEMA maps for Norfolk County were issued in November 12, 2012. These updated maps provide better controls for development and can be used to target stormwater management techniques such as compensatory storage for development within a floodplain. These maps also mandate existing households to acquire appropriate insurance from the National Floodplain Insurance Program. Figure 4-5 depicts Stoughton's flood hazard areas.






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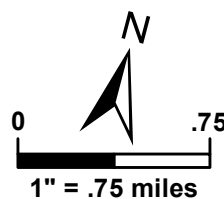
Legend

*FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer, MassGIS

-  Town of Stoughton
-  Parcels
-  AH: 1% Annual Chance of 1-3ft Ponding, with BFE
-  X: 0.2% Annual Chance of Flooding

FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer

-  A: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, no BFE
-  AE: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding, with BFE
-  AE: Regulatory Floodway



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Stoughton's Flood
Hazard Areas
Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-5.

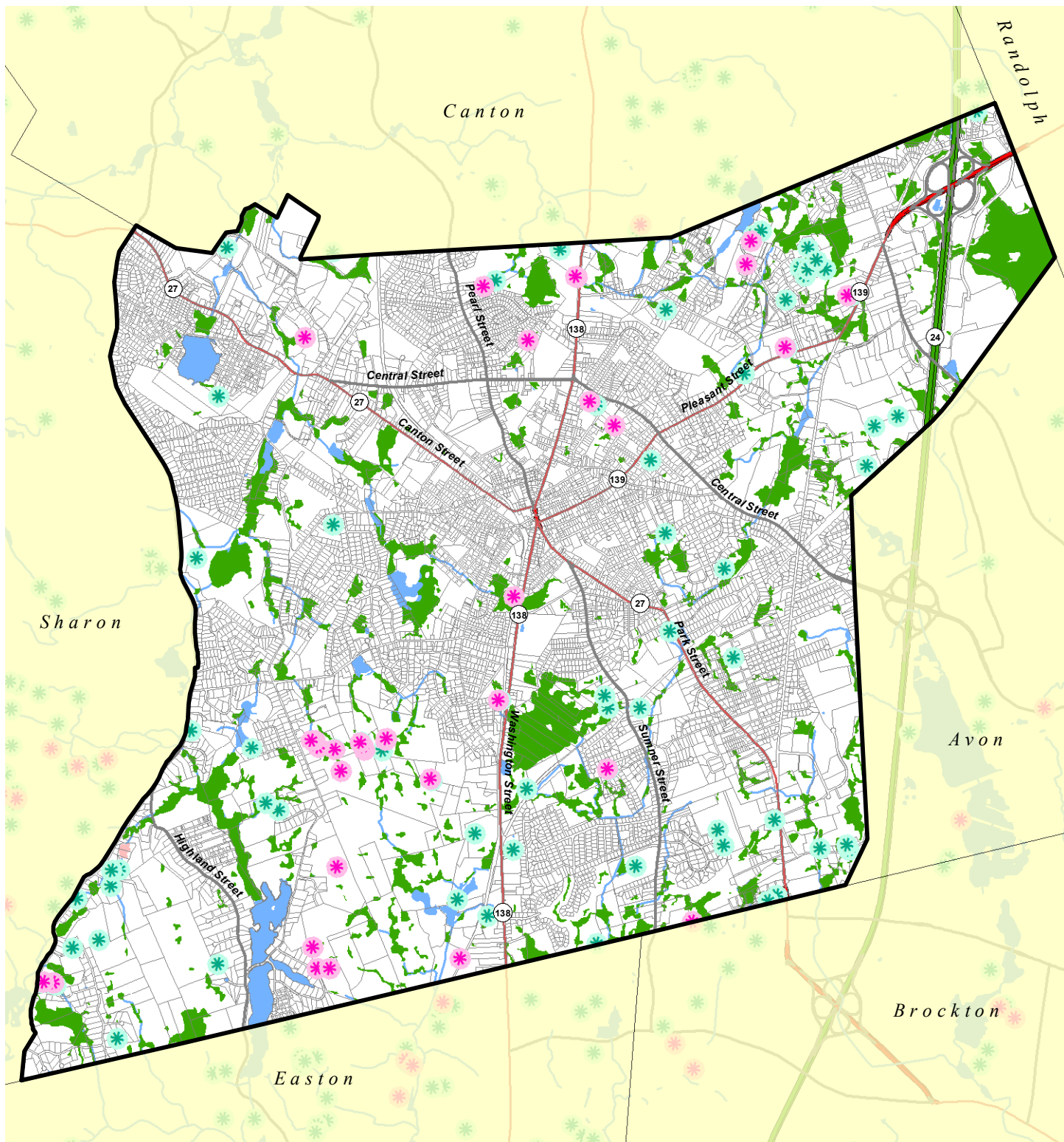
Stoughton's local regulations include the protection according to flood areas and wetlands by the wetlands protection provisions of the Zoning By-Law (within Section III.E Flood Hazard, Wetlands, and Watershed Districts within the Zoning By-Law) and the stand alone Chapter 191 of the Town Code, the Non-Zoning Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Although the present Wetland District provisions within the Zoning Bylaw do defer to "all federal, state, or local regulations governing construction in Flood Hazard or Wetland Areas," the existing language can cause confusion. There are, for example, provisions within the bylaw that potentially conflict with state level protections and Stoughton's "stand-alone" Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Ch. 191). Chapter 191 was amended November 12, 2012. The Stoughton Zoning By-Law Section III.E provides another local regulatory layer for flood zones, including not only the same protection from alteration as the Wetlands Protection Act, like compensatory flood storage for unavoidable fill, but also creating a 100-foot buffer zone around all land subject to flooding (Watershed District), requiring a Conservation Commission filing for any proposed alterations within this zone. The Town of Stoughton should cross examine its local wetlands regulations to ensure the two documents do not conflict with each other or with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

3. Wetlands

Most New England communities have variations in terrain that cause the region's abundant precipitation to flow in temporary or permanent channels, gather in ponds or lakes, or settle in low spots long enough to produce wetlands. Stoughton's wetland communities are mostly wooded swamp or shrub swamp, with a scattering of meadow-emergent marsh communities, and quite a few small isolated pockets, many of which are vernal pools. As previously mentioned, as an inland community, Stoughton does not have brackish, tidal, or coastal waters, including salt marshes. Figure 4-6 shows Stoughton's wetland resource areas.





Because Stoughton is a long-settled community, many wetland areas have trails, cart paths, or roads running through them. Therefore, many of the Town's wetland resource areas are impacted by off road vehicle abuse and the associated erosion, siltation, and habitat disturbance. Under the Commonwealth's Wetlands Protection Act any ATV use within a resource area that damages soils or vegetation would be considered an "alteration" of the resource area and is therefore illegal. Concurrent with the development of this plan, local police and the Conservation Commission are working to develop a regulation that would bolster the Town's capacity to police these areas and enforce restrictions on inappropriate use.

As previously mentioned, the Town amended the local Non-Zoning Wetlands Protection By-Law Regulations (Chapter 191) in 2012 to protect wetlands, related resources, and adjoining land areas in Stoughton. The regulations benefit the following protected interests of the Massachusetts Inland Wetlands Protection Act and the Non-Zoning Wetlands Protection By-law including:







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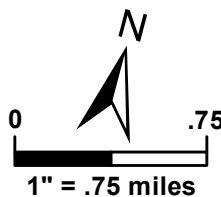
Legend

-  Town of Stoughton
-  Parcels
-  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
-  Vernal Pools Pending Certification

DEP Wetlands

-  Surface Water
-  Rivers/Streams
-  Wetlands
-  Cranberry Bog

*Resource Areas, MassGIS



Stoughton's Wetland Resource Areas Town of Stoughton, MA

Date: 3/15/2016

Draft - Figure 4-6.

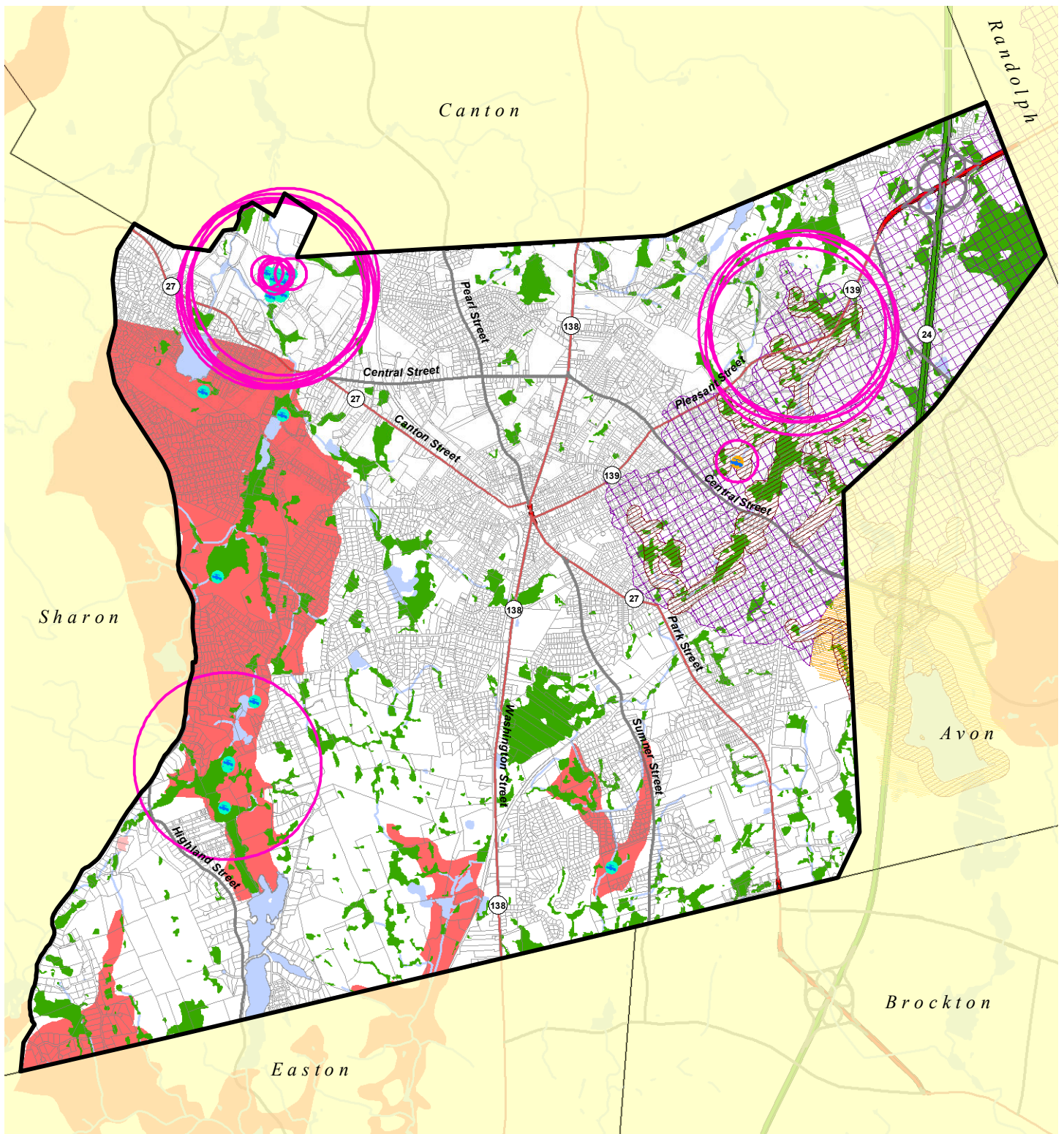
- Protection of public water supply
- Protection of private water supply
- Protection of groundwater supply
- Flood control
- Storm damage prevention
- Prevention of pollution
- Protection of fisheries
- Protection of wildlife habitat

In addition, recreation, and aesthetic values will be greatly enhanced.

There are numerous vernal pools and seasonal wetlands in Stoughton. Vernal pools deserve special treatment and should be protected by certification. In the spring, these ephemeral pools teem with animal diversity, including a number of arthropod, crustacean, or amphibian Obligate or Facultative Vernal Pool indicator species. By drying up in the summer, these small bodies of water cannot support fish. Thus it is one of the few places constituting a “niche” where many species of frogs, salamanders, and fairy shrimp can breed and be safe from fish predation. Additionally, for these animals to survive through their entire life-cycle, studies show the surrounding upland habitat should be protected generally within a radius of up to 350 feet. This distance has been shown to be adequate to protect these fragile areas from excess nutrient loading, groundwater depletion, water pollution, stormwater inputs and other stresses that may result from development. Figure 4-6 shows Massachusetts National Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) certified vernal pools as well as those submitted by the Town and are pending certification.

4. Aquifer Recharge Areas

The Aquifer Recharge Areas and Zones of Contribution to public water supplies are shown on the Groundwater Protection Map and are associated with the Town of Stoughton Board of Health Hazardous Materials, Groundwater Protection By-law (on file with the Town Clerk, The Engineering Office). This map is used to administer Stoughton’s Groundwater Protection By-law, which restricts certain land uses in aquifer recharge areas (Aquifer Protection Districts). Zones of contribution on file with the DEP (Zone IIs) include contributing areas for seven wells in Stoughton. Two Zone II areas from Easton and Sharon also extend into Stoughton, as illustrated in Figure 4-7. These areas and other water resource features are depicted on Figure 4-4 and Figure 4-6. Interim well head Protection Areas for Non-community Wells which constitute Publically Protected Water Supplies, Include Green Brook Condominiums, Copperwood Condominiums, and Bishop’s landing.



Document Path: H:\Projects\2013\13075 Stoughton_OSRP_Update\GIS\Maps\Report_Maps\4-7_DWSW_ProtAreas.mxd

Legend

- Town of Stoughton
- Parcels

Public Water Supplies

- Community Groundwater Well
- Non-Transient Non-community
- DEP Approved Zone IIs

Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPA)

Surface Water Protection Areas

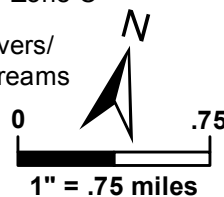
- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C

DEP Wetlands

- Surface Water
- Wetlands
- Cranberry Bog

Rivers/
Streams

*Protection Areas, MassGIS



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**Stoughton's Drinking
Water Supply Wells and
Protection Areas
Town of Stoughton, MA**

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-7.

D. Vegetation

Past community-wide inventories of vegetation in Stoughton date back to 1980 when all of the forested areas were generally characterized by hardwood/softwood composition and maturity. Although no comprehensive forest area inventory has been performed since then, many of the mature areas of pines and hardwoods remain intact with occasional clearings for new commercial or residential development.

Stoughton's upland forests contain the expected mix of hardwoods and softwoods. There are Red, black, and White Oaks, Shagbark and Pignut Hickories, some Bigtooth Aspen and Quaking Aspen, some American Beech, a few Elms, and plentiful remnants of the struggling American Chestnut. Conifers include White Pine, Red Cedar, Eastern Hemlock, and some patches of Atlantic White Cedar.

As previously mentioned, most of Stoughton's wetlands are Red Maple (Mesic) wooded swamps, open meadow-marsh habitats, shrub swamps, and an extensive distribution of vernal pools. NHESP has identified several protective plant and species for the Town of Stoughton (Table 4-2).

Table 4-2. NHESP Plant Listings for the Town of Stoughton

ScientificName	CommonName	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Toothcup	Endangered (E)	Historic
<i>Cyperus houghtonii</i>	Houghton's Flatsedge	Endangered (E)	1928
<i>Carex polymorpha</i>	Variable Sedge	Endangered (E)	1930
<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i> ssp. <i>philadelphicum</i>	Philadelphia Panic-grass	Species of Concern (SC)	1931
<i>Potamogeton confervoides</i>	Algae-like Pondweed	Threatened (T)	1972
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Great Laurel	Threatened (T)	2009

Source: MA Division of Fish and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>, obtained February 25, 2015.

Many of the forested areas in Stoughton include forested wetlands and riverine communities. For the development of the 2007 OSRP, Janice Stone of UMass Amherst conducted a vegetation mapping effort. Working from the most recent color aerial photographs, Ms. Stone identified the extent of three important vegetative communities in Stoughton: 1) Acidic Peatland Systems include evergreen forest and shrub bogs; 2) Grasslands; and 3) Riverine Communities including floodplain and alluvial forests, riverside marshes and shrub swamps. The peatland systems, including clusters of Atlantic White Cedar, covered approximately 36 acres. Grasslands covered over 200 acres and riverine communities covered close to 140 acres.

As noted in prior sections, the southwest section of town is the most rural and undeveloped, and most of the remaining forestland, and virtually all of the largest tracts of forests, are in Southwest

Stoughton. Most of these trees grow on land managed by the Stoughton Conservation Commission (Bird Street Conservation Area) or are protected by conservation restrictions. Some of the remaining forest is under Chapter 61 protection and may be more readily purchased than some other tracts. At present, southwest Stoughton may contain close to 1,000 acres of contiguous forest, much of it protected from alteration. This is the most significant forested area in Stoughton. There is room for hunting, hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, nature study, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, picnicking and camping. These areas are also used for school instruction in the fields of archaeology, geology and biology.

There are fairly large blocks of forested land in Cedar Swamp in east central Stoughton, in north Stoughton near the York St. wells (owned by the Town of Canton), and on Chemung Hill. The Chemung Hill and York Streets areas are both under municipal protection for water supply resources and both are augmented by Stoughton Conservation Commission controlled land, leading to greater protection of these forested areas. Both these areas contain upland forest as well as red maple wooded swamp. Cedar Swamp is partly in Stoughton Conservation Commission control, partly in municipal ownership for water supply, and partly intended for acquisition for water supply. In spite of its name, the Cedar Swamp properties contain upland as well as forested wetland areas. The portions expected to be acquired appear to be mainly red maple swamp where forested. Priority will be given to those parcels that enhance the wildlife corridor across the southern portion of Stoughton.

For many years, the Stoughton Conservation Commission had been trying to maintain the old hay fields at the Bird Street Conservation Area as open fields. Studies of the indigenous wildlife have been performed to determine the proper time to mow these fields and volunteer labor has been provided. It has been determined that the best time to mow is after the blue birds fledge in mid to late June. These fields are the location of nine nest boxes installed in the fields in the northeast portion of the Conservation east of Leo P. Green Veterans Memorial Monument Park and west of the Town of Stoughton standing pipe serving the municipal water distribution system. The nest boxes were installed, routinely inspected during the breeding season, and maintained by Robert Benson, renowned local authority and member of the North American Blue Bird Society. Further consideration includes the timing of the field mowing with the blooming of Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca* and swamp Milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, at the site. This concerns the conservation of this local foothold of the northeast seasonal breeding habitat of the Monarch Butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*.



The Town values street trees and recognizes their contribution to the visual character and sustainable design of neighborhoods. The Forestry Department is responsible for the maintenance and care of the town's trees and the numerous trees in our memorial parks and open spaces. The Department functions include trimming, grooming, raising, pruning, removal and of all town's trees. The Department will remove municipal trees only if they are dead, in severe

decline or pose a threat to public safety. As part of sustainable growth strategies, the *Stoughton Comprehensive Plan: Phase II: Assessment, Recommendations, and Implementation Plan* (2015) recommends the planting, replacement, and maintenance of trees:

Street trees typically live 10 to 15 years on average. As trees need to be replaced in the Town Center, commercial corridors, business parks, and neighborhood streets, alternative species should be planted to provide greater variety and protection against substantial losses caused by diseases prone to certain species. Additionally, new and replacement street trees should be carefully located so as not to block doorways, storefront windows, and signs in Town Center and commercial districts. Deciduous trees are strongly encouraged over conifers to provide shade along sidewalks and in parking lots, and to maintain storefront visibility. (Exceptions are made where screening is necessary). Existing street trees that are low branching should be pruned up to eight feet above the sidewalk to enhance visibility for walkers as well as drivers. The Town of Stoughton should consider becoming a Tree City USA community, as it once was. (page 11)

...

Neighborhood streets should be as narrow as possible (to reduce speed and allow for “complete streets”) and include informal on-street parking, planting strips with ample shade trees and sidewalks. (page 31)

...

Coupled with pervious paving, infiltration planters with shade trees should be applied in surface parking lots to further enhance the area’s ability to manage and treat stormwater. (page 36)

...

Plant More Shade Trees - *The broad use of street trees planted around Stoughton is a simple and beautiful solution to reducing heating and cooling needs for centers, corridors and neighborhoods. When planted on the south and west sides of buildings, shade trees drop their leaves during the cooler fall season allowing warming sunlight to reach sidewalks and buildings. Additionally, they create a lush canopy in the warmer months providing shade to keep the sidewalk and adjacent buildings cool. This provides, a low tech, low cost solution to reduce energy needs. The town should consider the following methods of expanding shade trees:*

- *Re-establishing its relationship with National Grid to support more street tree plantings.*
- *Consider establishing a public nursery to provide a ready stock of street trees.*
- *Start a “Welcome to Stoughton” street tree planting program for new residents.*
- *Require new subdivisions to include street trees at the front edge of residential lots.*

(page 36)

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Stoughton is such a long-settled community that many residents may not be aware of the animal populations that continue to live here. Recently, the expanding whitetail deer, eastern coyote, and Canada goose populations have been much discussed by the local media, and many people are aware of the presence of these animals. It is extremely likely, however, that a mere handful of the nearly 27,000 Stoughton residents know that Cooper's Hawks regularly prey on the flocks of pigeons and starlings in the center of town, and that these predatory birds are occasionally joined by Goshawks and Merlins. The proximity of the Bird Street conservation area, where many of these wildlife species live, to the populated center of Stoughton allows for easy travel back and forth between these areas for highly mobile birds and mammals that habitually range long distances in their search for food.

Stoughton's remaining wild lands contain a variety of habitats for wildlife. The interspersed of hay fields, wet meadows, shrub swamps, wooded swamps, and open water creates a rich tapestry of food, water, shelter and nesting space for wild animals of all kinds. Sightings in Stoughton's wild lands include Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, American Wood cock, River otter, Fishercats, Muskrat, Box Turtle, Blanding's Turtles, Musk turtles, Raccoon, Red Fox and Spotted Turtles.

1. Upland Wildlife

Most common forest wildlife can be found in one forested part of Stoughton or another. Because of the size of the forest block in Southwest Stoughton, the Bird Street Conservation Area can be expected to have the greatest diversity of forest dependent species. Wildlife inventories are, however, limited. Upon inspection of our open space, the Environmental Affairs Officer reports there is an abundance of evidence to support a wholesome population of deer, coyotes, eastern cotton tail rabbits, wild turkeys, and red fox. This includes animal scat, territorial scrapings, foraging evidence, den entrances, roadkill, nesting sites, in addition to conspicuous visible presence.

2. Wetland Wildlife

Common Massachusetts's wetlands wildlife species can be expected to be present in Stoughton's various wetland resource areas. A small netting and stream-shocking study during the summer of 1998 found the expected pumpkinseed and bluegill sunfish in Totman's Pond, and redbfin pickerel in Dorchester Brook. Because most of Stoughton's ponds are quite shallow, further study would be expected to show mostly warm water species. Problems from non-point source pollution in stormwater runoff have also been evidenced through increased eutrophication including accelerated aquatic vegetation growth decomposition of such contributing to turbidity levels in Ames Long Pond. In addition to nutrients, it is assumed that sodium is being transported to these surface waters via stormwater runoff.

Common wetlands waterfowl are frequently observed, and in fact, Canada Geese cause a fouling problem on Ames Long Pond and Steep Hill Brook. A report from the Wetlands Restoration Program indicates that American Beaver may have been responsible for creating a small pond in south central Stoughton. Otters may have been observed in Woods Pond in 1998. Vernal pool wildlife is bountiful in protected areas and serves as specialized ecological habitat to multiple

obligate vernal pool species of wild life including: Fairy Shrimp, Wood Frogs, and Yellow Spotted Salamanders.

3. Rare and Endangered Species

Stoughton habitats include a number of large forest tracts, meadows, shrub lands and swamps that support a variety of plants and wildlife. Most common forest wildlife can be found in forested areas and common wetland species within wetlands. Birds of note include: Bald Eagle Coopers Hawks, Goshawks, Belted Kingfishers, American Woodcock and Merlins. Other notable sightings of wildlife include river otters, fishercats, box turtles, and spotted turtles

The Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) produces annually updated maps of rare wetlands wildlife habitat for use by Conservation Commissions. These maps do not detail the rare species to be found, because of concerns of poaching or deliberate destruction. Stoughton has several rare species habitats, as shown on

Figure 4-8. It is likely that more detailed field review by experienced and qualified wildlife observers and by a Conservation Agent might add more rare populations to Stoughton's map. Several areas in Stoughton fall under the jurisdiction of NHESP as described above. However, as illustrated in Figure 4-9, no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern exist in Stoughton. Table 4-2 and Table 4-3 list the NHESP classified rare and endangered plant and animal species, respectively, for the town of Stoughton.

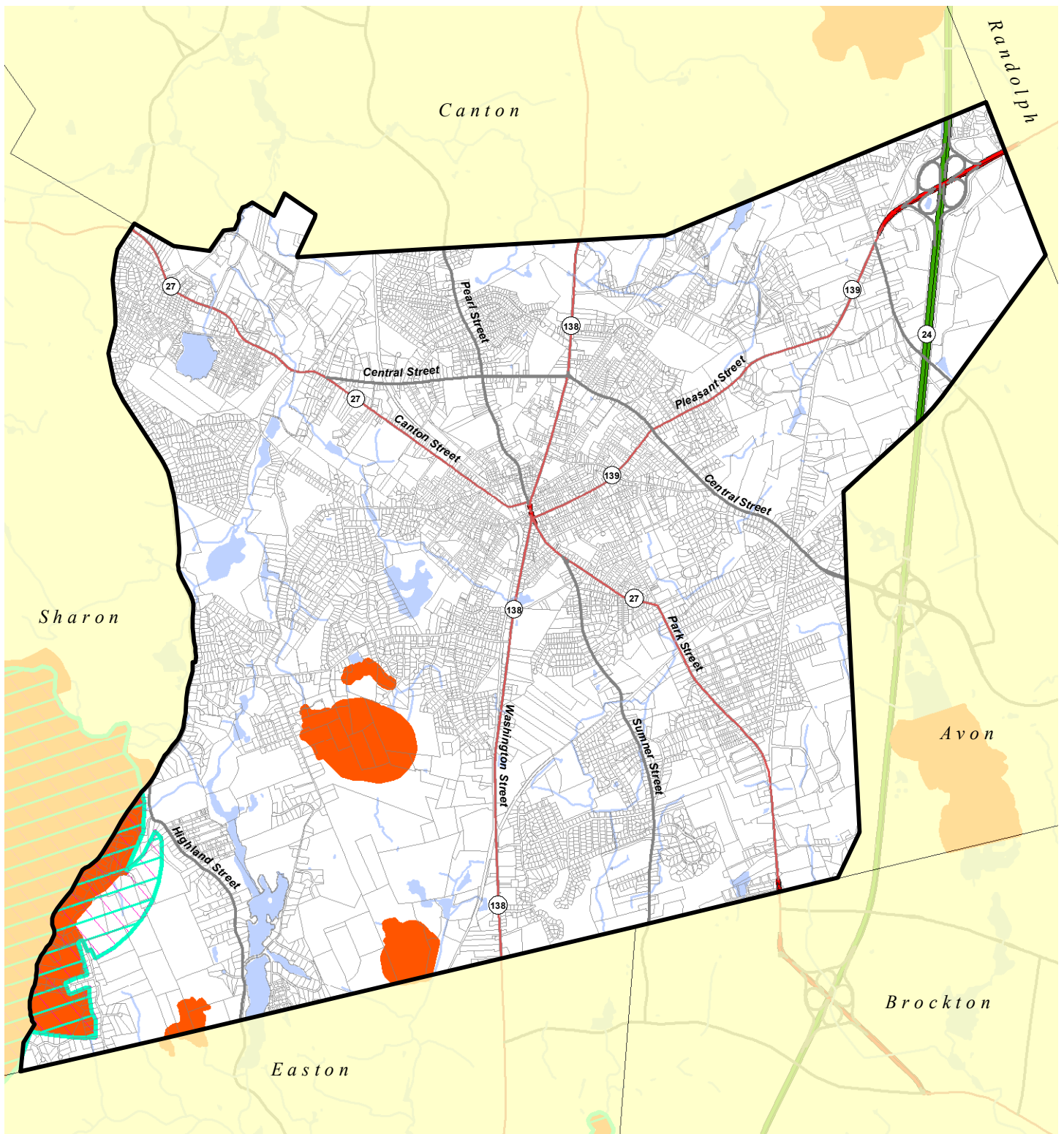
Table 4-3. Rare and Endangered Animal Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Designation	Most Recent Observation
<i>Cicindela purpurea</i>	Purple Tiger Beetle	Species of Concern	1923
<i>Notropis bifrenatus</i>	Bridle Shiner	Species of Concern	1951
<i>Emydoidea landingii</i>	Blanding's Turtle	Threatened	1982
<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Eastern Box Turtle	Species of Concern	2006

Source: MA Division of Fish and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html>, obtained February 25, 2015.






4. Wildlife Corridors

Stoughton has groupings of protected lands that can allow for wildlife movement, but connecting these areas to other protected lands to create larger, extended corridors always remains a priority for the Town (See Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation under Environmental Challenges). Large tracts of open space exist in the southern area of Stoughton and comprise a slightly fragmented open space corridor that begins in Sharon and Easton, extends from Ames Long Pond, through the Ames Rifle and Pistol Club, continues through the Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands and Cedar Swamp, and on to the Cedar Hill Golf Club.



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Legend

-  Town of Stoughton
-  Parcels
-  NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
-  NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
-  BioMap2 Core Habitat

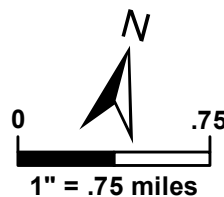
*Resource Areas, MassGIS

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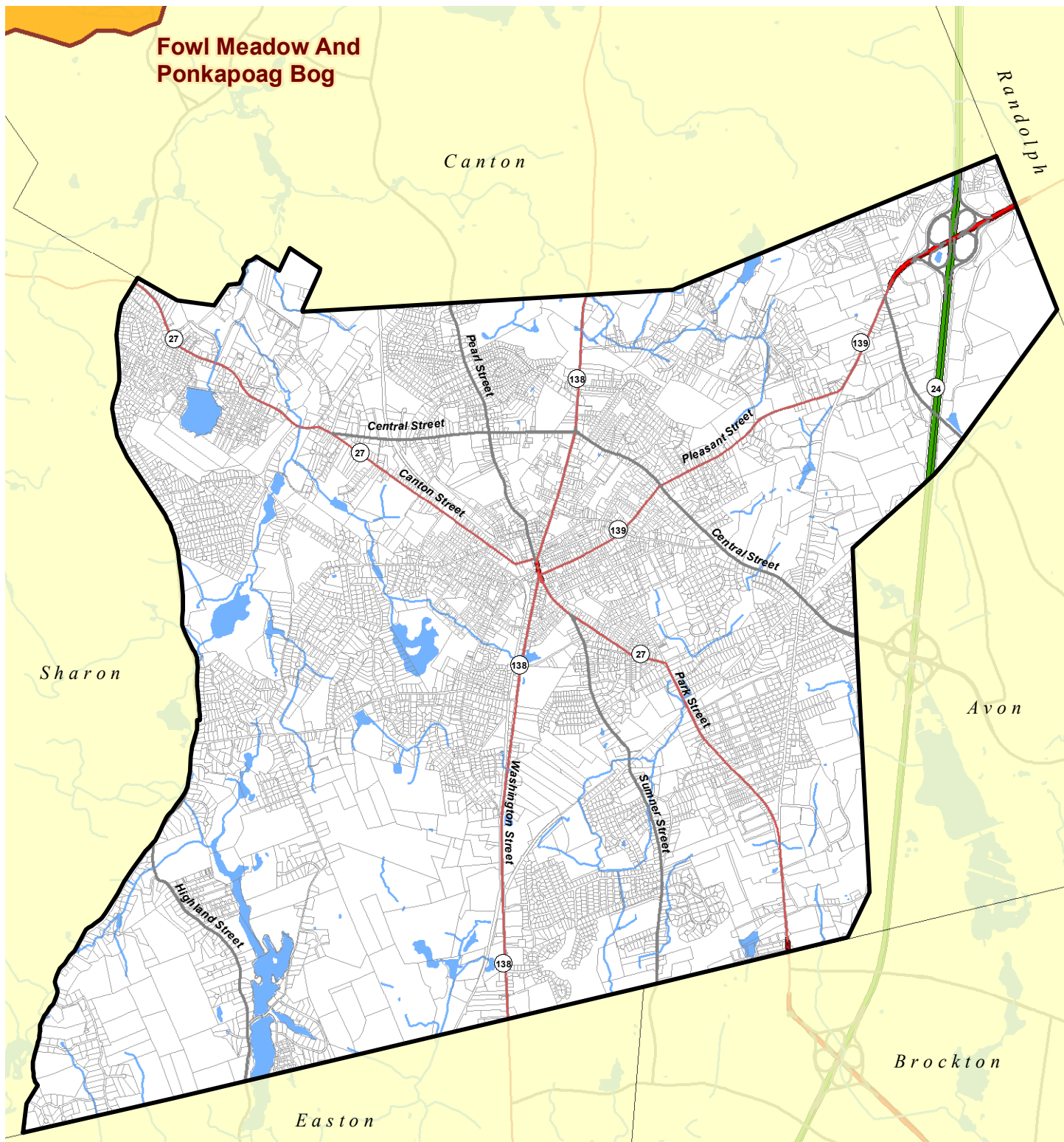


Stoughton's Endangered
Species Habitat
Town of Stoughton, MA








Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-8.

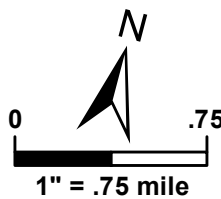


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Legend

-  Town of Stoughton
-  Parcels
-  Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
-  Rivers/Streams
-  Surface Water

*ACECs, MassGIS



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**Stoughton's Areas of Critical
Environmental Concern
Town of Stoughton, MA**

Date: 5/15/2015

Draft - Figure 4-9.

A second, smaller corridor extends south from the Pinewood Lake Town Pond watershed through the Chemung Hill Conservation Area, the Town Pond watershed, then through wetlands to the Muddy Pond watershed. To the southeast it extends through Southworth Pond to Brittons Pond and then Woods Pond Conservation area.

A third corridor connects the recently purchased Glen Echo Lake conservation area to large areas of Canton, all the way to Ponkapoag and the Blue Hills with just a few local roads (except 128 for the Blue Hills) crossing these areas. Many of these areas are protected or are wetlands. To the south it forms a corridor connecting the Capen-Reynolds Farm to open space owned by the Stoughton School Department around the Dawe School creating a long corridor into the heart of Stoughton. It also connects to some undeveloped, but unprotected, areas in Stoughton. The OSC is actively pursuing some of these unprotected areas.

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

Other sections of this report have noted that nearly all the remaining undeveloped parcels in Stoughton contain unique environments and scenic resources. These undeveloped areas include large tracts of open fields being actively farmed, hilly fields being used for grazing, ledgy forests with slopes steep enough to discourage easy development, or wetlands of varying sizes and complexity. Much of these undeveloped lands are scenic, and many have wide vistas not available anywhere else.

The southwest portion of Stoughton and the Cedar Swamp area contain the largest blocks of contiguous undeveloped land in town, and so are the last vestiges of New England forest able to provide significant wildlife habitat, opportunities for nature study, and some remnant of a wilderness experience. These two areas must be regarded as unique habitat simply because of their size and a concerted effort must be made to strengthen the link between these two large natural areas.

Stoughton's remaining wild lands contain a variety of habitats for wildlife, as discussed in Section 4E. In addition to these significant natural resources, several cultural resources in the form of protected estate lands exist within the community. These include the Forbes, Reynolds and Edwards Estates. Additional information about these properties can be found in Section 5.

1. Scenic Heritage Landscapes

Scenic heritage landscapes are those special places and spaces that define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are the result of human interaction with the natural resources of an area, which influence the use and development of land. These geographic areas contain both natural and cultural resources. Heritage landscapes in Stoughton come in many forms, including:

- Cemeteries;
- Town Center;
- Mill sites;
- Parks;

- Buildings/Estates;
- Farms/Cranberry bogs;
- Camps; and
- Scenic roads.

The history of the Town of Stoughton can be traced in its tree-lined cemeteries. Visiting these quiet sites enriches one's sense of the past, while introducing one to some of the most beautiful spots in town. There are seven cemeteries in Stoughton:

- Holy Sepulchre Cemetery;
- Dry Pond Cemetery;
- Evergreen Cemetery;
- Marshall and Bird Family Cemetery;
- Stoughton Poor Farm Cemetery;
- Pearl Street Cemetery; and
- Pride of Brockton Lodge Cemetery.

As previously mentioned in Section 3, Stoughton has many excellent opportunities for what planners consider to be smart growth development. The commercial center of the community, for example, has a high concentration of small-scale retail establishments that could effectively foster a “village center”. Additionally the Stoughton rail station provides easy access to convenient transportation for commuters to Boston and Providence.

Other cultural resources that highlight Stoughton’s industry and economy include the following areas of cultural significance:

Mill sites

- French and Ward Lower Mill
- Shawmut Mill

Parks

- Faxon Veterans Memorial Park
- Leo P. Green Veterans Memorial Park
- Halloran Park
- Glen Echo Park
- Ames Long Pond Bathing Beach

Buildings/Estates

- T.L. Edwards Estate
- Capen-Reynolds Estate
- Almon Fredericks Estate

Farms/Bogs

- McNamara Farms

- Dry Pond Farms
- Victory Stables, Inc.
- Arthur Dowd Farm, Washington Street
- Capen Reynolds Farm

Camps

- Camp Stoughton, Old Colony YMCA, Fireman Campus
- Camp West Woods
- Victory Stables, Inc. Summer Riding Camp

Stoughton has designated three roads as Scenic Roads. On designated Scenic Roads, any repair maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work done with respect to the scenic road shall not involve the cutting or removal of trees, or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls, or portions thereof shall not be done without written consent of the Board of Selectmen. The law that applies to Scenic Roads is contained in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15C.

The following is a list of designated scenic roads in the Town of Stoughton:

- Bay Road – portion lying within the bounds of Stoughton from Plain Street to the Easton Town Line
- Page Street – from the northerly side of the intersection of Turnpike Street to the Canton Town Line
- West Street – from Highland Street to Central Street

2. Unique Environments

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are places in Massachusetts that receive special recognition because of the quality, uniqueness and significance of their natural and cultural resources. These areas are identified and nominated at the community level and are reviewed and designated by the state's Secretary of Environmental Affairs. ACEC designation creates a framework for local and regional stewardship of critical resources and ecosystems. There are no designated ACECs in the Town of Stoughton; however, two ACECs, Fowl Meadow and Ponkapoag Bog are located just northwest of the town (Figure 4-9).

3. Unusual Geological Features

Chet Raymo, professor emeritus of physics and astronomy at Stonehill College in Easton, discusses in his book *The Path: A One-Mile Walk Through the Universe*, the existence of erratic boulders along a path he takes from his home in North Easton to Stonehill College. He observed a half dozen of these boulders on an outcrop of volcanic bedrock just off the path. Boulders like these are guessed to be the result of vast sheets of moving ice more than 12,000 years ago. Glacier movement across the landscape scratched boulders as they were moved from one area to another. Raymo followed the scratches on these erratic boulders north into Stoughton and found a south-facing bedrock ledge identical to the erratics, signifying their origin. He did not go further into Stoughton, but noted in *The Path* that the scratches continue north through the

western suburbs of Boston, up the Merrimack River towards Concord, New Hampshire, and then towards the Connecticut River, Vermont, and into Canada.

G. Environmental Challenges

Stoughton faces a number of environmental challenges that influence open space and recreation planning, including:

- Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation;
- Wastewater Management;
- Stormwater Management;
- Climate Change;
- Erosion and Flooding;
- Hazardous Waste; and
- Solid Waste Disposal.

1. Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation

Another major impact of development is fragmentation of habitat. Because so many of Stoughton's distinctive landforms have already been altered by development, Stoughton tends to focus conservation efforts on the remaining rural areas, its existing conservation land, and those few and precious remaining areas potentially capable of producing additional public water supply. Most of the Town's larger conservation areas contain rolling, rocky, ledge-filled forested lands, with varying amounts of wetlands, and some open fields. Most undeveloped parcels throughout town also support hiking, horseback riding, and dog walking. Some trails show the destructive impacts of off-road vehicles and dirt bikes, even on protected conservation and water supply lands.

The more rural-appearing southwest corner of town looks very similar to the large Bird Street Conservation Area nearby, and the continuing development trend in town would significantly affect the landscape character in this section of Stoughton. The southwest corner of Stoughton also contains most of the remaining parcels of land large enough to accommodate populations of whitetail deer, squirrels, rabbits, ruffed grouse, and other game, and forested largely through to the extent hunters may legally and safely hunt.

As noted earlier, the large tracts of open space that exist in the southern area of the community comprise a slightly fragmented open space corridor that begins in Sharon, extends through the Ames Rifle and Pistol Club, continues through the Bird Memorial Lands and Cedar Swamp, and on to the Cedar Hill Golf Club. Although many parcels are protected in this open space corridor, some of them quite large, there are still several undeveloped tracts that are unprotected and could potentially increase Stoughton's biodiversity and reduce habitat fragmentation. More specifically, an open space corridor that could be expanded lies in the northern area of the community along the Canton town line. This tract already contains the Capen-Reynolds Estate and the Shiretown Parcel (a.k.a Doogood Estates), but also contains several large undeveloped tracts that currently have no land use preservation restrictions for protections in place. Stoughton has been working to enhance biodiversity and reduce habitat fragmentation through a number of

approaches, such as promoting open space preservation in a variety of locations, including the Glen Echo Conservation and Recreation Land in North Stoughton. In addition, the town of Stoughton is reviewing the possible acquisition of 94 acres owned by Inland Realty trust. This is forested wildlife habitat joining 100 acres of Town owned Conservation land near Cedar Swamp located north of Sumer Ridge and east of the C.W. Welch Sportsman Reserve on Washington Street.

2. Wastewater Management

The town owns and maintains approximately 109 miles of sewer mains, 2,693 manholes, 15 pump stations, approximately 7,200 service connections, and a metered discharge connection to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) sewer system. Wastewater is processed by the MWRA at its wastewater treatment plant on Deer Island in Boston Harbor.

The town faces a number of challenges as its system tries to accommodate growth. System capacity restrictions due to inadequate coordination between multiple private developments leading to numerous small pump stations is one major challenge for Stoughton. The lack of public sewer in some densely populated residential and industrial locations is also problematic. The most devastating example of failing private on-site sewage disposal facilities serving multiple commercial sites characterized by high water usage and a high daily sewage flow. This is on the southern portion of Park Street (Route 27) south of the intersection of Ash Street and Park Street. These large daily sewage flows require frequent pumping to the extent that qualifies these sites for system failure under applicable Board of Health Regulations.

Campanelli Parkway and Shuman Avenue are located in an industrial zoning district and feature multiple buildings with greater than 20,000 square feet of floor space served by on-site sewage disposal facilities. The construction of the industrial park pre-existed before the most substantial amendments of Title 5 of the State Environmental Code, the regulations governing the design, location and construction of on-site sewage disposal facilities.

Stoughton has a number of residential neighborhoods with small pre-existing nonconforming lots (for zoning purposes) that have both a well for private drinking water supply and nonconforming on-site sanitary disposal systems consisting of single cesspools. Residents on Lake Drive on the west bank of Ames Long Pond reside in summer cottages converted to year round homes. Dimensional and setback requirements may present engineering challenges in siting new or existing private drinking water wells and new upgraded on-site sewage disposal facilities. In these cases, soil observations on file for sites of failed onsite sewage disposal facilities correlate that homes were constructed on lots in which wetlands were filled in the neighborhoods on Bisbee Road and Corbett Road. The terrain of the landscape, the proximity of drainage culverts and wet low lands in the neighborhood support this observation. Filling of wetlands was common before the enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972, which prohibits this action.

Municipal sewer is not currently available on Washington Street South, from the Easton town line to the former Ashmont site at 1202 Washington Street. Other areas not served by sewer include:

- Pinewood Lake Area (East/West);
- Corbett Road and surrounding areas;
- Central Street West Area (Sharon Street Area including: Robin Circle);
- Mahoney Avenue and surrounding areas; and
- Sumner Street/Birch Street Area.

A follow up study was completed in 2012 to further assess infrastructure needs for sewer systems across Stoughton, and municipal sewer system expansion effort continue.

3. Stormwater Management

The Town of Stoughton's stormwater collection system consists of approximately 3,000 catch basin or inlets, 2,000 manholes, and approximately 400 outfalls. Stoughton Public Works Department maintains a very aggressive catch basin inspection and maintenance program continuously monitoring, cleaning and inspecting the catch basins and roadway surfaces in town. The Stoughton Engineering Department performs technical engineering reviews for all proposed stormwater management systems for private and public development within the Town. Additionally, the Engineering Department monitors all construction projects for compliance with the municipally approved stormwater pollution prevention plans.

The Town is very active with the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA). The Town works very hard with NepRWA toward compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) Stormwater Permit. Over the last couple of years, the Town has been proactive in anticipation of the newly drafted MS4 permit. The Town has hired consultants to map the entire drainage system and establish sub-catchment connectivity between all catch basins, manholes, and outfalls. The development of a comprehensive map of the system is in process to assist in the origin of any illicit discharges that may occur in the future while ensuring a high level of water quality in the community. Of recent, Stoughton Public Works, with help from NepRWA, recent a grant to implement stormwater management best management practices at Gibson School.

4. Climate Change

Climate change is already affecting the physical and biological environments of the northeast, and is expected to intensify in coming decades. Temperatures have risen by about 0.7°C over the last century and are projected to increase by a further 3-5°C under probable emission scenarios.

Increasing temperatures have affected altitudinal and range shifts in species, and earlier seasonal migrations for migratory animals, a trend that will be reinforced further in the future. The northeast region has recorded higher amounts of precipitation over the last 50 years, with a greater frequency of extreme events and all model simulations for the future point to wetter winter and spring conditions, but much drier summers and falls. This will increase overall runoff but shift the timing of peak flows of rivers to earlier in the spring, with longer periods of low flows in the summer months. All of these changes will have major impacts on aquatic and

terrestrial ecosystems across the region, changing forest types and aquatic environments. (NECSC, 2012³).

Climate change impacts, including increased storm frequency and intensity, wetter springs and drier summers, and shifting habitat conditions should all be taken into account when planning open space and recreation resources. For example, projections for rising temperatures should be incorporated into calculations for the protection of pond water quality.

It is also important to note that climate change impacts will exacerbate the challenges described above: wastewater and stormwater management, erosion and flooding, and biodiversity and habitat fragmentation. For example, an increase in extreme rainfall events causing combined sewer overflows could increase the vulnerability of effluent waters, increasing wastewater-associated pollution.

Local actions to meet the challenges of climate change vary from physical improvements to local infrastructure to changing local policies and how decisions are made.⁴ Examples might include adapting water and wastewater systems to anticipate extremes in rainfall events, or prioritizing conservation acquisitions focused on floodplain management or forest protection.

5. Erosion/Flooding

Currently, the Conservation Commission maintains and enforces requirements for erosion and sedimentation control for construction projects within 100 feet of wetlands, or when work results in negative environmental impact to Wetland Resource Areas. The Board of Health has the regulatory responsibility to regulate the prevention of stormwater sheet flow resulting in ponding on abutting properties in all new construction projects. Erosion and sedimentation control are provided by installation of sediment control barriers including: straw wattles secured by wood stakes, geotextile silt fencing embedded in the ground, secured hay bale rows, TRM's (Turf reinforcement mats), wood chips, composted berms, temporary settling basins, fractionalization tanks, polymerization of untreated effluent, filtered dewatering, and a host of others. All construction sites that disturb 1 Acre or greater are required to obtain coverage under an EPA NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit for surface generated stormwater discharges. This includes the implementation of a site Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), specifying site erosion control and non structural Best Management Practices such as operation and routine maintenance procedures and record keeping obligations.

Areas in Stoughton built in the past prior to the enactment of wetland protection regulations or Board of Health regulations governing a minimum separation distance between proposed cellar floor elevations and the maximum seasonal groundwater elevations. A series of homes across from Lipsky's Field, the 25-acre parcel owned by the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged, experienced damp conditions due to high groundwater elevations and wet basements. Areas along the terrace serving the water shed of Dorchester Brook and Sumner Street, near the

³ Northeast Climate Science Center (NECSC). 2012. The Northeast Region and the Climate Challenge. <http://necsc.umass.edu/northeast-climate>.

⁴ Adaptation Tools for Public Officials (<https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/adaptation/tools.html>)

Brockton City line. Problems include diverted drainage patterns resulting in flooding damp condition and water in the basements.

6. Sedimentation

While all waterways in Stoughton are subject to threats of erosion and sedimentation, several ponds experience ecological degradation due to increased presence of organic material and sedimentation. For example, Ames Long Pond and Harris Pond are subject to large biomass and inordinately high volume of native aquatic and invasive vegetation species. This resulted in a high volume of accumulated organic sedimentation in the ponds due to high nutrient loads conveyed by sedimentation to the basins in the watersheds.

To meet these challenges, the Town has developed an integrated vegetation management program initiated at Ames Long Pond and Harris Pond. In 2018, the Town will initiate a lake management program to the north and south basins of Alberts Pond. For all these initiatives, the results have been favorable, but it will take years of continued management along this vein for continued recovery.

In addition to management plans, through a 319 Stormwater Grant, the Town is performing stormwater improvements to the onsite drainage system at the Gibbons School. This work will result in the substantial water quality improvement of Lothrop Brook and Steep Hill Brook. Improvements will greatly increase the amount of on-site infiltration of treated stormwater runoff from the school site, allowing for the removal of total suspended solids.

The DPW also actively engages in a program to remove sediment from deep sump catch basins in the entire street drainage system. Equipment is owned and maintained by the Town. Catch basins and street cleaning are on done on a regular basis along with routine inspections by the Department. Maintaining and cleaning these systems are important to prevent water pollution and street flooding.

7. Forestry Issues

As listed in Table 3-6, 41% of the Town was forested in 2005, which are concentrated in the south/southwest area of Town (Figure 3-3). As conservation land, these larger tracts of forested areas are protected from future development. Unprotected areas are of interest to the Town as well, particularly those adjacent to these lands for conservation, wildlife habitat protection, and drinking water protection.

8. Hazardous Waste Sites and Groundwater Contamination

In Stoughton, there is a concern with hazardous waste is the potential for the threat to the drinking water supply, surface contamination and groundwater pollution. As noted, the Town has a history of heavy industry and commercial enterprise. The Community was incorporated in 1726.

DEP keeps detailed records of contamination sites in the Commonwealth and charts the progress of cleaning efforts at each site under the state's waste site cleanup regulations, the Massachusetts

Contingency Plan. The progress of the cleanup efforts and the compliance status of these sites are available for public information on the DEP searchable waste site list weblink: <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/SearchableSites2/Search.aspx>.

The Town of Stoughton conducts semi-annual Municipal Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days. The town has been running this program since 1988, to on reduce the amount of hazardous waste in the Municipal Solid Waste Stream (MSW). This service reduces the degree of “backyard-based” groundwater contamination, illegal dumping, and reduces the degree of toxicity to emissions generated at the Covanta waste to energy municipal incinerator in Rochester, Massachusetts.

9. Solid Waste Disposal

Stoughton has no active operating Municipal Solid Waste Landfill serving the community. The last municipal landfill, which is located at 100 Page Street ceased operations in the early 1970s. Weekly municipal trash pickup is offered to all private homes having three or under residential dwelling units. The Town does not serve commercial enterprises in the capacity of trash pickup. The Stoughton DPW trash pick services up exclude: condominium complexes; privately owned apartment buildings and neighborhoods subject to an exclusive homeowners trust association (Private Subdivisions). Stoughton is a member community of Covanta Enterprises, the Waste to Energy MSW incinerator located in Rochester, Massachusetts. Trash is hauled to Rochester on a daily basis by trash packers for final disposal.

Stoughton’s recycling rate for 2009 was 27%, and the State awarded us a grade of B. Recycling is twice a month.

Stoughton DPW maintains temporary stockpiles of excess loam, asphalt plantings (called “process”), concrete pieces, composted material and brush off Gay Street and Pratt’s Court. Process is either reused as base fill under road repaving operations, or is delivered to one of the local asphalt batch plants for direct recycling into fresh roadway surface.

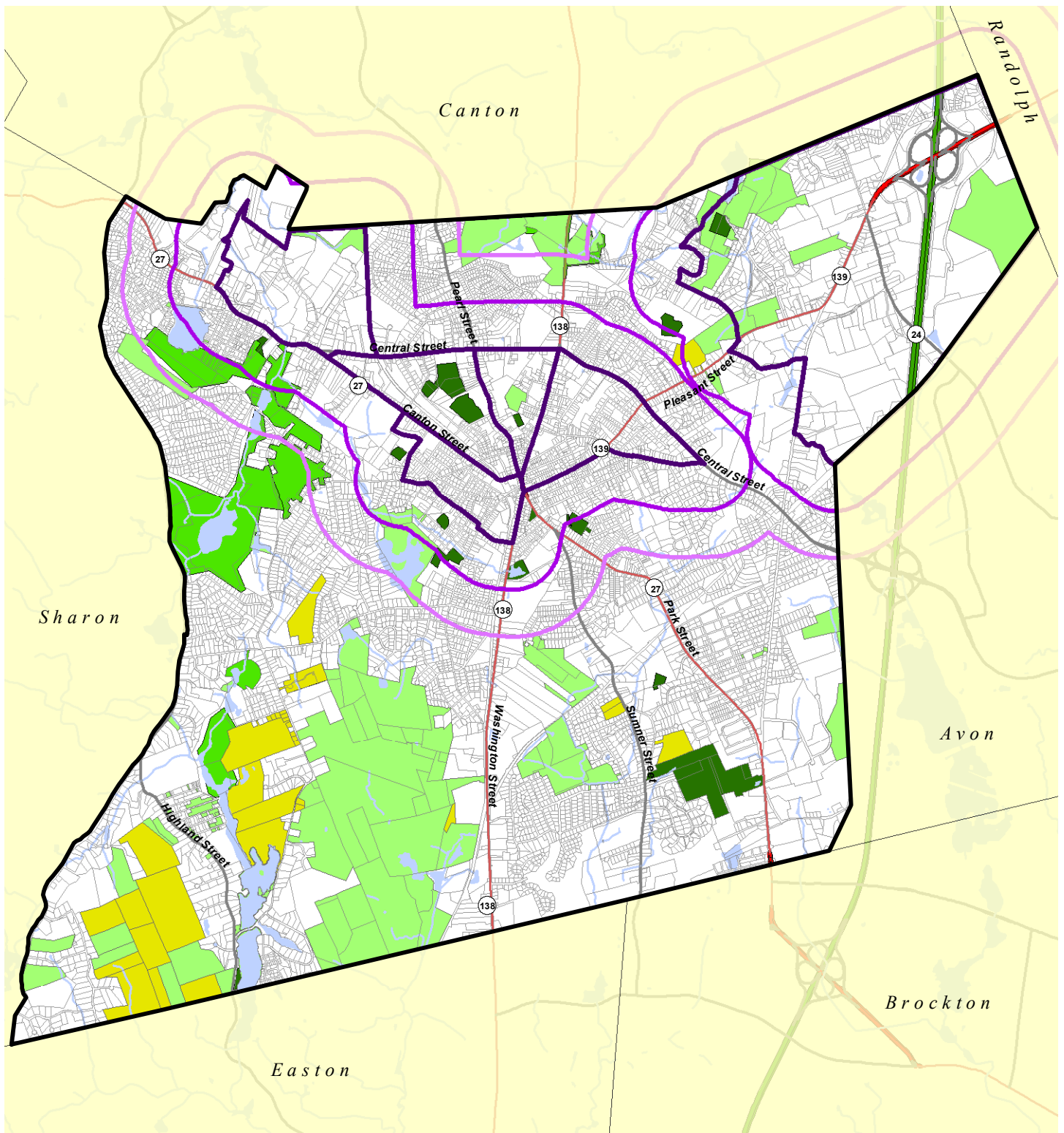
10. Environmental Equity

Planning for open space and recreational resources through the equity lens looks for gaps in opportunities and access to these resources by disadvantaged communities. For decades, low income neighborhoods and communities of color were disproportionately burdened with environmental hazards, such highways that caused air pollution or industrial or hazardous land uses in and adjacent to their neighborhoods. These communities also lacked environmental positives, such as green space, either as private yards or parks, playgrounds, and other public spaces.

One of the challenges for Stoughton is to ensure that Environmental Justice (EJ) communities have equitable access to open space and recreational resources. Figure 4-10 shows the proximity of private and public (town-owned) protected open space and recreational lands to US Census blocks identified as EJ communities by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (see Section 3.C.6). The map also marks quarter-mile (six to eight minute walk) and half-mile (nine to twelve

minute walk) radii from the boundaries of the EJ communities. A majority of the Town's conservation land is located more than a half-mile from these neighborhoods, which most likely requires a car to reach them. Much of the Town's recreational opportunities (e.g. playgrounds) are either within the EJ communities, or within a quarter mile; however, the number of these resources are generally limited town-wide. EJ communities located in the north of town do not have any open space or recreational opportunities.









Ways to increase opportunities for the EJ communities is to prioritize recreation development in these neighborhoods, specifically in neighborhoods that lack resources. Better links, including pedestrian and bike connectivity, between EJ communities and existing resources can also improve access. The Town must continue to engage these neighborhoods to ensure that new opportunities are meeting resident needs.

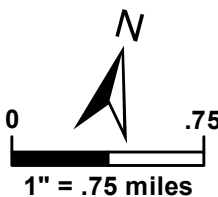


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Legend

*Open Space, MassGIS & Town of Stoughton

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Private Open Space |  Environmental Justice Communities (Block Groups) |
| Town Lands |  1/4 Mile Radius (5-8 min walk) |
|  Conservation & Forest |  1/5 Mile Radius (9-12 min walk) |
|  Water Supply Protection |  Parcels |
|  Recreation Areas |  Town of Stoughton |
| |  Surface Water |



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Proximity of Protected Open Space & Recreation Lands to EJ Communities

Date: 7/10/2017

Figure 4-10

SECTION 5. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

The purpose of this section of the report is to provide an inventory of all lands in Stoughton which are significant to open space and recreational use. Having an inventory of these lands is critical to the ongoing assembly and management of open space and recreation in the community for several reasons. First, an inventory and map of existing lands allows the Town to visualize its conservation lands in relation to areas subject to future development and to identify neighborhoods that may be underserved for certain recreational opportunities. Second, having a full inventory of existing conservation and recreational lands will allow the community to better distribute management responsibilities for these amenities among different town agencies. And third, understanding the degree of protection associated with different parcels will help the community target specific parcels for acquisition and improvement over a concrete timeline.

Why Protect Open Space and Recreation Resources?

Community investments that protect open space and provide recreational opportunities for residents have both public and private environmental, economic, and social benefits. In their report *The Return on Investment in Parks and Open Space in Massachusetts* (September 2013),⁵ The Trust for Public Land studied the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the investments made in land conservation. They had the following key findings:

- **Natural Goods and Services:** Protected parks and natural areas remove air pollutants, protect and enhance water quality (including drinking water), provide fish and game habitat, produce food, manage stormwater, and provide flood control and other necessary functions. Every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$4 in natural goods and services to the Massachusetts economy.
- **Tourism and Outdoor Recreation:** Parks and natural areas are critical to the state and local tourism industries. At least 61% of Massachusetts residents participate in outdoor recreation each year. In Massachusetts, outdoor recreation generates \$10 billion in annual consumer spending. That spending benefits the state and municipalities through greater sales tax revenues. The tax revenue attributed to outdoor recreation spending equals \$739 million annually. Spending on outdoor recreation also helps local businesses that hire Massachusetts residents. Approximately 90,000 jobs in the state are supported by this spending, accounting for \$3.5 billion in wages and salaries. Much of that earned income is then spent in local communities, further magnifying the economic impact of outdoor recreation.
- **Economic Development:** Parks and open space contribute to the high quality of life in Massachusetts. According to Forbes and CNBC, quality of life is the Commonwealth's number one asset for business. In terms of maintaining a talented workforce, the

⁵ <http://www.massland.org/news/return-investment-parks-open-space-study-release-event-sept-4th>. Obtained January 7, 2017.

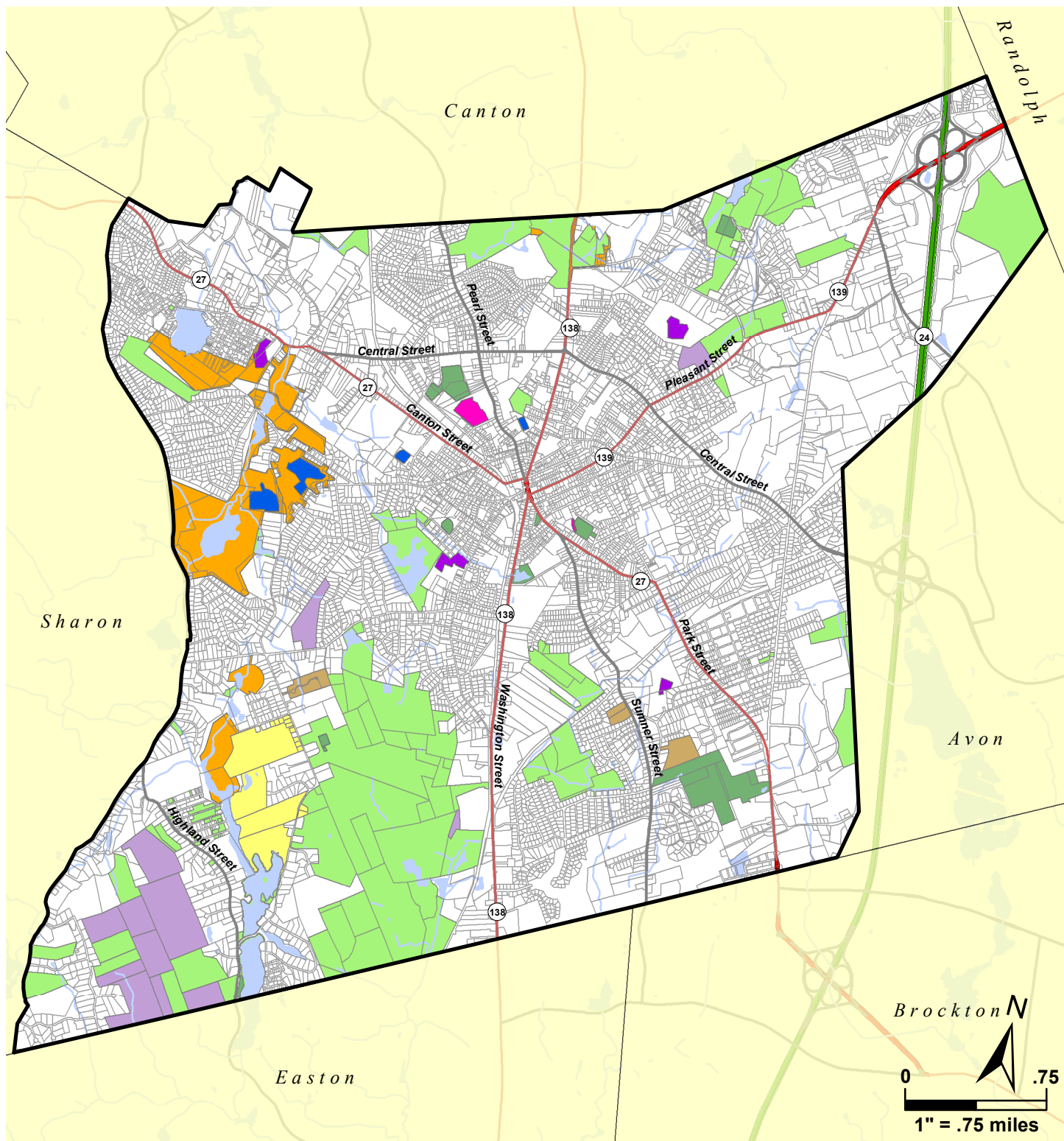
availability of outdoor activities is the second most important factor for recent college graduates deciding whether to stay in the state or move elsewhere. Parks also boost property values and increase municipal revenues. Over \$724 million of property value in Boston is attributable to its park system.

- Local jobs and economic impact: Investment in existing city and community parks amplifies the economic benefits provided by these spaces through the improvement of their quality and through the creation of additional jobs and local economic activity. The Trust for Public Land analyzed the state's investment in Gateway City parks and found that it will create 492 jobs and \$26.5 million in local wages and salaries. That is, every \$1 million invested in Gateway City parks creates 13.7 jobs. The Trust for Public land also analyzed the state's investment in public outdoor swimming pools and found that it will create 390 jobs and \$24.2 million in local wages and salaries. That is, every \$1 million invested in outdoor swimming pools creates 11.8 jobs. The rate of job creation for parks and pools compares favorably with that of other job-creating investments. For example, it is more robust than the rate of jobs generated by spending on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure (including roads) in cities nationwide, which is 9 jobs created per \$1 million invested.
- Health: Access to parks and open space increases the physical activity and the health of residents and workers in Massachusetts. This reduces health care costs related to obesity, which amount to \$2 billion annually in the state. More than one in five adults in the state does not engage in any physical activity and well over half of residents are overweight or obese. Availability of parks and proximity to them increase the physical activity of children. Researchers have found that as the percentage of park area within a child's neighborhood increases, so does a child's physical activity.

Residents and businesses in Stoughton already receive many of these benefits. It's important to the Town to maintain open space and recreation properties and their benefits for future generations. This is done through careful management and balancing of uses.

Inventory of Open Space and Recreational Resources

Conservation areas and other notable land holdings are depicted in Figure 5-1.



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Legend

*Open Space, MassGIS & Town of Stoughton

Town of Stoughton Parcels Surface Water Rivers/Streams

Open Space Lands (Owner: Type)

- Private: Agricultural
- Private: Forest
- Private: Other
- Town: Conservation & Forest
- Town: Water Supply Protection

Recreation Lands (Owner: Operated by)

- Town: Recreation Dept.
- Town: School & Recreation Depts.
- Town: School Dept.
- Town: Youth Leagues

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Protected Open Space & Recreation Lands

Date: 8/21/2017

Draft - Figure 5-1.

Open space and recreation lands can be grouped into two major classifications:

Protected Parcels - Land is considered protected if the Stoughton Conservation Commission or Water Department or a nonprofit land trust owns it. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity or if the Division of Conservation Services has placed a conservation restriction on it.

Article 97 Protection: Article 97 protects publicly owned lands used for conservation or recreation purposes. In order for a property to be sold, transferred or converted to a different use, Article 97 requires a vote of the Town in which the land use would be changed (by Conservation Commission, Parks Department, other, whichever is appropriate), a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting or City Council in support of the disposition, a 2/3 vote of the legislature in support of the disposition, they must demonstrate compliance with applicable funding sources and the municipality must file an Environmental Notification Form with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act.

Conservation Restriction: A conservation restriction is an agreement that is bound legally between a landowner and a “holder” or grantee. The landowner would agree to limit the amount and/or use of a specific property in order to protect the unique or specific conservation values that are evident on the property or important to the landowner or “holder.” A specified amount of time for the conservation restriction can be noted, or the conservation restriction can be in perpetuity. A conservation restriction is recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Easements: An easement is typically listed on a property deed and it allows permanent access to a property for a specific purpose. It is a right of use, not a right of possession.

Limited/Unprotected Parcels - Land owned by the Stoughton School Department, town-owned property used for parks and recreation, Chapter 61 and 61A properties have limited protection because they may possibly be sold in the future. Large undeveloped private holdings are included because they are important to the aesthetic appeal of the community and where recreation takes place. These private holdings have been considered for permanent protection in the course of developing the action plan (see Section 9).

A. Protected Parcels

The following inventory lists all of the lands protected in Stoughton pursuant to the definition provided above. To date, all protected lands are under local jurisdiction, primarily through the Conservation Commission and the Water Department. Most of the lands under conservation restriction were sold to the Town at reduced prices by private owners. Money provided by the Town to purchase lands has been appropriated through Town Meeting. There are no properties in Stoughton with Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs); however, it is a priority of the Town to pursue the use of APRs to protect important agricultural lands.

1. Town of Stoughton Lands, Managed by the Conservation Commission

All of these town-owned properties are in good to excellent condition and are managed by the Conservation Commission (with the obvious exception of the Canton Conservation Lands). The majority have street frontage and are relatively accessible to the public. This accessibility can provide excellent opportunities for future use. There are approximately 15 areas of conservation land in Stoughton, together totaling over 1,200 acres. As the population increases and land development continues in the town, these can become important passive recreational areas.

The following is a brief description of the different parcels that make up the conservation land in the town.

a. *Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands (Bird Street Conservation Lands)*

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: The 14-acre pond located on the south side of the property may be used for swimming and fishing. It has a network of marked trails that provide opportunity for hiking, trail running, horseback riding, bicycling, and some cross-country skiing. This site is also active during deer hunting season. Other resources include evidence of historic uses such as quarries, which supplied materials for the old train station and farm foundations. The site provides ample educational opportunities for archeological and natural studies.

Condition: Excellent – to be kept in its natural state

Recreational

Potential: High potential for a variety of uses.

Access: Access to the site is via Bird Street Palisades Circle, two places on West Street, and from Forest Road. Vehicular barriers block both the dirt road into the Bird Street entrance and one West Street entrance point. There is street parking for four or five cars at the Bird Street entrance and near the standpipe on Forest Road. Parking is allowed in the field at Bird Street for special events, and when the gate is open there is a small area of unpaved parking. There is street parking for about 5 vehicles at one West Street access point. There is ADA accessible parking at the Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground and an entrance to trails, including the Story Book Trail. None of the trails are ADA accessible at this time and there is currently no parking for people with disabilities at either point of entry. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from entering the conservation area.

Type of Grant

Accepted: In 1976 the Conservation Commission received \$214,615 in Federal and State funds for C.W. Welch area and adjacent parcels.

McNamara Farm, June 2000: \$250,000 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts & \$25,000 from C.W. Welch Memorial Fish and Game Preserve.

Libby Property, April 2003: \$500,000, Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund; \$15,000 from William P. Wharton Trust; \$10,000 from the Fields Pond Foundation; \$11,800 in private funds raised by the OSC.

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A), RB (Residential Suburban B), RC (Residential Suburban C)

Overview: The Stoughton Conservation Bird Memorial Lands represent the largest contiguous conservation area owned by the Town of Stoughton. They are located in the south central part of town and are one of the most heavily areas used in the community. The majority of the land is wooded, but it also contains large areas of open fields, some of which are currently mowed to control buckthorn or harvested for hay. Also located in the Memorial Lands are extensive wetlands, including 14 certified vernal pools and others pending. There is a diverse plant and animal population in the area. The Conservation handbook has been inventoried to identify 135 species flowers, 72 species of commonly-sighted birds, 44 different types of trees and shrubs, and 20 species of mammals.

SCORP#: 2850001

Acreage: 675 Acres

b. *Capen Reynolds Estate*

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: The community gardens are located at the farm. It occasionally plays host to a variety of community events.

Condition: Good

Recreational

Potential: ADA accessibility, walking trails, community gardens, dog park.

Access: The site in its present state is not accessible to people with disabilities. The property abuts Pleasant Street, Glen Echo Boulevard, and Pine Streets.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Willed to the Town of Stoughton in 1949 and 1963 by Bertha Capen Reynolds

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

Overview: This conservation area is located in the north-central section of town. A house and barn are located on the property and these structures are currently in the process of being preserved by a local citizen group "The

Friends of the Capen-Reynolds Farm.” The Friends have developed a conceptual phased plan that includes trails, a dog park and community gardens. The farm buildings are also proposed to be reused, but that currently remains under study. Plans to be funded by the CPA. Funding approved by 2015 Annual Town Meeting for first phase. See *Capen Reynolds Farm Use and Development Plan* (November 14, 2014) available on the Town of Stoughton website.

SCORP #: 2850002, 2850003, 2850052

Acreage: 48.4 Acres

c. *Chemung Hill Area*

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: The area has numerous footpaths that lace the hills.

Condition: Fair – in a natural state

Recreational

Potential: Limited. Trails could access Pinewood Lake.

Access: The parcel is undeveloped with only limited access to the public via small footpaths. Because it is densely wooded with extreme topographic contours, opportunities to make the area accessible to people with disabilities are extremely limited.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Available

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

Overview: Located on the northwest section of town, this area sloped down to Pinewood Lake. This parcel creates a large contiguous area of open space with the Water Department lands sloping down to the lake. There is concern by the Town over illegal use of all-terrain vehicles on the property and their impact.

SCORP #: 2850004

Acreage: 27.7 Acres

d. *Wood’s Pond*

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: There is no town-sponsored activity at this site.

Condition: Good

Recreational

Potential: This area is to be left in its natural state and is well-suited to only passive recreation.

Access: There are no pedestrian or vehicular points of entry although access can be obtained through the Gibbons School.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Available

Zoning: RB (Residential Suburban B), RC (Residential Suburban C), RU (Residential Urban)

Overview: Wood's Pond, as the name implies, consists of a pond with a strip of low-lying land that surrounds its north, east and south side. There is expansive wetland around the pond itself. There are small strips of mostly wet woodlands. There are no fields on this parcel. This conservation area is located to the north of the Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands. The area abuts the Gibbons School, which is a 15-acre parcel with approximately 9.5 acres of open space. The area is not suitable for ADA access or use.

SCORP #: 2820005

Acreage: 62.2 acres, the majority of which is covered by water.

e. Cedar Swamp (a.k.a. Sumner Gardens)

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: Stormwater retention

Condition: Excellent – undisturbed wetlands

Recreation

Potential: The site is active during deer hunting season. Existing trails are in place and unmapped. Off road recreation vehicles use at this site is predominant.

Access: Accessible from stream crossing of Dorchester Brook at the terminus of Ryan Road.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Available

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

Overview: The Sumner Gardens conservation area is located in the southeastern part of town. It is north of Atkinson Avenue and to the south of an abandoned railroad right of way. The area is largely wetlands used for flood control. To the northeast of this area is the 36-acre parcel donated to the town by Stonehill College. It is not suitable for ADA compliance

SCORP #: 2850006

Acreage: Approximately 92 in total

f. Ames Long Pond Area

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission and Recreation Department

Uses: Hiking, hunting, swimming (including instruction through the Stoughton Recreation Department), ice boating, ice skating, fishing, ice fishing, kayaking, and canoeing.

Recreational

Potential: There is some potential here for a trail system, which would link the area to other public areas in Stoughton and Easton.

Access: Much of the area is accessible only from Highland Street near the eastern town line.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Available

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A)

Overview: The conservation commission parcels surrounding the Ames Long Pond Area are widely dispersed and range from the actual surface waters, to large tracts of undisturbed open space, to small lots within primarily residential areas. Although these parcels are, in themselves dispersed, they do create a contiguous stretch of undeveloped or sparsely developed land with the Ames Rifle and Pistol lands, which currently hold conservation restrictions

SCORP #: 2850007, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13

Acreage: Approximately 185

g. *The Doogood Estates (a.k.a. the Shiretown Parcel)*

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: Passive recreation such as hiking and jogging paths.

Condition: Currently there is no suitable public access to the site.

Recreational

Potential: Moderate

Public Access: There currently is no suitable public access from Rocky Knoll Drive or from Turnpike Street

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

Overview: This parcel is located in the northwest section of town off of Turnpike Road. The site is undeveloped and bordered by single-family residential housing and commercial development.

SCORP #: 2850014

Acreage: 14.3

h. *T.L. Edwards Estates*

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: Current use is wildlife habitat.

Recreational

Potential: The area could provide woodland hiking trails for the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Access: There is undeveloped access through Connell Drive.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Applicable

Zoning: RB (Residential Suburban B), I (Industrial)

Overview: The Edwards Estate is located in the southeastern portion of the community. It is an undeveloped area near a major subdivision. It is an area of surface water supply to watershed for Avon and Brockton

SCORP #: 2850015

Acreage: 12.9 acres

i. Stonehill College Gift Area (a.k.a. Cedar Swamp)

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: None

Recreational

Potential: The area is predominately wetland. Further study is needed.

Access: This land is accessible through a strip of abandoned railroad right-of-way that abuts Crockett Street.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Applicable

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

Overview: This undeveloped site consisting of major areas of wetland is located in the southeastern section of town off of Sumner Street. The surrounding area is a large residential area.

SCORP #: 2850016

Acreage: Approximately 36 acres

j. The D. Forbes Estate

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: Limited to pedestrians because of no convenient parking.

Recreational

Potential: Limited

Access: There is undeveloped access off of Island Street.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Available

Zoning: I (Industrial)

Overview: The area is located in the northwest part of town off of Island Street. The Forbes Estate is an undeveloped site bounded to the east by an active railroad track that forms the Canton-Stoughton town line. Part of the site is wetland and there is a seasonal pond on the property.

SCORP #: 2850017

Acreage: 15 acres

k. Almon Fredericks Estate

Ownership: Town of Stoughton
Management
Agency: Conservation Commission
Uses: Limited to pedestrians.
Recreational
Potential: Limited – wetlands
Access: This parcel has undeveloped frontage on Pleasant Street.
Type of Grant
Accepted: Not Applicable
Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)
Overview: Located in the northwest section of town, this parcel is a short distance from the Reynolds Estate on Pleasant Street.
SCORP #: 2850018
Acreage: 3.48

l. North Stoughton Area

Ownership: Town of Stoughton
Management
Agency: Conservation Commission
Uses: Wildlife habitat and watershed protection.
Recreational
Potential: None – wetlands and natural state
Access: Undeveloped access can be had from Royal Drive.
Type of Grant
Accepted: Not Available
Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)
Overview: The area is located in the northern section of town off of Stoughton Street and Doty Drive near the Canton border. It abuts the Canton Conservation Lands and the Boston Edison power lines pass through the area. The area is undeveloped and consists mostly of wetlands in a natural state, plus several acres of freshwater marsh. Red Wing Brook runs through it. It is not suitable for ADA compliance.
SCORP #: 2850019
Acreage: 31.4 acres

m. Tanglewood Area

Ownership: Town of Stoughton
Management
Agency: Conservation Commission
Uses: Habitat Preservation
Recreational
Potential: Limited to local hikers.
Access: From Central Street and East and West Vanston Roads.

Type of Grant

Accepted: Not Applicable

Zoning: RB (Residential Suburban B)

Overview: An irregular low-lying parcel east of the Tanglewood subdivision, south of Central Street and west of W. Vanston Road. It is predominantly wooded swampland and abuts an extensive area of wetlands.

SCORP #: 2850021

Acreage: 7.2 acres

n. Glen Echo Park

Ownership: Town of Stoughton

Management

Agency: Conservation Commission

Uses: Forest and open wetlands; hiking, boating, fishing.

Condition:

Recreational

Potential: Passive recreation

Access: Glen Echo Boulevard and Deady Avenue

Type of Grant

Accepted: Community Preservation Act Funds

Zoning: Residential (RC)

Overview: Glen Echo Lake is the only significant body of water in the northeastern part of town. The site has historical relevance to the town as streetcars used to bring residents from other communities in the Boston area to a local resort. Residents are interested in its acquisition for swimming and related recreation. The lake crosses the Stoughton/Canton border and joint efforts to improve and maintain water quality should be explored with that town. See *Glen Echo Park Recreation and Development Plan* (October 17, 2014), available online at http://www.stoughton.org/sites/stoughtonma/files/uploads/recreation_development_plan.pdf.

Topography: Rolling and rocky with pockets of open wetlands

Soils: Bedrock outcroppings, ledges. Shallow to bedrock. Stony glacial tills.

Acreage: 97 acres

o. Canton Conservation Lands

Overview: Owned by the Town of Canton

Management

Agency: Canton Conservation Commission

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

Uses: Passive

SCORP #: 2850020

Acreage: 40.0 acres

Overview: Undeveloped wetland and woodland on the Canton border. It abuts the North Stoughton Conservation Area and is part of the Canton well protection area.

2. Town of Stoughton Lands, Managed by the Water Department

The Town of Stoughton has 398 acres of watershed land. The land is under the jurisdiction and management of the Water Department. There are three general areas of Watershed: The north basin of Ames Long Pond, Pinewood Lake and Muddy Pond. Watersheds act as recharge areas for surface water and groundwater. They also create a buffer to protect the quality of the water from pollution. All of these lands are restricted access properties and are not meant to be used as recreational facilities.

a. Ames Long Pond Watershed

Overview: The area is located just north of Ames Long Pond. It consists of two separate parcels that contain the McNamara and Fennel Wells.

Acreage: 43.2 acres

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A), RB (Residential Suburban B)

b. Muddy and Town Pond

Overview: Muddy and Town Pond watershed areas are located in the northwestern section of town and are a part of a chain of Town-owned land. The chain starts in the Muddy Pond watershed and goes through the Elm Street Little League Fields, the Town Pond Watershed, Chemung School, Pinewood watershed.

Acreage: 204.7 acres

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A), RB (Residential Suburban B), RC (Residential Suburban C)

c. Pinewood Lake Watershed Area

Overview: Pinewood Lake Watershed area is located in the northwestern section of town just south of Pinewood Lake. The watershed area slopes steeply down to the lake and contains the Harris Pond Tubular Wellfields.

Acreage: 50.9 acres

Zoning: RC (Residential Suburban C)

d. Dry Pond/Gurney Well Protection Area

Overview: Dry Pond/Gurney Well Protection Area is located in the western part of town abutting Dry Pond to the north.

Acreage: 13.6 acres

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A), RB (Residential Suburban B)

3. Conservation Restricted Lands

The Conservation Restricted Lands are located in the southwestern portion of town. The restrictions allow the present use to continue but preclude any future development. The present use of these lands is for hunting, hiking, wildlife habitat and flood water retention.

a. *Ames Rifle & Gun Club*

Overview: There are several parcels all located in the southeastern part of town along Bay Road and Highland Street, which are collectively called the Ames Rifle & Gun Club. The area consists of undeveloped woodlands that contain one of the highest hills in Stoughton (350 feet).

SCORP #: 2850022, 23

Owner/Mgr: Ames Rifle & Gun Club, Inc.

Acreage: 201.5 acres

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A)

b. *Stoughton Rod & Gun Club*

Overview: The Stoughton Rod & Gun Club is a private club located in the south central part of town. It is wooded land with a small pond on the southern section of the property. To the west, it abuts the Bird Memorial Conservation Lands and to the east, the MBTA railroad easement borders the site.

SCORP #: 2850024

Owner/Mgr: Welch Memorial Fish & Game Preserve

Acreage: 49.0 acres

Zoning: RA (Residential Suburban A)

c. *Privately Owned Parcels*

Overview: Recently, three landowners voluntarily place permanent conservation restrictions on their lots of their domiciles, representing a significant gift to the Town. These parcels comprise approximately 39 acres of land in total. Voluntary restrictions of this nature are a viable approach to increasing Stoughton's stock of protected open space and the community should work to educate residents regarding the benefits of placing these restrictions on their property.

SCORP #: NA

Owner/Mgr: NA

Acreage: 20.0 acres

B. Limited Parcels

1. Cemeteries

There are ten cemeteries in town as listed below (Table 5-1). Although certain of these cemeteries are in private hands and therefore technically "unprotected", the threat of their being sold is unlikely.

Table 5-1. Cemeteries in Stoughton

Name	Location	Acres
1. Maplewood	Pleasant Street	1.40
2. Evergreen	Washington Street	28.60
3. Holy Sepulcher	Central Street	21.20
4. Holbrook-Porter	South Street	0.39
5. Pearl St. Burial Ground	Pearl Street	1.40
6. Dry Pond	Bay Road & Plain Street	2.37
7. Old Methodist Church	Central Street	0.30
8. Pride of Brockton	South Street	0.62
9. Marshals	Washington Street	0.21
10. Poor Farm	School Street	0.02
Total Acres:		56.51

2. MGL Chapter 61 Programs

The Commonwealth's Chapter 61 program provides tax breaks to land owners as long as the land remains the same use. If the owner plans to sell the land, he or she must notify the Town and the Town then has the right to match a bona fide offer. If the owner plans to convert the land to another use (e.g. residential), the Town has the right to make an offer to purchase the property at a fair market value as determined by an independent appraisal.

In Stoughton, one parcel approximately 12 acres is listed as participating in the Chapter 61 (forested lands) program and several properties totaling 98 acres participate in the Chapter 61A (agricultural lands) program. There are no Chapter 61B recreation lands in Stoughton. The town may wish to exercise its right of first refusal for a property under the appropriate circumstances.⁶ Priority properties would be those that are adjacent to existing conservation and recreational properties, build on natural systems or wildlife corridors, or represent significant historic, cultural, or natural features.

3. Schools and Town-Owned Recreation Facilities

School properties and town lands used for recreational purposes not listed as protected may be sold in the future and are therefore considered unprotected. Many recreational facilities, with the exception of school playgrounds, are maintained by private organizations such as those around youth sports. School properties are listed in the Appendix C.

In addition to the swimming program at the Ames Long Pond beach (listed under Conservation Commission lands), the following are operated by the Recreation Department.

a. Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground & Libby Field

Overview: Part of Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands (Bird Street Conservation Lands), includes a open field, playground, picnic area and access to the Storybook Trail, which leads to trails on conservation lands.

⁶ <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/chapter-61-programs.pdf>

Acreage: 1.84 acres
Present Use: Recreation/playground
Zoning: Residential Suburban A (RA)

b. *Halloran Park*

Overview: The park features a quarter-mile long lighted walking path around a two acre grass park. A basketball court, horseshoe pit, and park benches boarder the area. The park is also the home for the Children's Playspace.

Acreage: 4.97 acres
Present Use: Recreation/playground
Zoning: Residential Urban (RU)

c. *The West School Athletic Complex*

Overview: The Recreation Department maintains and issues permits for the twelve acre sports complex located between the West Elementary School and O'Donnell Middle School. The complex features four softball fields, two baseball fields, a gravel walking circuit, and a comfort station. It is home for both interscholastic high school sports and Stoughton youth sports.

Acreage: 12 acres
Present Use: Athletic fields for high school and youth sports
Zoning: Residential Urban (RU)

4. Areas of Conservation Interest

Among the privately owned unprotected land in Stoughton, several areas have been identified as “Areas of Conservation Interest” through discussions with the Open Space Committee and the public process. These unprotected areas of conservation and recreation interest are identified in Figure 9-1, Action Plan, and the most significant tracts are listed below.

a. *Area 1 – Memorial Lands*

Overview: A collection of 20 non-contiguous parcels that abut the existing Memorial Lands or “Bird Street” Conservation Area.

Acreage: Approximately 90+ acres
Present Use: Primarily vacant with limited pasture and residential
Land Cover: Forest, pasture
Topography: Gentle slopes in the west with steeper slopes and more varied topography to the east.
Soils: Mainly glacial tills with hardpans and a few areas of rocky soils which are shallow to bedrock.
Zoning: Residential (RA)
Reason to Acquire: To continue to produce a more contiguous holding in the Memorial Lands and to prevent negative impacts on present holding.

b. Area 2 – Britton’s Pond

Overview: Britton’s Pond flows from Wood’s Pond into Southworth Pond. It is an environmentally sensitive area surrounded by residential development. Surrounding this pond and the down-gradient lands is a mix of land uses on 11 lots that is primarily undeveloped. Much of the area is also covered with wetlands and surface water.

Acreage: 86.0

Present Use: Vacant

Land Cover: Open Water, Woodlands, Cleared Land

Topography: Varied.

Soils: Generally poorly drained with wetland soils

Zoning: Residential (RC, RB)

Reason to Acquire: To create a waterway linkage to Wood and Town Pond thereby ensuring protection of wetlands and waterways.

c. Area 3 – Ames Long Pond East

Overview: These three parcels are predominately open pastureland east of Ames Long Pond. The area abuts three town-owned sites and is within 200 feet of the Stoughton Memorial Conservation Lands. It is also a short distance from the Town Beach. Some of this land is assessed for tax purposes under Chapter 61A. Recent Chapter 40B Development has resulted in the high density development of 8.3 acres in this area.

Acreage: Approximately 110 acres

Present Use: Primarily pasture

Land Cover: Mostly open fields with some wetland and forest

Topography: Gentle slopes on the north with steeper slopes on the south side.

Soils: 80% are well drained. Sandy to stony glacial tills. About 20% of the soils are poorly drained wetland types.

Zoning: Residential (RA)

Reason to Acquire: To link three major and two minor land holdings, to protect the Ames Long pond watershed and to protect one of the few remaining areas used for agriculture perhaps by leasing the acquired land for continued agricultural use.

d. Area 4 – Washington Street and Cedar Swamp Area

Overview: This area is east of the Sumner Street area and extends to Washington Street at the intersection with Morton Street. It is northeast of the old railroad bed.

Acreage: Approximately 100 acres

Present Use: Water Protection area

Land Cover: Forested areas, wetlands and a small pond. There is a vernal pool on the property.

Topography: Low lying

Zoning: Industrial and Residential-Suburban B
Reason to
Acquire: In addition to protecting a relatively scarce area of open wetlands it will connect to two isolated portions of conservation land. It's an essential part of the remaining habitat and it will create a wildlife corridor across the town. It would allow walking trails from the Sumner Street area to Stoughton Fish & Game, Stoughton Memorial Lands, Bradley M. Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground and Ames Long Pond.

e. Area 5 – Glen Echo Lake

Overview: Areas adjacent to Glen Echo Lake and abutting Glen Echo Park. The parcel also borders Canton.
Acreage: 3.48 acres
Present Use: Private swimming, hiking, etc.
Land Cover: Forested
Topography:
Soils: Deep, well-drained to excessively well-drained sands or gravels.
Reason to
Acquire: To build on Glen Echo Park and preserve in a natural state lands surrounding Glen Echo Lake.

f. Area 6 – Orchard Road

Overview: Platted area undeveloped due to environmental constraints. Town recently acquired four parcels through tax titles adjacent to these properities.
Acreage: Approximately 14 acres
Present Use: None
Land Cover: Forested
Topography:
Soils:
Reason to
Acquire: To build connections between open space properties

SECTION 6. COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Description of Process and Results

Community goals are based on how Stoughton citizens value open space and recreational resources. Three primary sources were reviewed to gauge changing views and used to update existing goals. The Stoughton Community Preservation Plan: Fiscal Years 2012-2015, Draft (2012) is intended to guide the use of CPA funds by building a general framework to determine the Town's specific funding priorities. The CPA provides funding for four general projects types: community housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation. The Stoughton CPC also conducted a Public Workshop (November 28, 2011) as part of the development of the Community Preservation Plan.

Presently, the Town is also in the process of updating its Master Plan, providing a timely opportunity to gauge residents' sentiments regarding existing open space and recreation offerings, as well as assessing future needs. Several focus groups, as well as the Master Plan Committee's preliminary work on the Draft Open Space and Recreation element complement the findings reported to date.

Finally, an Open Space and Recreation Community Survey was conducted during the first half of 2014. These surveys were designed to explore residents' perception of open space and recreational facilities in Stoughton, the adequacy of access to those facilities, the potential need for more conservation or recreation facilities, and the mechanisms that could be used in the future to continue acquisition and maintenance. Results of this survey confirm and support the findings of other outreach efforts.

Once the goals and objectives were updated, a public forum was held on March 1, 2016 to vet the updated plan with the public. Feedback was received on what was right, what needed further updates, and what was missing.

The following provides a summary of the community visioning process and results.

1. Stoughton Community Preservation Plan: Fiscal Years 2013-2015, Draft (2012)

The Town of Stoughton Community Preservation Committee (CPC) developed the Community Preservation Plan to guide the allocation of Community Preservation Act funds for fiscal years (FY) 2012-2015. The following goals are intended to focus Stoughton's Community Preservation Act (CPA) expenditures to achieve community priorities as determined by the CPC through a participatory public planning process:

Open Space

- Preserve open space identified as priorities (Cedar Swamp area/Goddard property, which consists of 177.5 acres of open, wet meadow and some wooded uplands that would protect a scarce area of open wetlands and provide access to adjoining conservation areas. In addition, the Lipsky/Combined Jewish Philanthropy property on Canton Street and the

multiple MacNamara properties that are contiguous to the Bird Street Conservation Area are all high priorities for protection)

- Preserve water bodies/water resources (dredging projects at Ames, Denison, Harris, and Muddy ponds)
- Create Downtown open space (green space/pocket parks, passive recreation areas for the enjoyment of the Downtown experience)

Recreation

- Expand recreation opportunities on open space acquisitions through CPA funding (new trails, information/educational signage, vehicle/bike/pedestrian access)
- Create bicycle trails and access points
- Dovetail recreational opportunities with multi-purpose projects (hiking trails on conservation lands, pocket parks as part of affordable housing development)

2. Stoughton Master Plan Update

From a local perspective, a number of outreach opportunities were conducted through the update of the Town's Master Plan update process regarding the existing offerings of open space and recreation facilities/programs, the conditions of facilities, and future needs.

The following discussion provides a summary of the needs, goals, and strategies proposed during the Master Plan update process.

Open Space and Recreation Focus Group

When asked about existing open space and recreation facilities and programs, participants in the Master Plan update cited their top priorities include acquiring more green space, better signage/mapping for existing sites, increased awareness/education on open space and recreation offerings, improved bicycle facilities and expanded social offerings for teens, beyond what the schools offer. Regarding the current condition of open space and recreation facility/program offerings, participants cited several areas of need, including improved access to and parking for open space facilities, trash receptacles and pet waste stations, better enforcement of residential yard waste/commercial dumping violations, signage for trail systems, and renovations at the town-owned bathhouse and fencing at Ames Long Pond.

In general, participants indicated that all age groups/demographics were served, although not equally. Introducing children to the Town's open space and trail systems through kits and/or guides may encourage appropriate use, while the provision of safe surface walking areas may encourage increased senior citizen activity. Overall, participants felt that facilities and programs are centrally located. The group also felt that although the Town maintains some valuable governmental partnerships with the Old Colony Planning Council and between town departments, some private/public partnerships and inter-town collaboration would greatly enhance awareness of open space offerings and facilitate improved maintenance.

The following goals and strategies have been developed to support the implementation of the Vision Statement identified in the Draft Open Space and Recreation element as part of the Master Plan update, currently in-process:

Goal 1: Develop and maintain a framework for effective planning and management of the Town's open space and recreational resources.

Strategies:

- Maintain an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Increase knowledge and capacity of staff, boards and committees
- Work to increase the number and diversity of participants engaged in open space and recreation planning and management

Goal 2: Meet the growing recreational needs of Stoughton residents with well maintained and managed facilities and programs.

Strategies:

- Seek protection of identified priority properties.
- Request the inclusion of public open space and/or recreation areas in any major redevelopment project where practical and needed.
- Increase the health and improve access to the Town's ponds.
- Adopt a policing and patrolling strategy for open space and recreation lands.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Cluster Residential Development (CRD) Bylaw (and revise as needed).
- Increase awareness and access to existing open spaces.
- Develop a short and long range maintenance and improvement plan for existing facilities.
- Assess capacity of existing town properties to meet recreational needs.
- Identify specific new recreational facilities that are needed.
- Evaluate and expand recreational programs.
- Improve and expand the Town's pedestrian and bicycle network.
- Provide equitable access to open space and recreational facilities throughout town.

Goal 3: Develop parks to create community cohesion and build social capital.

Strategies:

- Develop Design Principles for parks and open spaces.
- Create a park network that helps define and serve Town Center.
- Improve the Town's memorial squares.
- Assure that municipal policies, guidelines, and regulations support desired park uses.

Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Focus Group

Participants of the Master Plan update in the Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources Focus Group of the Master Plan update identified similar themes as the Open Space and Recreation Focus Group. Management of existing lands was considered a top priority, particularly the spread of invasive species, illegal ATV use and dumping.

The following goals and strategies related to natural resources have been developed to support the implementation of the Vision Statement identified in the Draft Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources element as part of the Master Plan update, currently in-process:

Goal 1: Protect the town's ecosystems that contribute to species biodiversity, water quality, and suburban character.

Strategies:

- Maintain an up-to-date inventory of lands of interest.
- Consider Natural Resource Protection Zoning.
- Address sedimentation Issues.
- Create and implement a town-wide Street Tree Master Plan.
- Create and implement stewardship plans.
- Assure adequate development review.

3. Stoughton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Community Survey

The Open Space and Recreation Community Survey was undertaken in the spring and summer of 2014. The survey was available online and paper copies were distributed at Town Hall, the Library and at a variety of local meetings. A total of 114 surveys were collected both as paper copies and taken online.

Overall, with regard to open space conservation, respondents were unanimously in favor (94%) of adding more land to the existing stock of open space in Stoughton. When asked how important it is to preserve the following: Agricultural land and farmland; Habitat areas, such as ponds and wetlands, including endangered species habitat; Land areas for protection of groundwater and drinking water; Watershed areas around streams, ponds and lakes; Aesthetics/scenic views and vistas; Tracts of land linking open space parcels; and Large open spaces to meet recreational needs, most respondents (73%) felt that all garnered protection.

While about 20% indicated they were very or somewhat dissatisfied with both parks and recreation, and open space features, around 40% indicated a neutral rating, and the remaining 40% noted they were somewhat or very satisfied. For parks and recreation, and open space only about 13% noted they were very satisfied. Satisfaction with youth activities was somewhat higher with nearly 47% indicating they were somewhat or very satisfied. Satisfaction with activities for elderly residents was about 40% with nearly half providing a neutral rating.

Regarding recreational facilities, survey respondents (over 50%) ranked small pocket parks and neighborhood parks, bike trails, and walking and hiking trails as most important/popular. Only

11.5% of respondents said, yes, they are getting sufficient information about the Town's open space and recreation resources. The remaining survey respondents were divided that they somewhat believe they are getting sufficient information (45.2%) or no, they are not getting sufficient information (43.3%).

When survey participants were asked to identify what type of development they wanted to see more of in Stoughton, 84% indicated they would like to see some or much more development to serve active recreational needs (playing courts/fields, trails, skating rinks) and 74% supported some or much more development for passive recreation (benches, picnic/common areas).

A complete summary of the community survey can be found in Appendix B.

4. Public Forum

A public forum was held on March 1, 2016 at the community room of the Stoughton Police Station. The purpose of the forum was to vet the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan with the public to discuss what was right, what needed some revisions, and what was missing. Prior to the meeting, the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was available on the Town's website. During the forum, attendees were able to review goals, objectives, and actions on larger boards and handouts. A brief presentation provided an overview of the plan. Discussion focused on revisions to the goals, objectives, and actions, which were incorporated into the final plan.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Based on the findings of the Community Preservation Plan, the work of the Master Plan Committee on the draft Open Space and Recreation element, and the results of the Open Space and Recreation Community Survey, the Open Space and Recreation Goals for the Town of Stoughton broadly stated are:

Goal 1: Protect and enhance natural areas of Stoughton for wildlife habitat, wetlands preservation, conservation, and recreation.

Goal 2: Protect local agricultural activities and farmland.

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the quality of the Town's groundwater and surface water.

Goal 4: Manage the conservation areas effectively to ensure user access and safety.

Goal 5: Provide adequate access to safe, well-maintained recreational facilities for all residents of Stoughton.

SECTION 7. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

The purpose of this section is to identify the overall open space and recreation needs of the Town of Stoughton. Needs have been identified through the public process, including a number of planning initiatives, described in Section 6 above and will serve as the foundation for the Goals and Objectives and Five-Year Action Plan developed in the concluding sections of the plan.

A. Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012

From a regional perspective, the *Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012* (SCORP), developed by the EOEa, discusses the results of several outreach and public process efforts to better understand open space and recreation needs.

1. SCORP Public Officials Survey

According to a web-based survey regarding the current supply/availability of recreational facilities, Massachusetts' municipal and land conservation and recreation employees identified the following 'most popular resources' by age/demographic group:

- Families: playgrounds and water facilities
- Preschoolers: playgrounds and water facilities
- Children: playgrounds and athletic fields
- Adolescents: athletic fields and skate parks
- Adults: hiking/walking trails
- Seniors: senior citizen centers and hiking/walking trails.

Survey respondents indicated that trails are the type of facility that has increased the most over the last several years, as well as the activity that will continue to increase in popularity over the next few years. When asked about the quality of their recreational facilities, most respondents listed their facilities in 'good' or 'excellent' condition, with the exception of basketball courts and fresh water swimming areas.

On the demand side, survey respondents indicated that trails, multi-use fields, playgrounds, baseball fields, community gardens, picnic areas and fresh water swimming areas, in decreasing rank order respectively, 'require more resources'. Adolescents aged 13 – 18 is the demographic that has the least of their needs met, citing the lack of community/teen centers and skateboard parks.

2. SCORP Land Trust Survey

Individuals from the land trust community also completed a web-based survey regarding the existing and future use of their lands. The top three activities taking place on their land, indicated in a 29.2-percent response rate (38 out of 130 responses received), included walking/jogging/hiking, dog walking, and nature study. The top four issues respondents referenced regarding their facilities are acquiring new land, trail maintenance, conservation restriction stewardship, and funding.

The top physical issues relative to land trust sites are invasive species management, undergrowth and weeds control, and the provision of adequate parking. Land trusts are also facing social issues, including illegal use of trails, littering/dumping, and user conflicts.

3. SCORP Public Meetings

In the fall of 2011, EEA hosted a series of six public meetings in each geographic region of the state. Participants were asked to describe what a ‘perfect day of outdoor recreation’ would be. More trails, particularly near where people live, were most frequently mentioned across the state. The desire for trail systems, loop trails within long distance networks that can be completed in a shorter amount of time, and urban trails connected to water were also mentioned.

Respondents also cited a need for water-based recreation, including water access for swimming and boating (including coastal access). They also cited more land protection along water ways for improved water quality. Finally, respondents identified a need for more websites, apps, etc. to help find, understand and better access recreation areas, specifically for water access points (and instructional swimming opportunities), long distance trails, and campgrounds.

4. SCORP Telephone Surveys

In an effort to statistically round out the statewide data gathering process, EEA contracted with a consultant to perform two additional telephone surveys. The first, asked adult residents what activities in which they are currently participating. Those activities reported as most popular included the following:

- Running/Jogging/Walking
- Hiking, Road Biking and Gardening
- Swimming (in pools)
- Swimming (fresh/saltwater)
- Team sports

The majority of respondents indicated that their participation rate will likely remain the same (49%), while thirty-eight% project an increase (11% indicated their rate would decline).

The second survey, oriented toward youth, reported similarities, but with a different emphasis:

- Running/Jogging/Walking (83%)
- Swimming in pools (78%)
- Swimming fresh/saltwater (73%)
- Team sports

B. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

A review of the status of the 2007 OSRP, along with the results of various public meetings, surveys and focus groups conducted over the last several years indicate that residents are in favor

of increasing the amount of conservation land in the community. From the survey conducted as part of this OSRP update (also echoed in other data gathering efforts) 94% of respondents felt it was important or very important to continue to acquire and preserve open space and natural areas. The majority of respondents prioritized land acquisition and preservation efforts that included, in descending order:

- Land areas for the protection of groundwater
- Watershed areas around streams, ponds, and lakes
- Habitat areas, such as ponds and wetlands
- Aesthetics/scenic views and vistas
- Tracts of land linking open space parcels

Although still seen as important to preserve, fewer respondents felt the need to preserve agricultural land and farm land. Protecting agricultural land, both active and inactive, is important to a community. It protects historic and cultural resources part of the local landscape, maintaining scenic views and vistas along roadways. Additionally, small-scale farming has slowly been gaining moment through the “know where your food comes from” movement. It is critical to protect prime agricultural soils from development. Further, farming can be more than just harvesting from the land. Supporting activities such as retail/farm stands, corn mazes, hay rides, and pick-your-own can greatly contribute to the local economy.

1. Groundwater Protection

Beyond the issues of Stoughton’s history of heavy industry and commercial usage and the drinking water supply in Stoughton, is the geographic location of the town on the divide of the Neponset River/Taunton River watersheds and the potential regional impacts to groundwater quality for communities downstream in these drainage basins. Efforts should be advanced to minimize negative impacts from point source contamination, including education of businesses, institutions, and residential property owners regarding methods to limit potential contamination of area water supplies from stormwater runoff and failing septic systems.

The lack of sewers in some areas (only 60% of the town is sewerred), as well as capacity restrictions as a result of inadequate coordination between multiple private developments proves challenging in accommodating new growth. Enhancing the development potential at the existing community center (where there is capacity) through consideration of Massachusetts’ Chapter 40R “Smart Growth District” enabling statute could alleviate development pressure on existing tracts of open space that would be more valuable to the Town if left undeveloped. The Town’s Groundwater Protection By-Law already limits development to areas where water can be produced by private wells. However, the Town’s existing Cluster Residential Development By-Law, unable to adequately address the development concerns of the community, should be reconsidered as an Open Space Residential Design (OSRD) By-Law, having much wider applicability.

2. Habitat Protection

Acquiring lands or implementing conservation easements that protect critical habitat is needed to help maintain biological diversity as well as protect plant and animal species in Massachusetts that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern. Figure 4-8 is a map showing important natural habitat and landscapes located in Stoughton and can help the Town understand important local ecosystems. Included on the map are priority habitat for endangered, threatened and special concern species, as identified by the National Heritage and Endangered Species Program. The map also identifies BioMap2 Core Habitat, natural communities and intact ecosystems for species of conservation concern and larger natural landscapes that support ecological processes, disturbances, and wide-ranging species. By targeting these properties, the Town can prioritize the most critical habitat for protection.

As a result of continued heavy use of ponds for recreation and the high value placed by residents on these resources, protection is essential. Nutrient enriched groundwater and stormwater runoff recharge is evidenced by increased levels of vegetation in some of Stoughton's ponds. The Town should continue its efforts to advance water quality improvement projects throughout the Town, including the exotic aquatic invasive vegetation management piloting program (aquatic emergent vegetation) initiated on Ames Long Pond in 2008, follow through with EPA regarding a regional vegetative lake management project, and on its request for funding in response to degraded water quality due to algae growth on Ames Long Pond.

A public educational campaign can also increase awareness of what residents can do to reduce nutrients in stormwater runoff. For example, outreach efforts can show how lawn care products increase nutrients in runoff entering waterbodies that are popular for swimming and boating. The nutrients cause algal blooms and fuel invasive plant growth, which impacts water quality and the ability to recreate on these waters.

3. Watershed Protection

One development trend of concern in Stoughton is the continued push into marginal lands that abut resource areas, many of which, a result of recent Comprehensive Permit applications. The Town-approved Wetlands Protection By-Law Regulations (Town Code Chapter 191) approved in 2012, should provide a significant effect upon wetland resource values and minimize development encroachment onto areas with sensitive habitat and/or wetland resources. The inventory of outdated stormwater management practices and recommendations for upgrades suggested in Section 3, to incorporate appropriate low impact development (LID) practices and/or best management practices (BMPs), such as porous pavement and green infrastructure alternatives, is one step the Town and private developers can take towards improved water quality.

4. Contiguous Open Space Land Tracts/Scenic and Agricultural Lands Protection

Another consideration is the large amount of land currently under Chapter 61 which represents a significant level of potential development. These larger tracts of undeveloped land represent valuable linkages to open space and existing greenways. The community may not be in a position to purchase all of the Chapter 61 lands that enter the market, and therefore, should

consider zoning controls/incentives in the form of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), as previously suggested. The CPA should also be considered a resource for acquisition funding.

Also the Town should make a concerted effort to strengthen the link between the two largest tracts of contiguous undeveloped land in town (e.g. southwest portion of Stoughton and the Cedar Swamp area) that provide significant wildlife habitat and creation of wildlife corridors, opportunities for nature study, and some remnant of a wilderness, as well as to expand the open space and recreational use corridors.

Finally, not much productive agricultural land remains in Stoughton, except for a few small-scale cattle and horse farms and a cranberry bog operation. Most often, these include large tracts of open fields/land that are scenic, many with wide vistas not available anywhere else. Additionally, small-scale farming continues to grow in the region. More and more individuals are becoming more interested in where their food comes from and how it's grown. There is also support of local agriculture as farmers markets grow and become more popular. Preserving these existing agricultural operations and accessory uses that might be supported (farm stands, seasonal events like corn mazes or hay rides) build local economies. Efforts to protect these resources should include succession planning/better communication with property owners, while funding mechanisms should include a transfer of development rights (TDR) program (see below) and/or the CPA.

Regarding town actions to support the preservation and protection of open space and natural areas, respondents participating in the OSRP survey as part of this update prioritized support for the following actions:

- Zoning that facilitates open space conservation (77%)
- Cooperative land conservation efforts between public and private entities (73%)
- Town purchase of land using CPA funds and/or grants (73%)
- Mandatory dedication of open space by developers (68%)
- Conservation restrictions/easements – purchased/acquired (63%)

C. Summary of Community's Needs

As part of the public input phase of this plan update, issues were raised relative to recreational facilities, outside of resources/conservation lands protection needs. The following list describes the community's top priorities related to recreational needs.

1. Expanding the Number/Variety of Facilities

As sports programs grow and evolve, the number and type of facilities to satisfy demand are often lacking. The growing popularity of lacrosse as a team sport is competing with field space for soccer, field hockey and football. This increase in field use also limits the ability of the turf to recover. A task force is needed to evaluate field capacity/maintenance, for both existing and future needs, and to make recommendations for improving and adding new facilities. Strategies include identifying town-owned property for new facilities, identifying potential partnerships and funding sources, and evaluating operations (scheduling, use agreements and use fee structures).

The expansion of the Town's pedestrian and bicycle network was identified as a priority transportation and recreation initiative (bike racks at and bicycle access to existing open space areas, and bike path development in conjunction with the South Coast rail would encourage better utilization and create connectivity). Support for the work of the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force and the Old Colony Planning Council to develop a regional pedestrian and bicycle network was emphasized, in addition to assuring the work is coordinated with and influenced by Stoughton's Transportation Task Force, the Town Center Transportation Study, and the update of this plan. Building missing links in existing conservation and recreation areas can also support the network. For example, the trail network at the Bird Street Conservation area can be expanded to create a complete loop.

It was acknowledged that the community is evolving and becoming more urban. There is a need for small open space areas for the development of 'pocket parks' within existing neighborhoods in order to provide equitable access to parks and recreational facilities throughout the Town. Intentional spaces for recreation and socialization are needed, particularly for pre-teens, teens and the elderly. Development of a Town Center public space plan is needed to physically link parks, plazas, open space, and sidewalks (for example, Town Center Park, Faxon Park, and the Washington Street Triangle) as a coordinated park system. The CPC and Open Space Committee have been planning for pocket parks.

Individual master plans for the Capen-Reynolds Farm and Glen Echo Park sites are important in the management of these properties. They each outline how best to balance resource protection, recreational, and neighborhood needs. Partnerships will help implement the ideas expressed in these plans, particularly with the Town of Canton and efforts at Glen Echo Park.

2. Access/Awareness

The community has made a commitment to providing access for people with disabilities to existing conservation and recreational facilities. Poor access, however, may also refer to barriers in public awareness, inadequate parking, and lack of appropriate signage. If residents of Stoughton are not aware of where access points to conservation lands exist, or what recreational offerings various sites provide, these areas will not realize their full value to the community. 89% of respondents participating in the OSRP survey indicated that they get 'somewhat' or 'no' information regarding the Town's open space and recreation resources. Improvements to the Town's website and/or the development of an open space and recreation app for the community are two strategies to inform the community. Similarly, if trails are not marked or mapped, residents will not be aware of the length and difficulty of trails to make informed decisions. More trails, particularly smaller signed loop trails within close proximity to residential areas are highly desired. Signs and trail markers should be provided to inform users.

Also, residents feel there is a lack of accessibility (not ADA access) of schools by the community for non-school programming. Better coordination/communication between the schools and other groups is needed. There is a definite need in the community to follow through on ADA compliance issues including accessible parking, accessible paths, reducing barriers such as steps and steep slopes and amenities such as accessible picnic tables, play structures and water

fountains. Annual improvements to increase accessibility for people with special needs should be included in maintenance and capital plans. However, the Town does not maintain or improve many of the recreational facilities outside of school property. Rather, by contract with the Town the upgrade and maintenance is the responsibility of private sports organizations. The Town will encourage those groups to meet ADA compliance at their facilities. If improvements are made down the line, they can be noted in future updates of the OSRP.

3. Funding/Advocacy

Open space and recreational resources contribute significantly to the quality of life in Stoughton. The responsibility for planning, acquisition and management should be shared across a diverse range of residents and groups. Presently, the Town's Council on Aging and Youth Commission are grouped together. Perhaps it may be necessary to split these roles and/or increase staff/staff hours to assure the needs of the community are being met. To identify and secure additional funding resources the town should look within and beyond its own budget. Grants, partnerships, fee programs, increased efficiencies, and developer contributions should all be considered. Recommendations from the Master Plan update committee include the identification of opportunities for developing partnerships with neighboring towns to collectively meet area needs (Borderland State Park in Easton), actively recruit board/committee members through a variety of outreach platforms not typically engaged, and establish and support friends and/or volunteer groups for improvements and stewardship of facilities and programs. The Town should work closely with the CPC, as a partner, to identify projects suitable for funding. Consider opportunities to integrate open space and recreation with the CPC's housing and historic preservation priorities, to achieve multiple needs.

D. Management Needs/Potential Change of Use

Based on the community's needs, several management challenges have been identified. Although specific changes in land use were not identified, maintenance limitations and facilitating better information exchange are two focal points relative to needs. Additionally, amending the existing Zoning Bylaw with the goal of more centralized sustainable development techniques could make significant additions to Stoughton's open space inventory.

1. Short and Long Range Maintenance/Improvement Plan

Maintaining and improving existing facilities is the Town's top priority. Because public parks and open spaces are part of the Town's 'public face' and have a significant impact on its sense of place (also contributing to economic development measures), a commitment to high maintenance standards should include elements for waste collection, options for pet waste, policies for reporting/ removing graffiti and dumped material, and complete roadside and off-road network maintenance (vegetation control, trails, parking areas, connections, signage). Maintenance standards should also extend to the health of and access to the Town's ponds. As valuable resources providing habitat, contributing to the Town's rural image, and providing for water-based activities, the Town should address ongoing threats of invasive species management, sedimentation and concerns for water quality. Residents also desire more opportunities to access ponds. Capital and improvement plans should include access to water related facilities balanced with water quality improvement initiatives. The development and enforcement of maintenance

standards would also likely address stewardship concerns and social issues including illegal use of trails and user conflicts.

A conservation agent with a dedicated budget that emphasizes maintenance and operational needs are critical in meeting maintenance and improvement goals. The Town must be proactive to identify alternative sources of funding such as grants, programming, and facility user fees to offset capital budgets. Further, collaboration among different municipal departments can also help support maintenance activities and operational needs. The Recreation Department, Public Works Department, and the Conservation Commission all play important roles in meeting open space and recreational needs. Defining responsibilities will minimize redundancy in efforts and increase efficiency, which can save money and time.

2. Open Space Residential Design Bylaw

The existing Cluster Residential Development Bylaw continues to have limited success in Stoughton owing primarily to several of the criteria for eligibility written into the code. For example, to qualify for cluster development, a tract of land must be at least 30 acres in size. Of the over 1,000 residentially zoned parcels identified as “vacant” in the Assessor’s database or through aerial interpretation, only four cover more than 30 acres. Common ownership of adjacent properties allows for common ownership to add acreages together toward satisfying this 30-acre threshold. Review of Assessor’s ownership data suggests that only a few tracts of land might be added to the original four by combining lands of common ownership. However, if the threshold for an alternative subdivision style were dropped to five acres, then over 50 parcels would potentially qualify. This exercise illustrates how the existing cluster bylaw is missing many opportunities for implementation based solely on the site acreage requirements.

Another point to consider is that the provisions in the Bylaw allow only for single-family detached houses subject to strict dimensional requirements. Although these dimensional requirements are generally more flexible, they may limit a developer’s options in marginal areas with considerable resources. The Planning Board may therefore wish to consider replacing the existing cluster provisions with a more flexible Open Space Residential Design Bylaw. This approach would potentially apply to any subdivision in the community and would follow the classic four-step OSRD approach:

- a. Identify existing natural and cultural resources on the site including wetlands, vernal pools, significant trees or forested areas, views, or historic sites. Exclude these from developable areas.
- b. Place houses on the plan so that residents would have optimized access to the resources identified in step one without encroaching on any sensitive areas. Similar to cluster development, the number of homes allowed on the site is determined by the number that could be allowed under the original zoning provisions.
- c. Lay out a road that would service the homes laid out in Step b above.
- d. Draw lot lines on the plan.

Developing an OSRD subdivision concept along with a “standard” subdivision design could be made mandatory for proposals over a certain size (e.g., five or more units). This is best

performed in a Preliminary Plan Submittal in order to properly plan alternatives early in the design process. Depending on the appeal of the two designs, the Planning Board could decide which plan is more appropriate to the site and the applicant can then begin designing a Definitive Plan.

3. Transfer of Development Rights

In assessing the effectiveness of the cluster provisions, over 50 parcels were identified that were vacant, residentially zoned, and covered more than five acres. It is important to note that almost all of the parcels identified as “areas of conservation interest” in Section 5 above were part of this inventory. This demonstrates that preservation of these developable lands may be more of a realistic goal than partial development (as would be allowed through cluster or OSRD provisions). The Planning Board and the community as a whole should therefore also consider the adoption of a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program.

A TDR program in Stoughton would identify “sending areas”, such as those vacant parcels listed in the “areas of conservation interest”, and “receiving areas”, such as the Town center and selected surrounding districts. A TDR zoning bylaw would enable land owners in the sending areas to sell development rights to landowners in the receiving areas. As part of the transaction, the sending area property would be restricted relative to intensity and type of use. In turn, the receiving area property could be developed at a higher density than what conventional zoning allows. Some of the more successful TDR programs in the country begin by down-zoning the open space areas, but then allow development rights to be sold at the original density. For example, if farmland were zoned for one housing unit per acre, it could be down-zoned to one unit per five acres. However, in the course of a TDR purchase, the owner of the farmland could sell development rights as if the land were zoned for one unit per acre.

In support of the above-referenced priorities to operate and maintain open space and natural areas in Stoughton, respondents participating in the OSRP survey as part of this update identified the following as potential strategies:

- Increase interaction between Conservation, Recreation and Department of Public Works (80%)
- An ‘Adopt-a-Facility’/‘Friends-of-a-Facility’ program that allows private individuals or groups to take responsibility for a facility’s maintenance and/or funding (58%)
- Fees paid by non-residents only for the use of recreational facilities; fees would be used for facility maintenance and acquisition (44%)
- Fees paid by both residents and non-residents for the use of recreational facilities; fees would be used for facility maintenance and acquisition (39%)
- Expand parking areas at recreation facilities (32%)

SECTION 8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following list provides concrete objectives and policies to meet the general goals identified in Section 6 of this plan.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance the natural areas of Stoughton for wildlife habitat, wetlands preservation, conservation, and recreational use.

- a. Concentrate development in areas more suited to higher densities of housing or commercial use.
- b. Focus on infill opportunities before development of open spaces.
- c. Continue to identify and protect critical natural resource areas.

Goal 2: Protect local agricultural activities and farmland.

- a. Develop land use policies and programs to protect local farmland.

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the quality of the Town's groundwater and surface water.

- a. Preserve open space and monitor activities in areas that contribute to the public water supply.
- b. Promote standards and strategies town-wide that reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.
- c. Partner with neighboring communities and local/regional organizations in efforts to reduce water pollutants and improve water quality.

Goal 4: Manage the conservation areas effectively to ensure user access and safety.

- a. Support conservation planning and resource management with adequate municipal staffing and department coordination as well as technical and financial resources.
- b. Ensure that local committees and boards have the knowledge and technical assistance to make informed decisions about land use policies related to conservation planning and management efforts.
- c. Enforce appropriate and legal use of conservation areas for passive recreation.
- d. Develop partnerships with neighboring communities and non-profit organizations to manage shared resources.

Goal 5: Provide adequate access to safe, well-maintained recreational facilities for all residents of Stoughton.

- a. Ensure that residents have access to parks and other recreational opportunities.
- b. Provide adequate resources and coordination for existing municipal departments, boards and commissions to manage and maintain recreational facilities.

- c. Improve access at conservation areas and recreational facilities to comply with ADA standards where feasible.
- d. Promote existing recreational (and conservation resources) to residents to increase awareness, encourage use, and promote environmental stewardship.
- e. Provide recreational programming that meets the needs of all ages and abilities.

SECTION 9. SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven-Year Action Plan sets out a course to implement stated goals and objectives. The Action Plan includes estimated timeframe (year in which the action is expected to begin) and responsible party. Timeframes also indicate that actions are “ongoing” because they have already started and are planned to continue.

The action items are organized goal/objective and include the responsible parties, highlighting in bold the party that will take the lead with the others playing a supporting role. A funding source has also been identified for each action item. Funding sources are further defined as follows:

- Town Department: the action item will be funded as part of a budgeted work program for one or more town departments or committees
- CPA/Town Meeting: the action item will need to be funded with CPA funds via Town Meeting vote
- Grant: grant funding from state, federal, and non-profit organizations will be sought to complete the action item. Where known, specific grant resources are provided.
- Donations/Fundraising: may also be an opportunity
- N/A: Additional funding is not anticipated because action is part of existing capacity of the department or commission/committee/board

Goal 1: Protect and enhance the natural areas of Stoughton for wildlife habitat, wetlands preservation, conservation, and recreational use.

- a. Concentrate development in areas more suited to higher densities of housing or commercial use.

The 2015 Stoughton Master Plan Land Use chapter, currently in draft form, outlines actions that support smart-growth and sustainable land use practices, which support the goals and objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Master Plan is the vehicle to move these strategies forward, and to reduce redundancy in Town efforts, they are incorporated here by reference.

- b. Focus on infill opportunities before development of open spaces.

The 2015 Stoughton Master Plan Land Use chapter, currently in draft form, outlines actions that support smart-growth and sustainable land use practices, which support the goals and objectives of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Master Plan is the vehicle to move these strategies forward, and to reduce redundancy in Town efforts, they are incorporated here by reference.

- c. Continue to identify and protect critical natural resource areas.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Preserve undeveloped land through private conservation restrictions, donations, and purchases.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	CPA/Town Meeting/ DCS Grant
2. Use local school programs and youth organizations to help identify critical natural resources and certify vernal pools.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
3. Continue inventory and documentation of rare and endangered species.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	N/A
4. Identify properties, particularly those adjacent to existing protected lands like Glen Echo, Capen Reynolds Farm, and Stoughton Memorial Land, that when linked with existing protected lands or other open space areas create linkages as trails or corridors for wildlife.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
5. Identify other undeveloped properties owned by the Town that should be permanently protected. Identify properties that might be available through tax title.	Year 1	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Tax Assessor	N/A
6. Examine the benefits of including the Cedar Hill Golf Course in future conservation land should the course close operations.	Year 1	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
7. Recognize the advancement of climate change and the importance of acquiring lands with critical natural resources to manage impacts, for example forested lands, as appropriate.	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A

Goal 2: Protect local agricultural activities and farmland.

- a. Develop land use policies and programs to protect local farmland.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Evaluate the use of CPA funds to purchase important farmland.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
2. Reach out to local farms to promote and protect existing farmland. Consider opportunities to lease farmland. Identify interest in a TDR program.	Year 1	Conservation Commission Open Space Committee	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
3. Prioritize Chapter 61 and 61A lands to be in position for acquisition when they come up for the Town's right of first refusal.	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
4. Identify prime agricultural soils and determine ownership and availability for farming.	Year 3	Conservation Commission	N/A

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the quality of the Town's groundwater and surface water.

- a. Preserve open space and monitor activities in areas that contribute to the public water supply.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Identify properties that can impact the public water supply and determine how best to protect water quality.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
2. Support monitoring in watersheds and wellhead protection areas for activities that would adversely impact public water supplies, such as land clearing, pesticide use, and dumping.	Ongoing	Board of Health, Open Space Committee, Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission	N/A
3. Apply for grant money, as needed, to be used for the acquisition of privately held open space areas.	Ongoing	Open Space Committee	N/A
4. Develop, and update as needed, a detailed spending plan for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding to target important properties. These properties may include Zone 1 contributing areas for past, present or future water supplies.	Ongoing	Community Preservation Committee, Open Space Committee	N/A
5. Consider the impact of climate change on the Town's water supply and develop adaptation strategies to reduce impacts, including property acquisition and infrastructure improvements.	Year 2	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A

- b. Promote standards and strategies town-wide that reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Working with the Neponset River Watershed Association and Taunton River Alliance, identify areas that could benefit from stormwater best management practices (BMPs).	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission	N/A
2. Revise local zoning and/or Subdivision Rules and Regulations to include Low Impact Development (LID) techniques.	Year 2	Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Planner, Open Space Committee	N/A
3. Identify projects where the town can implement LID techniques and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on municipal properties to educate the public. Examples can be rain gardens, porous driveways, and increased native plantings.	Year 3	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A

- c. Partner with neighboring communities and local/regional organizations in efforts to reduce water pollutants and improve water quality.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Continue partnerships with the Neponset River Watershed Association and Taunton River Alliance in promoting conservation and water quality needs. Support local volunteer efforts and promote events to the public.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission	N/A
2. Continue participation in regional infrastructure projects that can improve water quality.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works	N/A
3. Identify opportunities to share resources with neighboring communities in reaching water quality goals. Examples include purchasing equipment for water quality monitoring or stormwater facility maintenance.	Year 1	Dept. of Public Works, Recreation Dept., Conservation Commission	N/A
4. Work with neighboring communities to develop consistent stormwater standards and policies.	Year 4	Dept. of Public Works, Town Planner	N/A

Goal 4: Manage the conservation areas effectively to ensure user access and safety.

- a. Support conservation planning and resource management with adequate municipal staffing and department coordination as well as technical and financial resources.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Appropriate funds for the Conservation Agent and associated adequate budget to provide oversight and management of conservation and recreation lands and facilities.	Annually	Board of Selectmen, Town Manager	Town Meeting
2. Identify open space areas that require detailed and ongoing habitat assessment.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
3. Maintain and update GIS database as needed.	Ongoing	Town Planner	N/A
4. For new development and redevelopment projects (public and private), encourage the use of native trees and plants where possible.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Planning Board	N/A
5. Educate residents about the sources of nutrients that impact water quality, including failing septic systems and fertilizer use.	Year 1	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee	N/A
6. Establish clear responsibilities for maintenance of conservation and recreation sites among town departments. Ensure that departments have adequate funding to support staff and equipment needed.	Year 2	Dept. of Public Works, Dept of Recreation, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission	Town Department
7. Identify properties that could benefit from resource management plans that outline public access, development, programming, and maintenance needs.	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A
8. Identify conservation areas where access could be improved and evaluate strategies that could be implemented.	Year 2	Conservation Agent, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Dept. of Public Works	N/A
9. Support pond restoration activities, including elimination of invasive species in water bodies. Support the expansion of current programs that aim to reduce excessive nutrients in the environment.	Year 3	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	Town Department

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
10. Develop a forestry management plan to address issues and management of resources town-wide.	Year 5	Conservation Agent, Conservation Commission, Dept. of Public Works	Town Department

- b. Ensure that local committees and boards have the knowledge and technical assistance to make informed decisions about land use policies related to conservation planning and management efforts.

1. Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
2. Continue to offer opportunities for local boards and commissions to participate in local and regional training and conferences.	Ongoing	Various departments	N/A
3. Continue to promote online resources and other materials to local boards and commissions to increase awareness of new conservation tools, best management practices, and climate change.	Ongoing	Various departments	N/A
4. Review Zoning Bylaw and Subdivision Rules and Regulations to ensure that development proposals in or adjacent to critical areas are being reviewed by appropriate staff, boards and commissions.	Year 2	Board of Selectmen, Town Planner, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A

- c. Enforce appropriate and legal use of conservation areas for passive recreation.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Continue to implement signage that clearly indicates allowable and prohibited uses for conservation areas.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	Town Department
2. Continue policing areas on a regular basis.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept., Police Dept., School Dept.	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
3. Continue to install barriers where appropriate to limit access of vehicles to conservation area trails.	Ongoing	Dept. of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	Town Department
4. Review existing by-laws to strengthen enforcement power to control illegal activities in recreational and conservation areas lands as well as school properties, including ATV use and dumping of yard refuse.	Year 2	Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept., Police Dept., School Dept.	N/A

- d. Develop partnerships with neighboring communities and non-profit organizations to manage shared resources.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Implement the Glen Echo Park Recreation and Development Plan. Coordinate with Canton in the conservation and use of land around Glen Echo Lake.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	CPA/Town Meeting DCS Grants
2. Continue working with non-profit organizations such as local hunting organizations, Scouts, The Trust for Public Land, Massachusetts Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, or The Trustees of Reservations to ensure resource maintenance and expanded programming.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A
3. Work with the Friends of Capen Reynolds to implement the Capen Reynolds Farm Use and Development Plan.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	Town Department CPA/Town Meeting DCS Grants
4. Partner with the Ponkapoag Indians in efforts to preserve the ancestral land they own in Stoughton.	Ongoing	Conservation Commission	N/A
5. Identify possible parcels for open space protection that abut conservation areas in neighboring communities.	Year 1	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
6. Develop a “Friends of” model to encourage local residents to activity participation in conservation activities.	Year 1	Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept., Conservation Commission	N/A
7. Work with local school programs and youth organizations to volunteer on projects in protected conservation, recreation, and municipal properties. Projects might include trail clean-up, installing rain gardens, or other efforts.	Year 2	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A
8. Find ways to link local trail networks with those in neighboring communities as well as regional resources.	Year 3	Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A

Goal 5: Provide adequate access to safe, well-maintained recreational facilities for all residents of Stoughton.

- a. Ensure that residents have access to parks and other recreational opportunities.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Leverage CPA funds as appropriate to acquire open space and parks in higher density areas of town.	As needed	Community Preservation Committee, Open Space Committee	CPA/Town Meeting
2. Connect with residents to identify neighborhood-specific recreational needs.	Year 2	Town Planner, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A
3. Through the Town’s Complete Street policy, ensure that recreational facilities are safely accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including walking (sidewalks, crosswalks) and biking (bike paths, bike lanes).	Year 2	Town Planner, Public Works Dept., Recreation Dept.	N/A
4. Identify neighborhoods that lack or have limited access to parks or conservation areas. Work with residents to identify opportunities for facilities.	Year 3	Town Planner, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
5. Develop incentives that encourage developers to integrate open space and/or recreational resources in residential areas. Revisit cluster zoning to ensure that it is meeting stated goals to increase usable open space and recreation needs.	Year 4	Town Planner, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Board of Selectmen, Recreation Dept.	N/A
6. Partner with neighborhood volunteers to develop and maintain pocket parks, or other recreational facilities, prioritizing the central area of Town.	Year 4	Town Planner, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept.	N/A

- b. Provide adequate resources and coordination for existing municipal departments, boards and commissions to manage and maintain recreational facilities.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Assess recreational areas in Stoughton and prioritize those with the highest need for maintenance.	Year 1	Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept., Conservation Commission	N/A
2. Strengthen the collaboration between Town departments and boards/commissions through the development of a comprehensive Maintenance Plan. Identify new opportunities for coordination. Develop appropriate maintenance budgets for different departments.	Year 2	Recreation Dept., Dept. of Public Works, Open Space Committee, Town Manager, School Dept., Conservation Commission	N/A
3. Develop a recreation facilities plan that anticipates demographic changes and potentially changes primary use of existing facilities.	Year 3	Recreation Dept., Town Planner, Open Space Committee	N/A
4. Encourage participation of local organizations and associations in resource maintenance through such programs as "Adopt a spot."	Year 3	Recreation Dept., Dept. of Public Works, Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission	N/A

- c. Improve access at conservation areas and recreational facilities to comply with ADA standards where feasible.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Use new opportunities in Glen Echo Park and Capen Reynolds Farm to integrate accessible opportunities for those with disabilities.	Year 2	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, ADA Coordinator, Dept. of Public Works	Town Department CPA/Town Meeting

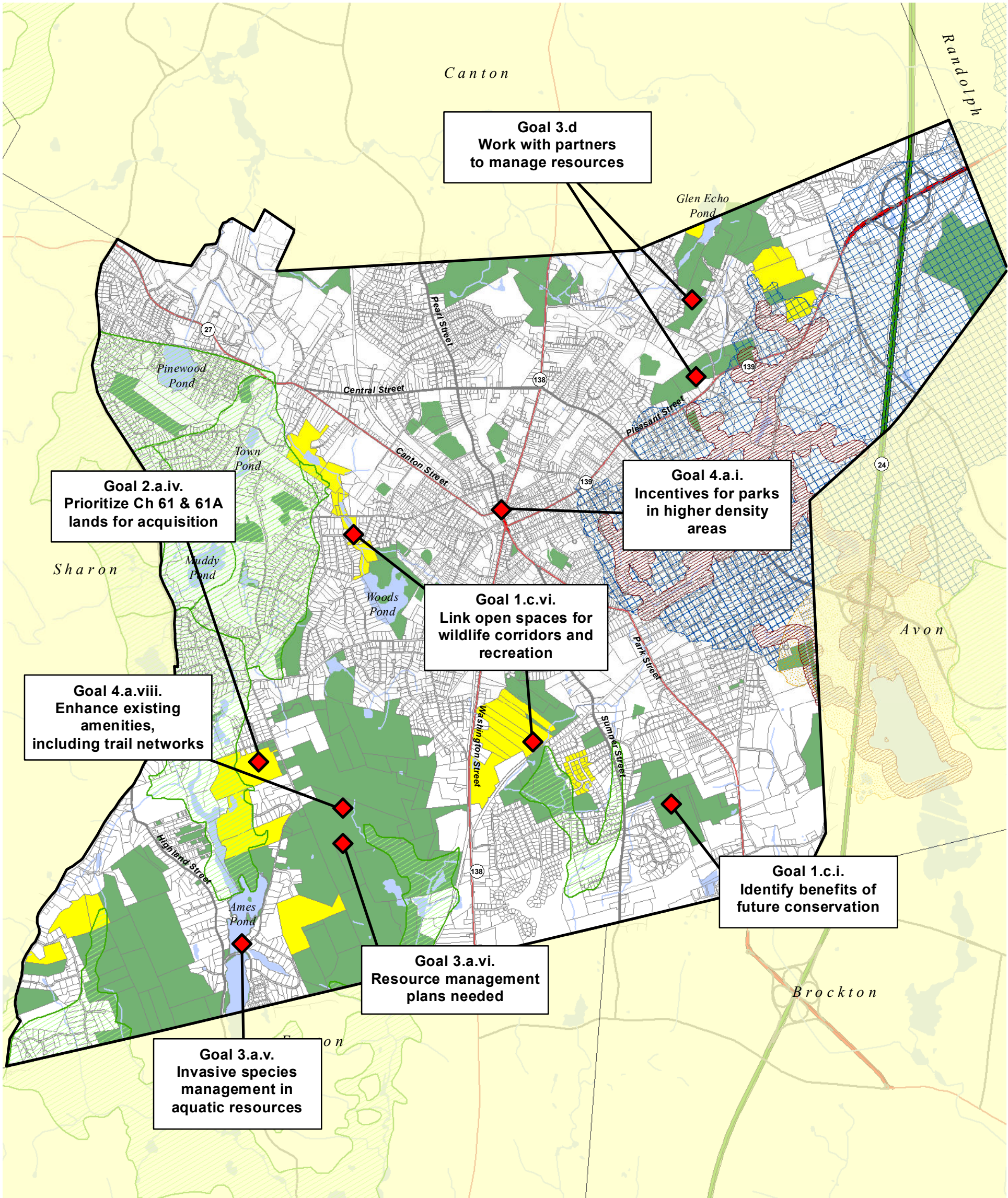
- d. Promote existing recreational (and conservation resources) to residents to increase awareness, encourage use, and promote environmental stewardship.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Use online resources, including the town's website, to promote recreational and conservation areas.	Year 1	Open Space Committee, Recreation Dept., Town Manager	N/A
2. Develop a partnership with the School Department that brings students to recreation and conservation areas to educate them about the areas, resource protection, and climate change (e.g. field trips, clean-up/Earth Day events). Use these opportunities as a way to promote environmental stewardship.	Year 2	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept., School Dept.	N/A
3. Work with the School Department to develop recycling programs in the schools.	Year 2	Open Space Committee, Dept. of Public Works, School Dept.	N/A
4. Through partnership with School Department, encourage the use of conservation areas in science, environmental, and nature curriculums	Year 3	Conservation Commission, School Dept., Open Space Committee	N/A
5. Improve signage near conservation and recreation sites.	Year 4	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept.	N/A
6. Develop alternative programming at recreation and conservation areas encourage use, appreciation and awareness of environmental issues, include climate change.	Year 5	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept.	N/A

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
7. Work with the local business and realty associations to promote recreation and conservation areas to new residents and employees, as well as to promote current events and programming.	Year 6	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept., Board of Selectmen	N/A

e. Provide recreational programming that meets the needs of all ages and abilities.

Action	Timeframe	Responsible Party	Potential Funding Source
1. Increase programming for teens at recreational facilities and conservation areas.	Year 2	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept., Youth Commission	Town Department
2. Encourage local groups to have intergenerational programs and events at recreation and conservation areas (e.g. senior-youth mentoring programs, Earth Day, field day, organized hikes and walks).	Year 2	Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Recreation Dept., Youth Commission, Council on the Aging	N/A

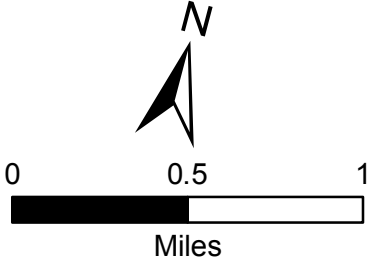


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Legend

- Stoughton
- Surface Water
- Streams/Rivers
- Road Classification**
- Limited Access Highway
- Multi-lane Hwy, not limited access
- Other Numbered Highway
- Major Road, Collector
- Local Roads (Stoughton)

- Areas of Conservation Interest
- DEP Approved Zone IIs
- Public & Private Open Space/Recreation Lands
- Surface Water Protection Areas**
- Zone A
- Zone B
- Zone C



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7-Year Action Plan
Town of Stoughton, MA

SECTION 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

See Appendix D for letters of review from the Stoughton Board of Selectmen, Stoughton Planning Board, and Old Colony Planning Council. Also in this appendix is the letter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services and its review of the Draft OSRP. Comments raised in each letter have been addressed in this final plan.

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APPENDIX A

Facility Inventory
Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Access to Open Spaces N/A
		Back and Arm Rests N/A
		Adequate number N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc. N/A
Trails		Surface material N/A
		Dimensions N/A
		Rails N/A
		Signage (for visually impaired) yes
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water N/A
		Handrails no
		Location from accessible parking yes
		Shade provided yes
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts N/A
	*basketball	Height N/A
	*tennis	Equipment
		Dimensions N/A
		Spectator Seating N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
	Equipment	Arm Rests N/A
		Bait Shelves N/A
		Handrails N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible	Learn-to-Swim Yes
		Guided Hikes N/A
		Interpretive Programs N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired N/A	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings N/A	

Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces Yes		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		Put up only when beach is open (to prevent vandalism)
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

Notes

Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access (Bath House)			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel to Bath House			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances (Bath House)			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	X		
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	X		
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	X		
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	X		
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

Notes

Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A

Notes

Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		
At least one Sink:	X		
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	X		
Extends at least 22" from the wall	X		
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		
Stall door is 36" wide	X		
Stall door swings out	X		
Stall door is self closing	X		
Stall door has a pull latch	X		
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	X		
Coat hook is 54" high	X		
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1¼" diameter	X		
1½" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		
42" long	X		
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	X		
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		

Notes

Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

Notes

Location: Ames Pond Beach and Bath House

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A

Location

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

Location

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			N/A
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Facility Inventory

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands (Bird St./McNamara Farm Conservation Area)

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Access to Open Spaces N/A
		Back and Arm Rests N/A
		Adequate number N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc. N/A
Trails		Surface material N/A
		Dimensions
		Rails NO
		Signage (for visually impaired) NO
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water N/A
		Handrails N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Shade provided N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all (See Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground evaluation form)
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths (See Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground evaluation form)
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair (See Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground evaluation form)
Game Areas: *ballfield	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts N/A
*basketball		Height N/A
*tennis	Equipment	Dimensions N/A
		Spectator Seating N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Equipment	Handrails N/A
		Arm Rests N/A
		Bait Shelves N/A
		Handrails N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim N/A
		Guided Hikes N/A (add Story Book Trail? It's not ADA accessible. Are there any plans to make it accessible from the Lessa Playground?)
		Interpretive Programs N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired N/A	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings N/A	

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			N/A
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			N/A
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			N/A
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			N/A
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			N/A
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

Notes

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			N/A
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			N/A
No ponding of water			N/A
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs			N/A
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			N/A
3 ft wide minimum			N/A
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).			N/A
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			N/A
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			N/A
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

Notes

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A

Notes

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			Not available
<i>At least one Sink:</i>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
<i>At least one Stall:</i>			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A
<i>Toilet</i>			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
<i>Grab Bars</i>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
<i>Fixtures</i>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A

Notes

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>			<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>			<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

Notes

Location: Stoughton Memorial Lands

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			

Location

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

Location

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			N/A
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Facility Inventory
Location: Glen Echo

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES See Appendix E for ADA plans
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Tables & Benches	Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
Picnic Facilities	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
		Surface material
Trails		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
		Entrance
	Pools	Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
Swimming Facilities		Location from accessible path into water
	Beaches	Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
		Shade provided
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
Game Areas: *ballfield	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts N/A
*basketball		Height N/A
*tennis	Equipment	Dimensions N/A
		Spectator Seating N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
Fishing Facilities		Arm Rests N/A
		Bait Shelves N/A
	Equipment	Handrails N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables N/A
		Learn-to-Swim N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

Notes: Purchased in 2011 with Community Preservation Act funds. CPA funds will be used for development and ADA compliance. Park is in “as bought” condition. Answers based on development plan.

Location:

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			There will be accessible parking when developed
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

Notes

Location

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			Will conform to ADA requirements
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			
No ponding of water			
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs			
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

Notes

Location

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A

Notes

Location

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A

Notes: Bathroom facility may be installed in second phase of development if it is deemed a need. First phase will have only a "Port-A-Pot" facility.

Location

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>		<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

Notes

Location

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A

Location

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

Location

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			Will be compliant when plans are completed
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Facility Inventory Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground (Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands)

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities		Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
	Tables & Benches	Access to Open Spaces Yes
		Back and Arm Rests Wheelchair accessible
		Adequate number Yes
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc. N/A
Trails		Surface material N/A
		Dimensions N/A
		Rails N/A
		Signage (for Visually impaired) N/A
Swimming Facilities		Entrance N/A
	Pools	Location from accessible parking N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired N/A
		Location from accessible path into water N/A
	Beaches	Handrails N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Shade provided N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all Yes, all equipment is ADA compliant
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair Yes
Game Areas: *ballfield	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Berm cuts onto courts N/A
	*basketball	Height N/A
	*tennis	Equipment
		Dimensions N/A
Boat Docks		Spectator Seating N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
	Equipment	Arm Rests N/A
		Bait Shelves N/A
		Handrails N/A
Programming		Fish Cleaning Tables N/A
	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim N/A
		Guided Hikes N/A
		Interpretive Programs N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired N/A	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings N/A	

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			N/A
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			N/A
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	No Signage
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			N/A
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12	X		
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

Notes

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

Notes

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stairs			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A

Notes

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A

Notes

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

Notes

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

Location: Bradley M. Lessa Memorial Playground

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	X		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	X		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		

Facility Inventory
Location: West School Athletic Complex

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Tables & Benches	Access to Open Spaces N/A
		Back and Arm Rests N/A
		Adequate number N/A
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
	Picnic Shelters	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc. N/A
Trails		Surface material N/A
		Dimensions N/A
		Rails N/A
		Signage (N/A for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities		Entrance N/A
	Pools	Location from accessible parking N/A
		Safety features i.e warning for visually impaired N/A
		Location from accessible path into water N/A
	Beaches	Handrails N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Shade provided N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all No - (joint responsibility of School & Recreation Departments)
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair N/A
Game Areas: *ballfield	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
		Berm cuts onto courts There are no berms at access points
		Height 10' (responsibility of School Department)
*basketball		
*tennis	Equipment	Dimensions N/A
		Spectator Seating Bring your own seating and some bleachers
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
		Arm Rests N/A
		Bait Shelves
	Equipment	Handrails N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables N/A
Programming		Learn-to-Swim N/A
	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes N/A
		Interpretive Programs N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired N/A	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings N/A	

Location: West School Athletic Complex

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>	<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces in front of O'Donnell Middle School, 2 spaces at side of West School		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X	X	Yes (West School) - No (O'Donnell Middle School spaces are more than 200 feet from accessible entrances)
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		X	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12	X		Ramps leading to entrance of the bathrooms
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	X		
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	X		
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	X		
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	X		
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"	X		
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail	X		
Non-slip surface	X		
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	X		At ramps to restroom station

Notes **West School Athletic Complex is located at the West Elementary School and the O'Donnell Middle School**

Location: West School Athletic Complex

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X	X	Access from West School only. There is no suitable access from the O'Donnell Middle School
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		West School only
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X	X	Yes (West School) No (Loose Gravel, O'Donnell)
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	O'Donnell entrance
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			N/A
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			N/A
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			N/A
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			N/A
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			N/A
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

Notes

Location: West School Athletic Complex

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A

Notes

Location: West School Athletic Complex

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	X		
Extends at least 22" from the wall	X		
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		
Stall door is 36" wide	X		
Stall door swings out	X		
Stall door is self closing	X		
Stall door has a pull latch	X		
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	X		
Coat hook is 54" high	X		
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1½" diameter	X		
1½" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		
42" long	X		
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	X		
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		

Notes

New (2015) ADA compliant restrooms

Location: West School Athletic Complex

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

Notes

Location: West School Athletic Complex

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A

Location

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

Location

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			N/A
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			N/A
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			N/A
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

Facility Inventory
Location: Halloran Park and Children's Adventure Playspace Playground (CAPP Tot Lot)

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
		Access to Open Spaces Yes
		Back and Arm Rests No
		Adequate number Yes
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface 24" Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc. N/A
Trails		Surface material Bituminous Concrete (Resilient Play surface for Tot Lot)
		Dimensions width 5' (check - taken from plans)
		Rails Not needed
		Signage (for visually impaired) None - Sign simply states name of park
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired N/A
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water N/A
		Handrails N/A
		Location from accessible parking N/A
		Shade provided N/A
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all Yes
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair Yes
Game Areas: *ballfield	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Yes Berm cuts onto courts No (no curbs in park)
	*basketball	Height 10'
	*tennis	Equipment
		Dimensions N/A
		Spectator Seating N/A
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails N/A
	Equipment	Arm Rests N/A
		Bait Shelves N/A
		Handrails N/A
		Fish Cleaning Tables N/A
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim N/A
		Guided Hikes N/A
		Interpretive Programs N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired None	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings Not needed as there are no meetings held at site	

Location: Halloran Park & CAPP Tot Lot

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces Yes, 2 spaces provided	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
RAMPS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			N/A
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			N/A
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			N/A
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			N/A
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			N/A
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			N/A

Notes

Location Halloran Park & CAPP Tot Lot

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
Path of Travel			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane		N/A	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"		N/A	
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
Entrances			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance		N/A	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors		N/A	
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)		N/A	
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door		N/A	
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist		N/A	
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space		N/A	
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible		N/A	
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened		N/A	
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed		N/A	
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum		N/A	
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		N/A	
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted		N/A	

Notes*

Location Halloran Park & CAPP Tot Lot

STAIRS and DOORS			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<i>Stairs</i>			
No open risers			N/A
Nosings not projecting			N/A
Treads no less than 11" wide			N/A
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			N/A
Handgrip oval or round			N/A
Handgrip has a smooth surface			N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			N/A
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<i>Doors</i>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			N/A
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			N/A
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			N/A
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides			N/A
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			N/A
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			N/A
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			N/A
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A

Notes

Location Halloran Park& CAPP Tot Lot

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			N/A
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			N/A
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			N/A
Extends at least 22" from the wall			N/A
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			N/A
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			N/A
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			N/A
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			N/A
Stall door is 36" wide			N/A
Stall door swings out			N/A
Stall door is self closing			N/A
Stall door has a pull latch			N/A
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			N/A
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			N/A
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			N/A
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			N/A
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			N/A
1¼" diameter			N/A
1½" clearance to wall			N/A
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			N/A
Acid-etched or roughened surface			N/A
42" long			N/A
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			N/A
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			N/A
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			N/A

Notes

Location Halloran Park & CAPP Tot Lot

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Floors			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			N/A
Hand operated push button or level controls			N/A
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			N/A
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			N/A
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			N/A
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			N/A
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			N/A
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			N/A
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Switches, Controls and Signs			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			N/A
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high			N/A
Letters and numbers raised .03"			N/A
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			N/A

Notes

Location Halloran Park & CAPP Tot Lot

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			N/A
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			N/A
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			N/A
Non-slip surface			N/A

Location

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			N/A
Floors are non-slip surface			N/A
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			N/A
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			N/A
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			N/A
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			N/A
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			N/A
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			N/A
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			N/A
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			N/A

Location

PICNICKING			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	X		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	X		N/A (wheelchair access is at ends of tables)
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	X		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		

Parcels not Suitable for ADA Accessibility Due to Nature of Site or the Current and Future Use

- 1) Chemung Hill Area
- 2) Wood's Pond
- 3) Cedar Swamp (a.k.a. Sumner Gardens)
- 4) Doogood Estates (a.k.a. the Shiretown Parcel)
- 5) Stonehill College Gift Area (a.k.a. Cedar Swamp)
- 6) T.L. Edwards Estates
- 7) The D. Forbes Estate
- 8) Almon Fredericks Estate
- 9) North Stoughton Area
- 10) Tanglewood Area
- 11) Canton Conservation Lands

APPENDIX B

Horsley Witten Group

Sustainable Environmental Solutions

55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903
Phone - 401-272-1717 • Fax - 401-437-8368 • www.horsleywitten.com



MEMORANDUM

TO: Stoughton Open Space Committee
FROM: Krista Moravec
DATE: August 12, 2014
RE: Stoughton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Community Survey
CC: File

As part of the process to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan, a community survey was undertaken in the spring and summer of 2014. The survey was available online and paper copies were distributed at town hall, the library and a variety of local meetings.

A total of 114 surveys were collected both as paper copies and taken online.

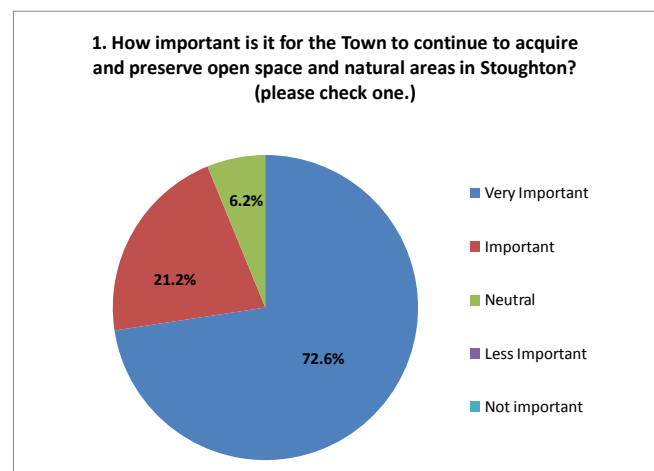
How did people respond?

The following provides a question-by-question summary of the Stoughton Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Community Survey.

Question 1: How important is it for the Town to continue to acquire and preserve open space and natural areas in Stoughton? (Please check one.)

Most respondents (72.6%) felt that it was very important for the Town to continue to acquire and preserve open space and natural areas. There were no respondents who said that acquisition and preservation were less important or not important.

Question 2: How important is it to preserve the following?

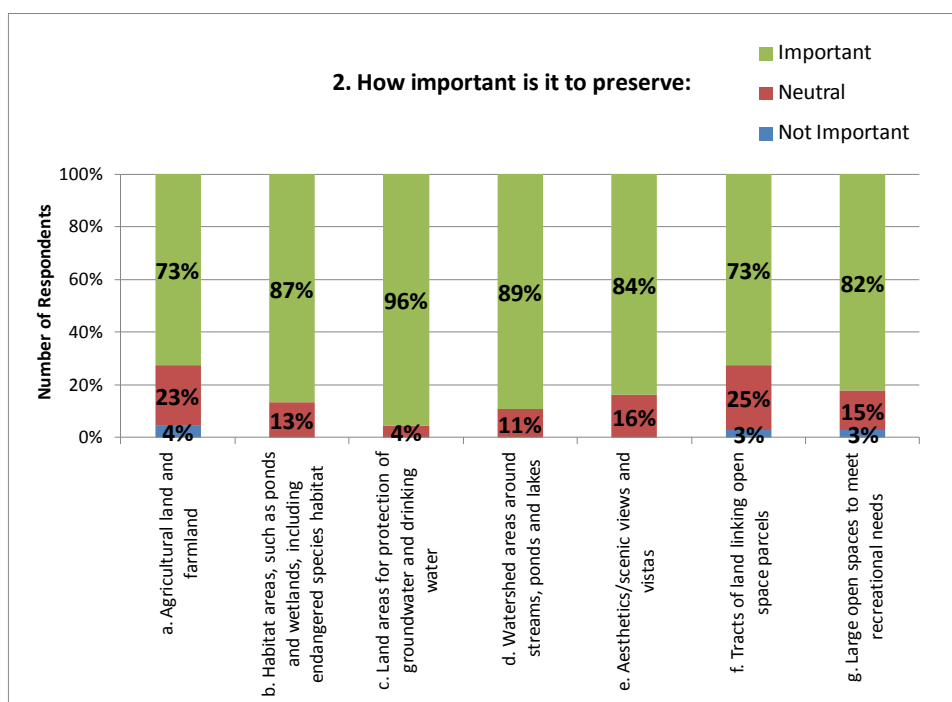


Using a scale of “important,” “neutral,” and “not important,” respondents were asked how important it is to preserve:

- Agricultural land and farmland
- Habitat areas, such as ponds and wetlands, including endangered species habitat

- c. Land areas for protection of groundwater and drinking water
- d. Watershed areas around streams, ponds and lakes
- e. Aesthetics/scenic views and vistas
- f. Tracts of land linking open space parcels
- g. Large open spaces to meet recreational needs

Most respondents (73% or more) felt that all garnered protection. About one quarter were neutral on the protection of agricultural land and farmland as well as tracts of land linking open space parcels. Those identified as not important to some respondents were agricultural land and farmlands (4%), tracts of land linking open space parcels (3%) and large open spaces to meet recreational needs (3%).



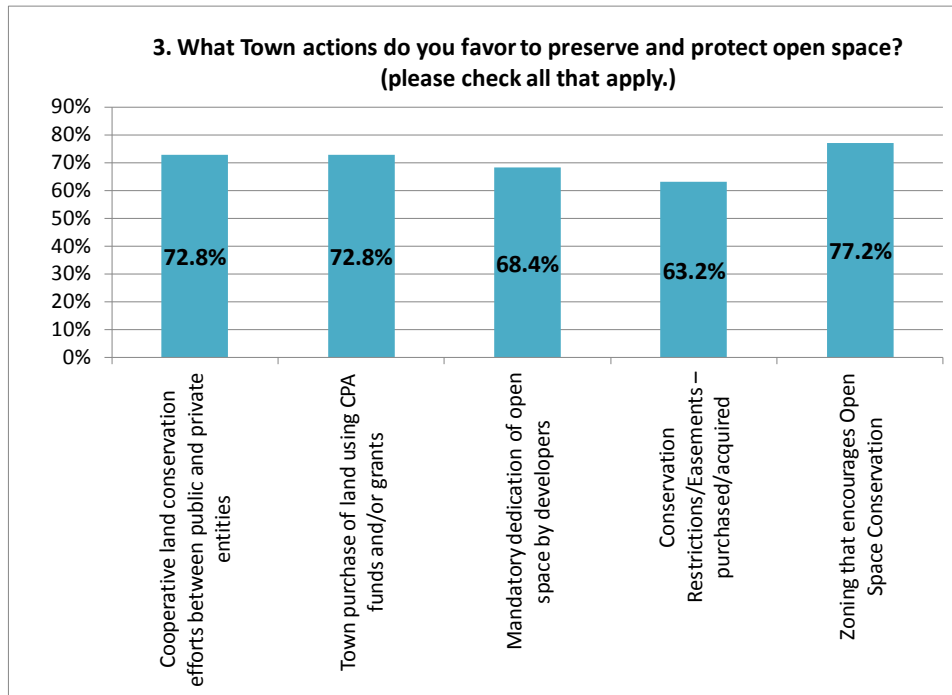
Question 3: What Town actions do you favor to preserve and protect open space?

Respondents were asked to select the actions by the Town that they would support to preserve and protect open space. Those proposed were:

- Cooperative land conservation efforts between public and private entities;
- Town purchase of land using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds and/or grants;
- Mandatory dedication of open space by developers;
- Conservation Restrictions / Easements – purchased / acquired; and
- Zoning that encourages Open Space Conservation.

Most were in favor of zoning that encouraged open space conservation as well as cooperative efforts between public and private entities and town purchasing land using CPA funds and/or

grants. Other specified comments received included the use of eminent domain, public donations to the town, and community outreach and education.



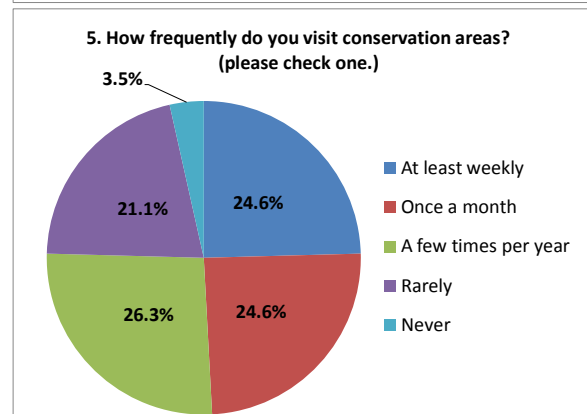
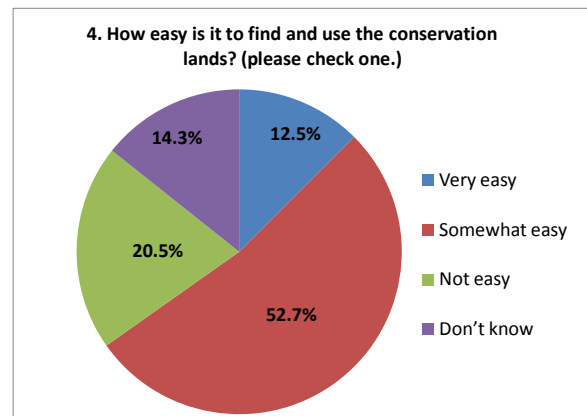
Question 4: How easy is it to find and use the conservation lands?

About half (52.7%) of those answering the survey felt that it is somewhat easy to find and use conservation lands. Another 12.5% find it very easy.

About 20% felt that lands were not easy to find and use, and another 14% didn't know. This can be an indication that nearly one third of those taking the survey may not have a lot of knowledge of the Town's resources.

Question 5: How frequently do you visit conservation areas?

About one quarter of respondents visit conservation areas weekly, another quarter visit once a month, and a third quarter visit a few times a year. The final quarter of respondent either rarely visits a local conservation area or never does.



Question 6: How do you rate the way conservation areas are currently being maintained?

More than one third of respondents find conservation area maintenance either excellent or good. About one third find their maintenance average, and a final third either below average or poor.

Question 7: Approximately how far away is the nearest conservation area to your home?

Respondents lived varying distances from conservation areas. One third of respondents live between one and five miles from a conservation area. Just over one quarter lives less than a quarter mile, or a five to eight minute walk. 20.9% lives between a quarter and half mile, or about an eight to 15 minute walk, and 16.4% live between a half and one mile from a conservation area.

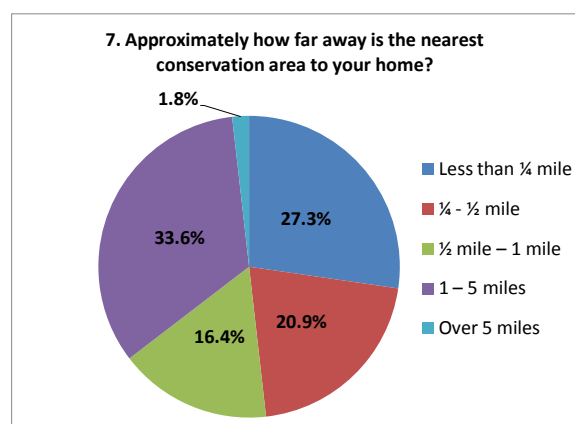
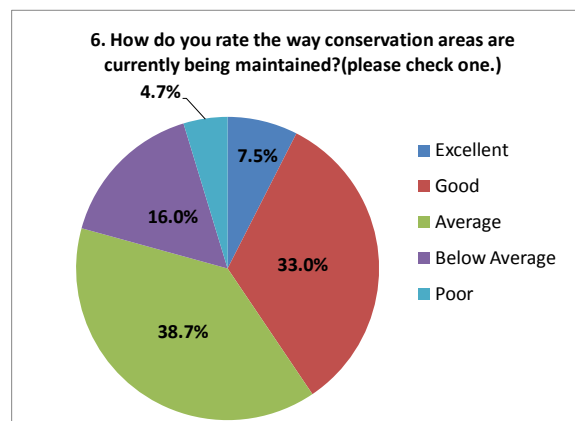
Question 8: What are your favorite conservation areas in Stoughton?

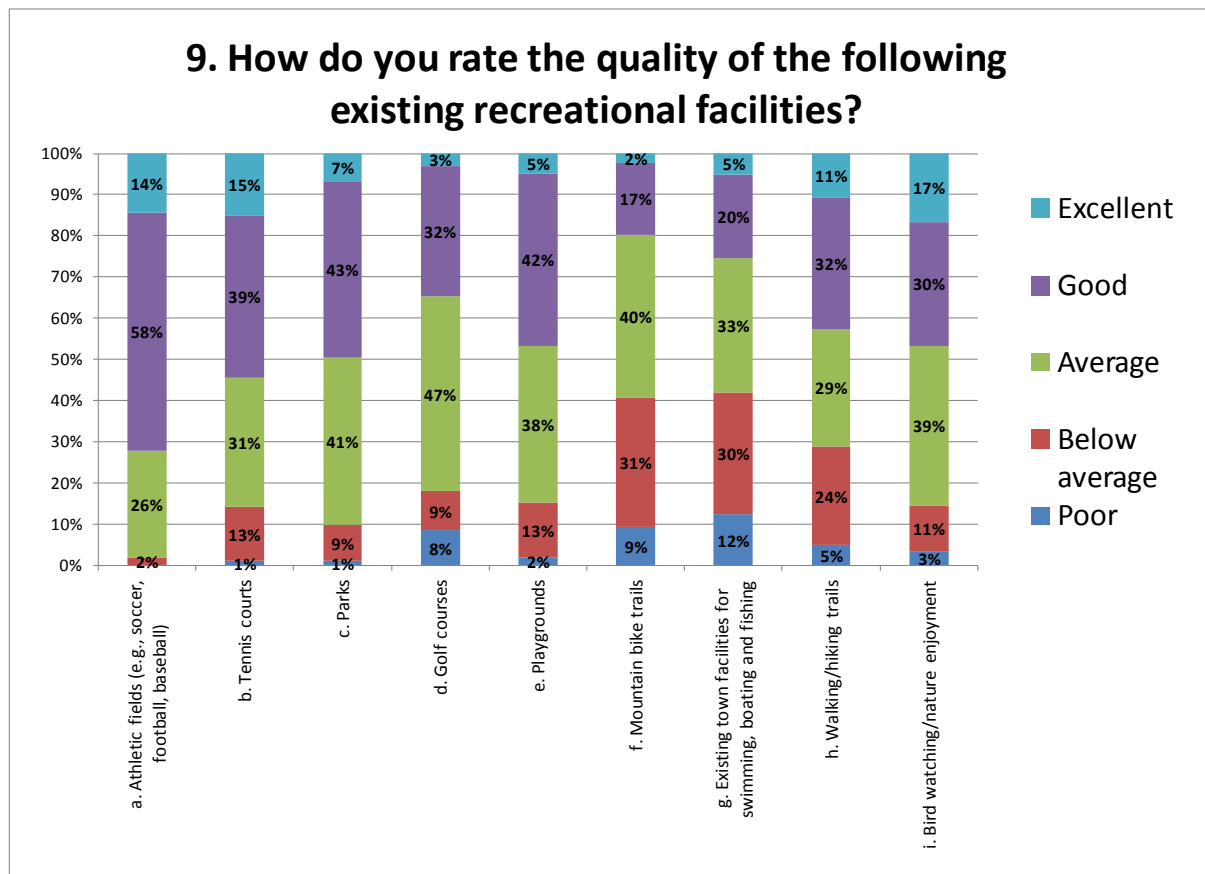
When asked to name their favorite conservation areas in Stoughton, 77 responded. Those most identified were:

- Bird Street (43 counts)
- Glen Echo (19 counts)
- Ames Pond (8 counts)
- West Street (7 counts)

Question 9: How do you rate the quality of the following existing recreational facilities?

Most respondents found existing recreational facilities in average or better condition (50% or greater), particularly athletic fields. More than one third of those taking the survey rate the conditions of mountain bike trails and town facilities for swimming, boating and fishing as below average or poor condition. About a quarter rating walking and hiking trails found them to be in below average or poor condition.



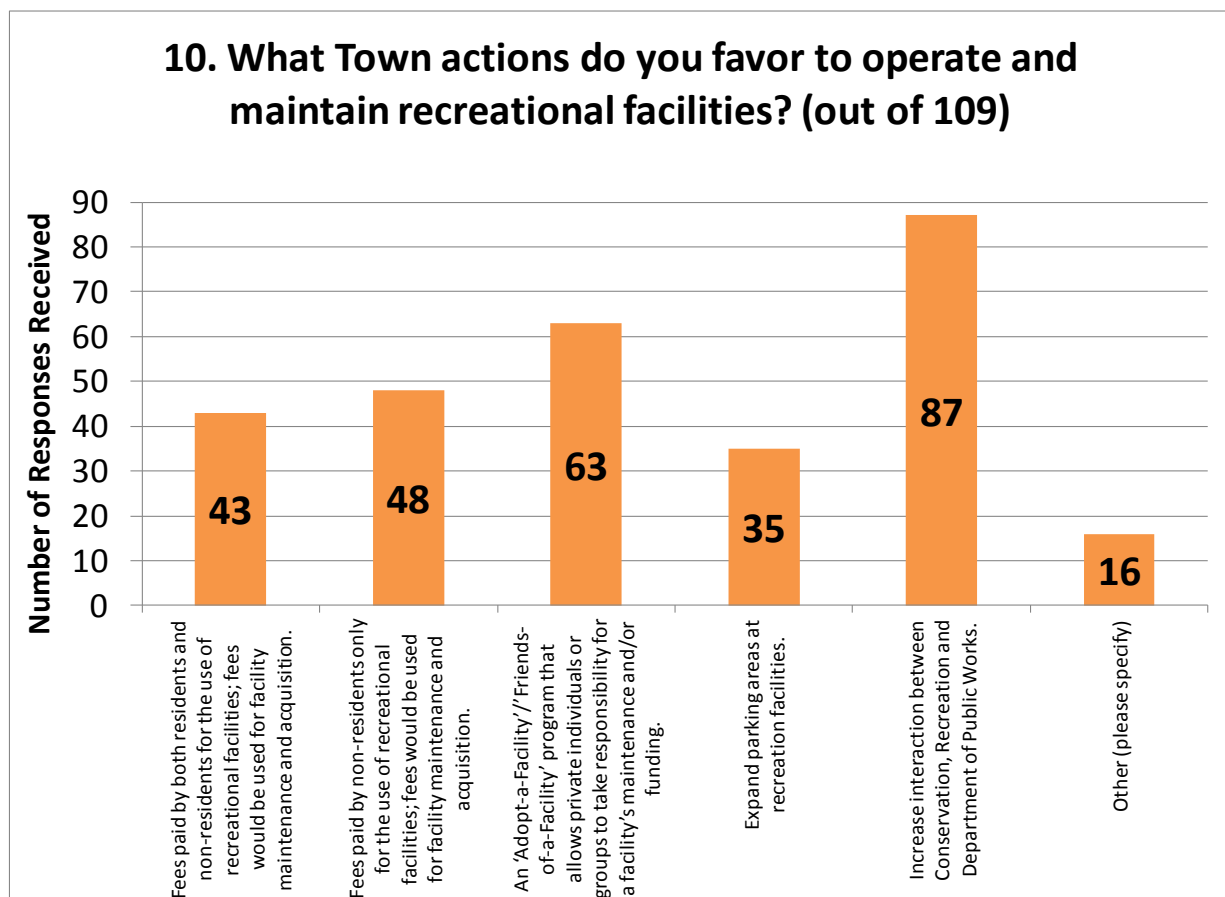


Question 10: What Town actions do you favor to operate and maintain recreational facilities?

This question asked which actions taken by the Town would be most favorable as a way to operate and maintain recreational facilities, specifically:

- Fees paid by both residents and non-residents for the use of recreational facilities; fees would be used for facility maintenance and acquisition.
- Fees paid by non-residents only for the use of recreational facilities; fees would be used for facility maintenance and acquisition.
- An ‘Adopt-a-Facility’/‘Friends-of-a-Facility’ program that allows private individuals or groups to take responsibility for a facility’s maintenance and/or funding.
- Expand parking areas at recreation facilities.
- Increase interaction between Conservation, Recreation and Department of Public Works.

More than one answer could be selected. Most answering the survey favored the choice: “increase interaction between Conservation, Recreation and Department of Public Works” (87 respondents). This was followed by a program that allows private individuals or groups to take responsibility for a facility’s maintenance and/or funding (63 respondents). Overall, all actions received some level of acceptance by survey takers.

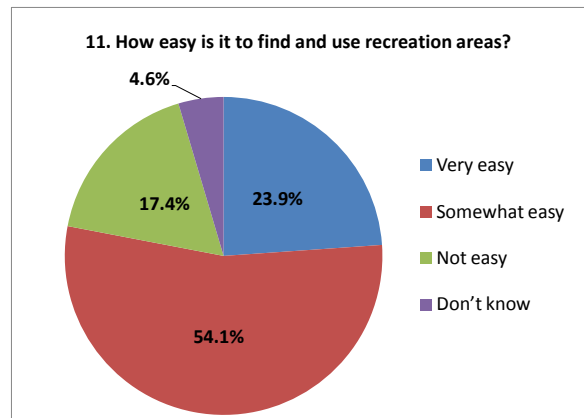


Other ideas suggested were:

- Safe biking trails.
- Public relations so people know where they are and are encouraged to use them.
- Put round curved mirror on West Street across from playground.
- Higher fees for non-residents.
- Fees at Ames Pond swimming beach only.
- Expand signage too.
- Support design of bike path.
- For Stoughton residents only.
- Town support for maintenance.
- Membership club sponsoring area.
- Fees for swimming; expand parking at Bird Street.
- Recreation is not a spending priority.
- Increased maintenance/upkeep schedule during high use periods of facilities/grounds.
- PR campaign to promote these areas so they are utilized and appreciated.
- Except donations from companies like IKIA.
- Start a fund people can contribute to when they pay their taxes.

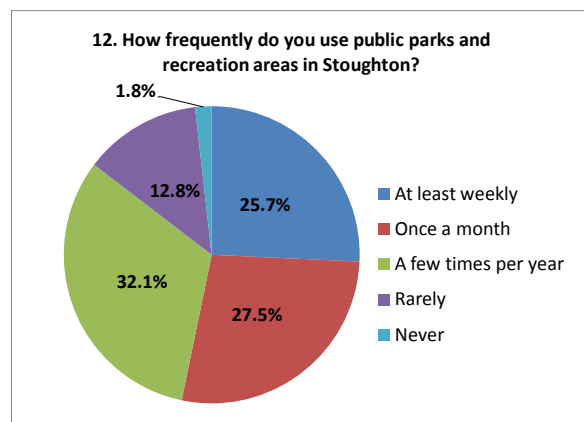
Question 11: How easy is it to find and use recreation areas?

Of those that answered the survey, nearly three quarters (78%) found it easy or somewhat easy to find and use recreational areas. 17.4% indicated it was not easy for them.



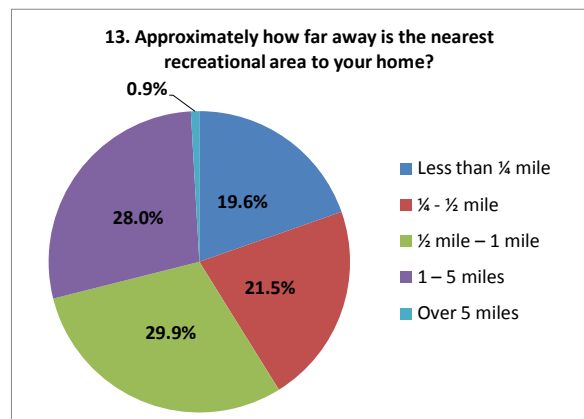
Question 12: How frequently do you use public parks and recreation areas in Stoughton?

About one third of respondents said they used public parks and recreation areas in Stoughton a few times a year. One quarter used these areas at least weekly and another quarter once a month. 12.8% of respondents rarely used the Town's public parks and recreation areas; 1.8% never uses them.



Question 13: Approximately how far away is the nearest recreational area to your home?

Those answering the survey lived a variety of distances from a recreational area. 29.9% of respondents lives between a half mile and a mile from a recreational area. Just over one quarter (28%) lives between one and five miles of a recreation area. Almost one quarter (21.5%) lives between a quarter and half mile. 19.65% lives less than a quarter mile. Very few (less than 1%) lives more than five miles.



Question 14: If you use public parks and recreation areas in Stoughton, please identify those you use most frequently and the purpose for your use.

Survey takers were asked the parks and recreation areas they visit most frequently and how they use them. Out of 67 responses, the most popular answers were:

- Lessa Playground on West Street for the playground and fields (19 responses);
- Halloran Park for picnicking, biking, walking and hiking (12 responses); and
- Bird Street for walking (10 responses).

Other parks and recreation areas mentioned were the school athletics fields (high school as well as middle and elementary schools), Marks Field, Jones Park, Echo Lake, Ames Pond, and Capp Playground.

Question 15: How would you rate Town parks and other recreational areas relative to their handicapped (ADA) accessibility?

43% of respondents find Town parks and other recreational areas somewhat handicap accessible; however, 37.4% said they didn't know if they were accessible or not. 3.7% clearly indicated that areas were not handicap accessible.

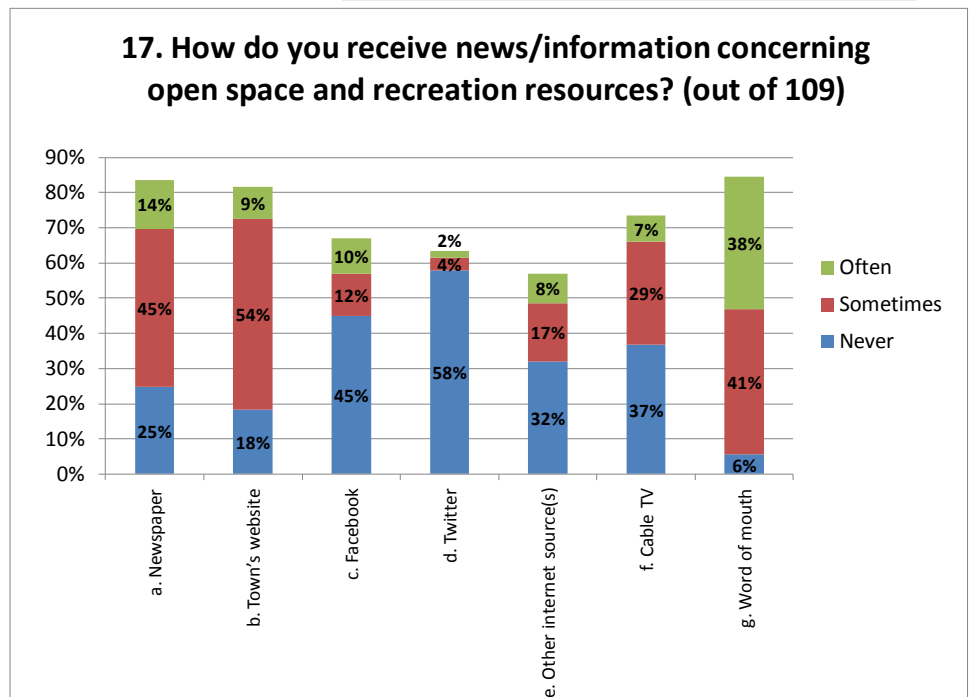
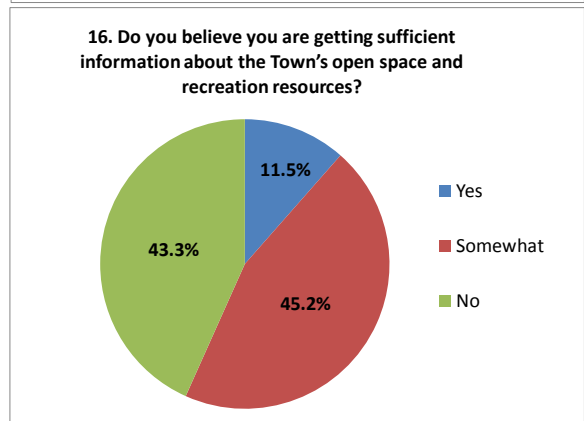
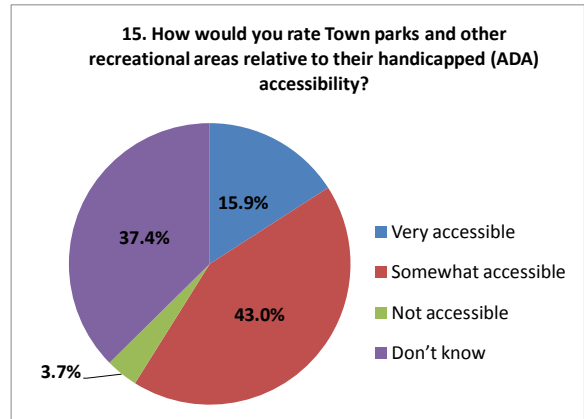
Question 16: Do you believe you are getting sufficient information about the Town's open space and recreation resources?

Only 11.5% of respondents said, yes, they are getting sufficient information about the Town's open space and recreation resources. The remaining survey respondents were divided that they somewhat believe they are getting sufficient information (45.2%) or no, they are not getting sufficient information (43.3%).

Question 17: How do you receive news/information concerning open space and recreation resources?

Out of 109 respondents, most received news and information most often about the Town's open space and recreation resources by word of mouth (38%). Twitter and Facebook were used the least. Respondents sometimes received information from the Town's website, the newspaper or word of mouth. Other ways in which people got information were:

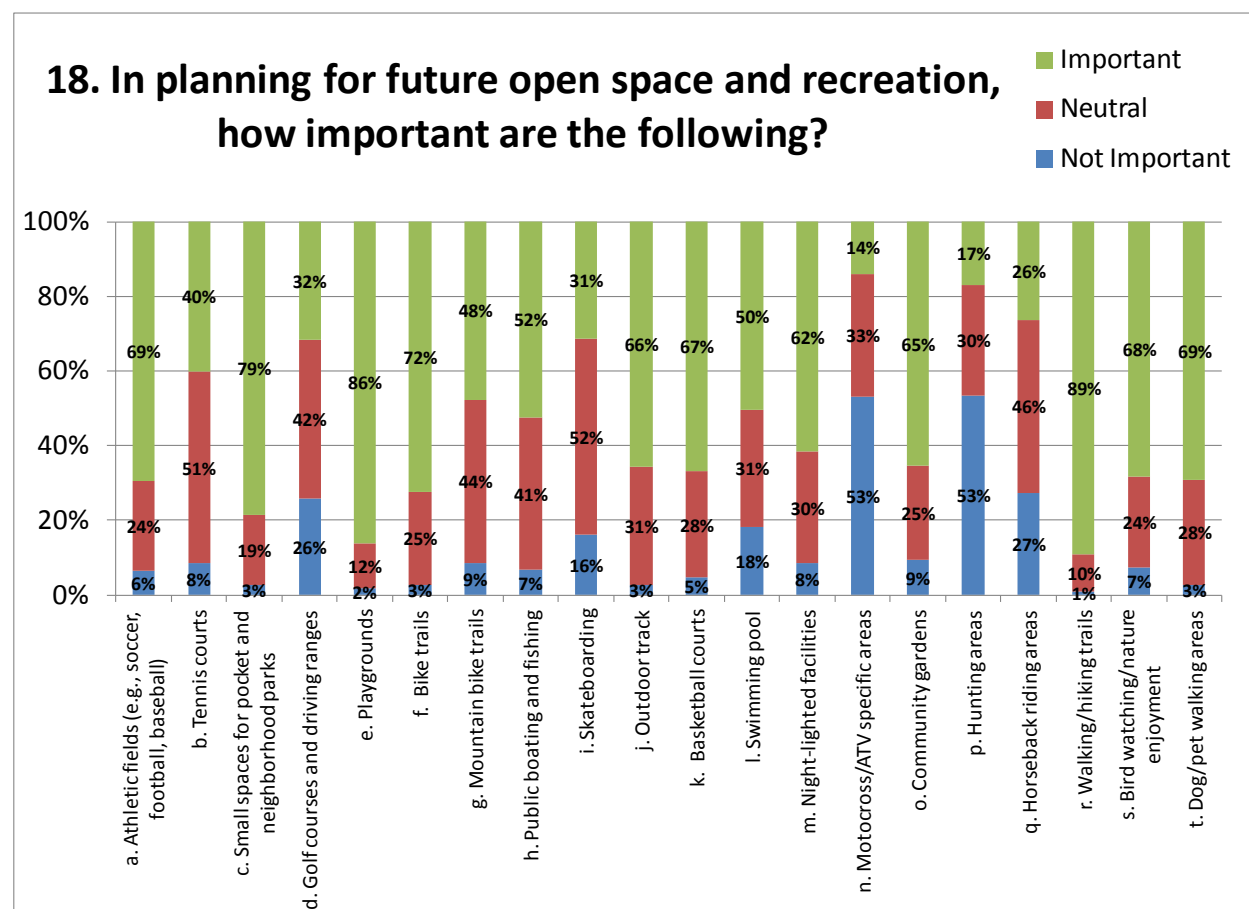
- The Patch (web);



- Community notices in public places such as town hall and the library;
- Pennysaver;
- Email;
- Meetings with town staff;
- Wicked Local (web);
- Local involvement in committees;
- School fliers;
- Billboard signs; and
- By visiting these areas.

Question 18: In planning for future open space and recreation, how important are the following?

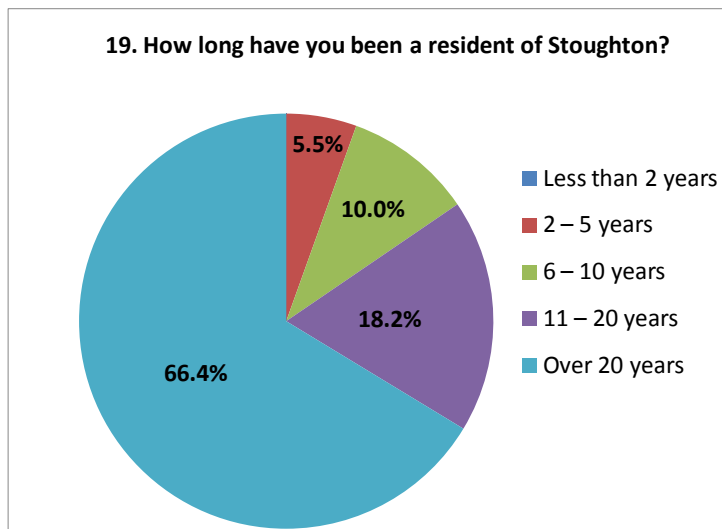
Survey takers were asked to rate how important certain open space and recreation facilities and resources were important to them in the future. Quite a few resources achieved more than 50% ranking as important, and those most popular were small pocket parks and neighborhood parks, bike trails, and walking and hiking trails. Those considered least important were motor cross/ATV areas and hunting areas. Respondents were neutral on tennis courts and skateboarding.



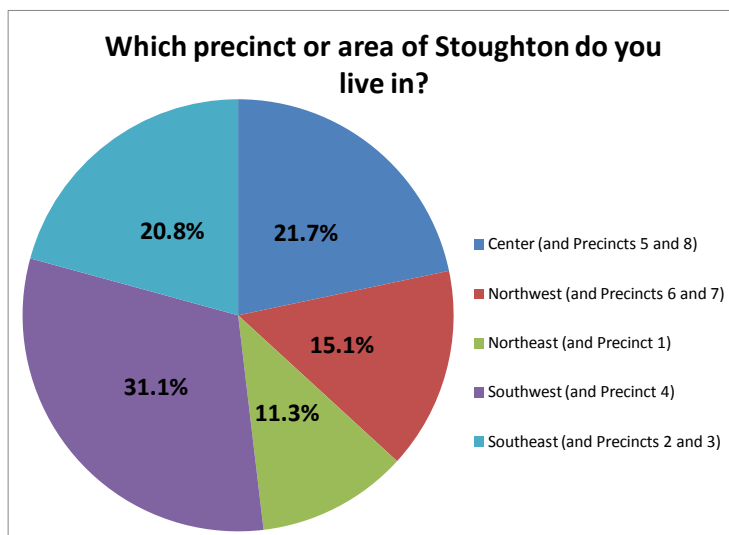
Who Took the Survey?

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked a series of demographic questions to understand who took the survey to ensure a cross-section of the Town's population and to help gauge if opinions were representative of the Town as a whole. Depending on the question asked, the characteristics of the respondents were compared to the U.S. 2010 Decennial Census or the U.S. Census American Community Survey for the Town of Stoughton.

A clear majority of respondents have lived in Stoughton for more than 20 years. No one responded that they lived in town less than two years.



About half of the survey takers (52) provided the location of Town where they lived, and another 54 provided which precinct. Combining these results, nearly one third lived in the southwest area of town, or noted specifically Precinct 4.

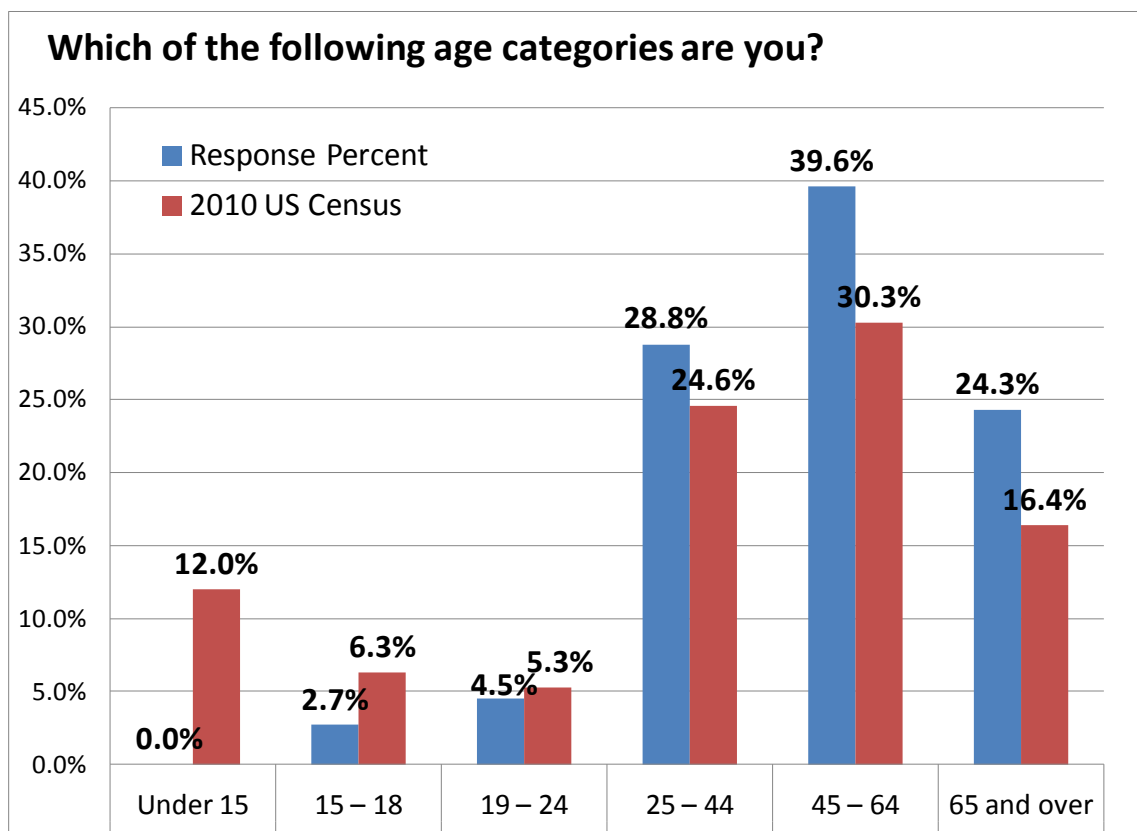


10% of respondents said there are children under the age of 5 living in their household. 40.7% responded that there were children between the ages of 5 and 18. More than half of the respondents (58%) had no children 18 years old or younger in their household. The 2010 U.S. Census reported that 45% of households in Stoughton had related children under the age of 18 years.

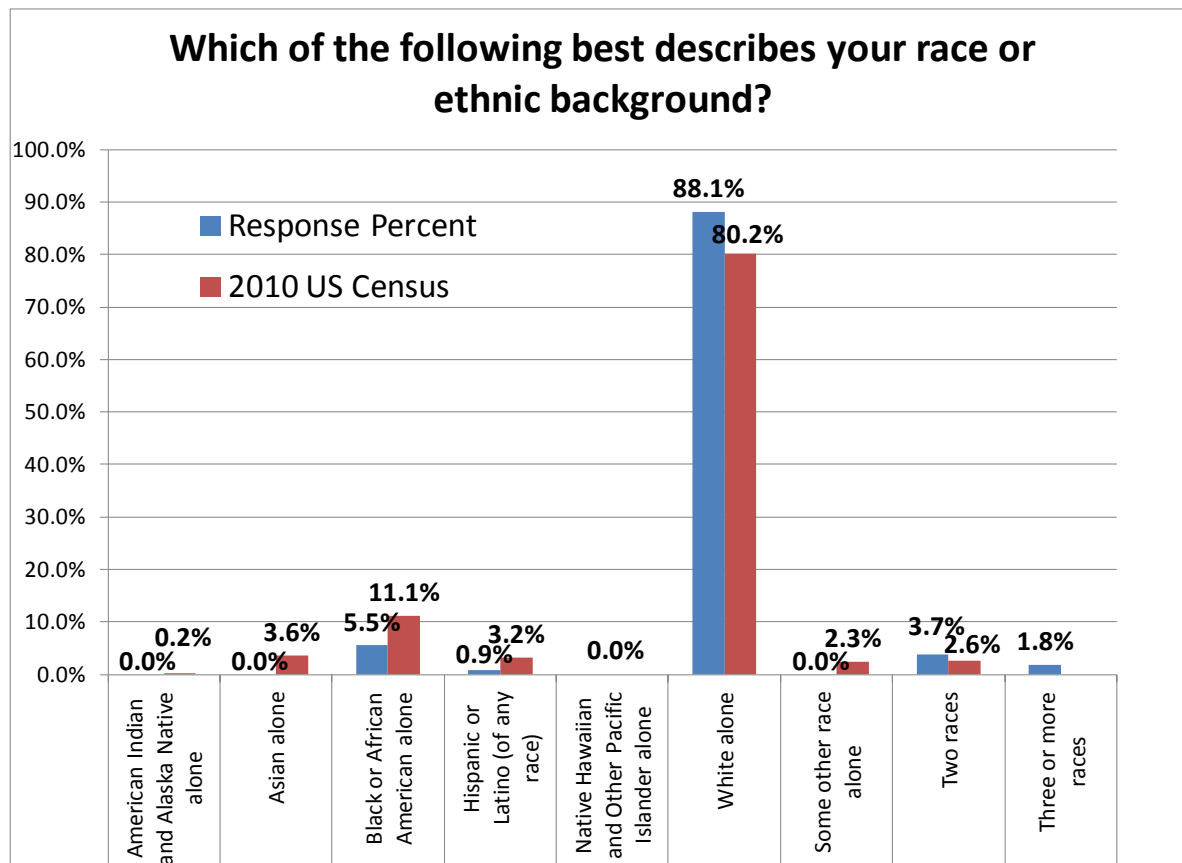
The respondents over-represented residents that owned their homes with 89.9%. The 2010 U.S. Census reported that 74.7% of occupied housing units in Stoughton were owner-occupied. Equally, respondents under-represented renters, 10.1 % compared to the 2010 U.S. Census, which reported 25.3%.

Most survey respondents (51.8%) were female, which is very close to the 2010 U.S. Census (52.1%).

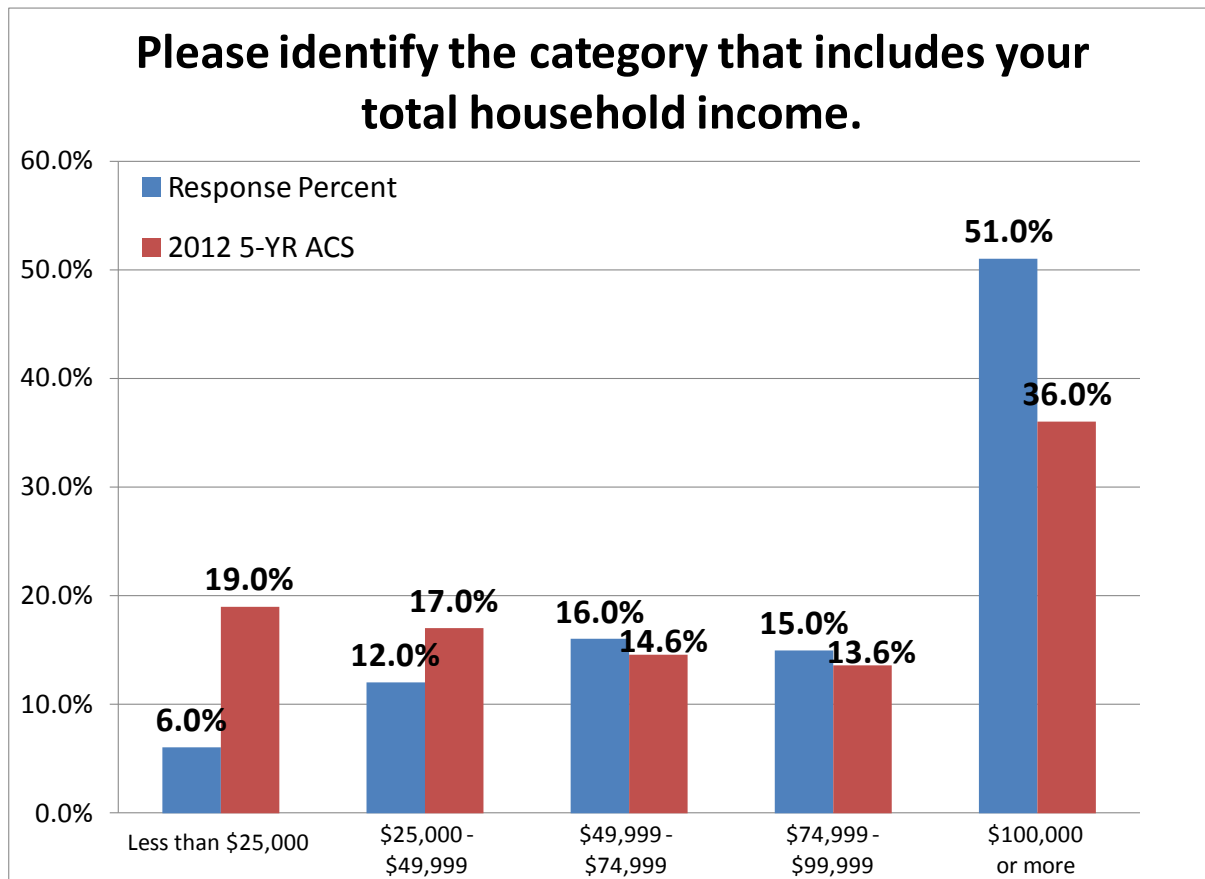
In comparison to the 2010 U.S. Census, survey respondents in age categories older than 25 years were over-represented. Most respondents who took the survey were between the ages of 45 and 64 (39.6%), followed by 25 to 44 years old (28.8%) and 65 years and older (24.3%). No one under the age of 15 took the survey, and very few between 15 and 18 years.



When asked to identify their race, most respondents were White, which corresponds to the 2010 U.S. Census; however, all other races were under-represented in the survey.



The 2010 U.S. Census did not ask questions related to household income. The U.S. Census collects this information through the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual survey of households, and provides estimates at 1, 3, and 5-year intervals, depending on the community's population size. There is a margin of error associated with these estimates. Based on the ACS 2010 5-Year estimates for Stoughton, survey respondents were over-represented of households with higher incomes and under-represented of households with lower incomes. Most respondents had household incomes greater than \$100,000 (51%).



APPENDIX C

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Conservation	Almon Fredericks Estate		Pleasant St	080	052	3.39	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Ames Pd	035	023	32.02	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Ames Pd	035	096	22.65	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area	1000	Highland St	035	097	2.95	No
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Highland St	007	018	14.53	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Highland St	007	022	9.61	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Highland St	009	019	15.51	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Highland St	021	013	26.98	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Highland St	021	015	12.28	Yes
Conservation	Ames Pond Area		Highland St	034	001	6.62	Yes
Conservation	Bird Street Conservation Lands	1350	West St	037	029	6.74	Yes
Conservation	Bird Street Conservation Lands		West St	037	034	47.48	No
Conservation	Capen Reynolds Memorial Area		Pine St	069	142	13.12	Yes
Conservation	Capen Reynolds Memorial Area		Pine St	081	003	16.67	Yes
Conservation	Capen Reynolds Memorial Area	760	Pleasant St	081	024	7.29	No
Conservation	Capen Reynolds Memorial Area		Pleasant St	081	025	11.33	Yes
Conservation	Cedar Swamp (A.K.A. Summer Gardens)		Atkinson Av	074	037	11.08	Yes
Conservation	Cedar Swamp (A.K.A. Summer Gardens)		Dean Rd	062	066	8.51	Yes
Conservation	Cedar Swamp (A.K.A. Summer Gardens)		Roach Rd	062	086	28.13	Yes
Conservation	Cedar Swamp (A.K.A. Summer Gardens)		Ryan Rd	063	054	18.16	Yes
Conservation	Chemung Hill Area		Chemung St	015	043	27.33	Yes
Conservation	Conservation		Frederick St	023	064	0.41	Yes
Conservation	Conservation		Henry St	023	104	0.10	Yes
Conservation	Conservation		Highland Av	024	015	0.17	Yes
Conservation	Conservation		Highland Av	024	027	0.05	Yes
Conservation	Conservation		Linwood St	024	039	0.03	Yes
Conservation	Conservation		Plain St	040	160	1.64	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Greenwood Av	016	008	0.34	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Highland Av	024	031	0.67	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Highland St	023	109	0.42	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Hollis St	023	085	0.90	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Linwood St	024	041	0.38	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Shuman Av	100	001	24.78	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Conservation	Conservation Commission		Turnpike St	094	010	14.31	Yes
Conservation	Conservation Commission		West St	027	035	4.27	Yes
Conservation	D. Forbes Estate		Island St	032	005	14.28	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Deady Av	083	002	13.00	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Glen Echo Bv	070	104	18.89	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Glen Echo Bv	070	128	9.10	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Glen Echo Bv	071	001	0.75	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Glen Echo Bv	082	034	14.18	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Page St	083	003	9.10	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		Pine St	069	142	13.12	Yes
Conservation	Glen Echo Park		York St	083	001	20.25	Yes
Conservation	North Stoughton Area		Stoughton St	057	025	31.50	No
Conservation	Stonehill College Gift Area		Sumner St	064	015	6.56	Yes
Conservation	Stonehill College Gift Area		Sumner St	064	061	10.30	Yes
Conservation	Stonehill College Gift Area		Sumner St	064	062	18.05	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Bird St	051	048	54.48	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Forest Rd	051	028	16.81	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Plain St	039	060	12.03	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands	1591	Washington St	062	002	6.59	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	036	016	1.79	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	047	002	19.10	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	048	001	18.73	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	048	002	66.34	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	048	003	15.02	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	049	001	66.68	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	049	002	4.84	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	050	001	6.68	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	050	002	5.27	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	050	003	4.33	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	050	010	5.63	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	050	011	13.20	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		Washington St	060	001	18.58	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	037	027	89.82	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	038	026	7.17	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	038	032	10.71	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	038	033	10.71	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	047	001	24.78	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	047	003	14.96	Yes
Conservation	Stoughton Conservation Memorial Lands		West St	047	004	2.91	Yes
Conservation	T.L. Edwards Estate		Central St	089	163	12.71	Yes
Conservation	Wood's Pond		Washington St	052	107	3.55	No
Municipal	Fire Station	1550	Central St	030	040	0.90	No
Municipal	Fire Station	30	Freeman St	054	287	0.35	No
Municipal	Police Station	26	Rose St	054	175	1.56	No
Municipal	Public Library	84	Park St	054	354	0.89	No
Municipal	Public Works Department	950	Central St	056	168	2.45	No
Municipal	Public Works Department	950	Central St	056	168	2.45	No
Municipal	Town Hall	10	Pearl St	054	221	0.74	No
Municipal	Town Hall Parking Lot	9	Rose St	054	217	0.23	No
School	Gibbons Elem School	235	Morton St	053	007	15.43	No
School	Helen Hansen Elem School	1800	Central St	030	001	15.49	No
School	Middle School	205	Cushing St	043	103	2.74	Yes
School	Middle School	211	Cushing St	043	102	7.06	No
School	Middle School	211	Cushing St	043	102	7.06	No
School	Middle School Field		Cushing St	043	101	2.68	Yes
School	Middle School Field		Cushing St	043	104	1.65	Yes
School	Middle School Field		Simpson St	043	075	1.24	Yes
School	North School	131	Pine St	069	085	36.85	No
School	School		Lowe Av	068	167	0.13	Yes
School	Senior High School	232	Pearl St	055	010	20.30	No
School	South Elem School	171	Ash St	076	021	7.16	No
School	West Elem School	1322	Central St	044	252	11.70	No
Vacant			Alder St	077	031	0.13	Yes
Vacant			Alder St	078	004	1.25	Yes
Vacant			Ames Dr	034	010	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Ames Dr	034	011	0.11	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Ames Dr	034	013	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Ash St	076	141	3.07	Yes
Vacant			Ash St	076	147	14.70	Yes
Vacant			Ash St	088	074	0.51	Yes
Vacant			Atkinson Av	074	153	0.56	Yes
Vacant			Atkinson Av Ex	061	059	0.10	Yes
Vacant			B St	089	001	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Basswood Rd	016	110	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Basswood Rd	016	112	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Basswood Rd	016	113	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Basswood Rd	016	114	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Basswood Rd	016	121	0.12	Yes
Vacant		2330	Bay Rd	007	004	9.36	Yes
Vacant		2370	Bay Rd	007	039	13.98	Yes
Vacant			Bay Rd	025	005	1.36	Yes
Vacant			Baywood Av	002	010	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Baywood Av	002	011	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	096	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	097	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	100	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	101	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	102	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	103	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	104	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Beechwood Rd	016	105	0.24	Yes
Vacant			Benson Rd	073	011	0.08	Yes
Vacant			Birch Av	065	212	0.31	Yes
Vacant			Birch St	065	052	0.25	Yes
Vacant			Birch St	065	053	0.25	Yes
Vacant			Birch St	065	187	0.04	Yes
Vacant			Brickel Rd	064	060	0.36	Yes
Vacant			Camden St	086	033	0.14	Yes
Vacant			Canton St	030	046	0.49	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Cedar St	075	123	14.38	Yes
Vacant			Cedarwood Rd	002	043	0.62	Yes
Vacant			Cedarwood Rd	002	045	0.13	Yes
Vacant		1825	Central St	030	007	0.30	Yes
Vacant			Central St	003	102	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Central St	030	002	0.08	Yes
Vacant			Central St	030	003	0.07	Yes
Vacant			Central St	030	115	0.88	Yes
Vacant			Central St	056	167	2.13	Yes
Vacant			Central St	090	085	0.23	Yes
Vacant			Central St	091	044	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Central St	091	103	0.36	Yes
Vacant			Central St	098	003	3.62	Yes
Vacant			Central St	099	012	0.38	Yes
Vacant			Chandler St	023	041	0.21	Yes
Vacant			Chandler St	024	035	0.07	Yes
Vacant			Chandler St	024	037	2.52	Yes
Vacant			Charles Av	069	046	0.23	Yes
Vacant			Chemung St	015	046	0.36	Yes
Vacant			Chemung St	015	047	0.39	Yes
Vacant			Chemung St	015	048	3.05	Yes
Vacant			Commercial St	044	181	0.31	Yes
Vacant			Courtney Av	052	147	0.34	Yes
Vacant			Courtney Av	052	148	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Courtney Av	052	151	0.33	Yes
Vacant			Crescent Av	053	141	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Daly Dr Ex	074	160	0.27	Yes
Vacant			Daly Dr Ex	074	161	0.34	Yes
Vacant			Daly Dr Ex	074	165	0.21	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	045	0.05	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	046	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	048	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	052	0.13	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Deady Av	070	053	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	085	0.27	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	086	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	087	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Deady Av	070	102	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Deer Run	023	127	16.92	Yes
Vacant			Deer Run	023	128	16.92	Yes
Vacant			Deer Run	023	129	16.92	Yes
Vacant			Donahue Wy	044	120	0.13	Yes
Vacant			Drake Av	042	029	3.86	No
Vacant			E Vanston Rd	078	064	6.93	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	002	046	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	002	060	0.27	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	002	069	0.37	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	002	072	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	002	078	0.38	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	003	009	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Eastwood Rd	003	010	0.22	Yes
Vacant			Eighth St	088	047	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Eighth St	088	082	0.03	Yes
Vacant			Elmwood Av	016	063	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Elmwood Av	016	064	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Elmwood Av	016	065	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Elmwood Av	016	066	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Elmwood Av	016	135	0.13	Yes
Vacant			Elmwood Av	016	136	0.13	Yes
Vacant			Ewing Dr	069	047	0.01	Yes
Vacant			Faxon Rd	056	060	0.63	Yes
Vacant			Faxon Rd	056	061	0.94	Yes
Vacant			Fernwood Rd	016	223	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Fernwood Rd	016	225	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Fernwood Rd	016	230	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Fifth St	076	095	0.34	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Fifth St	076	096	0.35	Yes
Vacant			Fifth St	076	148	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Fifth St	076	149	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Fifth St	076	150	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Fifth St	089	008	0.51	Yes
Vacant			First St	077	109	4.94	Yes
Vacant			First St	077	130	0.35	Yes
Vacant			First St	077	131	0.47	Yes
Vacant			First St	077	132	0.14	Yes
Vacant			First St	077	133	0.40	Yes
Vacant			First St	089	027	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Fourth St	076	078	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Fourth St	077	119	2.33	Yes
Vacant			Fourth St	077	122	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Fourth St	077	125	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Fourth St	077	126	2.48	Yes
Vacant			Fourth St	089	009	0.98	Yes
Vacant			Frederick St	023	062	0.86	Yes
Vacant			Freeman St	054	305	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Gay St	065	028	2.12	Yes
Vacant			Gay St	065	029	4.21	Yes
Vacant			Glen Echo Bv	082	035	0.21	Yes
Vacant			Glen Echo Bv	082	037	0.13	Yes
Vacant			Glen Echo Bv	082	044	0.83	Yes
Vacant			Glen Echo Bv	082	045	1.05	Yes
Vacant			Glen Echo Bv	082	085	0.91	Yes
Vacant			Glen Echo St	082	005	0.59	Yes
Vacant			Glen St	055	094	6.51	Yes
Vacant			Grace Ln	025	014	0.82	Yes
Vacant			Grace Ln	025	015	0.66	Yes
Vacant			Green St	041	068	0.23	Yes
Vacant			Greenwood Av	016	009	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Greenwood Av	016	236	0.34	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Greenwood Av	016	242	0.29	Yes
Vacant			Greenwood Av	016	243	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Hawes Wy	095	029	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Haynes Rd	065	133	5.32	Yes
Vacant			Hayward Dr	034	004	0.04	Yes
Vacant			Hayward Dr	035	073	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Hayward Dr	035	074	0.88	Yes
Vacant			Henry St	023	098	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Henry St	023	099	0.07	Yes
Vacant			Henry St	023	100	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Henry St	023	101	0.45	Yes
Vacant			Henry St	023	106	0.26	Yes
Vacant			Highland Av	024	009	0.38	Yes
Vacant			Highland Av	024	023	0.11	Yes
Vacant		489	Highland St	022	013	0.36	No
Vacant			Highland St	023	009	0.47	Yes
Vacant			Highland St	023	018	4.17	Yes
Vacant			Highland St	023	019	0.02	Yes
Vacant			Highland St	023	047	0.30	Yes
Vacant			Highland St	023	130	0.47	Yes
Vacant			Highland St	035	022	0.68	Yes
Vacant			Hillside Av	082	118	0.33	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	189	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	191	0.40	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	205	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	212	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	213	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	214	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	215	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Hillwood Av	016	218	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Hollis St	023	083	0.23	Yes
Vacant			Hollis St	023	089	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Hollis St	023	094	0.18	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Hollis St	023	096	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Jacobs Trl	035	069	0.10	Yes
Vacant			Jacobs Trl	035	081	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Jacobs Trl	035	082	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Jacobs Trl	035	083	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Lake Dr	034	020	0.10	Yes
Vacant			Lake Dr	035	092	0.10	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	002	015	0.10	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	002	016	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	002	033	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	002	079	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	002	084	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	016	011	0.31	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	016	031	2.24	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	016	033	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	016	037	0.24	Yes
Vacant			Lakewood Dr	016	038	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Leach St	066	027	0.43	Yes
Vacant			Lelland Rd	074	019	0.97	Yes
Vacant			Lincoln St	055	140	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Linwood St	023	050	0.41	Yes
Vacant			Linwood St	023	051	3.05	Yes
Vacant			Lowe Av Ex	069	144	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Maple St	093	010	0.68	Yes
Vacant			Maple St	094	021	0.31	Yes
Vacant			Maplewood Rd	016	072	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Maplewood Rd	016	073	2.89	Yes
Vacant			Maplewood Rd	016	127	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Marron Av	051	029	0.03	Yes
Vacant			Mcperson Rd	051	135	0.42	Yes
Vacant		647	Morton St	051	007	0.19	Yes
Vacant		701	Morton St	051	001	0.22	Yes
Vacant			Morton St	053	198	9.09	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Myrtle St	041	059	0.37	Yes
Vacant			Myrtle St	041	063	1.70	Yes
Vacant			N Paul St	056	005	1.41	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	076	119	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	076	120	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	076	121	0.21	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	076	122	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	076	123	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	076	124	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	088	031	0.43	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	088	037	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Ninth St	088	038	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Oakwood Av	016	077	0.76	Yes
Vacant			Old Page St	103	009	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Packard Rd	068	011	4.39	Yes
Vacant			Page St	084	008	0.74	Yes
Vacant			Palisades Cr	035	058	0.93	Yes
Vacant		6	Park St	054	326	0.32	No
Vacant		98	Park St	066	004	0.19	Yes
Vacant		104	Park St	066	005	0.16	Yes
Vacant		1137	Park St	087	003	18.16	No
Vacant		1137	Park St	087	003	18.16	No
Vacant			Park St	054	361	0.88	No
Vacant			Park St	065	040	0.26	Yes
Vacant			Park St	076	006	14.60	Yes
Vacant			Park St	077	002	8.52	Yes
Vacant			Park St	087	008	1.86	Yes
Vacant		716	Pearl St	045	065	0.01	Yes
Vacant			Pearl St	043	105	0.03	Yes
Vacant			Pearl St	045	067	0.02	Yes
Vacant			Pearl St	055	020	5.62	Yes
Vacant			Pearl St	055	038	0.29	Yes
Vacant			Pearl St	055	046	1.66	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Perry St	042	065	0.09	Yes
Vacant			Pierce St	066	028	0.24	Yes
Vacant			Pierce St	066	029	0.26	Yes
Vacant			Pierce St	066	030	7.42	Yes
Vacant			Pine St	082	014	3.56	Yes
Vacant			Pine Tree Rd	026	157	0.03	Yes
Vacant			Pinewood Av	016	089	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Pinewood Av	016	116	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Pinewood Av	016	117	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Pinewood Av	016	155	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Pinewood Av	016	156	0.29	Yes
Vacant			Plain St	026	125	9.83	Yes
Vacant			Plain St	039	049	20.88	Yes
Vacant			Plain St	039	059	2.71	Yes
Vacant			Plain St	039	061	5.06	Yes
Vacant			Plain St	052	025	48.33	Yes
Vacant		951	Pleasant St	081	042	2.59	No
Vacant			Pleasant St	068	130	1.06	No
Vacant			Poskus St	040	005	1.73	Yes
Vacant			Railroad Av	054	402	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Railroad Av	054	403	0.05	Yes
Vacant			Rebecca Ln	034	023	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Rebecca Ln	035	078	0.27	Yes
Vacant			Ridgewood Av	002	018	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Ridgewood Av	002	020	0.47	Yes
Vacant			Ridgewood Av	002	024	0.17	Yes
Vacant		110	Rockland St	068	233	11.39	No
Vacant			School St	028	040	3.94	Yes
Vacant			School St	041	107	1.72	Yes
Vacant			School St	054	122	0.03	Yes
Vacant			Second St	077	110	4.13	Yes
Vacant			Second St	077	114	0.99	Yes
Vacant			Second St	077	137	0.12	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Second St	077	138	0.27	Yes
Vacant			Second St	077	139	0.60	Yes
Vacant			Second St	077	140	0.33	Yes
Vacant			Second St	089	021	2.77	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	088	067	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	088	068	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	088	069	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	088	070	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	088	072	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	088	073	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Seventh St	089	069	0.82	Yes
Vacant			Sheehan St	041	098	5.46	Yes
Vacant			Shirley Rd	064	028	0.92	Yes
Vacant			Shirley Rd	064	029	1.31	Yes
Vacant			Simpson St	043	074	0.45	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	076	092	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	076	093	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	076	094	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	076	097	1.95	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	076	098	0.36	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	076	104	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	088	063	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	088	064	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	088	065	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	088	066	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	089	002	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	089	003	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	089	065	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	089	066	0.48	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	089	067	0.34	Yes
Vacant			Sixth St	089	068	1.32	Yes
Vacant			South St	099	007	0.36	Yes
Vacant			Southworth Ct	029	017	0.22	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Spring St	053	023	5.08	Yes
Vacant			Spring St	053	038	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	163	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	164	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	166	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	168	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	169	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	176	0.23	Yes
Vacant			Springwood Av	016	177	0.11	Yes
Vacant		56	Stoddard St	042	087	0.31	No
Vacant			Summit Rd	070	064	0.06	Yes
Vacant			Summit Rd	070	065	0.41	Yes
Vacant			Summit Rd	070	066	0.64	Yes
Vacant			Summit Rd	070	072	0.12	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	065	012	0.25	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	065	013	0.25	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	065	016	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	065	017	0.29	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	065	018	0.34	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	065	019	0.34	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	073	004	4.01	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	073	039	23.05	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	075	040	2.46	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	075	059	0.36	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	075	139	0.43	Yes
Vacant			Sumner St	075	148	5.35	Yes
Vacant			Technology Ctr Dr	106	004	95.28	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	076	118	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	010	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	011	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	012	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	013	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	014	0.19	Yes

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Tenth St	088	015	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	016	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	017	0.19	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	018	0.22	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	019	0.21	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	020	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	021	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	022	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	023	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	024	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	025	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	026	0.17	Yes
Vacant			Tenth St	088	027	0.16	Yes
Vacant			Third St	077	118	0.98	Yes
Vacant			Third St	077	127	0.98	Yes
Vacant			Third St	077	128	1.64	Yes
Vacant			Tremont St	041	062	0.69	Yes
Vacant			Tremont St	053	016	0.18	Yes
Vacant			Tremont St	053	017	0.56	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	081	041	1.42	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	089	070	0.22	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	089	071	0.31	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	089	072	0.20	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	091	039	0.69	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	092	001	4.45	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	092	013	1.35	Yes
Vacant			Turnpike St	095	049	0.33	Yes
Vacant		137	Walnut St	066	033	1.88	No
Vacant		137	Walnut St	066	033	1.88	No
Vacant			Washington St	037	035	14.70	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	050	009	1.42	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	051	161	0.14	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	051	172	10.13	Yes

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Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Vacant			Washington St	053	166	14.74	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	055	075	4.32	No
Vacant			Washington St	058	009	0.07	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	060	014	0.86	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	060	018	0.11	Yes
Vacant			Washington St	061	069	0.02	Yes
Vacant			West St	026	120	2.36	Yes
Vacant			West St	026	122	0.58	Yes
Vacant			West St	026	124	0.51	Yes
Vacant			West St	027	079	0.45	Yes
Vacant			West St	036	002	2.34	Yes
Vacant			West St	036	003	1.35	Yes
Vacant			Wildwood Rd	002	087	0.15	Yes
Vacant			Wildwood Rd	002	088	0.14	Yes
Vacant			Wildwood Rd	002	090	0.32	Yes
Vacant			Williams St	082	016	0.45	Yes
Vacant			Willow Ln	097	005	0.32	No
Vacant			Willowood Av	016	244	0.13	Yes
Vacant			Willowood Av	016	245	0.27	Yes
Vacant			Winslow Dr	041	073	4.98	Yes
Vacant			Wyman St	053	081	0.02	Yes
Vacant		63	York St	057	109	0.09	No
Vacant			York St	057	104	0.46	Yes
Vacant			York St	057	105	0.44	Yes
Vacant			York St	057	108	4.09	Yes
Vacant	Standpipe		Forest Rd	051	027	1.94	Yes
Vacant	Tax Title		Central St	056	026	9.50	Yes
Vacant	Tax Title		Highland St	022	014	5.95	Yes
Vacant	Tax Title		Springwood Av	016	162	0.24	Yes
Vacant	Town Possession		Island St	030	014	0.35	Yes
Water Supply	Ames Long Pond Watershed - Water Dept.		King St	024	024	16.30	Yes
Water Supply	Ames Long Pond Watershed - Water Dept.		King St	025	046	26.87	Yes
Water Supply	Beaver Brook Pumping Station	930	Turnpike St	092	023	0.06	No

Appendix C: Town-Owned Properties

Type of Use	Description (if available)	Street No.	Street	MAP	LOT	AREA (AC)	Vacant
Water Supply	Dry Pond/Gurney Well Protection Area - Water Dept.		Plain St	026	147	13.56	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		Bay Rd	013	001	9.47	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		Bay Rd	013	002	6.55	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		Bay Rd	014	106	15.73	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		Bay Rd	014	107	94.05	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		Elm St	029	037	15.98	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		School St	028	032	35.93	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.	501	West St	028	017	23.63	No
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		West St	029	007	18.05	No
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		West St	029	025	8.70	Yes
Water Supply	Muddy And Town Pond - Water Dept.		West St	029	084	12.55	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Birchwood Rd	016	082	0.94	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Birchwood Rd	016	085	0.44	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Birchwood Rd	016	086	0.11	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Chemung St	015	044	15.95	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Chemung St	015	045	1.69	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Hillwood Av	016	208	0.83	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Hillwood Av	016	210	2.04	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Pinewood Av	016	083	4.74	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Pinewood Av	016	084	0.06	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Pinewood Av	016	143	0.98	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Pinewood Av	016	209	17.61	No
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Rockwood Rd	016	087	0.09	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Springwood Av	016	151	0.90	Yes
Water Supply	Pinewood Lake Watershed Area - Water Dept.		Springwood Av	016	196	0.85	Yes
Water Supply	Water Tank		Oakland St	068	133	0.22	No

APPENDIX D

Old Colony Planning Council



Frank P. Staffier
President

70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4097

Pasquale Ciaramella
Executive Director

Telephone: (508) 583-1833
Fax: (508) 559-8768
Email: information@ocpcrpa.org
Website: www.ocpcrpa.org

March 6, 2017

Ms. Ardis Johnston
Secretary, Stoughton Open Space Committee
Town Hall
10 Pearl Street
Stoughton, MA 02072

Dear Ms. Johnston:

The Old Colony Planning Council has reviewed the January 2017 Draft Stoughton Open Space and Recreation Plan and is pleased to offer the following comments:

The report is quite thorough in describing present conditions, comprehensive goals and environmental issues, and present and potential holdings; in defining community needs; and in offering a comprehensive goal-oriented Seven Year Action Plan. Specific observations follow:

Goals - The overall goals are well balanced, combining protection of natural areas, water resources, and agricultural lands with provision of varied outdoor recreation opportunities accessible to all neighborhoods, and in managing conservation areas for user access and safety.

Recommendations - The Plan's recommendations should lead to a well- balanced program.

- It is good to see the attention paid to Glen Echo Pond for its own values and as a complement to the Ames Long Pond beach. This gives swimmers access to beaches at opposite ends of the town.
- The provision of small urban parks along with the listed prospective major acquisitions.
- Acquisition of the diverse lands listed as of Conservation Interest, particularly the protection/expansion of the Bird Street Conservation Lands and other well-distributed sites are major steps toward an integrated town-wide open space and recreation system.
- Exploration of potential uses of land under Chapter 61.

Public Involvement - This is exemplary, including a community survey, a public forum, and inclusion of the Master Plan's goals and strategies along with findings of the extensive SCORP process.

Maps - These are very well done and using a parcel base map makes it easy to find the areas discussed.

We wish you luck in implementing the plan and hope to assist in those efforts.

Sincerely,

Pasquale Ciaramella
Executive Director

cc: Robert E. Kuver, OCPC Delegate
Forrest Lindwall, OCPC Alternate
Krista Moravec, Horsly Witton Group

Town of Stoughton

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Pearl Street · Stoughton MA 02072 · (781) 341-1300 · Fax (781) 344-5048

David J. Sousa; Chairman ♦ Robert M. Cohn; Vice Chair ♦ Robert J. O'Regan, Esq. ♦ Joseph M. Mokrisky ♦ Peter J. Brown

March 7, 2017

John Linehan, Chairman
Stoughton Open Space Committee
10 Pearl St
Stoughton, MA 02072


Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Chairman Linehan,

The Board of Selectmen recently received the proposed Open Space and Recreation Plan as submitted by the Stoughton Open Space Committee. Previously the plan was presented for comment at a public hearing held in the spring of 2016. Since that time, the Selectmen have had an opportunity to review the Plan and at their public meeting on March 7, 2017 the Board formally voted their endorsement.

On behalf of the Town, we would like to express our appreciation to the Open Space Committee on their hard and diligent work in completing this Plan. We believe the plan effectively outlines the approach for the Town to identify critical areas of open space. In addition, the Selectmen have been fully supportive of the Open Space Committee and we believe through our mutual efforts we can protect open space in our town now and for future generations.

Sincerely,



David J. Sousa, Chairman
Board of Selectmen



TOWN OF STOUGHTON

Massachusetts

MA 02072

PLANNING BOARD

NOREEN O'TOOLE
TOWN PLANNER
STOUGHTON TOWN HALL
10 PEARL STREET
(781) 341-1300 x9201

PLANNING BOARD
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DANIEL KELLY

November 30, 2017

Open Space Committee
Stoughton Town Hall
10 Pearl Street
Stoughton, MA 02072

Re: Town of Stoughton Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Open Space Committee Members:

It is with great pleasure that the Planning Board strongly supports the "Open Space and Recreation Plan." An overview of the Open Space and Recreation component of the Town of Stoughton's Master Plan emphasizes the importance of open space and recreation as an investment in the future of the town. Some of the major objectives of the "Open Space and Recreation Plan" *are the conservation of Stoughton's natural resources, protection of open spaces and the provision of public recreational opportunities.* (Page 2)

As you navigate through the component of the Master Plan document regarding Open Space and Recreation, there are goals and strategies so that we are able to effectively plan and manage our resources.

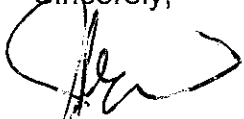
Goal 1: Develop and maintain a framework for effective planning and management of the town's open space and recreational resources.

Goal 2: Meet the growing recreational needs of Stoughton residents with well-maintained and managed facilities and programs.

Goal 3: Develop parks to create community cohesion and build social capital. Well designed and programmed parks help create a "sense of place" and expand a "sense of community."

There are various approaches to achieve goals regarding open space and recreational needs. The Town of Stoughton "Open Space and Recreation Plan" document delineates the importance of stepping forward in attaining these goals and all the benefits and depicts a work plan for future success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Scardino', enclosed within a large, loopy circular flourish.

Joseph Scardino
Chairman
Planning Board



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Charles D. Baker
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Matthew A. Beaton
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181

May 30, 2017

Krista Moravec
Horsley Witten Group
55 Dorrance Street, Suite 403
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

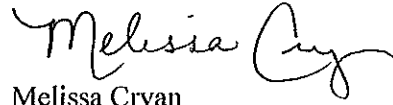
Dear Ms. Moravec:

Thank you for submitting the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan for Stoughton 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 May 2024. Conditional approval will allow the town to participate in DCS grant rounds through May 2024, and a grant award may be offered to the town. However, no final grant payments will be made until the plan is completed.

1. Population Characteristics – the Environmental Justice populations section is missing. Please add it.
2. Growth and Development Patterns – the Transportation section should include information on pedestrian and cycling options.
3. Water Resources – a section on flood hazard areas must be added.
4. Fisheries and Wildlife – a more thorough species inventory should be included, as well as information on any wildlife corridors in town.
5. Scenic Resources – a section on any unusual geologic features in town must be added.
6. Environmental Challenges – a section on sedimentation, forestry issues, and environmental equity issues must be included. Environmental equity refers to looking at the distribution of open spaces in the town and identifying any areas that are lacking in them.
7. Section 5 – this section should begin with a discussion of why open space protection is so important. Please note that land dedicated to park and recreation purposes is also protected under Article 97. The inventory does not include the town's recreation properties. Please add them. Any Agricultural Preservation Restrictions should be included in Section 5.
8. Action Plan – the goals and objectives should be listed in some sort of priority order.
9. Maps – the Inventory map should identify ownership.
10. Letter of Review – a letter from the Planning Board is needed.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Cryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cryan".

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager

cc: John Linehan, Chairman, Open Space Committee