OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2019

WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Prepared by:

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

FOR

WESTWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS

Prepared By:

Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee

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Section 1: Plan Summary

This 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is an update of a previous plan completed in 2000. The plan contains the following major elements:

- A description of the public input utilized in developing the Plan;
- A demographic profile;
- A summary of recent and projected growth trends;
- An environmental description of the Town;
- An inventory of existing protected open space and recreation facilities;
- An analysis of open space and recreation needs;
- A statement of goals and objectives; and
- A seven-year action plan.

The Community Setting section notes the history and population growth of Westwood. It notes that Westwood has seen relatively small but steady population growth since 1970 with the exception of a 5% decline in population during the 1980's followed by a surge of more than 12% during the 1990's. Population projections to 2030 indicate essentially little growth through 2030.

The Environmental Inventory and Analysis section describes the geology, soils and topography of the Town and includes a description of landscape character. Major surface waters are noted and mapped along with wetlands, flood plains, public wells and wellhead protection areas. Priority habitat areas are also mapped and four species that are endangered, threatened or of special concern are identified. This section also identifies a number of environmental challenges facing the Town, including protection of the Town's water supply, management of stormwater, control of invasive species, and adaptation to climate change.

The Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest identifies 795 acres of protected open space owned by the Town and private owners, including parcels within open space subdivisions. Hale Reservation is shown in Assessor's records to have 325 acres of unprotected open space in Westwood (this report suggests that figure may possibly be underestimated by approximately 150 acres). Another 198 acres are in use as public and private recreation facilities, and 97 acres enjoy limited protection as Chapter 61, 61A and 61B land.

Public input was used to develop the goals and objectives. The goals include the following:

General Goals

GOAL 1: Protect and enhance Westwood's community character.
GOAL 2: Promote accessibility provisions at all recreational facilities and open space areas to provide enhanced access for all residents and visitors.

Open Space Goals

GOAL 1: Improve management and condition of conservation areas.
GOAL 2: Increase awareness about Westwood's existing open space and conservation areas to encourage use and protection.
GOAL 3: Identify, protect and acquire land appropriate for open space and conservation.

Recreation Goals

GOAL 1: Expand opportunities for extended use of existing recreation fields and facilities to meet demonstrated need.
GOAL 2: Develop a new indoor recreation community center to better serve the community's needs for recreation programming.
GOAL 3: Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.
GOAL 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs.
GOAL 5: Develop new ice skating opportunities.
GOAL 6: Continue to provide quality recreational programming for all Westwood residents.

Each goal includes a number of objectives. The Action Plan makes recommendations addressing each of the objectives. It also identifies the lead agency for each action, recommends implementation mechanisms, includes a general schedule for each item, and proposes potential funding sources for implementing the action, where applicable.

Some of the major recommended actions include studying the feasibility of developing an indoor recreation community center and/or an indoor ice skating rink, acquiring additional open space, improving public knowledge about existing and planned open space and recreation facilities, developing management plans for each site, and increasing universal access to open space and recreation sites.

Properties related to the key recommendations are also mapped.

Section 2: Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to help ensure that the open space resources of Westwood are protected, and recreation resources are expanded to accommodate the changing and diverse needs of its population as the Town continues to grow and face demographic changes. While the Town has experienced substantial development in recent years with relatively compact development in and near the two Town centers), significant areas of open space and rural character still exist. Without thoughtful planning and a vision to guide development, these desirable features are in danger of being lost, as they have been in many other towns.

It should also be noted that updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) restores Westwood's eligibility for grants from the Division of Conservation Services of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Previous efforts to manage, acquire, plan for, or otherwise protect open space and address recreation needs have been undertaken in Westwood. These past efforts include the following:

- *Conservation/Recreation Master Plan*, 1977;
- *This is Your Land…*, 1978;
- *Westwood Services and Facilities*, 1995; and
- *Town of Westwood Open Space and Recreation Plan*, 2000

Each of these efforts is discussed below.

B. Prior Open Space and Recreation Efforts

As noted in the 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan, Westwood completed its first effort to address open space and recreation needs in 1977. The *Conservation/Recreation Master Plan* was completed by the Conservation Commission and included an inventory of existing conservation land as well as a "wish list" of privately-owned land that would be desirable to conserve.

The following year (1978) the Conservation Commission produced a pamphlet entitled *This is Your Land* . . . to encourage conservation and exploration of significant open space properties. The next substantial effort toward conserving land was not made until 1998 when Town Meeting approved the acquisition for conservation purposes of a 68-acre parcel known as Lowell Woods.

In 1995, the Town contracted with the firm of Archetype Architecture, Inc. to review services and facilities including those related to recreation. That study documented a need for additional playing fields to meet a growing demand and identified potential sites for those fields.

In 1996, Westwood initiated an effort to prepare an Open Space and Recreation Plan as part of the creation of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town. An Open Space and Recreation Task Force was formed and the firm of Herr and James Associates was hired to assist with the preparation of

both plans. An extensive public participation effort was undertaken beginning in late 1996 and continuing through 1997. Both completed plans were adopted by the Planning Board in February 2000.

It should be noted that one of the recommendations of the 2000 OSRP and the Comprehensive Plan was the creation of a land trust. Westwood Land Trust (WLT) was soon created and in 2002 it produced *Take a Hike!,* which described the open space areas in Westwood with an emphasis on trails.

The Town adopted the Dedham & Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan written by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) in April 2014.

C. Planning Process and Public Participation

This update of the 2000 OSRP was produced under the auspices of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC), with the assistance of consultants, PGC Associates, LLC, of Franklin, MA and JM Goldson of Boston, MA. Input from Town officials and professional staff, and the general public was a critical component of this Open Space and Recreation Plan. They live in and/or work in the Town, and have first-hand knowledge about Westwood and its opportunities, needs and challenges. Their contributions are integral to the identification and establishment of goals and objectives and, furthermore, help to ensure that any recommendations are feasible and will gain the critical support needed to warrant a reasonable chance for implementation. It is the input from the OSRPC, Town professional staff, and the general public that contributes in an essential way to the preparation of this plan. The Committee held seven public meetings including the community wide visioning workshop and all were filmed by Westwood Media Center, broadcast on the local cable channel, and published on Westwood Media Center's YouTube channel.

The public participation element of this plan consisted of two major parts: an open space and recreation survey and a Community Visioning Workshop.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

The survey was available in two formats: electronic and paper. The Town publicized the availability of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey on the Town's webpage beginning on November 13, 2017. Paper copies of the survey, as well as handouts containing the link to the electronic version of the survey, were made available to the public at the Westwood Public Library, the Islington Branch Library, the Westwood Senior Center, Westwood Town Hall, and the Carby Street Municipal Office Building. Paper copies of the survey and handouts containing the electronic survey link were also distributed to attendees at the November 13th Fall Town Meeting, the November 21, 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting, and the November 28, 2017 Planning Board meeting. In addition, the availability of the Open Space survey was communicated to the public through public service announcements on Westwood Media Center's local cable access channel, and a link to the survey was posted to both the Town's Facebook page and the Westwood Recreation Facebook page on November 15, 2017.

Most participants responded electronically. Initially, the survey was available from November 13, 2017 through December 3, 2017. A total of 641 responses received during this timeframe: 621 electronic and 20 paper responses. Following the Community Visioning Workshop, the survey was reopened from February 1, 2018 to March 1, 2018 and distributed by the Westwood School Department my email to all students in grades 9 thru 12. This second participation opportunity garnered an additional 168 respondents for a total of 809 respondents. It should be noted that virtually all of the respondents in the first group were 25 or over. By contrast, 64% of the respondents in the second group were under 18 and another 13% were 18-24 for a total of 77% being under 25.

The survey included nine questions plus an open-ended prompt which provided an opportunity for the responder to share ideas or suggestions related to recreation and/or conservation in Westwood. The nine questions and a summary of their responses were:

1. In the past year, which of the following recreation areas listed below did you or your family use? (multiple Westwood sites were listed)
   The site receiving the greatest use, as indicated by responders, is Westwood High School.

2. How would you evaluate the overall quality of the recreational facilities found in Westwood? (Choices were: Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor)
   The majority of responders rated Westwood's recreational facilities as Very Good or Excellent.

3. Please identify any recreational facilities you think need to be developed or improved. This prompt was followed with a listing of 19 facilities. Survey responses identified the following facilities as needing to be developed or improved:
   a. Sheehan tennis courts/outdoor court
   b. Recreation center/community center
   c. Tennis courts
   d. Outdoor pool
   e. Tot lot
   f. Dog park
   g. Turf fields
   h. Thurston fields and gym
   i. Ice skating rink

   Other facilities were identified in either the first administration of the survey or the second, but not both. Those responses are included in the full survey report, located in the appendix.

4. In the past year, what town/nonprofit open space areas listed below did you or your family use? (Multiple Westwood sites were selected)
   Respondents identified Hale Reservation was the most used open space area followed by Lowell Woods.

5. Check up to five items below that you feel should be a priority in Westwood in the next five years. The top five items listed by responders were: ice hockey rink (39% of

responses); trails (37%); a community center (31%); a dog park (29%); and outdoor swimming facilities (26%).

6. What areas in Westwood should be acquired or restored for the future use of Town residents for recreation or conservation purposes? The areas listed were acknowledged as ones that should be acquired for the future use of Town residents. There were multiple properties acknowledged:
    a. The Town's property in Islington, to be used for adequate parking for Town offices and library and for open green space
    b. Land along University Avenue and the office parks that is otherwise undevelopable
    c. The Canton/Downey area
    d. Westwood Lodge
    e. Recently purchased land from First Parish
    f. More indoor space for winter activities
    g. Land adjacent to the high school
    h. The corner of Fox Hill and High Street
    i. Pheasant Hill Park
    j. Deerfield School, to be repurposed as a recreation and community center
    k. Buckmaster Pond
    l. Hale Reservation to be conserved
    m. Properties along Gay Street, Dover Road, and Summer Street
    n. Land near University Station

7. How important is it to you to preserve the following?
    a. Farmlands: 44% important and 45% somewhat important
    b. Historic Buildings: 40% very important and 49% somewhat important
    c. Historic Places: 43% very important and 50% somewhat important
    d. Open space – conservation land: 71% very important
    e. Open space – recreation land: 80% very important
    f. Open space – water: 70% very important and 28% important

8. How would you rate the following features of current and future open space in the Town?
    a. Active Recreation: 81% of responders rated it very important
    b. Passive Recreation: 49% rated it very important
    c. Private, protected land: 36% rated it very important; 52% rated is somewhat important
    d. Scenic Views and Landscape: 53% rated it very important; 42% rated it somewhat important
    e. Wildlife Habitat: 60% rated it very important

9. Would you support an effort to adopt the Community Preservation Act?

    Nearly 41% of survey respondents indicated support for the CPA, but the results varied between the first and second groups of respondents, with the first group having 42% in support and the second group having only 36% in support of the CPA. The larger difference is in those opposed to the CPA. While only 23% of the first group were opposed to the CPA, 43% of the much younger second group were opposed.

The complete results are included in the appendix.

Community Visioning Workshop

The Community Visioning Workshop was held on February 1, 2018, in the cafeteria of the Thurston Middle School at 850 High Street in Westwood. It was sponsored by the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. It was facilitated by Gino Carlucci, AICP of PGC Associates, LLC, and Jennifer Goldson, AICP of JM Goldson community preservation + planning.

Plans for the Community Visioning Workshop were communicated to the public through a January 8, 2018 article in the Westwood Press, through a letter to the editor printed in the Westwood Press on January 18, 2018, through announcements at various Planning Board and Board of Selectmen meetings in December 2017 and January 2018, and through public service announcements on Westwood Media Center's local cable access channel. Notice of the Community Visioning Session was also prominently carried on the Town's webpage from January 4 through February 1, 2018, and a flyer for the workshop was included in the January 10, 2018 Westwood District Bulletin, which was published by the Westwood School Department and distributed by email to all families with children in the public school system. In addition, flyers advertising the Community Visioning Session were made available to the public at the Westwood Public Library, the Islington Branch Library, the Westwood Senior Center, Westwood Town Hall and the Carby Street Municipal Office Building. Finally, the Community Visioning Workshop was publicized on the Town's Facebook page on January 16, 2018, on the Westwood Recreation Department's Facebook page and on its Twitter account on January 9, 2018, and again on Westwood Recreation's Facebook page on January 30, 2018.

The workshop began with introductions and opened with a Project Overview. The workshop addressed both recreation and open space/natural resources. About 43 people attended, as well as members of the OSRP Committee and Town staff and officials. The workshop was filmed by Westwood Media Center, broadcast on local cable channels, and published to the Westwood Media Center's YouTube channel.

The Community Workshop focused the two main aspects of the OSRP: Recreation (Passive and Active) Resources and Needs, and Open Space Resources and Needs. Participants were separated among several tables, each with a facilitator to assist with small group discussion. After each segment, the tables reported out. This aspect of the workshop contributed to the information shared among and between participants, OSRP Committee members, and Town staff and officials. Additionally, it informally provided an indication of what was important to the individuals who attended the workshop.

The main conclusions realized from the Workshop are:

- Westwood has a need for recreation opportunities for residents of all ages. The development of a community recreation center could help serve this need.
- The continued and improved maintenance of fields and recreation areas is necessary, and more fields, basketball courts, and tennis courts would help ease the wear of current facilities and meet the needs of the community.

- The connectedness of Westwood's open space resources and recreation facilities via walking paths, bike paths, and trails will help foster a greater sense of community in the Town.
- Conservation of open space and natural resources is a priority for residents, both for recreational use via trails and for environmental preservation purposes.
- Participants largely agreed that open space resources in Westwood are largely unknown by residents, and that better signage, maps, and public outreach and education regarding open space would benefit the Town.

The complete Community Workshop Summary of Results in full is included in the appendix.

Information gained from the survey and the workshop was used by the OSRPC to develop the OSRP goals and objectives. The goals and objectives in conjunction with the Needs Analysis formed the basis for the development of the recommendations in the Action Plan.

The OSRPC provided a draft of this plan to the Planning Board on December 11, 2018 for consideration at a public hearing. Notice of the Planning Board public hearing was advertised in the Westwood Press on November 23, 2018 and November 30, 2018. The date, time and location of the Planning Board public hearing was also posted with the Town Clerk and Town's website on November 20, 2018, and to the Town's Facebook page and to the Recreation Department's Facebook page on December 5, 2018. Following a duly noticed public hearing, the Planning Board revised and adopted the OSRP on February 26, 2019. Copies were also provided to the Select Board, Conservation Commission, and Recreation Commission, as well as to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Comments received by the Planning Board are included in the Public Comments section of this document.

Section 3: Community Setting

A. Regional Context

Westwood is located within 12 miles of Boston near the I-95/93 (Route 128) beltway and I-95. It is traversed by three state-numbered highways: Route 109, Route 1 and Route 1A. All three routes pass through Westwood in a northeast-southwest direction. Two passenger rail lines also serve the Town. There is a commuter rail/Amtrak station at 50 University Avenue, with 2,589 parking spaces and 44 handicapped accessible spaces. There is a smaller commuter rail stop, Islington Station, at 48 Carroll Avenue that includes 39 parking spaces and 1 handicapped accessible space. The Norwood Memorial Airport is just southwest of Westwood's border with Norwood. Map 1 illustrates Westwood's location within the region.

Westwood is bordered by Dover, Needham, Dedham, Canton, Norwood and Walpole. It is a member of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the regional planning agency for 101 cities and towns in the Boston metropolitan area, and its 13-member subregional group, Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC). It is also part of the South Region in the 2017 Massachusetts State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Abutting towns all have expired Open Space and Recreation Plans. Canton, Dedham (expired August 2017), Dover (expired November 2017) and Needham are researching initial steps or currently updating their existing plans. Norwood's plan expired in 2015 and Walpole's plan expired in 2016.

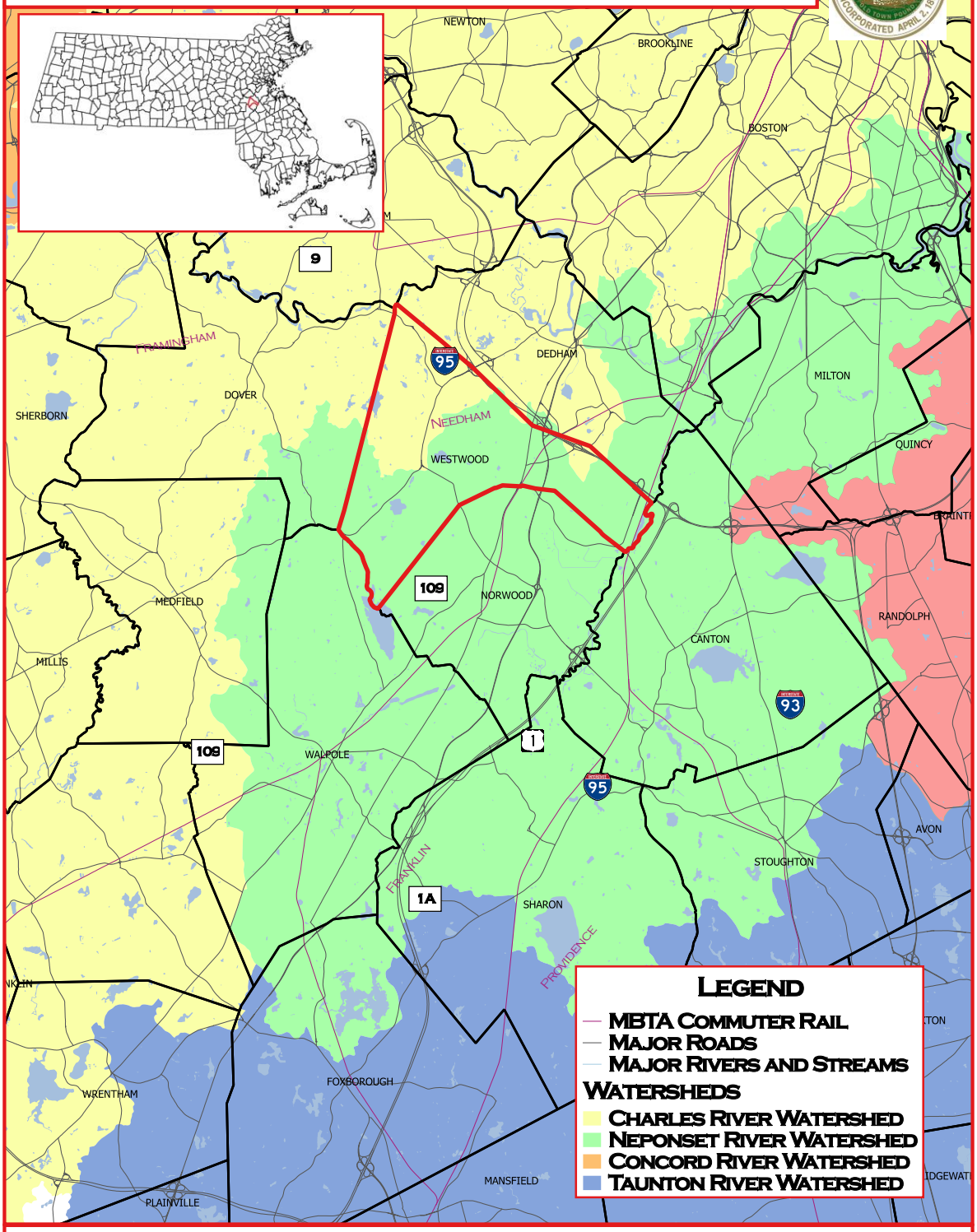
Westwood straddles two watersheds. About two-thirds of the Town is in the Neponset River Watershed while the remaining northeastern part is in the Charles River Watershed.

The Town of Westwood is the home of multiple woods and forests, surface waters, wetlands, conservation and open space land. Additionally, it has numerous playing fields and recreational land for youth and adult sports. It serves as a regional host, in concert with the Town of Dover, for the 1137 acre Hale Reservation property. Westwood is also home to University Station, a mixed-use development of retail, restaurant, office, residential and hotel uses adjacent to the Route 128 MBTA/Amtrak Station.

Many of the characteristics discussed above contribute to a desirable quality of life. In July 2015, CNN/Money Magazine named Westwood #13 on the list of the 100 Best Places to Live in the United States.

Westwood experienced a population decline during the 1980s. However, like many of its neighbors, the decline reversed in the 2000s and Westwood then experienced an increase in residential growth. Opportunities for development and redevelopment of land exist. Smart growth planning, as evidenced through Open Space and Recreation Plans, is necessary to protect existing resources and to secure additional open space land for future conservation and recreation needs. Map 1 presents the regional context of Westwood.

Map 1: Regional Context



0 1 2 3 miles

Data Source: Information Technology Department, Town of Westwood

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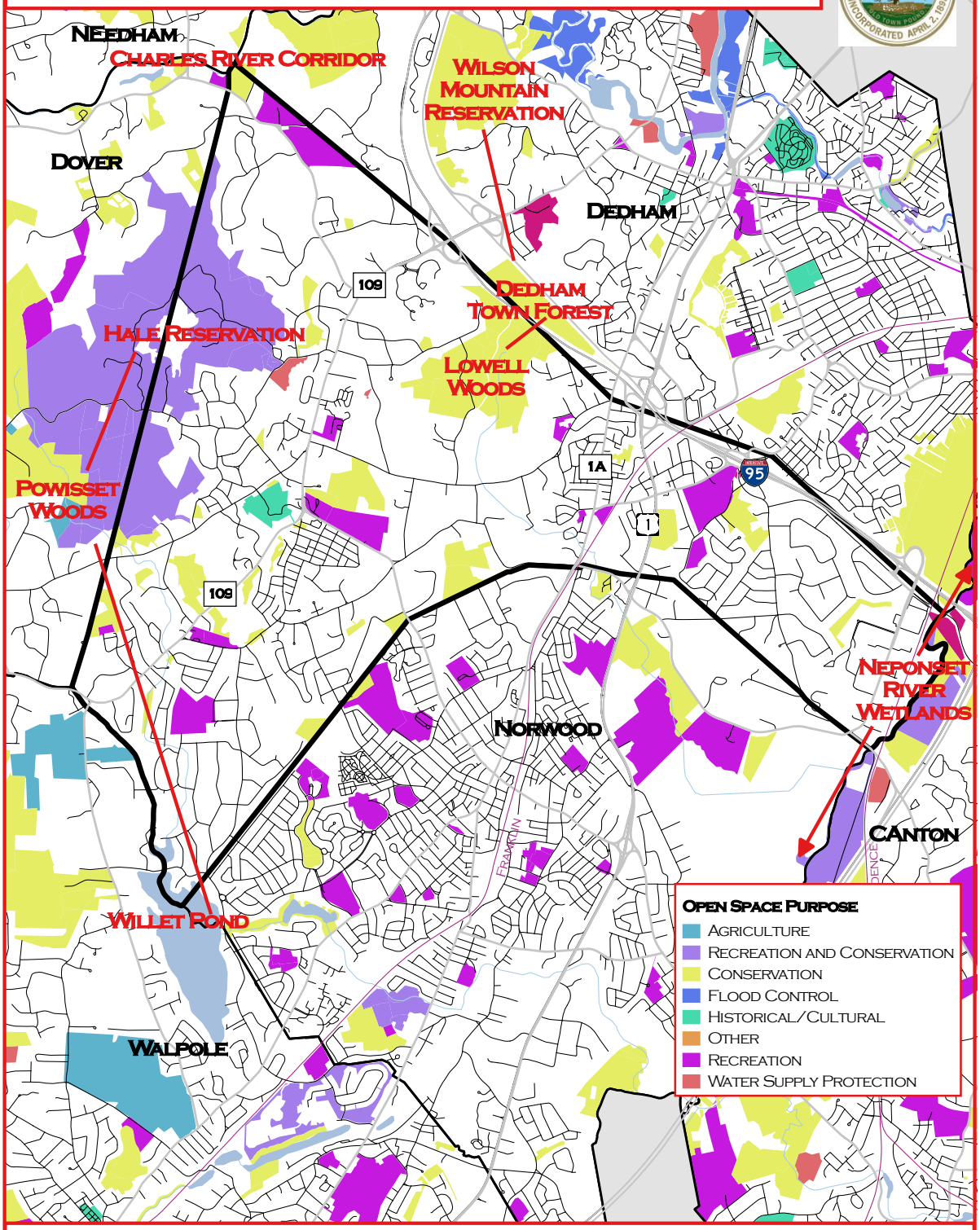
Map 1A: Regional Open Space Connections



0 1 2 3 miles

Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

Town of Westwood - Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2019

PGC Associates LLC

Westwood has multiple open space connections with other towns in the region. Map 1A illustrates these connections. Hale Reservation, shared with Dover, is the largest single connected area. Other examples include the Charles River and Neponset River which form wildlife corridors among multiple towns. Mill Brook connects Westwood conservation land with Powisset Woods in Dover and Willett Pond on the Westwood-Walpole-Norwood town lines. More discussion of these connections can be found under "Fisheries and Wildlife" in Section 4.

B. History of the Community[1]

Until its incorporation in 1897, Westwood was a part of the Town of Dedham and known as West Dedham. During the 1600's, West Dedham was primarily an agricultural area, with most of the farms concentrated near Rock Meadow Brook, Pond Plain Brook and Buckmaster Pond. The primary transportation routes were Kings Highway (also known as Middle Post Road, now Hartford Street), Lower Post Road (now portions of Washington and East Streets), Medfield Road (now High Street), Road to the Meeting House (now Fox Hill Street), Road to the Clapboard Trees (now Clapboardtree Street), and Cedar Swamp Road (now Dover Road). The first houses were built in the "Clapboard Trees" in the 1680's, which was within the maximum practical two-mile distance from the meeting house. A sawmill was built on Purgatory Brook in the early 1700's and became the center of what is now Islington.

The Clapboard Trees Parish Meeting House was first erected in 1731, and twice moved before arriving at its current location on High Street. One of America's oldest church buildings still in use, the building was moved to Church Street in 1809 to make room for the construction of a new meeting house for the Clapboard Trees Parish, and was then used by the First Baptist Church. This historic church building was moved again in 1989 to its current location on High Street.

The Blue Hart Tavern on Washington Street was established in 1740 by Jeremiah Dean to serve travelers along the "Lower Post Road" portion of the King's Highway (also known as the Boston Post Road), which ran between New York and Boston, via Providence. Just five years later, the Ellis Tavern was established on High Street by William Ellis to serve travelers along the "Middle Post Road" which ran from New York to Boston through Hartford. Both taverns were centers for political, military, social and business life for the community.

During the mid-1800's, the influx of Irish fleeing the potato famine in Ireland provided an impetus for a major increase in the housing stock along High Street. This period also saw the development of the Springdale area (now known as Islington), spurred by convenient rail and street car transportation to and from Boston. Also during this time, small industries developed near the Town's major brooks, particularly saw and paper mills. Most of these industries eventually closed or relocated to "South" Dedham and West Dedham remained a rural community while "South" Dedham became increasingly industrialized. In 1897, the people of West Dedham separated from Dedham and formed the present day Town of Westwood. Several reasons have been given for the separation, including the distance from the Dedham town center, lack of transportation and the fact that Dedham gave the Buckmaster Pond water rights to

[1] *History prior to 2000 is derived from the 2000 OSRP with updates from records of the Westwood Historical Society, First Parish Church, First Baptist Church, Massachusetts Historical Commission reconnaissance survey, and MACRIS database.*

Norwood in 1885. The fact that Westwood broke away from Dedham accounts for its irregular shape and the lack of a traditional New England town center or village green.

The early 20th century marked the beginning of the migration of affluent families from Boston into Westwood, often called the "Estate Era." Large homes and mansions were built on Summer, Canton, Fox Hill, Gay and High Streets. The arrival of the street railway during this time also had a significant impact on the Town's development, including the introduction of relatively dense and affordable housing near Buckmaster Pond. (Fenerty, Marjory R., West Dedham and Westwood: 300 Years, 1972.)

Land use data from the last quarter of the 20th century into the very early 21st century reveals a number of use changes. Those changes, however, are difficult to quantify over the years because the methodology used in capturing this data changed in 2005. Prior to 2005, Massachusetts used "MacConnell," a schema that combined land cover and land use categories and was designed for manual interpretation of aerial photos. In 2005, Massachusetts transitioned to a statewide seamless digital dataset of land cover/land use, created using semi-automated methods, and based on 0.5 resolution digital ortho imagery (Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance).

Referring to Table 1, Land Use 1971 to 2005, Westwood has experienced a shift from agricultural to urban land use. In 1971, 250.4 acres of land was classified agriculture: crop, pasture or perennial. By 1999, agriculture had undergone a 33.71 percent reduction with only 166.0 acres of land in that use category. Advancing to 2005, the total acreage classified agricultural was 121.10. It is important to note, however, that for the 2005 calculation, a different methodology was employed and, as a result, the numbers are not exactly comparable to earlier years. That said, agricultural land use continued to decline.

Forest land experienced a 16.47 percent reduction between 1971 and 1999, shrinking from 3054.3 acres to 2551.2 acres. Once again, while the new methodology used in 2005 makes comparisons difficult, in 2005, Westwood was shown to have 2448.2 acres of forest land.

In contrast, urban land use, which includes commercial, industrial, mining, public or transitional, transportation, open, and multiple categories of residential, grew 17.20 percent, from 3390.6 acres in 1971 to 3973.9 acres in 1991. The 2005 data show only 3,626 acres of urban development, but this calculation is arrived at using a different methodology, so it's not strictly comparable.

One of the most significant changes in land use is the new University Station mixed-use development on University Avenue. This development encompasses 121 acres that are zoned to accommodate retail, office, residential and hotel uses. University Station is immediately adjacent to the Route 128 MBTA/Amtrak Station, with direct access to Interstate Highways I-93 and I-95. The mixed-use development contains over 650,000 SF of stores, restaurants and other service establishments, a 130-room hotel, a 64-bed memory care facility, and 350 residential apartments. Phase II, which is now under construction, will include 100 condominiums and approximately 200,000 SF of office development.

Regional Planning

MetroFuture is the official 30 year regional plan for the Greater Boston area, adopted in 2008. The *MetroFuture Plan* includes 65 goals, objectives and implementing strategies related to sustainable growth, housing, transportation, and community vitality. Currently, The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is leading the process of working with cities, towns, and various stakeholders to update the 2008 plan to develop a new regional plan to set regional goals through 2050 in *MetroCommon 2050*. *MetroCommon* is focusing on challenges and opportunities such as traffic congestion, the rising cost of housing, climate change, equity of wealth and health.

TABLE 1
WESTWOOD LAND USE 1971 TO 2005

Category	1971 Acres	1985 Acres	1999 Acres	1971-1999 Change	1971-1999 %Change	2005* Acres *
Agriculture – crop	169.6	152.5	125.9	-43.7	-25.78%	96.5
Agriculture – pasture	57.9	41.0	36.5	-21.4	-37.02%	23.7
Agriculture – perennial	22.9	22.9	3.6	-19.3	-84.16%	
Agriculture – Nursery						0.9
AGRICULTURE TOTAL	**250.4**	**216.4**	**166.0**	**-84.4**	**-33.71%**	**121.1**
Forest	2963.1	2885.0	2436.1	-527.0	-17.79%	2414.8
Brushland/Successional				0.0		9.3
Open land	91.2	127.1	115.1	24.0	26.30%	24.1
TOTAL OPEN	**3054.3**	**3012.1**	**2551.2**	**-503.0**	**-16.47%**	**2448.2**
Recreation – participation	175.7	178.2	178.9	3.2	1.83%	60.5
Recreation - Spectator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		98.5
Recreation – golf course				0.0		11.4
Recreation – water	2.9	3.9	3.9	1.0	36.30%	
RECREATION TOTAL	**178.6**	**182.0**	**182.8**	**4.2**	**2.38%**	**170.4**
Urban – commercial	55.6	65.0	68.2	12.6	22.66%	165.3
Urban – industrial	272.8	294.0	371.2	98.4	36.07%	273.9
Urban – mining	23.0	15.3	0.0	-23.0	-100.00%	
Urban – public or transitional				0.0		141.7
Urban – residential – multiple'	21.2	21.2	21.2	0.0	0.00%	35.4
Urban – dense residential	89.5	89.5	89.5	0.0	0.00%	85.4
Urban –medium residential	1021.7	1025.1	1076.5	54.8	5.37%	1266.5
Urban – low density residential	1684.4	1747.0	2149.6	465.2	27.61%	1419.7
Urban – very low density residential				0.0		142.1
Urban – transportation	102.8	105.6	105.6	2.8	2.71%	74.3
Urban – open	119.6	100.8	92.1	-27.5	-23.00%	4.9
Urban – other#				0.0		17.1
URBAN TOTAL	**3390.6**	**3463.5**	**3973.9**	**583.3**	**17.20%**	**3626.3**
Water –forested wetland				0.0		470.6
Water – non-forested wetland	125.6	123.0	123.0	-2.6	-2.05%	198.1
Water – open water	139.1	141.6	141.6	2.5	1.81%	122.8
WATER TOTAL	**264.6**	**264.6**	**264.6**	**0.0**	**-0.02%**	**791.5**
						*
TOTAL AREA (acres)	**7138.6**	**7138.6**	**7138.6**	0.0	0.0	**7157.5**

Source: MassGIS and MAPC
*From different methodology so not exactly comparable to earlier years

C. Population Characteristics

Population Changes

As Table 2 indicates, Westwood experienced sustained growth over the 45-year period between 1970 and 2015 with a slight 5% decrease in the 1980s. The decrease was followed with a significant population bump of just over 12% during the first decade of the 21st century. After that growth spurt, the population stabilized with increases of approximately 3% per decade.

TABLE 2
POPULATION GROWTH, 1970 – 2016

Year	Population	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
1970	12,750	NA	NA
1980	13,212	462	3.60%
1990	12,557	-655	-4.95%
2000	14,117	1560	12.42%
2010	14,618	501	3.54%
2016*	15,364	476	3.25%

Sources: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and * American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

Table 3 presents a comparison of population growth with abutting towns and the state as a whole since 2000. The growth in Westwood and abutting towns, viewed as a region, together exactly matched the percentage growth of the state. However, Westwood had the second highest growth percentage at 8.8% during this period, second only to Walpole's 9.2 growth rate%.

TABLE 3
POPULATION GROWTH, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS
2000 – 2016

				Change 2000-2016	
Town	**2000**	**2010**	**2016***	**Number**	**Percent**
Canton	20,775	21,561	22,562	1,787	8.6%
Dedham	23,464	24,729	25,272	1,808	7.7%
Dover	5,558	5,589	5,864	306	5.5%
Needham	28,911	28,886	30,167	1,256	4.3%
Norwood	28,587	28,602	29,018	431	1.5%
Walpole	22,824	24,070	24,913	2,089	9.2%
Westwood	**14,117**	**14,618**	**15,364**	**1,247**	**8.8%**
Total	144,236	148,055	153,160	8,924	6.2%
Massachusetts	6,349,097	6,547,629	6,742,143	393,046	6.2%

Sources: 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and *American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

Density

As Table 4 indicates, the average density in Westwood was only 1,151 people per square mile in 1970. This had increased to 1,387 people per square mile by 2016. Westwood's population density is significantly higher than the average statewide density of 864 people per square mile.

TABLE 4
POPULATION DENSITY 1970 – 2016
(people per square mile)

Year	Westwood	Massachusetts
1970	1,151	726
1980	1,192	732
1990	1,133	767
2000	1,274	814
2010	1,319	839
2016	1,387	864

Source: Computed by authors based on 2012-2016 American Community Survey and 11.08 square miles in Westwood and 7800.06 square miles in Massachusetts.

Westwood's population density is calculated by dividing the number of people residing in Town during a given time period by the number of square miles that constitute the Town. Within Westwood there are sections of greater and lesser density, as influenced by development patterns. Westwood has conservation land, open space areas, parks, playing fields and more which reduce the density levels. On the other hand, Westwood has pockets of development with high residential numbers, which in turn, increase the density levels in those areas.

Age

Table 5 presents the age breakdown for Westwood and for the state, as a whole, for the years 2000, 2010 and 2016. The median age in Westwood increased from 41 years in 2000 to 45.7 years in 2016. While the median age in the state also increased, the state increase was less, approximately 2.9 years. Westwood median age has been consistently higher than the state median age and its increase of 4.7 years over the 16-year time period widened the gap with the state from 4.6 years in 2000 to 6.3 years in 2016. Over this same period, the percentage of Westwood residents in the 0 to 4-year age group has been trending downward. In 2000, this age group represented 7.80% of the population. That percentage decreased to 5.3% in 2010 and further decreased to 3.4% in 2016.

The percentage of school age population has fluctuated over the years. It climbed from 21.2 % in 2000 to 25.4% in 2010, but subsequently decreased slightly to 25.2% in 2016. The percentage of residents in the 65+years range also experienced a decline in 2010 but rebounded by 2016. The percentage of residents in the 35 to 64-year range was relatively stable during the 16-year timeframe, increasing from 41.5% in 2000 to 43.4% in 2010 and then dropping slightly to 42.9% in 2016.

TABLE 5
AGE 2000 – 2016
(By percent)

	2000		2010		2016*	
Range	**Westwood**	**MA**	**Westwood**	**MA**	**Westwood**	**MA**
Under 5	7.8%	6.3%	5.3%	5.6%	3.4%	5.4%
5-19	21.2%	20.1%	25.4%	19.2%	25.2%	18.3%
20-34	10.6%	21.0%	7.7%	20.2%	8.8%	21.0%
35-49	41.5%*	39.1%*	22.8%	21.5%	19.0%	19.5%
50-64			20.6%	19.9%	23.9%	20.6%
65+	19.1%	12.7%	17.9%	13.7%	19.8%	15.1%
Total#	100.2%	99.2%	99.7%	100.1%	100.1	99.9%
Median	41	36.5	43.9	39.1	45.7	39.4

Sources: 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and * American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016
*Age broken down differently for 2000 Census
#Totals don't add up to100% due to rounding

Income

Table 6 presents the median household income in Westwood and abutting towns, as well as the state as a whole, in 2000, 2010 and 2016. In 2016, Westwood's median household income was $140,355, second highest in the region and almost double the median income for the state. Westwood's median household income had previously grown from $87,394 (172% of state income) in 2000, to $114,250 (177% of state income) in 2010. Westwood's median family income was also relatively high at $207,879 in 2016, compared to the state's median family income of $116,766.

TABLE 6
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS
2000-2016

Municipality	2000	2010	2016*
Canton	$69,260	$89,705	$93,672
Dedham	$61,699	$80,865	$87,108
Dover	$141,818	$164,583	$189,265
Needham	$88,079	$114,365	$139,477
Norwood	$58,421	$72,472	$83,883
Walpole	$74,757	$89,697	$99,102
Westwood	**$87,394**	**$114,250**	**$140,355**
Massachusetts	$50,502	$64,509	$70,954

Sources: 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census and * American Community Survey (ACS), 2012-2016

Race and Ethnicity

Table 7 presents the race and ethnicity for Westwood, abutting towns, and Massachusetts as a whole, as captured by the American Community Survey in 2016. According to this survey, Westwood's residents are 90.6% white, 0.2% Black or African American, and 7.1% Asian. Additionally, 2.7% identify as Hispanic or Latino These figures differ from the racial data captured in the 2000 US Census, which recorded the Town's population as 96% white, 0.5% Black or African American, and 2.5% Asian, with 0.9% identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

In comparison, the 2016 American Community Survey lists Massachusetts as 79.2% white, 7.2% Black or African American, and 6.1% Asian in 2016, with 10.8% Hispanic or Latino. This is a change from the 2000 US Census, which listed the state as 85% white, 5% Black or African American, and 4% Asian, with 7% Hispanic or Latino.

TABLE 7
RACE AND ETHNICITY, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS
2016

Town	White	Black or African American	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Other Race	Two or More Races	Hispanic or Latino of any Race*
Canton	18,883	1,331	0	1,547	11	233	557	904
Dedham	21,399	2,010	54	708	0	493	608	1,764
Dover	5,063	211	0	481	0	0	109	162
Needham	26,173	630	0	2,486	0	155	723	844
Norwood	24,412	1,349	3	2,077	0	820	357	1,648
Walpole	22,055	620	16	1,118	0	574	530	987
Westwood	**13,934**	**42**	**0**	**1,085**	**0**	**69**	**234**	**430**
MA	5,343,665	489,233	13,931	411,736	2,002	278,562	203,014	731,739

Source: American Community Survey (ACS), 2012 – 2016
*The figures in this column are not discrete. They are also included within the other categories as applicable.

Employment

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, the labor force in Westwood has grown slightly but steadily from 6,546 in 2006 to 7,231 in 2012 and to 8,005 in 2016 (see Table 8). The number of employed recently rose from 6,328 in 2006 to 7,797 in 2016. The number of unemployed was almost reduced by half as it declined from 410 in 2010 to 208 in 2016. As the number of unemployed declined, so did the unemployment rate, which dropped from 5.7 in 2010 to 2.6 in 2016.

TABLE 8
EMPLOYMENT BY WESTWOOD RESIDENTS, 2006 – 2016

Employment 2006 to 2016					
Year	**Labor Force**	**Employed**	**Unemployed**	**Area Rate**	**MA Rate**
2006	6,546	6,328	218	3.3	4.9
2008	6,817	6,549	268	3.9	5.5
2010	7,216	6,806	410	5.7	8.3
2012	7,231	6,918	313	4.3	6.7
2014	7,375	7,094	281	3.8	5.8
2016	8,005	7,797	208	2.6	3.7

Source: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Labor and Workforce Development

Table 9 compares employment in Westwood by sector for 2010 and 2016. The number of establishments in Westwood grew from 507 in 2010 to 593 in 2016. During the same period, the number of employees increased significantly from 8,945 to 12,591. The largest sector is currently Retail Trade, with 1,864 jobs in 2016, up from 1,066 jobs in 2010. The average weekly wage for jobs in Retail Trade in Westwood in 2016 is $676. In comparison, the top-paying weekly wage in Westwood is in Wholesale Trade at $2,861, followed by Finance and Insurance at $2,716, and Professional and Technical Services at $2,100.

TABLE 9
WESTWOOD EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR
2010-2016

	2010			2016		
	Establish-ments	**Ave. Monthly Employees**	**Ave. Weekly Wages**	**Establish-ments**	**Ave. Monthly Employees**	**Ave. Weekly Wages**
Total, All Industries	507	8,945	$1,441	593	12,591	$1,416
23 - Construction	67	487	$1,674	63	720	$1,512
31-33 - Manufacturing	12	316	$1,532	12	216	$1,578
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	6	177	$1,584	4	17	$1,259
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	6	139	$1,466	8	199	$1,605
42 - Wholesale Trade	38	403	$1,980	46	641	$2,861
44-45 - Retail Trade	34	1,066	$823	47	1,864	$676
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	8	244	$919	9	267	$954
51 - Information	6	886	$1,176	NA	NA	NA
52 - Finance and Insurance	31	713	$2,216	36	739	$2,716
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	26	274	$872	33	323	$912
54 - Professional and Technical Services	93	799	$1,685	102	1,162	$2,100
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	29	333	$1,136	NA	NA	NA
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	45	1,191	$1,900	80	1,454	$1,644
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	11	112	$560	7	258	$415
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	22	224	$328	31	522	$386
81 - Other Services, Except Public Administration	71	160	$495	68	199	$626

Source: http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_es_a.asp#IND_LOCATION

Housing

The predominant land use in Westwood is single-family residential. As of December 31, 2017, there were 5816 housing units in Westwood. The majority of housing units, 4483, were single family houses. Additionally, there were 12 one-unit attached houses. Westwood also had 70 units in duplexes, 12 units in 3 or 4-unit buildings, 15 housing units in structures with 5 to 9 units, 12 units in structures with 10 to 19 units, and 1212 units in structures with 20 or more units. Another 22 single-family homes and 118 condominium units are approved for development with construction ongoing or anticipated in the next two years.

TABLE 10
HOUSING UNITS, WESTWOOD AND ABUTTING TOWNS

Town	Single Family	1-unit attached	2-unit	3 or 4 units	5 to 9 units	10 to 19 units	20 or more units	Total units
Canton	5,908	667	500	114	660	737	713	9,299
Dedham	6,230	474	950	532	141	124	1,455	9,906
Dover	1,978	34	26	0	21	0	0	2,059
Needham	8,301	444	667	183	176	155	934	10,860
Norwood	5,815	668	1,550	1,054	824	1,372	1,372	12,272
Walpole	6,895	538	422	297	394	251	410	9,207
Westwood*	**4,483**	**12**	**70**	**12**	**15**	**12**	**1,212**	**5,816**
MA	**1,480,037**	**150,133**	**289,336**	**305,757**	**165,245**	**121,059**	**300,652**	**2,836,658**

Source: American Community Survey 2012 – 2016
*with adjustments based on Tax Assessor's records through December 2017.

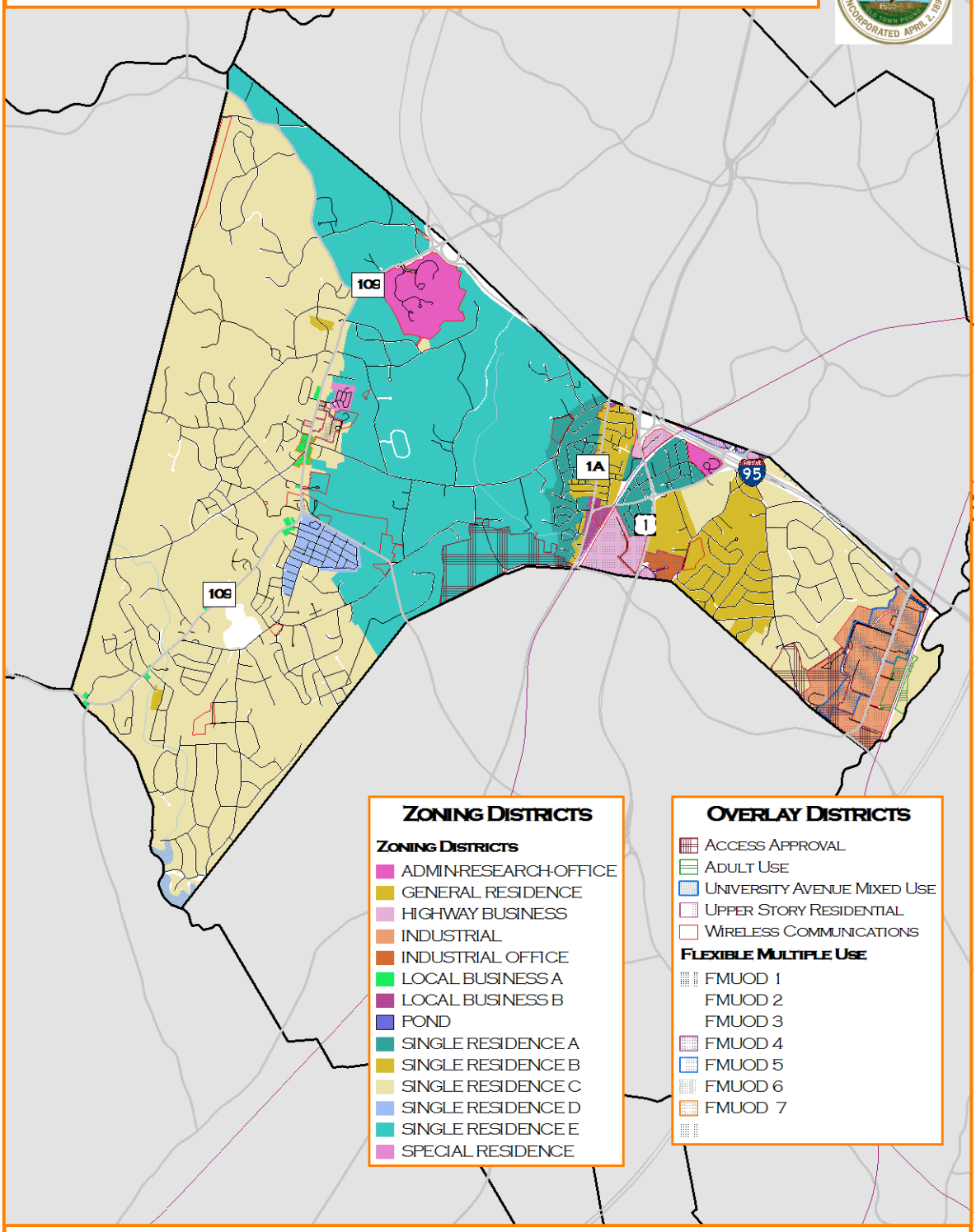
D. Growth and Development Patterns

Patterns and Trends

As illustrated by the Zoning Map (Map 2), Westwood's development is primarily characterized by low density residential development. Minimum lots sizes of 40,000 SF are predominant west of Route 109 and between Canton Street and University Avenue. Very low density development (80,000 SF minimum lot sizes) is found between Route 109 and Route 1A. Medium density development is located between Route 1 and Canton Street (20,000 SF minimum lot size) and in the neighborhood across Nahatan Street from Westwood High School (15,000 SF minimum lot size). The highest density development (12,000 SF minimum lot size) is found in neighborhoods near Routes 1 and 1A which are in walking distance to the Islington MBTA Station.

Non-residential development is restricted to four distinct commercial districts. Two local business districts are located along High Street and Washington Street corridors, with convenience retail, service and small office uses. A highway business district is located along Providence Highway, with industrial/office, retail, service and automotive uses. Westwood's major commercial, industrial and mixed-use development is found along University Avenue,

Map 2: Zoning



0 1 2 3 miles

Data Source: Information Technology Department, Town of Westwood

Town of Westwood - Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2019

PGC Associates LLC

with convenient access to Routes I-93 and I-95, and the Route 128 MBTA/Amtrak Station.
As noted above, urban land uses have increased over the past 50 or so years while agricultural and forest land uses have declined accordingly.

Infrastructure

The Town Report captures the vast responsibilities of the Department of Public Works and its infrastructure responsibilities: "The Town's infrastructure includes: the sewer collection system; storm drain system; roadways, sidewalks, bikeways, and other transportation facilities; street lighting and traffic control devices; buildings, grounds, fields, and parks; cemeteries; solid waste and recycling programs; municipal vehicles and equipment; and public facilities (Westwood 2016 Town Report). The Town of Westwood is a good steward of its buildings and structures, and exercises its responsibilities through various departments and divisions, most under the aegis of the Department of Public Works (DPW). The Recycling and Waste Management Division picks up trash every week. Recycling is picked up every other week.

Transportation Systems – The Highway Department maintains and repairs all of Westwood's roads, streets, street signs, sidewalks and subsurface drainage systems to provide for safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic. According to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's apportionment of Chapter 90 funds, Westwood has 81.35 miles of roadway. Westwood is served by the Route 128 MBTA Commuter Rail/Amtrak Train Station, as well as the Islington stop on the Franklin commuter rail line. Norwood Memorial Airport is just to the southwest of the University Avenue area.

Westwood has an extensive network of trails, which are highlighted on the Town's web site and in the Dedham and Westwood Bicycle & Pedestrian Network Plan. These include the Lowell Woods area and Currier Reservation. The Town plans to construct a major new sidewalk on Gay Street from Deerfield Avenue to Buckboard Lane. In addition, the Town has a Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Committee that is pursuing additional pedestrian and bicycle amenities. Westwood has a Complete Streets policy and participates in the State's Complete Streets program to fund additional pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

Sewer Systems -- Within the DPW, the Sewer Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of approximately 87 miles of gravity sewers and ten pumping stations. There are about 5000 sewer customers in Westwood. Parts of the town are served by septic systems.

Water System – Westwood is a member of the Dedham-Westwood Water District, which was created in 1985. The District has fourteen wells, six in Westwood and eight in Dedham. It also has emergency connections with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, the City of Boston and the Towns of Norwood and Needham. The system currently has the capacity to pump and treat about seven million gallons of water per day. The average daily use is about 4.25 million (including both towns). The District is committed to limiting water use to 65 gallons per day per person in order to ensure supplies are adequate to serve future needs.

The Facilities Department is responsible for the maintenance of multiple Town buildings:

- Town Hall – 580 High Street

- Police Headquarters – 588 High Street

- Fire Department –
  1. Station I – 637 High Street
  2. Station II – 300 Washington Street

- Carby Street Municipal Office Building
  50 Carby Street

- Library
  1. Main Library – 660 High Street
  2. Islington Branch – 280 Washington Street

- Public Schools
  District Administration – 220 Nahatan Street
  Westwood High School and Westwood Integrated Preschool - 200 Nahatan Street
  Thurston Middle School – 850 High Street
  Deerfield Elementary School – 72 Deerfield Avenue
  Downey Elementary School – 250 Downey Street
  Hanlon Elementary School – 790 Gay Street
  Martha Jones Elementary School – 80 Martha Jones Road
  Sheehan Elementary School – 549 Pond Street

- Recreation Department
  240 Nahatan Street

- Senior Center
  60 Nahatan Street

- Islington Community Center
  288 Washington Street

Long-Term Development

The Zoning Bylaw sets the basis for the long-term development of the Town. Map 2 presents the Zoning Map. The vast majority of the Town falls within the Single Residence C and E zoning districts which require 40,000 and 80,000 square foot lots respectively. The Islington/Route 1/Route 1A area has the densest development and consists largely of the Single Residence A and B districts, and General Residence which require lot sizes of 12,000 to 20,000 square feet. That area also has the Highway Business district between Routes 1 and 1A. The University Avenue area is zoned Industrial and, as noted previously, is currently undergoing a major mixed-use redevelopment. There are also two Administrative-Research-Office districts, one off Route 109

in the northern part of Town and another abutting Route 128 in the southern end. Two Local Business districts are located on Route 109 (LBA) and Route 1A (LBB).

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) projects Westwood's population to be essentially steady over the next few years. In a 2014 report, MAPC used two different scenarios which they label as "Status Quo (SQ)" (representing existing trends) and "Stronger Growth (SR)" (representing adoption of smart growth measures) to project Westwood's population to be 14,325 (SQ) or 14,539 (SR) in 2020, and 14,507 (SQ) or 14,919 (SR) in 2030. All of these are less than the American Community Survey estimate for 2016 of 15,364.

The primary bylaws and regulations that affect long-term development are the following:

> ***Open Space Residential Development*** (OSRD) -- The OSRD bylaw provides residential development incentives designed to conserve more open space. The bylaw identifies six purposes, each associated with residential housing. The first purpose is: To conserve natural, hydrological and wetlands resources, wildlife habitat, scenic corridors and views, agriculture, horticulture and forestry operations, cultural resources and other natural and man-made features of value to the community. Building on this foundational intent, subsequent purposes speak to a smaller development footprint, more design flexibility, and the inclusion of a 4-Step Process to make certain these purposes are attained. The final two purposes, encouragement of senior housing development and greater housing choices, can be accomplished through the reward of density bonuses pursuant to OSRD special permits.
>
> ***Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District*** (FMUOD) -- Overlay districts often provide incentives or requirements that encourage development and/or offer protections. The Town of Westwood has seven Flexible Multiple Use Overlay Districts (FMUOD), each of which are tailored to the specific areas they serve. The purpose of these overlay districts is to encourage creative, efficient and appropriate solutions to development that are both protective of existing neighborhood character and responsive to the varied needs of commercial and mixed-use developers.
>
> ***Scenic Roads Rules and Regulations*** were adopted for the purpose of establishing uniform rules and procedures for the designation of scenic roads and the regulation of certain types of work within the public right-of-way of scenic roads. The current regulations include revisions through May 2, 2011. There are 13 designated scenic roads in Westwood: Canton Street, Dover Road, Downey Street, East Street, Everett Street, Fox Hill Street, Grove Street, Milk Street, Mill Street, Sandy Valley Road, Summer Street, Thatcher Street, and Woodland Road.
>
> ***Stormwater Management***, Chapter 350 of the Code of Westwood, was adopted by Annual Town Meeting, Article 16, on May 4, 2015. "The purpose of this bylaw is to protect the health, safety, general welfare, and environment in the management, operation, and maintenance of the Town's stormwater system by regulating or prohibiting actions detrimental to either the proper quality or quantity of water in the system. Actions regulated or prohibited include unauthorized or improper connections and discharges to the stormwater system, allowing or enabling pollutants to enter the system, and

controlling construction site runoff and post-construction runoff. Stormwater runoff is potentially a major cause of:

- Impairment of water quality and flow in lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, wetlands, groundwater and drinking water supplies;
- Contamination of drinking water supplies;
- Contamination of downstream areas;
- Alteration or destruction of aquatic and wildlife habitat;
- Overloading or clogging of municipal stormwater management systems; and
- Flooding."

Wetlands Protection Bylaw, Chapter 392 of the Code of Westwood, was adopted by the 1989 Annual Town Meeting, Article 18 of the General Bylaws, with amendments over the years. Its purpose: "to protect wetlands and adjoining land areas in the Town of Westwood by controlling activities deemed by the Conservation Commission likely to have a significant or incremental effect upon wetland values, including but not limited to the following: public or private water supply, groundwater supply and quality, flood control, storm damage prevention, prevention of pollution, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and erosion and sedimentation control (collectively, the "wetland values protected by this bylaw")." The purposes of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw are:

- Protection of public and private water supply;
- Protection of ground water supply;
- Flood control;
- Storm drainage prevention;
- Prevention of pollution;
- Protection of land containing shellfish;
- Protection of fisheries; and
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

Historic Structure Demolition, Chapter 250A of the Code of Westwood, was adopted by the Annual Town Meeting, Article 22, May 2, 2016. "The purpose of this bylaw is to maintain the character of the Town of Westwood, protecting its historic and aesthetic resources built on or before December 31, 1910, by surveying, preserving, rehabilitating, researching, or restoring, whenever possible, buildings or structures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, or historic resources of the Town, thereby promoting the public welfare and preserving the cultural heritage of Westwood. The intent of this bylaw is to encourage owners to seek alternative options to preserve historic buildings rather than complete demolition. This bylaw authorizes the Westwood Historical Commission to impose delays of up to six months before the Building Commissioner may issue demolition permits for historic properties regulated by this bylaw."

Flood Area Overlay District, section 9.2.1 of the Westwood Zoning Bylaw, was amended in 2012 to reflect all references to the Flood Insurance Rate Map effective as of July 17, 2012. The purpose of the Flood Area Overlay District (FAOD) is to reduce flood

losses, to preserve and maintain the ground water table, to protect the public health and safety of persons and property against hazards of flood water inundation and to limit and control the development of flood prone areas.

Rules and Regulations for Environmental Impact & Design Review (EIDR) Approval were adopted September 1, 2015. The purpose of these rules and regulations is the establishment of uniform rules and procedures for the granting of Environmental Impact & Design Review (EIDR) Approvals pursuant to Sections 7.3, 8.3, and 9.4 of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Westwood.

Earth Material Movement Bylaw, was updated May 4, 2015 in its entirety. The bylaw ensured that **"**No soil, loam, sand, gravel, topsoil, borrow, rock, sod peat, humus, clay, stone or other earth material shall be exported, imported and/or regraded on any premises within the Town unless such export, import and/or regrading will constitute an exempt operation as hereinafter provided or is done pursuant to an Environmental Impact and Design Review therefor granted by the Planning Board."

Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. Geology, Soils and Topography[2]

The Town of Westwood is approximately 10.97 square miles and located in the northern area of Norfolk County, bordered by Dover on the west, Needham on the north, Dedham on the east and northeast and Canton, Norwood and Walpole on the south. The Town is completely underlain by Pre-Carboniferous bedrock of which granite predominates, especially in the western side of Town. Most of the exposed bedrock is found in the northwestern area of Town.

Landforms are the result of the erosion of an uplifted valley floor during the Cretaceous Period. Some of the exposed bedrock to the west of High Street is part of the original valley wall. Two other valleys are buried beneath Purgatory Brook and the Neponset River.

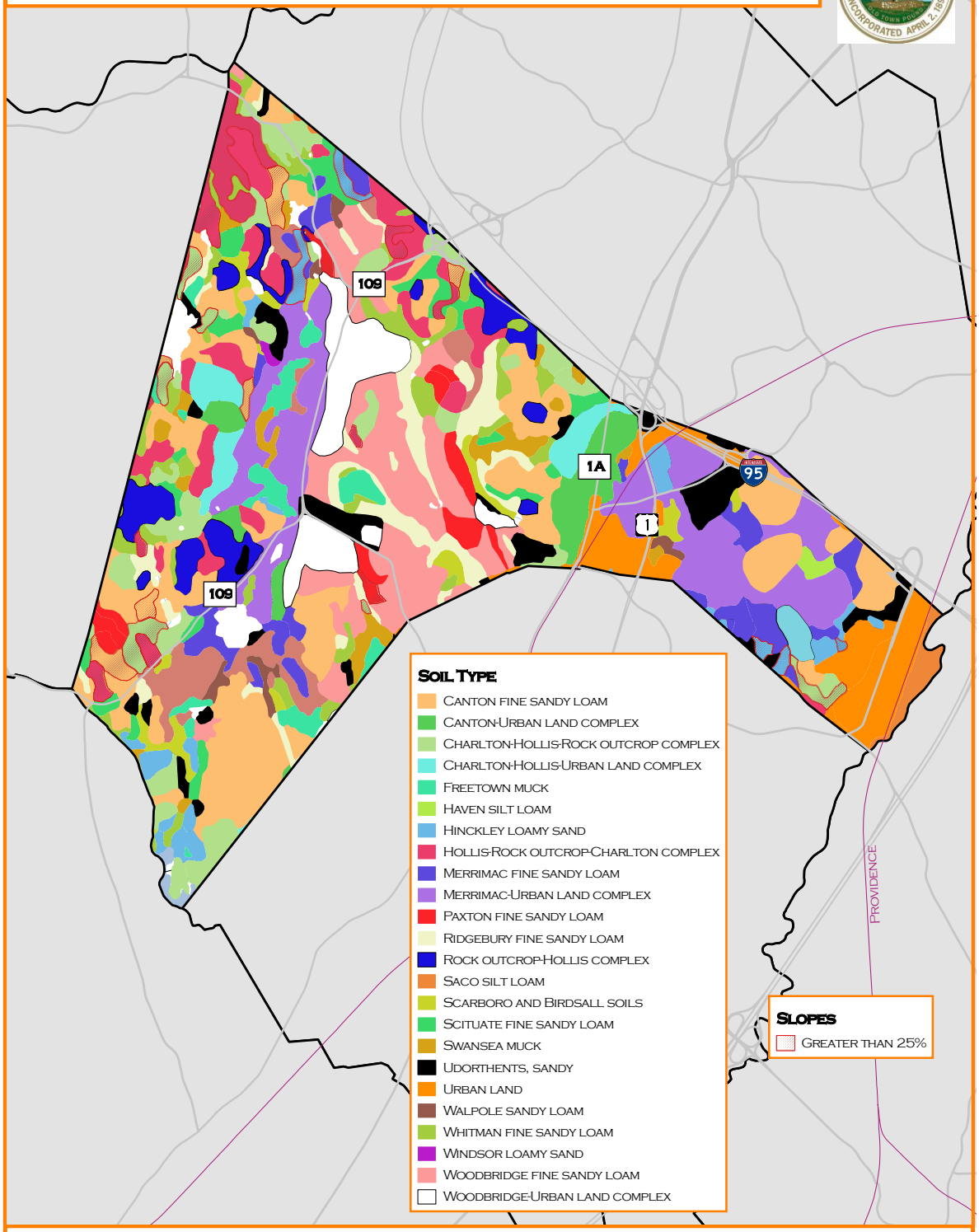
Most of Westwood sits on ground moraine (material deposited beneath a glacier), but many other depositional landforms also created by glaciers occur. Around Buckmaster Pond there is an extensive area of outwash plain (sand and gravel carried by streams flowing out of a glacier and deposited over an extensive area). The area around Town Hall is located on a kame terrace (linear deposit of sand and gravel formed between the edge of the glacier and the wall of the valley in which it sat). Most of the eastern area of Town is kame or kame plains (mounds of sand and gravel deposited against or upon ice at the lower end of a glacier). An esker (an elongated ridge created from sand and gravel deposited by streams flowing either under, in or upon a glacier) runs southward from the junction of Route 128 and Canton Street to the Norwood line. Most of the esker is gone as it was mined for its sand and gravel.

Map 3 illustrates the soils of the Town of Westwood. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has identified eight soil associations within Westwood, the majority of which are considered unsuitable for most types of residential and commercial development. The Hollis-Whitman soil association is concentrated along the northern border of the Town and constitutes approximately 25.7 percent of the Town's land area. The soil is characterized by a very to extremely rocky fine sandy loam which severely constrains urban development, but has few limitations for woodland, wildlife or recreational uses. The Canton-Woodbridge soil association is found primarily in the southwestern area of Town, from Buckmaster Pond south to Bubbling Brook. Well-drained Canton soils also have a fine sandy loam surface soil and contain many stones and boulders. It constitutes approximately 11.1 percent of the Town's land area and also moderately limits development potential because of its stony surface.

The Paxton-Hollis association is found primarily in the northern part of Town and constitutes approximately 4.9 percent of the land area. Well-drained Paxton soils have a fine sandy loam surface soil and subsoil and the underlying olive-colored glacial till is dense and compact. Because of a slowly permeable hardpan, this soil has severe limitations for residential, commercial and industrial uses where on-site sewage disposal is necessary. The Hinckley-Made Land-Gravel Pit association is a sandy and gravelly soil which comprises 19.2 percent of the Town. This soil, in comparison to the other soil types, has fewer limitations for more intensive

[2] *This section is mostly derived from the 2000 OSRP*

Map 3: Soils and Geologic Features



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Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

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urbanized development. The largest tracts of this soil association can be found in the southeastern area of Town.

The Woodbridge-Whitman soil association occupies approximately 19.2 percent of the land area in Town, primarily between Nahatan and Winter Streets. These are moderately well drained soils that have a fine sandy loam surface soil and subsoil. The wetness of this soil and the hardpan present in much of the area moderately restricts most types of development. The Sudbury-Merrimac association is concentrated around Buckmaster Pond and is a moderately well-drained sandy and gravelly soil that occupies about 10.4 percent of the land area. The well drained parts of this soil area have few limitations for urban uses although a seasonal high water table in the wetter parts of the area will limit the density of development.

The Millis-Woodbridge-Hollis association occupies approximately 4.2 percent of the total land area in Westwood and is characterized by well-drained soils that have a fine sandy loam surface underlying a coarse hardpan. This soil also has severe limitations for more intensive development because of the hardpan. The Muck-Scarboro-Fresh water marsh soil is found in the wetland areas and is characterized by very poorly drained bog soils formed in accumulations of organic materials that are in an advanced state of decay. It makes up approximately 5.3 percent of the Town and because of the wetlands, places the most severe limitations for residential, commercial or industrial uses.

B. Landscape Character

Westwood offers a variety of landscapes from urban developments with businesses, services, and commuter rail service to rural, scenic open space accented with woodland and surface waters. The Town has several conservation areas, open space protected under the aegis of the Westwood Land Trust, private land including Hale Reservation, and several open space residential developments.

Westwood has multiple centers of activity that are reflective of its robust character. These centers include: the Route 1 highway business district with retail and service businesses; Route 109/High Street shopping district; University Station with commuter rail and Amtrak stops, shopping, dining and a hotel, and the Washington Street/Islington section, with its privately and municipally-owned properties being redeveloped.

There are thirteen roads in Westwood that are designated Scenic Roads. This designation helps to support the character of the Town through the oversight by the Planning Board of tree removal, road repairs, and changes to scenic stone walls.

The character of the Town is further protected by the Demolition Bylaw sponsored by the Historical Commission and adopted at Town Meeting on May 2, 2016. “The purpose of this bylaw is to maintain the character of the Town of Westwood, protecting its historic and aesthetic resources built on or before December 31, 1910, by surveying, preserving, rehabilitating, researching, or restoring, whenever possible, buildings or structures which constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, or historic resources of the Town, thereby promoting the public welfare and preserving the cultural heritage of Westwood” (https://ecode360.com/31343526).

Westwood is home to two libraries, a senior center, numerous parks and recreational facilities including an indoor swimming pool, and conservation lands. Its recreation department sponsors a variety of youth and adult sport programs. The Town's highly regarded public schools also contribute to the Town's character and include: Westwood Integrated Preschool; five elementary schools: Deerfield School, Downey School, Hanlon School, Martha Jones School, and Sheehan School; Thurston Middle School; and Westwood High School.

C. Water Resources[3]

The Town of Westwood is split by two large watersheds: the Neponset River watershed drains the southern two-thirds of the Town and the Charles River watershed drains the remaining northern one-third of the Town. In the southern part, Mill Brook and Bubbling Brook are joined at Pettees Pond from which they flow through Willet Pond into Ellis Pond. There they are joined by Germany Brook which drains Buckmaster Pond and Pine Swamp, which then empties into Hawes Brook and eventually reaches the Neponset River. Another major tributary, Purgatory Brook, flows through Slab Pond and is eventually joined by South Brook and Plantingfield Brook before reaching the Neponset River. To the north, Rock Meadow Brook flows through Rock Meadow, Stevens Pond and Lee Pond before draining into the Charles River. The Powisset Brook drains Dunklin's Hole, Cedar Swamp, and Noanet, Worthington and Storrow Ponds before reaching the Charles River.

Bodies of water and wetlands occupy approximately 123 and 669 acres of the Town's area, respectively, according to the 2005 analysis of land uses types. Buckmaster Pond, located near the intersection of High and Pond Streets, is the Town's largest body of water (approximately 28 acres). Since 1885, it has been available as a public water supply for the Town of Norwood. Other significant surface water bodies include Pettees Pond, Lee Pond, Stevens Pond, Martha Jones Pond, Willett Pond, Haslam Pond, Lyman's Pond and Noanet Pond.

Buckmaster, Lyman's and Martha Jones Ponds are accessible for recreational purposes on lands managed by either the Town or the Conservation Commission. Buckmaster Pond is often used for hiking, bird watching, picnics and fishing. The Town sponsors an annual fishing derby in the spring and band concerts along its banks during the summer. Lyman's Pond is a blue heron rookery that attracts bird watchers from across the region.

Noanet Pond is located on the Hale Reservation, which encompasses 1137 acres of wooded lands, 20 miles of trails and four ponds in Westwood and Dover. Hale Reservation is a private nonprofit that welcomes public visitors. Swimming and boating are available to nonmembers by fee.

Surface water quality in the Neponset River water basin has improved in recent years. Among the most widespread problems has been fecal coliform contamination resulting from malfunctioning sewers and septic systems, along with high metal concentrations, low dissolved oxygen, high in-stream temperatures, storm water pollution and eutrophication. The

[3] *A portion of the water resources information is taken from the 2000 OSRP.*

Environmental Protection Agency's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for Massachusetts, originally issued in 2003, has improved treatment of stormwater before it enters rivers and streams. It has already had a positive effect on surface water quality. An updated permit went into effect on July 1, 2018 that will result in additional improvement in water quality.

As shown on Map 4, Westwood is home to two watersheds: the Neponset River watershed in the southern part of town and the Charles River watershed in the northern part of town. Map 4 illustrates the surface waters of Westwood. The waters in the Town of Westwood include: Bubbling Brook, Germany Brook, Mill Brook, Pecunit Brook, Plantingfield Brook, Ponkapoag Brook, Powisset Brook, Purgatory Brook, Rock Meadow Brook, an Unnamed Tributary, Buckmaster Pond, Lyman's Pond, Noanet Pond, Willet Pond, and the Neponset River. (source:https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma/305b303dStats/tblReporting_Westwood.pdf)

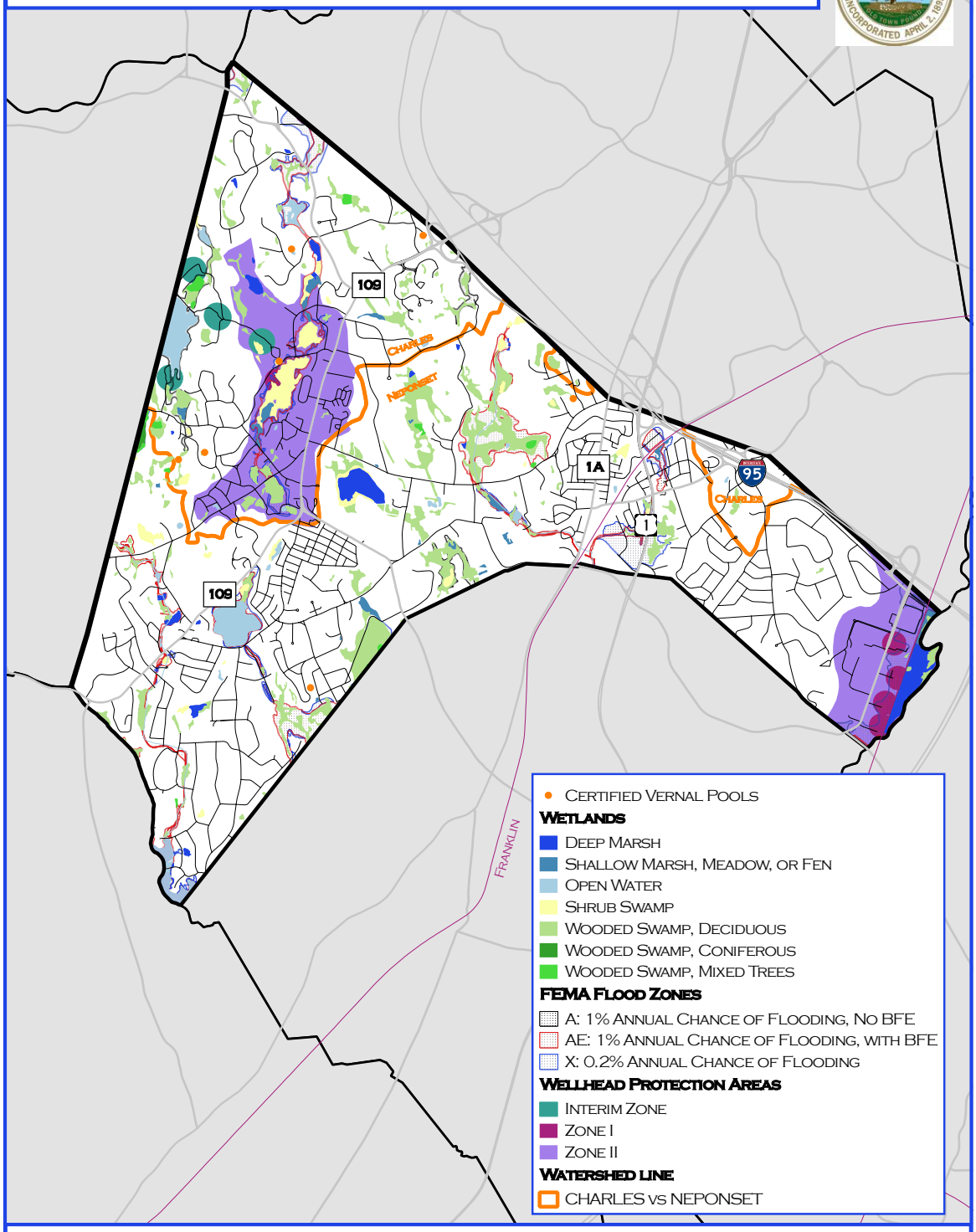
The public water supply for Westwood is the Dedham-Westwood Water District, which is a member of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The District's water supply is groundwater. There are seventeen wells: six in Westwood and eleven in Dedham. Membership in the MWRA enables the District the ability to purchase supplemental water, as needed.

Five of the Westwood wells are adjacent to the Neponset River. The Zone II recharge area for these wells straddles the University Avenue area. The sixth well is near Rock Meadow Brook and its Zone II area straddles a section of Hartford Street and High Street (Route 109).

Wetlands are scattered throughout the Town. The most prominent area is in the geographic center of town to the north and south of Gay Street. Other significant wetlands are found in the areas abutting the Neponset River, and south of Clapboardtree Street along the Norwood town line.

The flood hazard areas defined by FEMA are primarily located along the major streams. This includes the Rock Meadow Brook corridor, lands adjacent to Purgatory Brook, and the areas along Mill Brook and Bubbling Brook. An area of Islington to the east of Route 1 is in the 100-year flood zone and the area between University Avenue and the Neponset River is in the 500-year flood zone.

Map 4: Water Resources



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Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

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D. Vegetation[4]

Map 5 depicts the types of vegetation in the Town. Westwood lies on the border of two major forest zones. The hemlock-northern hardwood zone to the north meets a mixed hardwood forest from the south in which the oak-hickory strains predominate. This is characteristic of the mosaic pattern of forests in Westwood. Since large areas of Town are sprout lands, forest growth is generally young, often only 60 to 70 years old. The largest trees in Town are found along streets, occasionally in the woods along stone walls and at the junction of these walls. Street trees are all varieties of hardwoods and fence marker trees are generally white pine or oak.

Public shade trees in Westwood are protected by the Scenic Road Act (M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 15C), and the Public Shade Tree Act (M.G.L. Chapter 87). The Public Shade Tree Act defines public shade trees as:

> All trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof including trees planted in accordance with the provisions of section 7 shall be public shade trees; and when it appears in any proceeding in which the ownership of or rights in a tree are material to the issue, that, from length of time or otherwise, the boundaries of the highway cannot be made certain by records or monuments, and that for that reason it is doubtful whether the tree is within the highway, it shall be taken to be within the highway and to be public property until the contrary is shown.

Westwood has 11 designated scenic roads (Canton Street, Dover Road, Downey Street, East Street, Everett Street, Grove Street, Milk Street, Mill Street, Sandy Valley Road, Summer Street, and Woodland Road). Public shade trees on these scenic roads cannot be removed without a public hearing before the Planning Board. On roads that are not designated as scenic, a public hearing before the Tree Warden is required before public shade trees can be removed.

The following descriptions of the primary types of vegetation in Westwood are from the 2000 OSRP:

1. Oak-hickory forest is commonly found on warm, dry upland sites where bedrock is close to the surface, the hickory drops out and forest composition is limited almost exclusively to oak and blueberry (as found in Pleasant Hill). Associates are blueberry and occasionally white pine.

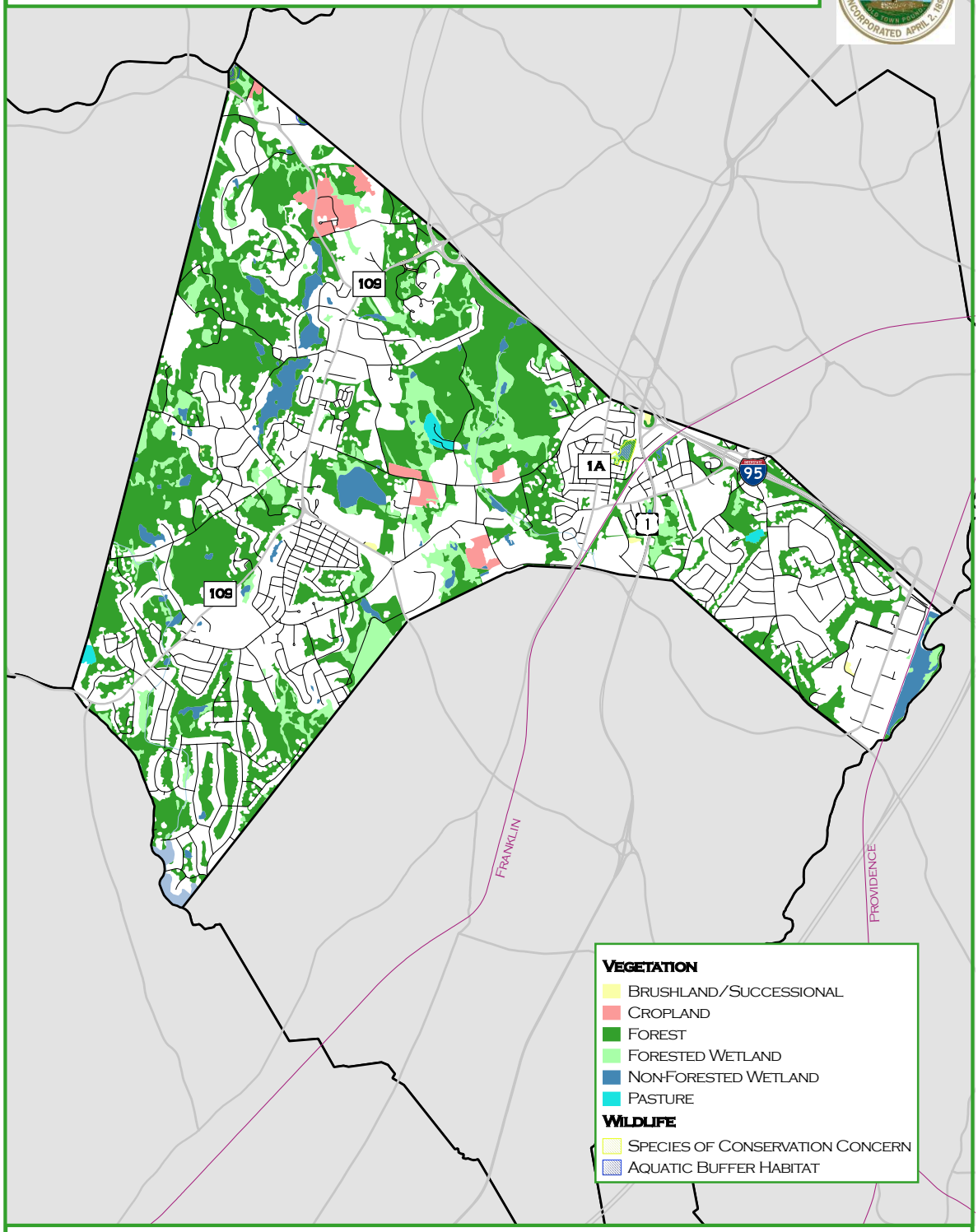
2. Red maple forest is found in low, wet areas and wet pastures. The trees are generally 25 to 40 feet tall and can include such types as sassafras, pepperbush, ferns and bullbriar. Good examples of this classification are located around Lyman's Pond and Germany Brook.

3. A few small stands of hemlock occur on the cooler, north-facing slopes in Baker Reservation and on the High Ridge Estates and Lowder Brook properties.

4. Several extensive stands of white pines, probably planted and now gone to seed, occur on drier sites since they have little or no ground cover other than patches of

[4] *This section and Fisheries and Wildlife mostly derived from 2000 OSRP.*

Map 5: Vegetation and Wildlife



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Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

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5. Canada Mayflower. One such stand grows along the western edge of the Martha Jones Conservation Area.

6. An increasingly noticeable pattern of growth is the suburban lawn arrangement which can include maples, oaks, ashes, hickories and pines, in addition to the indigenous trees. There are also a wide variety of ornaments including Blue Spruce, Catalpa, Tulip trees and Magnolia. These street trees are usually maples, ashes, oaks, lindens and horse chestnuts.

7. "Old field" and roadside communities commonly have Junipers, Red Maples, Grey Birch, Sweet Fern and Poison Ivy. Examples are found on the Currier Conservation Area and the easement running behind Westwood High School.

8. The pitch pine found behind the former Westwood Lodge property (presently addressed 45 Clapboardtree Street) is a fire controlled type of community and may include scrub oak, black cherry, blueberry, grasses and other "old field" successional species.

9. The Bubbling Brook and Wentworth Conservation Areas contain tussock and brush swamp. The brush is 15 to 20 feet tall alders which do not quite achieve a closed canopy and the tussocks of grass are approximately a foot high and a foot in diameter and randomly spaced throughout the swamp.

10. Some pastures remain, including a stretch of Gay Street which is lined with them and to the south of Clapboardtree Street.

11. There is extensive marshland along the Neponset River. It is a chest-high growth in a variety of perennial wet-site plants.

12. Shallow water vegetation is common to all but a few ponds. Common species are lily pads, pickerel weed, duckweed and sedges and can be found in ponds located on Baker Reservation, Martha Jones, Rice and Wentworth Conservation Areas.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

Westwood is home to squirrels, raccoons, chipmunks, opossum, skunks, snapping turtles, wood chucks, red fox, coyotes and deer. There are over 100 species of resident, migrant, and wintering birds frequenting Westwood, including ducks, herons, hawks, owls, wild turkeys, woodpeckers, crows and blackbirds, swallows, and many songbirds. Bubbling Brook still supports a cold-water fishery and river otter and Lyman's Pond is an outstanding blue heron rookery. Portions of Mill Brook continue to support a variety of bird life including belted kingfishers, great blue herons, red winged blackbirds, eastern phoebes, Baltimore orioles and northern flickers.

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program lists one "Habitat of Rare Wetlands and Certified Vernal Ponds" in Westwood, near the Town's border with Dover, south of Noanet Pond. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program also lists two areas of "High Priority Sites of Rare Species Habitats and Exemplary Natural

Communities." The larger of these two sites surrounds Purgatory Brook in the Islington section of Town. The other site is near the aforementioned Noanet Pond site.

Wildlife corridors are important to provide for migration and to promote biodiversity. While not always protected, these connections provide valuable wildlife habitat, corridors for wildlife migration and passive recreation opportunities for residents of Westwood and neighboring towns. Map 1A in the Regional Context section illustrates these connections.

The largest of these regional connections within Westwood is Hale Reservation. This 1137-acre site straddles the town line between Westwood and Dover. Most of the acreage is in its natural state, with trails, ponds, and fields. Hale also has a number of buildings and associated parking areas to accommodate summer camps, private functions, corporate retreats, camping and other recreational and educational activities.

The Lowell Woods area is Westwood's largest Town-owned conservation area. It is separated from Dedham Town Forest by the south-bound lanes of I-95/Route 128, which makes wildlife migration problematic. A tunnel connection could be considered in the future to better serve both wildlife and human hikers. The highway also links this area to Wilson Mountain in Dedham.

The Wight, Pignatelli and Traylor Conservation Areas combine to form 15 acres of protected land abutting Hale Reservation. In addition, they are connected by Mill Brook to Powisset Woods in Dover. The land in between is privately-owned but the brook provides a corridor for wildlife migration. Mill Brook also connects these conservation areas to Willet Pond, which straddles the town lines of Westwood, Norwood and Walpole.

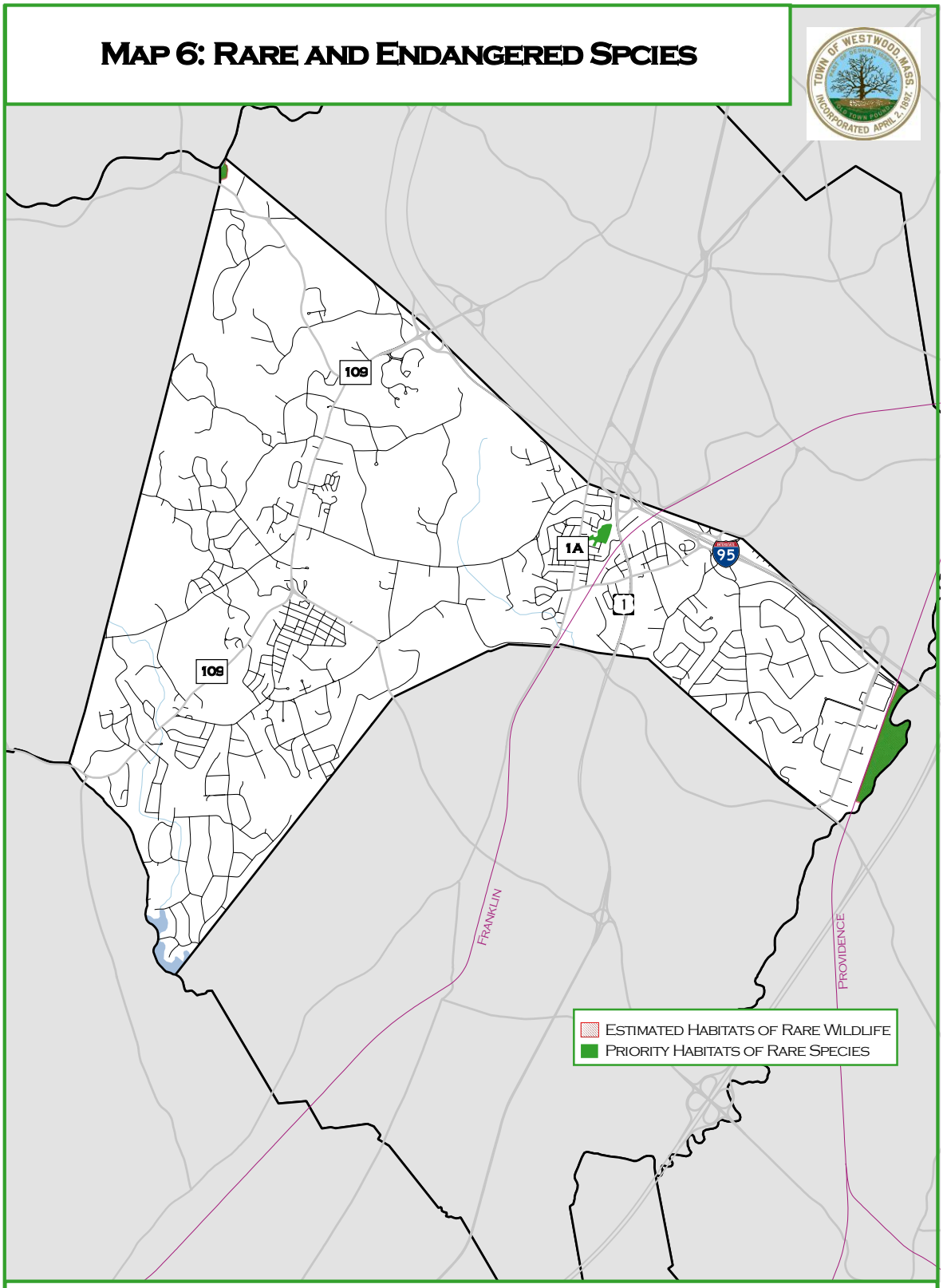
One of the protected open space areas in Westwood that is of high regional significance is the 35 acres of Neponset River wetlands. Located east of University Avenue, this land is difficult to access from Westwood. Part of the Neponset River corridor, the river and its associated wetlands extend downstream northeasterly through Canton, Dedham and Milton to Boston Harbor, and connect through Fowl Meadow to the Blue Hills Reservation. These wetlands extend upstream southwesterly through Canton, Norwood, Sharon, and Walpole to Bird Pond and beyond to its source in Foxboro.

The Charles River just touches Westwood at its far northern point. However, it too provides an important natural corridor connecting Westwood with its neighbors. Cutler Park Reservation is just downstream. Rock Meadow Brook is a tributary.

F. Rare and Endangered Species

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts maintains a database of rare and endangered species. The database for Westwood includes four entries as listed in Table 11. Map 7 illustrates the Estimated Habitats of Rare and Endangered Species and Priority Habitats.

Map 6: Rare and Endangered Spcies



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Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

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TABLE 11
RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Taxonomic Class	Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA* Status*	Most Recent Observation
Butterfly/Moth	Callophrys hesseli	Hessel's Hairstreak	SC	1982
Beetle	Cicindela rufiventris hentzii	Eastern Red-bellied Tiger Beetle	T	1987
Vascular Plant	Liatris scariosa var. novae-angliae	New England Blazing Star	SC	1897
Dragonfly/Damselfly	Neurocordulia obsolete	Umber Shadowdragon	SC	2007

Source: https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rare-species-by-town-viewer
Downloaded December 5, 2017 *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act T= Threatened SC= Special Concern

G. Scenic and Unique Environments

As part of the 2000 OSRP, a list of scenic and unique environments was compiled by Town residents. The places included on the list were deemed by participants as contributing to the definition of Westwood as a special and unique place. The list included the following areas:

- The Old Cemetery which is the burial site of Robert Steele, drummer boy from the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill;
- The historic Bubbling Brook restaurant, which heralds the beginning of spring in the community with its annual opening in April and signals the official end of the summer with its closing in September;
- Town Hall, the central place for community life in Westwood;
- Chiara's Restaurant (formerly Youlden's Hobbies), in a charming building across from Town Hall, which fits in with the ambiance of a small town;
- The Shuttleworth property on Dead Swamp Road, which provides a 180 degree panoramic view of nature;
- The unpaved section of Sandy Valley Road with its scenic views and historic stone walls;
- Gay Street, a bucolic road that provides glimpses of open fields, wooded areas and old stone walls;
- The corner of Summer and Grove Streets, which provides scenic views of rolling fields, an abandoned orchard and an old, majestic home.

Each of these scenic environments continues to define the character of Westwood. When considering Westwood's history, its architecture and events, the following additional structures and areas are among the numerous resources that further contribute to the Town's scenic and unique environment:

• **The Town Pound**: Initially part of the first land grant, it was built as a place to hold animals that strayed from their owners and were waiting to be claimed. The pound was originally enclosed by a wooden fence and later a stone wall. In 1899 was Lucius Damrell sketched the Town Pound and submitted his drawing, which included a large oak tree within the stone wall,

for consideration as the Westwood Town Seal. It was accepted and remains the Town Seal to this day.

• **Oven Mouth**: This is a Native American Landmark, also known as Devil's Oven. This unique geologic feature is a cave that was used by Native Americans during the Colonial Period of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

• **Old Westwood Cemetery – West Dedham Cemetery**: This cemetery was constructed in 1752 on Nahatan Street at High Street.

• **The Fisher School**: Built in 1845 on Clapboardtree Street and is currently the headquarters of the Westwood Historical Society. The only one-room schoolhouse still in existence in Westwood. The structure has been relocated a few times and today is sited adjacent to the Thurston Middle School. The school closed in 1905; however, it has a new role as a living history setting for school programs, as well as cultural activities.

For the past 20 years, every 3rd grade student in Westwood spends a day at the Fisher School studying the curriculum of 1868. The students wear period clothing – bonnets and aprons for the girls, suspenders for the boys. They use the reading books and math books of the period. Math is done with chalk on slates. Paper was too expensive. Quill pens are used for writing. A dunce cap is used for fun. Students learn about the history and economy of the period. They can learn to play marbles. This program is run by the Westwood Historical Society with the support of the Westwood Public Schools.

• **The Colburn School**: This is a former school building, constructed in 1874, and named for Warren Colburn, a Westwood educator who wrote the math book titled *Intellectual Arithmetic* that is used in Westwood's 3rd grade program at the Fisher School. This book was used by elementary schools in 26 states in 1868 and in countries throughout the world. The Colburn School building was historically preserved in 2012 for reuse as a mixed-use building with a bank on the first floor and 6 apartments on the two upper stories.

• **The Blue Hart Tavern**: This historic structure was built on Washington Street in 1740 by Jeremiah Dean to serve travelers along the "Lower Post Road" portion of the King's Highway, which ran between New York and Boston. Kings Highway was laid out in 1650 and had as many as 20 inns and taverns for travelers to rest. According to local historians, George Washington stayed at the Blue Hart Tavern. The building is slated for relocation, restoration and reuse in 2019. The structure will be moved to 277 Washington Street, approximately 500 feet north of the original location.

• **The Obed Baker House**: Built by Obed Baker for his wife Betsey Metcalf Baker in 1812. As a young girl in Providence, RI, Betsey Baker learned how to make a fashionable straw bonnet. Up until that time, straw bonnets were only available from England. She continued to make bonnets in West Dedham (now Westwood) as the wife of Obed Baker, a local teamster, and taught other women this craft. The local bonnet makers supported local churches. Betsey is listed on Google.com as one of America's first entrepreneurs. She assisted other entrepreneurs in starting the Foxboro straw bonnet industry which employed thousands of women. The Obed Baker House was relocated to 909 High Street in 2002. Efforts to find a new use for this historic structure have continued.

• **Wentworth Hall**: This historic structure has served many purposes since its construction in 1884. First built as a one room schoolhouse, this building also served as the first Westwood Town Hall, a community center, a place for church services, a fire station, and offices for the Parks and Recreation Department, before becoming the home of the Islington Branch Library in 1959.

• **Westwood Town Hall**: This Classical Revival brick building with slate roof was designed by Stebbins & Watkins Architects of Boston, MA and constructed in 1910. It has served at the Westwood Town Hall ever since.

Map 7 illustrates the locations of the Scenic and Unique Features.

H. Environmental Challenges

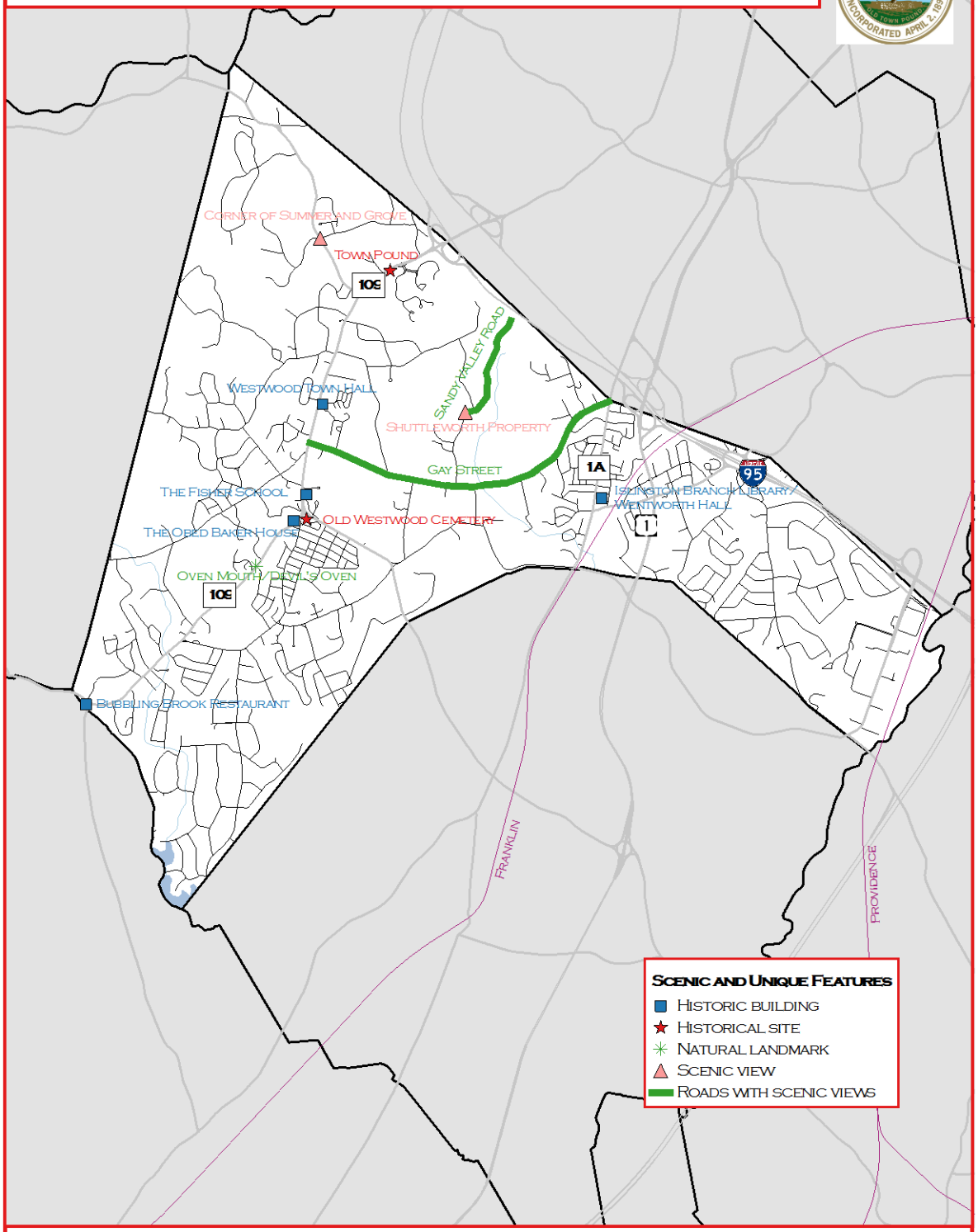
One of the major environmental challenges in the area concerns both the quality and quantity of the water supply. Westwood is served by the Dedham-Westwood Water District and some properties are served by private wells. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regulates and monitors public water supplies for both quality and quantity. It is imperative that both the quality and quantity of these water sources be maintained. Both Westwood and Dedham have aquifer protection districts to protect public wells from contamination.

The State's efforts to encourage keeping wastewater local, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 storm-water management regulations, will also help assure that more water is returned to the ground to recharge aquifers and do so in a way that maintains quality, while also reducing flooding potential. Open space can be a key component in addressing this issue. Educational efforts regarding the use of fertilizers and pesticides, as well as reduced lawn areas and native plantings, can help reduce non-point source pollution to surface waters. Westwood's DPW has a printed brochure (also posted online) that helps educate residents on practices to protect the water supply.

In 2015, the Town adopted a bylaw regulating stormwater management, and has long standing regulations for Environmental Impact and Design Review by the Planning Board. These regulations will help reduce negative impacts on water quality and quantity. They will also address other environmental impacts, such as erosion and sedimentation that are often byproducts of construction sites. These regulations work in conjunction with the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town's Wetlands Protection Bylaw to further the following purposes:

- Protection of public and private water supply;
- Protection of ground water supply;
- Flood control;
- Storm drainage prevention;
- Prevention of pollution;
- Protection of land containing shellfish;
- Protection of fisheries; and
- Protection of wildlife habitat.

Map 7: Scenic and Unique Features



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Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

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Another environmental challenge is the cleanup and reuse of brownfields. Westwood has a small number of contaminated sites that need to be cleaned up and reused. In addition to removing a threat to groundwater (and surface water), redeveloping such sites returns the site to productive use and reduces the need to expand infrastructure and develop green field sites.

The Town has a closed landfill. According to the Solid Waste Program of the Bureau of Waste Prevention in the Department of Environmental Protection, the landfill closed in 1971. Its closure status is incomplete (https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/01/vt/inactlf.pdf).

One additional challenge involves the gradual conversion of open water bodies to vegetated wetlands through the growth of invasive vegetation and accelerated eutrophication, which is believed to be exacerbated by improperly mitigated runoff. Again, the stormwater management bylaw and Environmental Impact and Design Review rules have reduced this problem.

Invasive species also present a challenge to Westwood and the region. In recent years, non-native insects and plants have damaged and in some cases replaced native species. While difficult to manage, efforts should be made to identify the invasives and address them to the extent possible.

Related to the issue of invasives but an issue in its own right, is that of climate change. While a changing climate invites new species to the area, it also has caused, and is expected to continue causing, more frequent and more intense rainfall, as well as more and longer periods of drought. The FEMA flood hazard areas presented in the Water Resources section will likely face greater challenges in the future. However, efforts to improve climate resiliency will help mitigate these effects. Green infrastructure can play a role in both helping reduce climate change and mitigating its impacts.

The History of the Community section presented the land use changes between 1971 and 2005, resulting in the reduction of 500-600 acres of forest land over that period of time. More recently, an extensive mixed-use development was constructed along University Avenue within the Zone II areas of five of Westwood's six municipal water supply wells. This development was approved with stringent environmental controls to significantly improve water recharge and to protect those water supply wells. MAPC projects slow population growth over the next few years. A slowing of growth, coupled with the implementation of environmentally sensitive development regulations, will significantly reduce the environmental impact of additional development.

There are no environmental justice populations in Westwood, and no obvious environmental equity issues. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. No sub-populations or areas have been identified as receiving unfair treatment.

Section 5: Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest

A. Protected Open Space

A critical responsibility in long-range municipal planning is protecting land of conservation and recreation interest. Conservation land is typically undeveloped parcels used for passive recreation and/or conservation, and protected from development through a conservation or deed restriction or by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. Recreation land is generally improved parcels used for, or having the potential to be used for, active recreation. Such parcels may be owned and/or managed by public, private or nonprofit entities.

Protected open space serves several valuable functions including habitat and green infrastructure. Depending on the type (e.g. forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland, etc.) open space can provide habitat for both plant and wildlife, help replenish aquifers, reduce and absorb storm water runoff, sustainably produce a wide range of resources, and absorb and/or treat pollutants. Open space can also offer numerous active and passive recreational opportunities and add scenic views to the landscape.

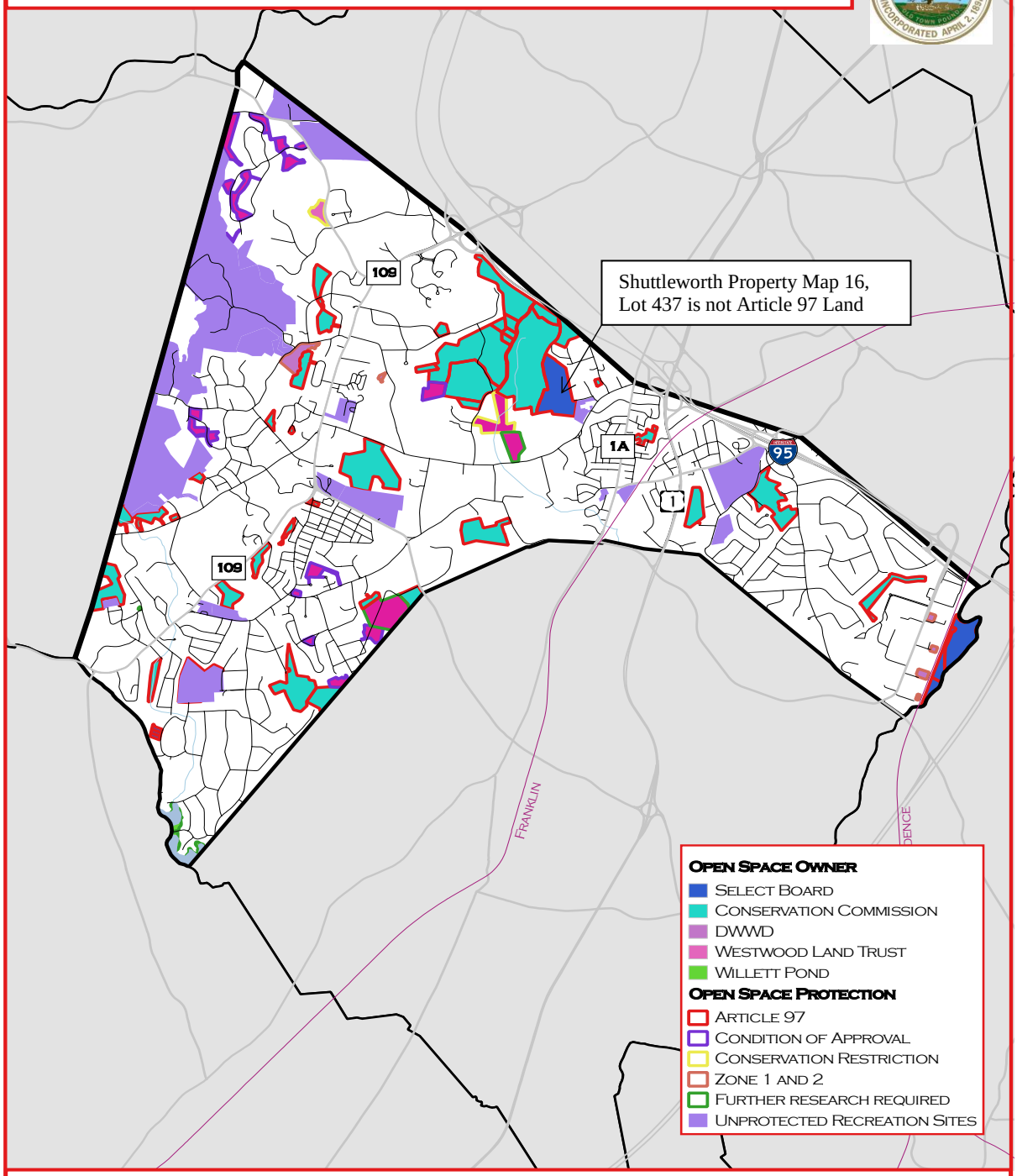
Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of Massachusetts protects the right of the people of the Commonwealth to "clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment." Municipal water supplies can be protected by Zones 1 and 2 designated by the Department of Environmental Protection. An Open Space and Recreation Plan facilitates a municipality's ability to exercise the rights of its people under Article 97 by identifying open space and recreation land, identifying appropriate protective measures and planning for future conservation and recreation needs.

While it represents only a relatively small portion of its total land, Westwood does have some important land protected as open space. In this report, protected open space is defined as land that is designated to have no or minimal development on it. It must have legal protection for such status that includes public ownership and/or conservation restrictions recorded at the Registry of Deeds. Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B land is not classified here as protected since their level of protection is minimal and the record shows that much land with such protection has been developed in recent years.

The Town itself is the largest holder of protected land. As illustrated in Map 8 and tabulated in Table 12 the Town owns 630.26 acres, of which 43 parcels totaling 557.27 acres under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission and another 4 parcels with 72.99 acres under the control of the Select Board. Most of the protected land is in the Lowell Woods/Sandy Valley area.

The Dedham-Westwood Water District owns 17.2 acres. The Westwood Land Trust owns 4.68 acres. Another 143.03 acres are owned by various homeowners associations and other entities.

Map 8:
Protected Open Space and Recreation Lands



0 1 2 3 miles

Data Source: Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT

Town of Westwood - Open Space and Recreation Plan - 2019

PGC Associates LLC

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission									
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Conant Road	05-001	8.80	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Rear Birch Tree Dr	09-155	9.57	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	No	SRC	None	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	Lorraine Rd	09-194	8.00	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Halsam's Pond	Farm Ln	10-015	3.00	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	214a Fox Hill St	10-052	2.92	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-053	64.30	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-054	2.02	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-055	3.93	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Mulvehill C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-056	88.50	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Rear Farm Lane	10-057	3.07	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Sandy Valley C.A.	Rear High St (Sandy Valley Rd)	10-058	28.95	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	10-059	2.09	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Sandy Valley C.A.	Dead Swamp Rd	11-001	8.66	Conservation/ Good	Passive/Trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97

Continued

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission									
Sandy Valley C.A.	Dead Swamp Rd	11-004	7.02	Conservation/Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Rock Meadow Brook C.A.	High Rock St	13-074	2.38	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Baker/Deviney C.A.	Hartford St	13-179	1.47	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Rice Reservation C.A./Lyman's Pond	Rear Nahatan St	14-116	46.10	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Grimm C.A.	Sandy Valley Rd	15-015	38.42	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Lowell Woods C.A.	Lot 15 Sandy Valley Rd	15-028	4.11	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Wentworth C.A.	Railroad Place	16-130	0.48	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Wentworth C.A.	Moodie St	16-133	4.32	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	GR	None	Article 97
Cedar Hill C.A.	6 Cedar Hill Dr	16-443	0.88	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Wight/Mill Brook C.A.	Hartford St	19-009	6.13	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Pignatelli/Mill Brook C.A.	Hartford St	19-012	1.13	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Traylor C.A.	Hartford St	19-016	6.82	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Crouse Pond C.A.	High St East	20-101	0.63	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97

Continued

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission									
Crouse Pond C.A.	Rear Westview Ter	20-124	2.60	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Twin Post C.A.	Twin Post Rd	20-174	1.99	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Veterans Park C.A.	High St	21-031	0.46	Conservation/ Excellent	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Temple C.A.	40 Pond St	21-089	0.53	Conservation/ Excellent	Passive	Yes	SRD	None	Article 97
Clapboardtree Meadow/Prout Farm C.A.	Clapboardtree St	22-084	22.65	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trail	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
O'Toole C.A.	Providence Hwy	24-094	12.31	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRB	None	Article 97
Currier Reservation C.A.	Downey St	24-225	30.56	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRB	None	Article 97
Pheasant Hill C.A.	Pheasant Hill St	27-022	20.15	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Lakeshore Memorial Park C.A.	Corner High St & Lake	28-046	6.00	Excellent	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Pitts/Ruynassard t C.A./Buckmaster Pond	1238 High St	28-059	9.11	Conservation/ Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Reiner C.A.	Nahatan St	29-073	6.99	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRE	None	Article 97
Fay C.A.	Coach Ln (Rear)	29-087	3.31	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC/SRE	None	Article 97

Continued

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Conservation Commission									
Endicott C.A.	Endicott St	33-037	13.10	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Draper Ave. C.A.	Draper Ave	34-057	6.00	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Martha Jones C.A.	Rear Martha Jones Rd	35-237	28.02	Good	Passive/trails	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Germany Brook/Lowell C.A.	Winter St	36-005	11.79	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Germany Brook/Lowell C.A.	Arcadia Road	36-026	28.00	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Subtotal			**557.27**						
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Select Board									
Shuttleworth Land	Dead Swamp Road	16-437	37.46	Trail/Good	Passive/trail	Yes	SRE	None	
Neponset River Wetlands	Rear Blue Hill Dr	38-013	3.10	Poor	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Rear Blue Hill Dr	38-014	7.03	Conservation/ Poor/	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Neponset River Wetlands	Blue Hill Dr South	38-015	25.40	Conservation/ Good	Passive	Yes	SRC	None	Article 97
Subtotal			**72.99**						

Continued

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Dedham-Westwood Water District DWWD)									
DWWD Land	213 Fox Hill St	09-065	0.77	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	SRE	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	200 Dover Road	09-165	11.48	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	SRC	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	154 University Avenue	33-007	1.38	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	Dartmouth St	38-004	0.92	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	34 Yale St	38-009	2.19	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
DWWD Land	346a University Ave	38-011	0.46	Water Supply/ Good	No	No	I	None	Zone 1 and 2
Subtotal			**17.20**						
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: High Ridge Homeowners Association									
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-026	7.18	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-033	4.71	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-048	9.14	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-054	2.19	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	02-059	9.76	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Far Reach Road	03-016	1.29	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
High Ridge	Storrow Circle	04-007	0.87	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			**35.14**						

Continued

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Powisset Estates Homeowners Association									
Powisset Estates	Shoe String Ln	13-194	2.14	Open Space/Good	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Powisset Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-205	3.90	Open Space/Good	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Powisset Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-206	2.47	Open Space/Good		Passive	YES	None	Condition of Approval
Powisset Estates	Little Boot Ln	13-208	1.10	Open Space/Good	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			**9.61**						
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Chase Estates Homeowners Association									
Chase Estates	5 Whitney Ave.	36-129	**1.53**	Open Space/Excellent	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Neponset River Land Holding									
Willet Pond	Rear Brook St.	41-001	6.46	Conservation/ Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	
Willet Pond	Brook St.	41-036	11.00	Conservation/ Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	
Subtotal			**17.46**						
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Westwood Land Trust									
WLT	Summer St	03-024	1.33	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	NO	SRC	None	CR
WLT	Summer St	03-031	1.43	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	NO	SRC	None	CR
WLT	159 Summer St	15-128	1.92	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	NO	SRE	None	CR
Subtotal			**4.68**						

Continued

TABLE 12
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE PARCELS (Continued)

SITE NAME	LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	EXISTING USE/ CONDITION	RECREATION POTENTIAL	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	TYPE OF GRANT	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN OF WESTWOOD									
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Duncan M. McFarland									
	Sandy Valley Rd	15-017	16.85	Conservation/ Good	Passive	NO	Sandy Valley Rd	None	CR
	Gay St. Rear	15-029	10.43	Conservation/ Poor	Passive	NO	Gay St. Rear	None	
	3 Highview St.	27.040	0.17	Conservation/ Excellent	Passive	NO	3 Highview St.	None	
Subtotal			**27.45**						
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Groundhog Land Corporation									
	Rear Bridle Path	29-126	5.90	Open Space/Poor	Passive	NO	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
	Clapboardtree St.	29-135	1.26	Open Space/Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
Subtotal			**7.16**						
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: G.D. Fox Meadow LLC									
	Fox Hill St. (Rear)	15-005	**7.63**	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRE	None	Condition of Approval
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: C/S Westview LLC									
	Winter St.	29-119	**6.60**	Open Space/Good	Passive	NO	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: NW Land LLC									
	Winter St.	29-122	**26.40**	Conservation/ Good	Passive	NO	SRC/SRE	None	
MANAGEMENT AGENCY: Gobbi FLP Trust									
	Autumn Drive	36-153	**4.05**	Open Space/Poor	Passive	YES	SRC	None	Condition of Approval
TOTAL PROTECTED LAND			**795.17**						

B. Public and Private Recreation Facilities

A variety of recreational opportunities exist in Westwood. While conservation land (listed in Tables 6 and 7) is usually also available for some recreation activities (hiking, bird-watching, etc.), recreation land here is defined as areas devoted and used primarily for one or more specific recreation uses that require:

o A large portion of the site;
o Man-made facilities or significant alteration of the natural landscape; and
o Intensive maintenance.

Examples of recreation facilities include parks and playgrounds, schoolyards, country clubs/golf courses, campgrounds, beaches, picnic areas, etc. Such facilities can be publicly or privately owned and accessible.

One exception to the above definition of recreation land is Hale Reservation. Hale Reservation is a private, nonprofit recreational and educational institution. While a portion of its site does fit the definition, a significant majority of its 1137 acres, split between Westwood and Dover, more closely fits the definition of open space but it is not currently protected. Its unique and significant nature warrants presentation in its own category in Table 7.

As noted in the Needs Analysis section, while Assessor's records indicate that Hale Reservation has 325 acres in Westwood, MassGIS's calculated area for Hale is 493 acres. Hale states on its web site that it owns a total of 1137 acres in Dover and Westwood. Dover's Assessor's Office indicates that 663 acres are in that town. If accurate, that would mean that 474 acres are in Westwood, which more closely approximates the area calculated by MassGIS.

The other recreation facilities in Westwood are discussed below. Tables 8 lists the public recreation sites in Westwood while Table 9 lists the private sites (excluding Chapter 61B sites already listed in Table Y). As the table indicates, schoolyards provide the majority of the recreation sites in Town as fields tend to be located on or adjacent to school sites. In addition to the school sites, other properties managed by the Recreation Commission include:

- Morrison Park – Little League and Softball fields;
- Sheehan Fields – Little League and Soccer fields
- School Street Playground – Playground for 2 to 12-years old with two tee-ball fields;
- Lions Club Tot Lot – Playground adjacent to the Senior Center for 2 to 5-years old ; and
- June Street Playground - recently installed playground

Westwood Lodge – Full-size soccer/lacrosse field (not owned by the Town or managed by the Recreation Commission, but its use is scheduled by the Recreation Commission);

Private facilities include the Norfolk Golf Club 9-hole golf course); Xaverian Brothers High School (baseball, football, tennis) and Life Time Fitness (Pool, basketball, fitness). In addition, the Dedham Country and Polo Club, (listed as a Chapter 61B property in Table Y rather than in Table 9) straddles the town line with Dedham and offers golf, pool and tennis. While not available to the general public, these facilities add to the diversity of recreation opportunities in Westwood.

TABLE 13
HALE RESERVATION

LOCATION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA	EXISTING USES	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
80 Carby St	04-001	112.07	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Rear Longmeadow Dr	05-078	5.35	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Rear Stevens Circle	05-090	7.69	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	08-036	18.49	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	08-044	3.44	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	08-045	2.67	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
573 Dover Rd	12-001	1.42	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Dover Rd	13-186	6.66	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Morgan Farm Rd	13-215	3.85	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Hartford St	19-017	4.60	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Hartford St	20-013	124.26	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Twin Post Road	20-178	0.43	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Twin Post Road	20-179	0.52	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Twin Post Road	20-180	0.41	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
Rear Hartford St	27-025	3.64	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
1255 High St	28-033	29.72	Recreation/education	Yes	SRC	None
TOTAL		**325.22**				

Source: Assessors Database 2018

TABLE 14
PUBLIC RECREATION PROPERTIES

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES /FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION /ZONING	RECREATION POTENTIAL	TYPE OF GRANT	PUBLIC ACCESS	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
TOWN-OWNED OR MANAGED PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS										
School St. Playground	44 School St.	1.80	23-082	Baseball/softball, playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/SRA	As developed	None	Yes	Article 97
Morrison Park	440-480 East St.	3.76	23-216	Baseball, softball, basketball	Recreation Commission	Excellent/ LBB	As developed	None	Yes	Article 97
June St. Playground	Pheasant Hill St.	3.08	27-221	Fields, playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/ SRC	As developed	None	Yes	Article 97
Lion's Club Tot Lot	60 Nahatan Street	2.29	21-349	Playground	Recreation Commission	Excellent/SRC	As developed	None	Yes	None
Sheehan Fields	Pond St.	6.25	28-078	Baseball	Recreation Commission	Good/SRC	As developed	None	Yes	Article 97
Swimming Pool at High School	200 Nahatan Street	NA	21-048	Swimming pool	Recreation Commission	Good/SRC	As developed	None	Yes	None
Sub-total		**17.18**								

Continued

TABLE 14
PUBLIC RECREATION PROPERTIES (Continued)

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES /FACILITIES	MANAGEMEN T AGENCY	CONDITION/ ZONING	RECREATION POTENTIAL	TYPE OF GRANT	PUBLIC ACCESS	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
SCHOOL PROPERTIES*										
Deerfield School	72 Deerfield Ave	8.54	14-094	Baseball, softball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Hanlon School	790 Gay St.	8.59	16-005	Baseball, softball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Thurston Middle School	850 High St.	17.44	21-047 & 347	Baseball, softball, multipurpose field	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Westwood High School	200 Nahatan St.	42.9	21-048 & 346	Baseball, football, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, track, lacrosse	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Downey School	Downey St.	9.81	24-135	Baseball, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, playground	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Sheehan School	549 Pond St.	4.27	28-077	Baseball, multipurpose, basketball, tennis, playground	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Martha Jones School	Martha Jones Road	8.89	35-089	Baseball, basketball, playground	School Committee	Good	As developed	None	Yes	None
Total Public Recreation Acreage (including schools)		**117.62**								

Sources: Assessors Database 2018 and Recreation Commission Inventory *Includes entire school site

TABLE 15
PRIVATE RECREATION PROPERTIES

NAME	LOCATION	AREA	MAP/ PARCEL	EXISTING USES/FACILITIES	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	CONDITION/ ZONING	LEVEL OF PROTECTION
PRIVATE PROPERTIES							
Westwood Lodge	45 Clapboardtree St.	5.00±	29-123	Multipurpose field	Westwood Lodge	Good/SRC	None
Norfolk Golf Club	166 East St.	43.96*	24-231	9-hole golf course	Private club	Excellent/SRC	None
Xaverian High School	800 Clapboardtree St.	25.97*	23-003	Baseball, football, tennis	Xaverian Brothers	Excellent/SRE	None
Life Time Athletic	44 Harvard St.	7.89*	37-016	Pool, basketball, fitness,		Excellent/ FMUOD/UAMUD	None
Total Private Recreation Acreage		**82.82**					

Source: Assessors Database, 2018 *Includes entire site #Not including Chapter 61B properties presented in Table 16.

C. Potential Inequities

There are no environmental justice populations in Westwood. An Environmental Justice community is one or more U.S, Census block groups where the median household income is below 65% of the state median, or at least 25% of the population is other than white or at least 25% of households have no one over the age of 14 who speaks English well. Environmental Justice is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental pollution and to live in a clean and healthful environment. Furthermore, as Map 8 illustrates, open space and recreation areas are well distributed throughout the Town. All neighborhoods are within reasonable proximity to both conservation and recreation areas.

D. Chapter 61, 61A and 61B Land

In order to encourage the preservation of certain activities and land uses (namely forestry, agriculture, and recreation), the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allow a property tax break for these land uses. In return for this tax break, the property owners who take advantage of it must make the parcel available for purchase by the town in which it is located before it may be sold on the open market. Since towns rarely have the available funds to purchase these parcels, the law does not provide much protection. However, to the extent that the tax break may help keep the land use economically feasible, it does provide some incentive to continue the land use rather than make the land available for development. Furthermore, landowners who continue to maintain their land under this program should be acknowledged for their stewardship efforts.

Named after the section of state law that allows this, Chapter 61 land is that which is used for forestry or woodlands, Chapter 61A land is used for agriculture, and Chapter 61B land is used for recreation.

As Table 16 indicates, Westwood has a total of 96.87 acres of Chapter 61, 61A and 61B land as follows:

- **Chapter 61:** Westwood has four parcels totaling 11.23 acres. All four parcels are owned by the same entity.

- **Chapter 61A**: There are presently two parcels totaling 23.58 acres under common ownership.

- **Chapter 61B:** The Dedham Golf and Polo Club is classified as a recreation property under Chapter 61B. Its two parcels total 62.06 acres in Westwood.

TABLE 16
CHAPTER 61, 61A AND 61B LAND

LOCATION	OWNER	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (ACRES)	ZONING	PUBLIC ACCESS
Chapter 61					
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-012	0.80	SRC	No
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-018	2.17	SRC	No
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-181	5.76	SRC	No
Hartford St	Samuel D. Perry	20-182	2.50	SRC	No
Subtotal			**11.23**		
Chapter 61A					
Clapboardtree St	Charles S Bean II & Elena A Trs.	22-051	11.79	SRE	No
Clapboardtree St	Charles S Bean II & Elena A Trs.	22-053	11.79	SRE	No
Subtotal			**23.58**		
Chapter 61B					
77 Westfield St	Dedham Golf & Polo Club	01-009	21.76	SRE	No
469 Summer St	Dedham Golf & Polo Club	03-006	40.3	SRE	No
Subtotal			**62.06**		
TOTAL			**96.87**		

Source: Assessors Database, 2018

E. Other Land of Interest

Table 17 presents other municipally-owned land. While many of the parcels are developed or already serve other Town functions, this list could serve as the starting point for achieving some of the objectives in Community Vision (Section 6) that call for identifying sites for new recreation facilities or additional open space properties.

TABLE 17
OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
Town Pound	High St - Town Pound	05-042	0.19	ARO	Good	Select Board	Yes
DPW	50 Carby St	08-038	5.23	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Conant Rd	09-193	1.04	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Sandy Valley Rd	09-230	3.42	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
Fire Station 1	637 High St	14-046	1.02	SRC	Fair	Select Board	Yes
Town Hall & Police Station	580-590 High St	14-071	2.59	SRC	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
Library	660 High St	14-079	1.05	SRC	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
	High St	14-131	5.44	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	107 Gay St	14-169	4.10	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Sandy Valley Rd	15-016	9.88	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	68 Lull St	16-039	0.03	GR	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Lull St	16-094	0.08	GR	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Grafton Ave	16-181	0.01	GR	Good	Select Board	Yes
Blue Hill Vista Strip	Elm Street	17-190	0.10	ARO	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Canton St	18-008	0.70	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Woodland Rd	20-017	2.38	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
New Cemetery	High St	20-072	31.44	SRC	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
	Wildwood Dr	20-139	0.47	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Hartford St	20-172	1.07	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
Obed Baker House	909 High St	21-042	0.46	LBA	Good	Select Board	No
	High St	21-043	1.05	SRC	Good	Select Board	No
Old Cemetery	Pond St & Nahatan	21-088	5.15	SRD	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
Senior Center	60 Nahatan St	21-349	2.29	SRE	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
Former First Parish Land	Nahatan St	21-350	5.10	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Clapboardtree St	22-052	23.20	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes

Continued

TABLE 17
OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES (Continued)

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
	Schaefer Ave (Rear)	23-156	0.28	SRA	Good	Select Board	Yes
Municipal Parking Lot	227-283 Washington St	23-163	0.69	LBB	Good	Select Board	Yes
Islington Library	280 Washington St	23-188	0.44	LBB	Fair	Select Board	Yes
Islington Community Center	288 Washington St	23-189	0.28	LBB	Poor	Select Board	Yes
	East St	23-190	0.10	LBB	Fair	Select Board	Yes
Islington Fire Station	300 Washington St	23-215	0.69	LBB	Excellent	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-006	3.28	SRA	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-075	1.24	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-076	1.69	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-077	1.27	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-079	1.25	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-080	1.08	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Providence Hwy	24-081	2.90	IO	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Downey St	24-087	0.06	IO	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Canton St	24-230	0.24	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	285 Canton St	25-032	0.18	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	56 Crystal Hill Ter	27-213	4.43	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Olde Carriage Rd	29-067	0.37	SRE	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Rear Winter St	29-120	1.84	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Dela Park Rd	29-158	0.32	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Hawktree Dr	31-058	0.27	SRB	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Blue Hill Dr North	33-002	0.04	I	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Blue Hill Dr	33-005	0.64	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Rear Stanford Dr	34-089	3.20	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
Former Sewer Pump Station	Sunrise Rd	34-132	0.10	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes

Continued

TABLE 17
OTHER MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES (Continued)

SITE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	MAP/ PARCEL	AREA (Acres)	ZONING	CONDITION	MANAGEMENT AGENCY	PUBLIC ACCESS
	Arcadia Rd	35-179	0.10	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Rear Whitney Ave	36-071	5.04	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	Trailside Dr	39-007	3.14	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
	41 Clearwater Dr	41-010	0.92	SRC	Good	Select Board	Yes
Subtotal			**143.57**				
Sewer Pump Station	177 Far Reach Rd	02-060	0.37	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	410 Summer St	03-018	3.84	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	6a Stonemeadow Dr	05-095	0.09	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	220 Conant Rd	09-226	1.33	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	215 Clapboardtree St	29-083	0.05	SRE	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	91 Dela Park Rd	29-168	0.09	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	Partridge Dr	32-212	0.09	I	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	160 Arcadia Rd	36-057	0.26	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Sewer Pump Station	86 Brook St	41-037	0.19	SRC	Good	Sewer Commission	No
Subtotal			**6.31**				
Affordable Housing	38-40 Grafton Ave	16-178	0.14	GR		Westwood Affordable Housing Associates	No
Affordable Housing	46 Grafton Ave	16-180	0.14	GR		Westwood Affordable Housing Associates	No
Affordable Housing	1007 High St	20-095	0.35	SRC		Westwood Affordable Housing Associates	No
Subtotal			**.63**				
TOTAL			**150.51**				

Source: Assessors Database, 2018

Section 6: Community Vision

A. Description of Process

The Community Vision in the form of Goals and Objectives, was the key element to serve as the foundation for the Action Plan. As presented in Section 2 Introduction, the OSRP is being prepared under the auspices of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC). The OSRPC includes representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, Historical Commission, Council on Aging, Commission on Disability, Select Board, Board of Health and School Committee; along with a representative from the Westwood Land Trust; representatives from youth sports organizations; and at least two unaffiliated resident representatives. Key Town staff, including the Conservation Agent, Recreation Director, Public Works Director, Town Planner, and Director of Community & Economic Development served as ex officio members.

The first step was to conduct a survey of residents. The survey was presented on the main page of the Town web site as well as on individual department pages. Paper copies were also available at Town Hall and upon request. The survey was very successful as more than 800 responses were received in two rounds.

The second step was a community forum. The forum was advertised in the local newspaper (Westwood Press, January 17, 2018 edition) as well as the Town web site, on Facebook, and on Twitter. The Recreation Department's Facebook posting reached 251 readers and received 20 reactions or post engagements. The Recreations Department's Twitter account received 849 impressions and 20 engagements. There were over 60 residents in attendance with 43 residents signing in and actively participating in group discussions. In addition, the forum was broadcast live on Westwood Media Center's cable access government channel.

At the forum, the goals and objectives from the 2000 OSRP were presented in order to get input as to which, if any, of those were still valid and which needed to be amended, dropped or added. The results of the first round of the survey (641 responses) were also presented. The survey was also reopened and an additional 168 responses were received.

Based on the input from the forum and the survey, a draft set of updated goals and objectives were presented to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. The OSRPC invested extensive time and multiple meetings to ensure that the adopted set of goals and objectives accurately reflected the diverse perspectives of its members and met the needs of the Town

The entire OSRP was then presented to the Planning Board, which opened a hearing on the plan in December 2018 and continued it through several meetings in January and then to February 12, 2019. Additional revisions were made to the goals and objectives in response to those hearings.

B. Open Space and Recreation Goals

GENERAL GOALS

GOAL 1: Protect and enhance Westwood's community character.

GOAL 2: Promote accessibility provisions at all recreational facilities and open space areas to provide enhanced access for all residents and visitors.

OPEN SPACE GOALS

GOAL 1: Improve management and condition of conservation areas.

GOAL 2: Increase awareness about Westwood's existing open space and conservation areas to encourage use and protection.

GOAL 3: Identify, protect and acquire land appropriate for open space and conservation.

RECREATION GOALS

GOAL 1: Expand opportunities for extended use of existing recreation fields and facilities to meet demonstrated need.

GOAL 2: Develop a new indoor recreation community center to better serve the community's needs for recreation programming.

GOAL 3: Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.

GOAL 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

GOAL 5: Develop new ice skating opportunities.

GOAL 6: Continue to provide quality recreational programming for all Westwood residents.

Section 7: Needs Analysis

A. Resource Protection Needs

As the Community Setting section indicates, the Town of Westwood has experienced steady growth between 1970 and 2016. While the population declined in the 1980s, it grew faster in the 1990's. Overall, Westwood's population grew from 12,750 in 1970 to 15,364 in 2016, averaging roughly 500 additional persons per decade. While there are numerous positive aspects of growth, growth also has impacts associated with pressures on the natural and built environments.

Growth often contributes to changes in a town's character such as through the loss of open space and the transformation of rural roadways into suburban collector roads. As identified in both the community workshop and the responses to survey questions, the Town's character is important to residents and needs to be protected. The Town's character has long been supported through the acquisition of open space and conservation land, and by the development of policies and regulations that protect Westwood's natural resources.

Growth can also increase stress on water recharge areas and wildlife habitat, creating a need to conserve natural resources, especially water. Map 4 in the Environmental Inventory section illustrates the water resources of Westwood. Westwood is split between the Charles and Neponset River watersheds. Three of the four aquifer areas are in the Neponset River Watershed. The aquifer closest to the Neponset River has well sites and a corresponding Zone II. Two other aquifer areas do not yet have a Zone II but need to be protected for future use. The largest Zone II area is in the Charles River watershed. The Dedham-Westwood Water District has 6 wells in Westwood (11 in Dedham) and has authority to purchase up to 200,000 gallons per day from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, but it is imperative that the local wells be protected for both capacity and quality.

Map 7 presents the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species areas in Westwood and abutting communities. A Priority Habitat is based on the known geographical extent of habitat for all state-listed rare species, both plants and animals, and is codified under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). Estimated Habitats are a subset of Priority Habitats and are based on the geographical extent of habitat of state-listed rare wetlands wildlife and is codified under the Wetland Protection Act (WPA) (https://www.mass.gov/service-details/regulatory-maps-priority-estimated-habitats).

Map 7 displays an area identified as Priority Habitat 1131, which includes both Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife and Priority Habitats of Rare Species at the southern corner of Westwood, bordering Norwood. This area also comprises a portion of a large Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The Westwood portion of these environmentally sensitive areas is relatively small as most of the ACEC and Priority and Estimated Habitat areas are in adjacent towns.

Protecting these important resources is critical. The Management Needs section, later in this document, presents some of the potential and existing tools that are available to help fulfill this need. Maps, social media, Town website, signage and other means to identify and increase awareness about those resources will help highlight the need and build support for protection measures.

B. Community Recreation Needs

Survey and Workshop

Westwood residents had the opportunity to participate in a needs survey and a community workshop, thereby contributing to the foundational thinking of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. (Note: See the appendix for more information on the survey and workshop). The survey queried responders about the overall quality of recreational facilities in Westwood. Approximately 63 percent of responders ranked Westwood's recreation facilities as very good or excellent. Thirty percent of responders indicated the recreation facilities as good. The survey respondents were also asked to rank a list of recreation items, indicating those considered to be a priority. The top five recreation items identified as priorities by survey responders are:

- ice hockey rink (39 percent of total responses),
- trails (37 percent),
- a community center (31 percent),
- a dog park (29 percent), and
- outdoor swimming facilities (26 percent).

When asked which recreation facilities, located in Westwood, were used by the survey responder or the responder's family in the last year, the responses revealed that Westwood High School fields were used by 83 percent of responders. This was followed by Sheehan Elementary School fields (64 percent), the Thurston Middle School fields (63 percent), the Westwood High School gym (54 percent), and Buckmaster Pond (50 percent). School-based fields were the most used recreation areas located in Westwood, as indicated by survey responders.

The community workshop included a review of the 2000 OSRP recreation goals:

1. Acquire new recreation areas in areas of Town which have a shortage of active recreation areas.
2. Establish and maintain a Town-wide network of publicly and privately held open spaces for active and recreational activities.
3. Provide quality recreational opportunities for all segments of Westwood's population.
4. Improve maintenance of recreation fields.
5. Create a system of bikeways, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, connecting the two town centers, recreation areas and other public facilities.

Workshop participants found the 2000 OSRP goals to be relevant but stated they needed more specificity, and they wanted to add some goals reflective of current needs, such as providing recreation options for all ages, including seniors. A primary comment was that the previous goals lacked inclusion of indoor recreation. The most prominent recreation needs identified were the development of an indoor recreation center that would include basketball courts, as well as an indoor skating rink, and tennis and pickleball courts.

It was noted that the Town's existing resources and facilities are not sufficient to serve the needs of all current residents. While the overall quality is highly rated, the respondents indicated a shortage of active recreation facilities (including fields, ice hockey and indoor basketball), particularly to serve youth sports. Also, the needs of the disabled and those over

55 were particularly noted as needing to be addressed. The ADA Self-Evaluation Plan in the Appendix notes the need for improved access to fields, as well as accessible picnic facilities, benches, etc. at various locations. Conservation areas could also use paved paths where feasible, benches, signage in large letters and braille, and rope guides where appropriate, in order to better serve the elderly and disabled. All-terrain wheelchairs, and pathways to accommodate them, would also help the elderly and disabled to enjoy these conservation areas.

The Recreation Commission surveyed several peer towns to compare facilities offered as well as the usage of those facilities. The results of the survey are shown in Table 18.

TABLE 18
FACILITIES BY TYPE

Town/ Population	Soccer / multi-use (lacrosse/field hockey)	Softball or 60' baseball	90' Baseball	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Outdoor swim
Bedford 13,320	2 full 12 small shared fields	6 60' 1 t-ball	3	1	3 plus small areas at elementary schools	7	1 Pond at Springs Brook Park
Canton 21,561	1 full 8 half - all shared use	8 - all shared use	1	1	2	6	1 Pool - outdoor
Concord 17,669	7 full 3 youth	5	2	1	4	8	Beede Aquatic Center - Multiple Indoor Pools and Splash Pad
Medfield 12,024	6	9	2	2	4	6	1 Pond at Hinkley Swim Pond
Sharon 17,612	5	8	2	1	1	13	1 Lake at Memorial Park Beach
Sudbury 18,317	6 full 6 youth	5-LL/softball 1tball	2	2	6	10	Atkinson Swimming Pool and Diving Well Aquatic Center (Pond was deemed non-swimmable)
Weston 11,261	15+	7	2	1	3	9	2 Pools – Indoor at Middle School and outdoor at Weston Memorial Pool
SUBTOTAL 111,764	42 full 75 total	50	14	9	23	59	
Westwood 14,618	4 full 12 half	5LL 4SB, 2TB	2	2	9	7	1 Indoor Pool
TOTAL 126,382	46 full 87 total	61 Total	16	11	32	66	

Source: Westwood Recreation Commission, Survey of Comparative Towns

The table below compares the number of facilities in each category to the population of all the peer communities (not including Westwood) to those in Westwood alone by dividing the population by the number of each facility:

TABLE 19
COMPARISON OF POPULATION SERVED PER FACILITY
WESTWOOD AND PEER COMMUNITIES

Town/ Population	Soccer / multi-use (lacrosse/field hockey)	Softball or 60' baseball	90' Baseball	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Outdoor swim
Westwood 14,618	Full: 1 per 3,655 All: 1 per 914	1 per 1,329	1 per 7,309	1 per 7,309	1 per 1,624	1 per 2,088	NA
PEER COMMUNITIES 111,764	Full: 1 per 2,661 All: 1 per 1490	1 per 2,235	1 per 7,983	1 per 12,418	1 per 4,859	1 per 1,894	NA
TOTAL 126,382	Full: 1 per 2,747 All: 1 per 1,453	1 per 2,072	1 per 7,899	1 per 11,489	1 per 3,949	1 per 1,915	1 per 18,054

NA= Not Availabl**e**

The table indicates that Westwood's recreation facilities compare well with the peer communities except for full size soccer/multiuse fields and outdoor swimming (since Westwood has no outdoor swimming facility). In addition to adding a soccer/multiuse field, increased demand could also be met through measures to expand use of existing fields such adding lighting and/or artificial turf.

The 2017 Massachusetts State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan survey of residents found that 78.1% rated their community's recreation facilities as good or excellent. The top activities in popularity mentioned in the SCORP survey were walking, running or jogging (the only category with more than 50% support); followed by hiking (mentioned by about of third of respondents). The next three were swimming in freshwater or saltwater (19%); road biking (18%) and swimming in pools (15%). The most desired improvements in local facilities were hiking trails, playgrounds, paved multi-use trails and swimming pools and spray parks.

C. Community Open Space Needs

Survey/Community Workshop

Most survey responders visited Hale Reservation during the past year. Fewer, but still a significant number, visited the Lowell Woods, Sandy Valley, Mulvehill, Fox Meadow, Germany Brook, and Martha Jones Conservation Areas. Responders were asked to identify the importance of preservation of a variety of land/structures/places within Westwood. Eighty percent of responders marked open space - recreation land as very important to preserve. This was followed by open space -- conservation land (71%) and open space – water (70%).

The community workshop participants reviewed the Open Space goals from the *2000 OSRP*.

1. Acquire new conservation areas that
    a. Are contiguous to existing protected land,
    b. Have high natural resource and habitat value,
    c. Are in areas of Town that have a shortage of open space areas.
2. Protect and enhance Westwood's natural environment.
3. Encourage increased use and appreciation of Westwood's existing conservation areas.
4. Identify and protect those places – open space, scenic, cultural, and natural features – of special significance to the community.
5. Establish and manage a Town-wide network of publicly and privately held open space for the protection of critical land and water resources, habitats and scenic vistas.
6. Better manage the design, location, and rate of new residential and commercial development in a manner that protects important natural and cultural resources.
7. Preserve Westwood's rural character, with a focus on village centers and open space.

A variety of comments were made by participants about these goals from 18 years ago. Noting that the Westwood Land Trust had been established and a number of properties had been acquired, some felt the focus should shift from acquiring conservation land to maintaining and protecting existing land. However, others wanted to continue the focus on acquiring new open space. A third group of participants noted that the Town should continue to acquire conservation land but the acquisition should be targeted and balanced with the current needs of the community.

A reoccurring comment was the need for education about open space and conservation land. Some participants shared that residents did not know the location of the areas or the amenities associated with them. Other specific needs identified included:

- Easements to connect open space over private property.
- Protection for Buckmaster Pond.
- Awareness of open space opportunities if an elementary school were to be eliminated.
- Smaller building footprints on land.

As noted above, the Recreation Commission surveyed several comparable towns to identify recreation facilities in those towns. Table 20 presents the protected open space in those same comparable towns as derived from MassGIS attribute data. Only land characterized as permanently protected is included.

TABLE 20
PROTECTED LAND IN WESTWOOD AND COMPARABLE TOWNS

	Acres of Protected Land	Total Land Area mi^2	Total Land Area Acres	Percentage Protected
Bedford	1,871	13.9	8,896	21.0%
Canton	3,195	19.6	12,544	25.5%
Concord	5,171	25.9	16,576	31.2%
Holliston	2,593	19.0	12,160	21.3%
Medfield	3,208	14.6	9,344	34.3%
Sharon	5,898	24.2	15,488	38.1%
Sudbury	4,913	24.6	15,744	31.2%
Weston	2,677	17.3	11,072	24.2%
Westwood	795	11.1	7,104	11.2%

Source: MassGIS

It should be noted that the other towns generally have large areas owned by the state or federal governments or by large private, non-profit land trusts, which Westwood does not have. However, Westwood has a minimum of 325 acres of Hale Reservation within its borders, which are not currently protected. If those acres were to become permanently protected, Westwood's percentage would rise to 15.2%. Also, while Assessor's records indicate 325 acres, MassGIS's calculated area for Hale is 493 acres. Hale indicates on its web site that it owns a total of 1137 acres in Dover and Westwood, and Dover's Assessor's Office records show 663 acres in that town which, if accurate, would mean that 474 acres are in Westwood.

The acreage needs to be verified, but if there are 474 acres in Westwood and they were to become permanently protected, Westwood's percentage of protected land would rise to 17.8%. In any case, permanent protection of Hale Reservation is an important open space need.

D. Management Needs

The foundation of maintaining and enhancing the Town's open space and recreation assets is having the resources to do so. Revenues must be identified for the purposes of maintaining, enhancing and acquiring open space or recreation properties, developing or rehabilitating recreation facilities, and developing and sustaining indoor recreation facilities, such as the community center and ice skating rink that have been identified as needs. Some options include state grant funds, collaborating with neighboring towns and/or private entities, and identifying revenue-generating activities that could be derived from components of those indoor recreation facilities.

Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is one potential source of funds. The CPA is a state law that encourages cities and towns to pursue projects that include conservation, outdoor recreation, historical preservation and affordable housing. There are now 173 Massachusetts communities that have adopted this law over the past 18 years.

In towns that have adopted the CPA, two sources of funds are made available to pursue eligible projects. The first source is raised by the town through the imposition of a property tax surcharge of up to 3%. This surcharge may be applied to all properties, or may exclude commercial properties. A town may also exempt the first $100,000 of assessed value, and may adopt other income and/or age exemptions to assist financially challenged property owners. for example, if a town set the CPA amount at 1%, a property owner who ordinarily paid $10,000 per year in property taxes would receive a tax bill for an additional $100. That additional $100 would be placed in the CPA reserve account. In Westwood, a 1% surcharge, limited to residential properties, could be expected to generate approximately $700,000 per year

Towns which adopt the CPA, then gain access to a second funding source. Registries of Deeds throughout the state collect fees for the recording of land documents. These fees are sent to the state and are then used to match local CPA funds. The extent of the match varies from year to year, but is currently less than 20%. In 2017 alone, the Norfolk Registry of Deeds sent $55,000 to the state that was raised from document recordings associated with properties in Westwood. These funds were then made available to communities that had adopted the CPA. To date, Westwood property owners have contributed approximately $1 million to the state CPA fund. Only the 173 communities that have adopted the CPA have access to these funds.

Additional information about the CPA can be found in the Exhibits.

Other Management Needs

Collaborative efforts are also possible in supporting open space and outdoor activities. These could include entities such as Hale Reservation, Westwood Land Trust, Neponset and Charles River Watershed Associations, scout and youth sports groups, etc.

Other management needs include developing use and maintenance plans for each conservation area and improved maintenance for recreation areas and facilities. Included in this would be increased connectivity, development of trails, adding benches and tables, encouraging their use as focal points of Town interaction, and improved communication about the existence and availability of each of the sites and facilities.

Protecting and enhancing Westwood's community character is also an important need as indicated by the survey and workshop. Many tools are already in place to accomplish this. Westwood government leaders, Town staff, and citizens have been diligent in protecting the Town's resources. Over the years, Town bylaws, zoning bylaws, specific rules and regulations, and design guidelines were added to Westwood's legislation that inform and guide development to continue to protect the Town's natural and historic resources. This contributes to the Town's character, while simultaneously safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its residents. These include regulatory tools such as:

- Open Space Residential Development
- Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District
- Historic Structure Demolition
- Environmental Impact & Design Review
- Scenic Roads Act

- Stormwater Management Bylaw
- Complete Streets Policy
- Bicycle Parking Design Guidelines

Regarding priorities for the next 5-10 years, the following additional management needs were identified:

- Prepare management and maintenance plans for each of Town-owned conservation and recreation properties.
- Explore potential to collaborate with other towns and/or nonprofits to provide recreation and conservation opportunities.
- Continue to identify and protect places with special significance to the community.
- Expand efforts to increase awareness about recreation and conservation land.

Finally, there is a need to review and update the land use codes assigned to tax-exempt parcels in the Assessors database. Updating the codes to the latest version of Property Type Classification Codes issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services will facilitate analysis of Town, State, Federal, and nonprofit properties going forward.

Section 8: Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives listed below represent the addition of objectives to the goals listed in the Community Vision section. The goals and objectives were prepared based on the OSRP Survey, the OSRP Visioning Workshop, conversations with the Open Space and Recreation Committee members, and discussions with Town staff.

Each goal is supported by one or more objectives. The objectives represent more specific, generally measurable steps that can be taken to advance the goals. Some of the objectives may appear under more than one goal. Goals and objectives are not listed in priority order.

A. General Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Protect and enhance Westwood's community character.

Objectives:

- Continue process of identifying and protecting those places in Town such as open space, scenic, cultural and natural features that are of special significance to the community, including historic stone walls.
- Explore other possible funding sources such as the CPA. Investigate the feasibility of adopting the CPA as one potential future funding source for acquisition, development and/or management of open space and recreation properties.
- Promote the Open Space Residential Development bylaw as well as Low Impact Development and narrower road widths.
- Preserve and maintain historically significant buildings and sites.
- Employ Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District, as appropriate.
- Use Historic Structure Demolition bylaw, when appropriate.
- Encourage character-appropriate redevelopment of Westwood's Village Centers.
- Explore opportunities for shared parking arrangements for the use of existing commercial parking spaces to accommodate users of nearby open space and recreation areas.
- Protect scenic roads.
- Collaborate with Westwood's Historical Commission and Historical Society to educate Westwood residents, as needed, about the Town's history.
- Regularly review and evaluate actions for consistency with the region's MetroFuture regional plan and MetroCommon 2050 regional plan.

GOAL 2: Promote accessibility provisions at all recreational facilities and open space areas to provide enhanced access for all residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- Increase usability of recreational facilities and trails for visitors with sight, mobility, hearing, and other impairments.
- Provide accessible parking spaces and accessible paths to all facilities.
- Provide accessible seating at fields, playgrounds, and open spaces areas such as at accessible picnic tables.

- Explore ways to provide better access to and improved experiences for people with physical impairments and seniors such as width of trails, trail surfaces, and accessible bathrooms.
- Provide information related to the extent of public access on trail maps, websites, apps, social media, trail signage, and any other resources.

B. Open Space Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Improve management and condition of conservation areas.

Objectives:

- Prepare Conservation Land Management Plans for each conservation area:
    - Provide detailed description and assessment of each property.
    - Define purpose and uses.
    - Establish the maintenance practices required, allowed, and restricted.
    - Create policies for grass mowing and tree cutting, and invasive species, disease, and pest control.
    - Identify handicap accessibility, corresponding maintenance required, and desired accessibility improvements.
    - Assign responsibilities and timing for implementing all aspects of the plan.
- Identify resources needed for ongoing maintenance and management of conservation areas:
    - Identify which maintenance tasks can be addressed through voluntary stewardship, which should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works, and which will require outside services.
    - Identify funding sources for sustained maintenance of each conservation area.
    - Use the Westwood Community Trails Program to organize volunteer trail work and cleanups of conservation areas.
    - Establish partnerships with volunteer organizations such as girl scouts, boy scouts and "friends of" groups to assist in the stewardship of conservation areas.
    - Explore grant opportunities for pilot projects.
- Foster handicap accessibility and inclusivity at feasible conservations areas:
    - Identify areas where accessible paved paths can be installed.
    - Provide large print and/or braille signage, and information regarding topographic characteristics of conservation areas to assist users in determining accessibility limitations.
    - Install benches or resting rocks in strategic locations.
    - Install rope guides along trails, where feasible and appropriate.
    - Consider all-terrain wheelchairs for use at one or more conservation areas

Goal 2: Increase awareness about Westwood's existing open space and conservation areas to encourage use and protection.

Objectives:

- Promote the Town's open space and conservation land to serve as focal points of community interaction and to encourage use and protection.

- Develop annotated maps and brochures for each conservation area open for public use that include information such as trails, natural habitat/vegetation, and special features.
- Create an App with information about open space/conservation areas in Westwood.
    - App would identify location, parking, and entry points.
    - App would list activities encouraged or prohibited in each area.
    - App would include the annotated maps and brochures for each area.
    - App would identify topographic or other physical challenges for each area.
- Update Town websites to provide access to the open space and conservation App and to download it.
- Use the Westwood Community Trails Program to introduce Westwood residents to open space/conservation areas and educate them to the value and importance of land protection.
- Collaborate with schools and service organizations in creating initiatives and programs to inform Westwood residents about open space and conservation areas.
- Create and install informative signage to direct Westwood residents to open space and conservation areas in Town.
- Sponsor or encourage cable access shows featuring open space and conservation land.
- Collaborate with the Charles River and Neponset River Watershed Associations to promote the continued improvement of water quality in the Charles and Neponset Rivers.
- Discourage use of invasive species by residents and encourage their removal and proper disposal.
- Monitor and adopt as appropriate best practices for sustainability and resiliency to climate change.

Goal 3: **Identify, protect and acquire land appropriate for open space and conservation.**

Objectives:

- Preserve and enhance Westwood's natural environment through acquisition or protection of open space and conservation land.
- Update maps of Town-owned and privately-owned open space land:
    - Indicate natural resource and habitat areas;
    - Note historic/scenic vista areas;
    - Identify all publicly-owned and privately-owned open space land.
- Identify and acquire land that is contiguous to existing protected land and with high value due to natural resources, wildlife habitat, water supply protection, or flood control.
- Identify and acquire land to provide connectivity to an open space network.
- Identify and acquire land in areas with limited open space.
- Acquire conservation restrictions when more appropriate than land acquisition.
- Continue to encourage donations of open space by landowners.
- Ensure the perpetuity of Town conservation land by properly recording the deeds to state the conservation purpose of the land.
- Permanently protect the open space and recreational land of Hale Reservation by acquiring a conservation restriction on this land.
- Encourage use of Open Space Residential Development for new residential developments.

- Collaborate with the Westwood Land Trust and other conservation organizations to protect and expand open space.

C. Recreation Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: **Expand opportunities for extended use of existing recreation fields and facilities to meet demonstrated need.**

Objectives:

- Continue to update inventory for indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Establish Use & Maintenance Plans for all fields facilities, including:
    - Map location.
    - Allowed uses and times of uses.
    - Regular maintenance schedule.
    - Needed improvements (i.e.: lighting, artificial turf, additional field space, etc.).
- Undertake handicap accessibility improvements to all playgrounds and fields, including:
    - Develop parcel specific accessibility plans;
    - Identify funding for accessibility improvements;
    - Create schedule for implementation of accessibility improvements.
- Improve communication by providing easy-to-use web sites and mobile apps to report maintenance issues.
- Add lighting to an existing field (e.g. Thurston).
- Expand Wentworth Hall to accommodate recreational programs currently operating in the Islington Community Center.

Goal 2: **Develop a new indoor recreation community center to better serve the community's needs for recreation programming**

Objectives:

- Evaluate feasibility of developing a new Indoor Recreation Community Center with:
    - Administrative – offices; welcome/registration areas;
    - Programming space – classrooms, multipurpose functional space, kitchen, fitness center, etc.;
    - Gym space – one or more full size regulation basketball courts.
- Select a parcel identified in Goal 3 that is best suited for an indoor recreational facility.
- Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment for an indoor recreational facility.
- Consider collaboration with other organizations to develop the center.
- If feasible, design and develop a new Indoor Recreation Community Center.

Goal 3: **Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs.**

Objectives:

- Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs:
    - Identify the mix of recreational activities for which additional space/facilities are needed;
    - Identify Town-owned property which could be repurposed for recreational use:
        - Consider the former First Parish property, an existing school that becomes available, or other potential sites.
    - Identify privately-owned property which could be acquired and developed for recreational use:
        - Consider Westwood Lodge or other potential sites.
- Identify how to replace any indoor basketball court that is eliminated by school consolidation, either in a new consolidated school or in a separate community recreational facility.

Goal 4: Develop new outdoor recreation facilities and programs

Objectives:

- Evaluate the feasibility of developing more multipurpose fields.
- Select parcels identified in Goal 3 suitable for multipurpose field use by considering:
    - Environmental concerns, parking, and other related issues;
    - Field lighting;
    - Accommodating additional open space/recreational uses.
- Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of new multipurpose fields.
- Develop at least one additional multi-use field.

Goal 5: Develop new ice skating opportunities

Objectives:

- Evaluate feasibility of sharing an indoor ice skating facility with surrounding towns.
    - Initiate contact with Norwood and with the Boston Skating Club to determine the feasibility of participating in its rink project
    - Survey other abutting towns about potential interest in a regional rink;
- Evaluate establishing an outdoor ice skating facility for winter use.
- Evaluate establishing a new indoor ice skating facility in Westwood.
    - Identify funding mechanisms for development and operation of an indoor ice skating facility:
        - Research public – private partnerships for funding.
        - Seek out revenue generating opportunities to cover some or all of its capital and/or operating costs.
- If pursuing development of an in-Town rink, select the most suitable parcel identified in Goal 3.
- Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create an indoor ice skating facility.
- If feasible, design and develop an indoor ice skating facility.

Goal 6: **Continue to provide quality recreational programming for all Westwood residents.**

Objectives:

- Continue to update inventory of recreation programs.
- Consider results of survey and visioning workshop to help in determining the need for additional programs.
- Explore opportunities for regional recreational facilities and/or services.
- Create or enhance programs and opportunities for recreation of 55+ aged population.

Section 9: Action Plan

The following pages contain an Action Plan to implement the goals and objectives specified in Section 8. For each objective, a lead agency is identified as well as potential supporting entities, implementation mechanisms, a rough schedule and possible funding sources. The Action Plan covers a seven-year period. Map 9 illustrates some of the recommended actions.

ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER					
Continue process of identifying and protecting those places in Town such as open space, scenic, cultural and natural features that are of special significance to the community.	DCED	Planning Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation Historical Com IT/GIS	Review maps showing important features, survey residents, review historical documents	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND Grant
Explore other possible funding sources such as the CPA. Investigate the feasibility of adopting the CPA as one potential future funding source for acquisition, development and/or management of open space and recreation properties: • Analyze potential revenue impacts of each option. • Estimate typical impacts on taxpayers of each option for different assessment levels. • Identify potential open space and recreation projects that could be funded with CPA funds. • Collaborate with affordable housing and historic preservation advocates to identify potential needs and/or projects in those areas. • Confirm recent and projected State matching funds.	Select Board	Finance DCED Assessors Recreation Conservation Housing Historical Com Historical Society Westwood Land Tr	NA	2020-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER (CONTINUED)					
Promote the Open Space Residential Development (OSRD) bylaw as well as Low Impact Development and narrower road widths.	DCED	Planning DPW	Permit applications, Informational materials	2019-2025	NA
Preserve and maintain historically significant buildings and sites	Historical Com	Select Board DCED DPW Westwood Land Tr Historical Society	Informational materials; Acquisition	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted), Private donations
Employ Flexible Multiple Use Overlay District, as appropriate	DCED	Planning DPW	Permit applications, Informational materials	2019-2025	NA
Use Historic Structure Demolition bylaw, when appropriate	Historical Commission	DCED Building	Permit applications	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Encourage character-appropriate redevelopment of Westwood's Village Centers.	Select Board	DCED Planning DPW	Zoning incentives, infrastructure improvements	2019-2025	MassWorks, Complete Streets
Explore opportunities for shared parking arrangements for the use of existing commercial parking spaces to accommodate users of nearby open space and recreation areas.	DCED	Planning DPW Recreation	Permit applications	2019-2025	NA
Protect scenic roads.	Planning	DPW	Permit applications	2019-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES					
GENERAL GOAL 1: PROTECT AND ENHANCE WESTWOOD'S COMMUNITY CHARACTER (CONTINUED)					
Collaborate with The Westwood Historical Commission and The Westwood Historical Society to educate Westwood residents, as needed, about the Town's history.	DCED	Historical Com Historical Society	NA	2019-2025	NA
GENERAL GOAL 2: PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS AT ALL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACE AREAS TO PROTECT ENHANCED ACCESS FOR ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS					
Increase usability of recreational facilities and trails for visitors with sight, mobility, hearing, and other impairments	Recreation	DPW	Infrastructure improvements, signage, printed materials	2019-2025	Permit fees, Grants
Provide accessible parking spaces and accessible paths to all facilities	Recreation	DPW	Infrastructure improvements	2020-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted), Grants

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS					
Prepare Conservation Land Management Plans for each conservation area: • Provide detailed description and assessment of each property. • Define purpose and uses. • Establish the maintenance practices required, allowed, and restricted. • Create policies for grass mowing and tree cutting, and invasive species, disease, and pest control. • Identify handicap accessibility, corresponding maintenance required, and desired accessibility improvements. • Assign responsibilities and timing for implementing all aspects of the plan.	Conservation	DCED DPW Planning IT/GIS Recreation Historical Com Historical Society	Environmental consultant	2019-2021	Town budget, LAND Grant

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS (CONTINUED)					
Identify resources needed for ongoing maintenance and management of conservation areas: • Identify which maintenance tasks can be addressed through voluntary stewardship, which should be undertaken by the Department of Public Works, and which will require outside services. • Identify funding sources for sustained maintenance of each conservation area. • Use the Westwood Community Trails Program to organize volunteer trail work and cleanups of conservation areas. • Establish partnerships with volunteer organizations such as Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, and "Friends of" groups to assist in the stewardship of conservation areas. • Explore grant opportunities for pilot projects.	Conservation	DPW DCED Finance Recreation Assessors Hale Reservation Girl Scouts Boy Scouts	Environmental consultant, Explore private uses like cell tower, solar, hay/crops, etc.	2020-2025	Town budget, Grants, Private Donations, Fees

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 1: IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS (CONTINUED)					
Foster handicap accessibility and inclusivity at feasible conservations areas: • Identify areas where accessible paved paths can be installed. • Provide large print and/or braille signage, and information regarding topographic characteristics of conservation areas to assist users in determining accessibility limitations. • Install benches or resting rocks in strategic locations. • Install rope guides along trails, where feasible and appropriate. • Consider all-terrain wheelchairs for use at one or more conservation areas.	Conservation	DPW Finance Commission on Disability	Environmental consultant	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted), Grants

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION					
Promote the Town's open space and conservation land to serve as focal points of community interaction and to encourage use and protection.	Conservation	Select Board Commission on Disability	Town staff	2019-2025	Town budget, Grants
Develop annotated maps and brochures for each conservation area open for public use that include information such as trails, natural habitat/vegetation, and special features.	Conservation	IT/GIS Westwood Land Tr	Town staff	2019-2021	Town budget, Grants
Create an App with information about open space/conservation areas in Westwood: • App would identify location, parking, and entry points. • App would list activities encouraged or prohibited in each area. • App would include the annotated maps and brochures for each area. • App would identify topographic or other physical challenges for each area.	Conservation	Select Board Westwood Land Tr DPW DCED IT/GIS	Social media	2019-2020	Town budget, Grants

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
Update Town websites with expanded information about open space/conservation land.	Conservation	IT/GIS DCED DPW Recreation	Town staff	2019-2020	NA
Use the Westwood Community Trails Program to introduce Westwood residents to open space/conservation areas and educate them to the value and importance of land protection.	Ped/Bike Committee	Conservation Recreation DPW	Hale Reservation staff	2019-2020	Town budget
Collaborate with schools and service organizations in creating initiatives and programs to inform Westwood residents about open space and conservation areas.	Conservation Ped/Bike Committee	IT/GIS School Dept. Westwood Land Tr DCED Recreation DPW	Web site Social media Cable access Hale Reservation staff	2019-2025	NA
Create and install informative signage to direct Westwood residents to open space and conservation areas in Town.	Conservation	DPW Planning Westwood Land Tr	NA	2019-2020	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 2: INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION (CONTINUED)					
Sponsor or encourage cable access shows featuring open space land.	Conservation	DPW Recreation DCED	Cable access	2019-2025	Town budget
Collaborate with the Charles River and Neponset River Watershed Associations to promote the continued improvement of water quality in the Charles and Neponset Rivers.	DPW	DCED Conservation Planning	Stormwater management improvements Public education	2019-2025	NA
Discourage use of invasive species by property owners and encourage their removal and proper disposal.	Conservation	Planning DPW	Website info Social media Cable access	2019-2025	NA
Monitor and adopt as appropriate best practices for sustainability and resiliency to climate change	DCED	Select Board Planning DPW	Town staff	209-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3: IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LAND APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION					
Preserve and enhance Westwood's natural environment through acquisition or protection of open space and conservation land.	Con Com	DCED DPW	Purchase, Conservation Restrictions, OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant
Update maps of Town-owned and privately-owned open space land: • Indicate natural resource and habitat areas; • Note historic/scenic vista areas; • Identify all publicly-owned and privately-owned open space land.	IT/GIS	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation Recreation DPW	Assessor's Records	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Identify and acquire land that is contiguous to existing protected land and with high value due to natural resources, wildlife habitat, water supply protection, or flood control.	Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation Dedham-Westwood Water District	Purchase, Conservation Restrictions, OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant
Identify and acquire land to provide connectivity to an open space network.	Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation	Assessor's Records OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3: IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LAND APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION (CONTINUED)					
Identify and acquire land in areas with limited open space.	Select Board	DCED Westwood Land Tr Conservation	Assessor's Records OSRD	2019-2025	Town budget or CPA (if adopted) LAND grant
Acquire conservation restrictions when more appropriate than land acquisition.	Westwood Land Tr	Select Board DCED Conservation Planning	Federal Tax incentives	2019-2025	NA
Continue to encourage donations of open space by landowners.	Westwood Land Trust	Select Board DCED Conservation Planning	Federal Tax incentives	2019-2025	NA
Ensure the perpetuity of Town conservation land by properly recording the deeds to state the conservation purpose of the land.	Select Board	Conservation DCED	Town staff	2019-2025	NA
Permanently protect the open space and recreational land of Hale Reservation by acquiring a conservation restriction on this land.	Hale Reservation	Select Board Westwood Land Trust	Town staff	2019-2025	NA
Encourage use of Open Space Residential Development for new residential developments.	DCED	Planning	OSRD	2019-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
OPEN SPACE GOALS					
OPEN SPACE GOAL 3:	IDENTIFY, PROTECT AND ACQUIRE LAND APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION (CONTINUED)				
Collaborate with the Westwood Land Trust and other conservation organizations to protect and expand open space.	DCED	Select Board Westwood Land Tr Conservation Planning IT/GIS	Establish committee	2019-2025	NA

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 1: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED USE OF EXISTING RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES TO MEET DEMONSTRATED NEED					
Continue to update inventory for indoor and outdoor facilities.	Recreation	DPW School Dept.	Town staff	2019	NA
Establish Use & Maintenance Plans for all fields facilities, including: • Map location. • Allowed uses and times of uses. • Regular maintenance schedule. • Needed improvements (i.e.: lighting, artificial turf, additional field space, etc.)	Recreation	DPW Planning	Town staff	2019-2021	NA
Undertake handicap accessibility improvements to all playgrounds and fields, including: • Develop parcel specific accessibility plans; • Identify funding for accessibility improvements; • Create schedule for implementation of accessibility improvements.	Recreation	Commission on Disability DPW Planning	Town staff Consultant	2019-2022	Town budget, PARC
Improve communication by providing easy-to-use methods including web site and mobile apps to report maintenance issues.	IT/GIS	Recreation DPW	Town staff	2019-2021	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 1: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED USE OF EXISTING RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES TO MEET DEMONSTRATED NEED (CONTINUED)					
Add lighting to an existing field (e.g. Thurston).	Recreation	DPW	Electrical Contractor	2019-2020	Town budget, User fees
Expand Wentworth Hall to accommodate recreational programs currently operating in the Islington Community Center.	DCED	Planning Recreation Youth & Family Services DPW	Architectural firm	2019-2021	Islington Center Project funds
RECREATION GOAL 2: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING					
Evaluate feasibility of developing a new Indoor Recreation Community Center with: • Administrative – offices; welcome/registration areas; • Programming space – classrooms, multipurpose functional space, kitchen, fitness center, etc.; • Gym space – one or more full size regulation basketball courts.	Select Board	DCED Recreation DPW Planning Building	Consultant	2019-2020	Town budget, Grant
Select a parcel from those properties identified in Goal 3 that is best suited for an indoor recreational facility.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 2: DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING (CONTINUED)					
Identify funding sources for potential acquisition and development or redevelopment for an indoor recreational facility.	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Town staff	2019-2024	NA
Consider collaboration with other organizations to develop the center.	Recreation	Select Board YMCA Sports Organizations	Staff time	2019-2025	NA
If feasible, design and develop a new Indoor Recreation Community Center.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning Building	Architectural firm	2019-2024	Town budget, Private funds, User fees

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 3: IDENTIFY PROPERTIES WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE UNMET RECREATIONAL NEEDS					
Identify properties which might be available to serve unmet recreational needs: • Identify mix of recreational activities for which additional space/facilities are needed; • Identify Town-owned property which could be repurposed for recreational use: o Consider possible locations including the former First Parish property, a former school site (should an existing school go off line), or other potentially available sites; • Identify privately-owned property which could be acquired and developed for recreational use: o Consider Westwood Lodge or other potential sites.	Recreation	DCED Planning DPW School Dept.	Consultant Assessors data	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify how to replace any indoor basketball court that is eliminated by school consolidation, either in a new consolidated school or in a separate community recreational facility.	Select Board	School Dept. Recreation DPW DCED Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 4: DEVELOP NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS					
Evaluate the feasibility of developing more multipurpose fields.	Select Board	Recreation DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2020	Town budget
Select parcels identified in Goal 3 suitable for multipurpose field use by considering: • Environmental concerns, parking, and other related issues; • Field lighting; • Accommodating additional open space/recreational uses.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget
Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of new multipurpose fields.	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget or CPA (if adopted)
Develop at least one additional multi-use field.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2019-2024	Town budget

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

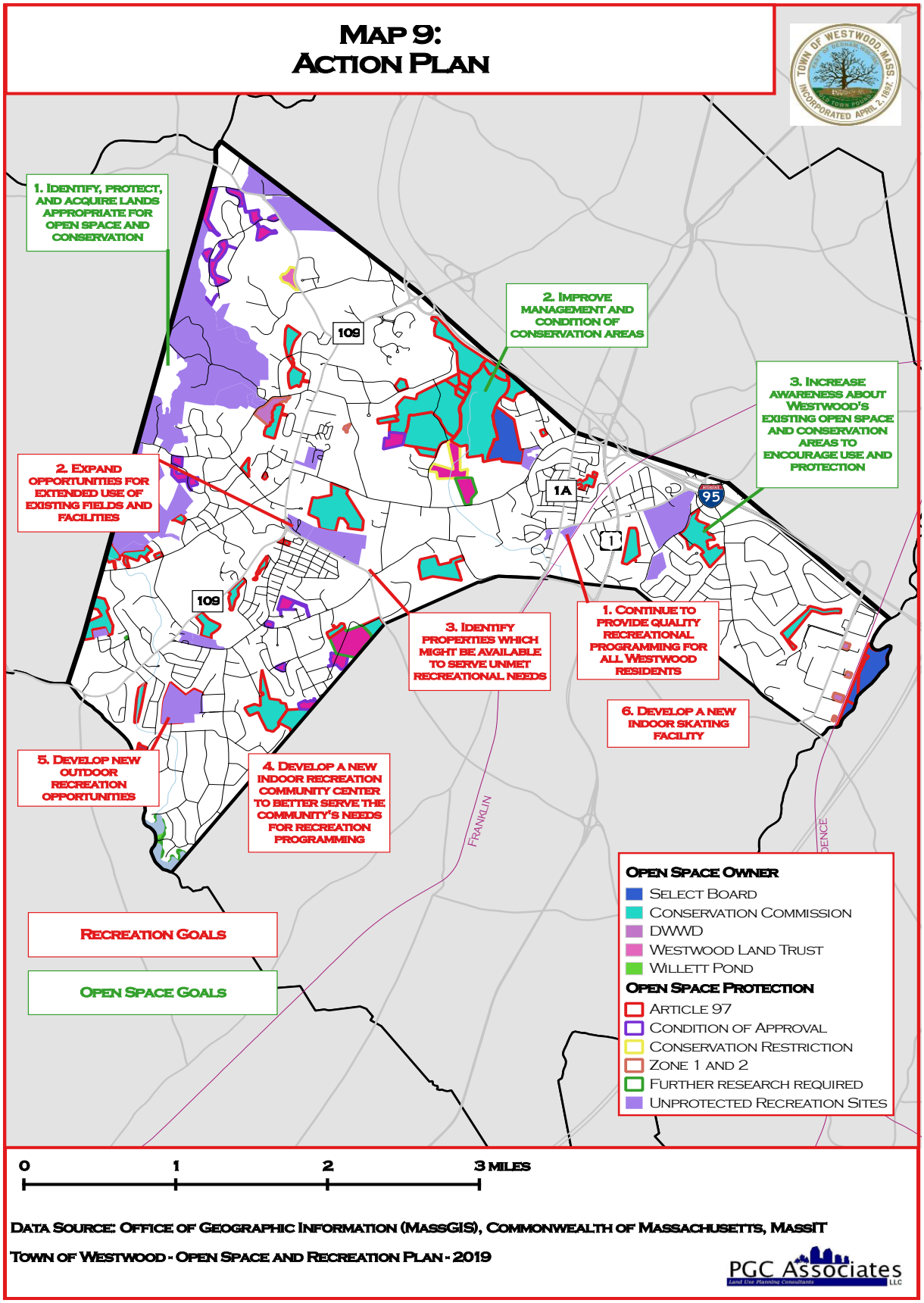
RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOALS					
RECREATION GOAL 5: DEVELOP NEW ICE SKATING OPPORTUNITIES					
Evaluate feasibility of sharing an indoor ice skating facility with surrounding towns: • Initiate contact with Norwood and with the Boston Skating Club to determine the feasibility of participating in its rink project; • Survey other abutting towns about potential interest in a regional rink.	Select Board	Recreation School Dept. DCED DPW	Consultant	2019-2021	Town budget
Evaluate establishing an outdoor ice skating facility for winter use	Recreation	Select Board DPW DCED Building	Consultant	2019-2025	Town budget

Evaluate establishing a new indoor ice skating facility in Westwood:
• Identify funding mechanisms for development and operation of an indoor ice skating facility:
  ○ Research public-private partnerships for funding;
  ○ Seek out revenue generating opportunities to cover some or all of its capital and/or operating costs.
	Recreation	Finance
		DCED
		DPW
		Schools
		Sports Organizations
			Consultant	2019-2025	Town budget,
					Private funds

Continued

ACTION PLAN (Continued)

RECOMMENDATION	LEAD AGENCY	OTHER AGENCIES	IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS	SCHEDULE	POSSIBLE FUNDING
RECREATION GOAL 5: DEVELOP NEW ICE SKATING OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)					
If pursuing development of an in-Town rink, select the most suitable parcel identified in Goal 3.	Select Board	Recreation DCED DPW Planning	Consultant	2021-2025	Town budget
Identify funding sources for acquisition and development or redevelopment of land to create an indoor ice skating facility.	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Staff time	2021-2025	NA
If feasible, design and develop an indoor ice skating facility.	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning Building	Architectural firm	2021-2025	Town budget, Private funds
RECREATION GOAL 6: CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL WESTWOOD RESIDENTS					
Continue to update inventory of recreational programs	Finance	Select Board Recreation DCED DPW	Staff time	2021-2025	NA
Consider results of survey and visioning workshop to help in determining the need for additional programs	Recreation	Select Board DCED DPW Planning	Architectural firm	2021-2025	Town budget, Private funds
Explore opportunities for regional recreational facilities and/or services	Recreation	Select Board DCED	Town staff	2019-2025	Town budget, Grants, User fees
Create or enhance programs and opportunities for recreation of 55+ aged population	Council on Aging	Recreation	Town staff and commissions	2019-2025	Town budget, User fees


MAP 9:
ACTION PLAN
1. IDENTIFY, PROTECT, AND ACQUIRE LANDS APPROPRIATE FOR OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION
2. IMPROVE MANAGEMENT AND CONDITION OF CONSERVATION AREAS
3. INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT WESTWOOD'S EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREAS TO ENCOURAGE USE AND PROTECTION
2. EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTENDED USE OF EXISTING FIELDS AND FACILITIES
3. IDENTIFY PROPERTIES WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE UNMET RECREATIONAL NEEDS
1. CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL WESTWOOD RESIDENTS
6. DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR SKATING FACILITY
5. DEVELOP NEW OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
4. DEVELOP A NEW INDOOR RECREATION COMMUNITY CENTER TO BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING
109
1A
95
1
FRANKLIN
RECREATION GOALS
OPEN SPACE GOALS
OPEN SPACE OWNER
SELECT BOARD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DWWD
WESTWOOD LAND TRUST
WILLETT POND
OPEN SPACE PROTECTION
ARTICLE 97
CONDITION OF APPROVAL
CONSERVATION RESTRICTION
ZONE 1 AND 2
FURTHER RESEARCH REQUIRED
UNPROTECTED RECREATION SITES
0
1
2
3 MILES
DATA SOURCE: OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (MASSGIS), COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, MASSIT
TOWN OF WESTWOOD - OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN - 2019
PGC Associates LLC

Section 10: Public Comments

TOWN OF WESTWOOD
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SELECT BOARD

Select Board
Michael F. Walsh, Chair
John M. Hickey, Clerk
Nancy C. Hyde, Third Member

Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Finance Director
Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

January 29, 2019

David Atkins, Chair
Westwood Planning Board
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: Draft Open Space & Recreation Plan Update

Dear Mr. Atkins,

The Town of Westwood Select Board appreciates the time and effort expended by Planning Board and Open Space & Recreation Planning Committee members in producing this draft update to Westwood's Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The updated OSRP will provide valuable data and perspective that will be useful to Westwood's residents, boards and committees. This document will also be an excellent source of information to guide the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee as that committee works to update Westwood's Comprehensive Plan. The Select Board of Westwood shares these values and is supportive of future efforts to achieve articulated goals.

The updated OSRP will be an effective tool for preserving Westwood's community character through identification of broad goals and objectives and specific action items. Adoption and endorsement of this plan will further encourage the town's protection and management of its valuable open space, as well as the enhancement of the Westwood's high-quality recreational facilities. We will continue in our efforts to provide the highest quality recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

What is uncertain at this point are specifics regarding both funding sources and sizing up priorities relative to other town needs. The Select Board has solicited input from the town's Long Range Financial Planning Committee and has concluded that we do not support seeking Town Meeting approval of the Community Preservation Act at this time.

We respectfully recommend that that the Planning Board frame its discussion regarding the Community Preservation Act (CPA) in the context of a possible future funding source for the OSRP's many open space and recreation goals, rather than as a goal in itself. With this modification, the Select Board enthusiastically supports the OSRP goals and objectives and proposed action plan and looks forward to implementing aspects of this plan in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Walsh
Chair

John M. Hickey
Clerk

Nancy C. Hyde
Third Member

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
selectboard@townhall.westwood.ma.us

TOWN OF WESTWOOD

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

John Rogers, Chairman
Stephen David
Helen Gordon
R.J. Sheer
Todd Sullivan, Vice Chair
Todd Weston
Vesna Maneva

Karon Skinner Catrone, Conservation Agent
kcatrone@townhall.westwood.ma.us
781-251-2580

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Ms. Abigail McCabe
Westwood Planning Board.
Westwood, MA 02090

January 28, 2019

re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. McCabe:

The Westwood Conservation Commission has reviewed and commented on the Westwood Open Space and Recreation (OSR) plan and held a public hearing on the draft plan to receive public comments on February 2, 2018. The commission is excited that the approved OSR plan will allow the Town the opportunity to apply for much needed state and federal grants to develop a Conservation Land Management Plan for maintenance of Conservation owned properties.

The plan being submitted represents a comprehensive assessment of the Town's Open Space facilities as well as recommendations on the future focus of town expenditures. The Westwood Conservation Commission provides its overwhelming support of the plan.

Sincerely,

Karon Skinner Catrone
Westwood Conservation Agent
Westwood Conservation Commission

TOWN OF WESTWOOD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
RECREATION COMMISSION

Mitchell Katzman, Chair
Joyce Cannon, Vice Chair
Lynn Connors, Secretary
Ann Delaney, Member
Sheila Moylan, Member
Bob Phillips, Member
Paul Tucceri, Member
Elizabeth Phillips, Associate Member

Nicole Banks, Recreation Director
nbanks@townhall.westwood.ma.us

February 11, 2019

Westwood Planning Board
Abigail McCabe, Town Planner
50 Carby Street
Westwood, MA 02090

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. McCabe,

The Westwood Recreation Commission has reviewed and commented on the Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan dated February 8, 2019. The plan is a result of comprehensive research and puts forth well thought out recommendations that satisfy Westwood's recreation and open space needs. Approval of this plan by the Commonwealth enables the Town of Westwood to apply for funding grants to be used toward the completion of the projects specified.

The Westwood Recreation Commission supports the Draft OSRP and looks forward to assisting the Town in implementing the action plans to accomplish the recreation goals outlined.

Sincerely,

Ann Delaney

Ann Delaney
Recreation Commission Member
Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Member

Section 11: References

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Appendix

- ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
- Survey Results

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Introduction

The ADA Self Access Evaluation is "a detailed assessment of the recreation department and conservation commission [that]… includes a site-by-site inventory of all recreation and conservation areas and buildings, programs or services and a transition plan if any changes are necessary to make these public facilities, programs, or services accessible. The Assessment should ensure compliance with Federal anti-discrimination regulations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as Amended ("ADA").[5]

The requirements of the ADA are administered in Massachusetts by the Architectural Access Board ("AAB"), as set forth in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.[6] The purpose of the ADA requirements is to "seek to create or adapt sites, buildings and facilities so that they can be approached, entered, and used by persons with disabilities." For the purpose of an OSRP, public recreational and conservation facilities must be evaluated for compliance with the ADA in accordance with the Code of Massachusetts Regulations. It should be noted, however, that the DCS Workbook emphasizes the creation of an accessible system of facilities rather than an inventory of facilities in which every site is fully accessible.

[5] ADA
[6] 521 CMR 19:00

Part I: Administrative Requirements

1. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

The ADA Coordinator for the Town of Westwood is its Town Administrator:

Michael Jaillet
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-4172
mjaillet@townhall.westwood.ma.us

The following letter signed by Michael F. Walsh, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, officially designates Michael Jaillet as the ADA Coordinator: A letter from Michael Jaillet certifying the Town's nondiscrimination policy also follows.

TOWN OF WESTWOOD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Select Board
Michael F. Walsh, Chair
John M. Hickey, Clerk
Nancy C. Hyde, Third Member

Michael A. Jaillet, Town Administrator
Pamela M. Dukeman, Finance Director
Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

January 29, 2019

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street — Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

Please be advised that our Town Administrator, Michael Jaillet, is currently Westwood's ADA Coordinator.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely

Michael F. Walsh
Chairman

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us
selectboard@townhall.westwood.ma.us

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Pamela M. Dukeman, Finance Director
Christine E. McCarthy, Executive Assistant

January 29, 2019

Ms. Melissa Cryan, Grants Manager
Division of Conservation Services
100 Cambridge Street — Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan:

As the Town of Westwood's ADA Coordinator, I hereby confirm that Westwood's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training tests, medical exams/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration, are consistent with ADA requirements.

In the event you have questions regarding this matter, please advise.

Sincerely,

Michael Jaillet
Town Administrator

Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090
(781) 326-6450
www.townhall.westwood.ma.us
selectboard@townhall.westwood.ma.us

2. Grievance Procedures

The following ADA Compliance Policy is in place for the public to follow in the event that a complaint must be made in connection with accessibility of conservation or recreation facilities:

EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES
Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). This may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provisions of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Westwood.

The Town of Westwood's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complains of disability discrimination. The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request. The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to: "The Office of the Town Administrator, 580 High Street, Westwood, Massachusetts, 02091."

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolution.

Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the Town Administrator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Westwood and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the Town Administrator or his/her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Town Counsel or his/her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, Town Counsel or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolution.

Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, Town Counsel or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where, appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint. All written complaints received by the Town Administrator or his/her designee, appeals to the Town Administrator or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town of Westwood for at least three years.

3. Public Notification Requirements

3.0 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
3-1. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM The Town of Westwood commits itself to the principles and practices of equal employment opportunity, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Executive Order No. 227 as amended; MGL Chapter 151B; and all other applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. The Town of Westwood, recognizing the right of an individual to work and to advance on the basis of merit, ability, and potential without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, color, disability, religion, national origin, national ancestry, or age, resolves to take affirmative action measures to ensure equal opportunity in the areas of hiring, promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment, layoff or termination, rate of compensation, training programs, and all terms and conditions of employment. The Town of Westwood shall strive to eliminate any systemic discrimination that may be pervasive throughout the place of employment, or throughout the personnel program that could adversely affect the Town's goals relative to equal employment opportunity. It is intended that the affirmative action plan of the Town shall constitute a formalization of philosophy and practice sufficient to guarantee equality for all persons employed by or seeking employment with the Town of Westwood, and shall serve as a firm statement of public policy endorsed by the highest levels of Town Government.

3-2. STRUCTURE TRUCTUREAND IMPLEMENTATION The Town Administrator shall annually appoint an Affirmative Action Officer. In the absence of such appointment, said position shall be filled by the Town Administrator.

3-3. THE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER SHALL: (A) Be responsible for the development and implementation of policies, procedures, guidelines, and regulations for the Town to ensure that the Town employment process operates in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all subsequent amendments, relevant State laws, and Municipal policy; and (B) Monitor hiring practices and appointments of all Town departments and agencies of Town Government for compliance with federal and state law as cited above.

3-4. COMPLAINT PROCEEDINGS Any written complaint alleging violation of the procedural terms and intent of this section shall be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Program, except that complaints of discriminatory treatment on the basis of a disability should be referred to the Affirmative Action Officer.

Public Notification Notices are posted in Town Hall indicating that the Town of Westwood does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Town’s standard employment application includes a non-discrimination statement (see attached) and is posted on the Town’s web site.

4. Participation of Individuals with Disabilities or Organizations Representing the Disabled Community

Achieved through the survey of residents’ opinions and preferences and input from Commission on Disability and ADA Coordinator.

Part II: Program Accessibility

The DCS Workbook calls for an inventory and a future transition plan that includes the buildings, recreation facilities and equipment (swimming areas, tot lots, etc.), programs, and services under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or Recreation Department, including lessees or concessionaires. The inventory is an analysis of the existing conditions at conservation and recreation sites for compliance with the AAB regulations, while the transition plan identifies a path towards improved accessibility and ADA compliance.

Facility Inventory:

There are seven sites in the Town of Westwood that are under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission or Recreation Department and include the requisite facilities to require study for ADA compliance. All seven are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department. The sites offer a variety of opportunities for public use, however, their most frequently-reviewed facilities were fields or playground equipment with associated parking, paths, picnic areas, and restrooms.

1. Recreation Facilities

Recreation facilities in Westwood include beach areas, picnic sites, trails, tot lots, playing fields, tennis and basketball courts. The facilities were reviewed for their proximity to accessible paths and their compliance with accessibility requirements set forth by the AAB. Common requirements include accessible dimensions and features on equipment, rest rooms, parking, proper signage including for the visually impaired, and accompanying programs and services that provide opportunities to the disabled community.

2. Parking

Any public recreation or conservation site with designated off-street parking shall comply with the parking and passenger loading zone provisions set forth in 521 CMR 23.00 ("the Parking Requirements"). The Parking Requirements set forth a minimum number of accessible spaces that must be provided according to the number of total spaces available in the lot, as follows:

Total Spaces In Lot	Required Minimum Number of Accessible Spaces
15-25	1
26-50	2
51-75	3
76-100	4
101-150	5
151-200	6
201-300	7
301-400	8
401-500	9
501-1,000	2% of total
1,001+	20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000

Source: 521 CMR 23.2.1

Furthermore, one in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one space, shall be van accessible.[7] Van accessible spaces must provide a minimum vertical clearance of eight feet, two inches at the parking space and along at least one vehicle access route to such spaces from site entrances and exits. The space shall also have a minimum dimensions of eight feet in width as well as an eight foot wide adjacent access aisle, and be marked by a sign designating it as "Van Accessible".[8] Alternatively, the van requirement may be satisfied by having all handicapped spaces eleven or more feet wide.[9]

3. Ramps

For the purposes of ADA compliance, any part of an accessible route with a slope greater than 5% shall be considered a ramp.[10] Ramp designation triggers slope, rise, width, and landing requirements as well as gripping requirements on rails and surfaces. Site Access, Path of Travel and Entrances.
Any accessible route shall provide a continuous unobstructed path connecting accessible spaces and elements inside and outside a facility.[11] The route must adhere to width, turning radius, passing space, and slope requirements. Furthermore, an accessible route may also be designated as a walkway, giving rise to further requirements set forth in 521 CMR 22:00.

4. Rest Rooms

None of the facilities include permanent public toilet rooms. However, most of the sites provide at least one portable toilet. The portable toilets, however, are not accessible.

5. Picnicking

Picnic areas are regulated under recreational facilities in 521 CMR 19.6. The regulations require that picnic facilities be accessible from an accessible route that is paved or hard packed.[12] Additionally, 5% of tables provided at a site shall comply with 521 CMR 19.5.2, which sets forth dimensional requirements for accessible tables. By and large, the picnic facilities at Westwood recreation sites do not comply with the requirements.

The following Facility Inventory is a comprehensive accessibility evaluation of sites with public facilities that are under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department and Conservation Commission. A photo and summary of the facility are provided for each site, followed by the ADA facility inventory form edited to include the applicable features for each site. Conservation sites that are simply natural areas with no parking or man-made facilities of any kind are not included.

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[7] 521 CMR 23.2.2
[8] 521 CMR 23.4.7
[9] 521 CMR 23.4.7
[10] 521 CMR 24:00
[11] 521 CMR 20.1
[12] 521 CMR 19.6.1

Lowell Woods
Address: Sandy Valley Road
Parcel Nos.: 10-52,53,55,56,57,58,59; 11-01,04; 15-15,28; 16-437
Acreage: 290+ (Including Grimm, Sandy Valley, Mulvehill and Shuttleworth)
Facilities: Parking area, signage, trails

This area has a gravel cul-de-sac at the end of Sandy Valley Road. There is a gravel parking area. Miles of marked trails but no handicapped accessibility.

Lowell Woods		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Trails		The majority of trails are made of gravel surfaces. Minor grading maintenance is needed to smooth the transition between gravel and pavement at entrances and exits
		The trails vary in width from 3 to 6 feet
		There is no signage for the visually impaired at or along trails
PARKING		
Total Spaces	~5-7	unmarked
Required Accessible Spaces:	1	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	0	
Access:	Parking is located at the end of the dirt road, Sandy Valley Lane.	
Signage	There is a signage kiosk with information about the trails.	
	There are no signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is gravel	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The trails are natural	

Morrison Field

Address: 300 Washington Street
Parcel No.: 23-215-0T
Acreage: 3.07 (Includes fires station)
Facilities: Parking lot, signage, concessions, fields, courts, paths, picnicking, and portable toilet facilities.

This facility includes a little league baseball field, a softball field, a basketball court and supporting facilities. The paved parking lot includes the required number of handicapped spaces, but they could be moved closer to the park entrance. Appropriate ramps and a paved sidewalk provide access to the park. Within the park, a hard-packed gravel path passes through the little league facilities and provides access to the basketball court and batting cages. It does not, however, reach the softball field. Overall the facility provides good access.

Morrison Field		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	Most tables and benches are located adjacent to accessible paths
		Most tables and benches are located in open spaces
		Tables and benches do not have back and arm rests
		There is adequate accessible seating at the little league field, but not at the softball field
	Trash cans	There are 8 trash cans and 3 recycling cans located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	There are no picnic shelters at the facility
		Picnic areas at the little league field are located near accessible paths, trash cans, and parking
Trails		The majority of trails are made of gravel surfaces. Minor grading maintenance is needed to smooth the transition between gravel and pavement at entrances and exits
		The trails vary in width from 3 to 6 feet
		There is no signage for the visually impaired at or along trails
Game Area 1: Little League Baseball	Access Routes	The little league field is located adjacent to accessible paths
		Pads are in place for a smooth transition from path to field
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		Sufficient width and surfaces allow access to equipment areas. A brick-paved area is also available for spectating. Accessible trails lead to training areas (batting cages). Equipment could be stored more carefully so as not to interfere with accessible path. The porta-potty is not accessible.
		Dugouts consist of a paved surface inside a fence with a 44" opening
Game Area 2: Basketball	Access Routes	The basketball court is accessed by gravel trail. Transition from gravel to paved court requires minor grading maintenance
	Equipment	The paved surface inside the court is an adequate condition but beginning to crack. A trash can is accessible on the paved surface and there is adequate room . on the sidelines and baseline for spectators
Game Area 3: Softball	Access Routes	There are no access routes to the facilities or spectator areas
	Equipment	There are bleachers and dugouts, but they are not accessible. There is a porta-potty, but it is not accessible or located on an accessible path

PARKING		
Total Spaces	31	
Required Accessible Spaces:	2	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	2	Includes one van space
Access:	There is a ramp from the handicap spaces to the sidewalk near the playing fields	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The path of travel is stable, firm, and slip resistant	
	The path of travel maintains a minimum width of 3 feet	
	The path of travel is a continuous surface	
ENTRANCES		
	Primary entrance lacks signage	
	Primary entrance contains sufficient width and level space	
	All gates contain a minimum of 32" clear opening	
PICNICKING		
	Only 1 picnic table observed met accessibility requirements, and it was located in the softball field away from accessible paths, and also in subpar condition	

School Street Playground

Address: 44 School Street
Parcel No.: 23-082
Acreage: 1.8
Jurisdiction: Recreation Department
Facilities: Parking lot, tot lot, two small softball fields.

The School Street Playground includes a tot lot playground and two small softball fields. The parking lot has six marked spaces, including one handicapped van space, as well as three potential additional spaces that are unmarked but were in use. Inside the tot lot a small picnic shelter covers two picnic tables. Additionally, there are three trash cans, two benches, and a portable toilet. The surface within the tot lot is wood chips, but there is also a small grass area next to the tables. There is no accessible path to provide access within the tot lot or to the rear of the side where the softball fields are located.

School Street Playground		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	Two picnic tables, but not adjacent to accessible paths
		Tables covered, benches uncovered
		Benches have backs, but no arm rests. No backs or arm rests on tables
	Trash cans	Three trash cans, no recycling. Not located adjacent to accessible paths.
	Picnic Shelters	The picnic shelter contains two tables
		No accessible path to picnic shelter
Tot Lot	Access Routes	Gate to tot lot is at parking lot next to accessible spaces
		The path within the tot lot is loose gravel
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		Tot lot equipment is over a woodchip type surface. A grass area is adjacent to the picnic shelter.
Softball Fields		Two small softball fields at the rear of the site - no additional facilities
PARKING		
Total Spaces	6	3 potential unmarked spaces were also observed in use
Required Accessible Spaces:	1	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	1	Van
Access:	There is direct access from the van space to the tot lot	
Signage	There are no signs specifically indicating direction, but the direction is clear	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The path of travel is loose gravel	
	The path of travel maintains a minimum width of 3 feet	
	The path of travel is not a continuous surface	
ENTRANCES		
	Primary entrance contains enough width and level space	
	All gates contain a minimum of 32" clear opening	

Westwood Lodge

Address: 45 Clapboardtree Street
Parcel No.: 29-123
Acreage: 2.0
Jurisdiction: Private (Currently used by recreation department)
Facilities: Parking lot, multipurpose field

The multipurpose field is part of the Westwood Lodge Hospital property. However, it is currently used by the recreation department. The lodge parking lot that abuts the field is intended to serve the hospital building. While there are no handicapped-designated spaces adjacent to the field, the hospital uses portable handicapped parking signs and could designate a few spaces near the field. There are no other supporting facilities.

Westwood Lodge		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Game Area 1: Multipurpose field	Access Routes	There is no path leading from parking to the field
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		There are two trash receptacles, but not recycling. There is one portable toilet, but it is not handicapped accessible. There is no seating.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	101	
Required Accessible Spaces:	5	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	4	Two spaces appear capable of accommodating vans but are not signed for such.
Access:	The spaces are located next to the lodge and not next to the field.	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL	**N/A**	
ENTRANCES		
	Primary entrance lacks signage for the field	
	Primary entrance contains enough width and level space	

Peter White Memorial Field

Address: Pond Street
Parcel No.: 28-078
Acreage: 6.25 (Includes adjacent field for Sheehan school)
Jurisdiction: Recreation Department
Facilities: Baseball field with multipurpose field in outfield

This baseball field is located on the same parcel as, and shares access with, another field associated with Sheehan school. Therefore, it does not have designated parking, but the Sheehan school's parking lot is nearby. While there is no direct path from the parking to the field, there is a concrete sidewalk along Pond Street that passes the outfield.

Peter White Memorial Field		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Picnic Facilities	Tables and Benches	Most tables and benches are located adjacent to accessible paths
		Most tables and benches are in open spaces
		Tables and benches do not have back and arm rests
		There is adequate accessible seating at the little league field, but not at the softball field
	Trash cans	There are 8 trash cans and 3 recycling cans located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	There are no picnic shelters at the facility
		Picnic areas at the little league field are located near accessible paths, trash cans, and parking
Game Area 1: Baseball	Access Routes	The little league field is located adjacent to accessible paths
		There is no pathway to the baseball field
	Equipment	Open bleachers over gravel surface provide spectator seating
		Three sets of bleachers with varying proximity to the field. There is no path to the bleachers. Additional facilities include dugout benches, batting cages, four trash cans (no recycling), and one portable toilet (not handicapped accessible).
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	No designated parking lot; parking available at adjacent Sheehan school
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	No handicapped spaces are available near access to the field

Thurston School Multipurpose Fields

Address: Nahatan Street
Parcel No.: 21-347
Acreage: 7.84
Jurisdiction: Recreation Department use of school field
Facilities: Multipurpose field space

A few fields located to the rear of the school building on a separate parcel. Although there is no designated parking, a nearby school lot provides access. The handicapped spaces in the lot are located near the school entrance, and not near the field entrance. A paved, accessible path provides access to some of the fields and spectator seating. However, a large gate meant to block vehicular access could impede handicapped access as well.

Thurston School Multipurpose Fields		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Game Area 1: Full size soccer field	Access Routes	A paved, level path provides access from the parking area to the bleachers but may be blocked by a gate at times.
		The path goes near the bleachers, but not into the seating area.
	Equipment	One set of open bleachers provides spectator seating.
		There were two trash cans (no recycling) observed.
		One portable toilet was on site (not handicapped accessible)
Game Area 2: Small soccer fields	Access Routes	There is no access route to the fields
	Equipment	One set of open bleachers provides spectator seating. Two trash cans and zero recycling cans were observed
PARKING		
Total Spaces	45	
Required Accessible Spaces:	2	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	5	Spaces each have varying ability to accommodate van
Access:	Although the lot is for the school, it is located adjacent to the fields and the path. Three of the handicapped spaces are located near the path	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	

High School Multipurpose Field

Address: Nahatan Street
Parcel No.: 21-346
Acreage: 6.44
Jurisdiction: Recreation Department use of school field
Facilities: Multipurpose turf field, accessible path, bleachers, basketball court, batting cages

This field located to the rear of the high school parking lot provides multiple recreation opportunities and a paved path that provides access to, or near to, all of them. There is no designated parking lot, but the high school parking lot provides abundant parking with a direct accessible route. However, there are no handicapped spaces near access to the field.

High School Multipurpose Field		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Game Area: Multipurpose field	Field; team benches; spectator seating	Four sets of bleachers all located on accessible path
		Sufficient width and surfaces allow access to equipment areas. The path surrounds the entire field and provides access for spectators at the bleachers and also to team benches. Six trash receptacles and one recycling receptacle were observed.
Game Area 2: Basketball Court; practice cage	Batting/other practice cage; basketball court	The accessible path passes by the court and practice areas. There is a portable toilet in the vicinity, but it is not handicapped accessible.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	There is no dedicated parking, but the school's lot is adjacent and provides access to the accessible path to these facilities
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	There are no handicapped spaces in proximity to facilities.
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the field for someone in a wheelchair.	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
Surface	The surface is evenly paved and contains proper slopes and curb cuts	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	The path of travel does not require the use of stairs	
	The path of travel is stable, firm, and slip resistant	
	The path of travel maintains a minimum width of 3 feet	
	The path of travel is a continuous surface	
ENTRANCES		
	Signage does not indicate recreation department vs school jurisdiction at the field	
	Primary entrance contains enough width and level space	

Community Tot Lot

Address: 60 Nahatan Street
Parcel No.: 21-349
Acreage: 2.29
Jurisdiction: Recreation Department
Facilities: Tot lot only

The Community Tot Lot is located on the same parcel as the Council of Aging building. It does not have its own parking lot, but parking is available at the Council of Aging building and along the street. There is also a concrete sidewalk from Nahatan Street to Thurston middle school that provides access. However, the groundcover within the tot lot is wood chips.

Community Tot Lot		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Tot Lot	Access Routes	The tot lot is accessed by a concrete sidewalk
		The transition from sidewalk to gate is gravel
	Equipment	Playground equipment and a bench are located on a wood chip surface
		Two trash cans, no recycling, and one bench were observed. The bench has a back but no arm rests
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	There are no dedicated parking spaces, but parking is available at the adjacent senior center
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	
Signage	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the facilities for someone in a wheelchair, though the direction is clear	
	There are signs with the international symbol of accessibility to indicate location of handicapped spaces	
PATH OF TRAVEL		
	There is no path of travel within the tot lot	
ENTRANCES		
	There are gated entrances on two sides of the tot lot	
	Primary entrance contains sufficient width and level space	
	All gates contain a minimum of 32" clear opening	

June Street Playground/Pheasant Hill Park

Address: Pheasant Hill St
Parcel No.: 27-221
Acreage: 3.08
Jurisdiction: Recreation Department
Facilities: Field, playground equipment

The June Street Playground is located at the end of Pheasant Hill Road. It does not have its own parking. The entrance is stone dust and the surface is not suitable for wheelchairs. The groundcover within the tot lot is engineered wood fibers. The Commission on Disabilities has had input on the design and facilities within the playground. It is still under development and additional accessibility improvements are planned.

June Street Playground/Pheasant Hill Park		
ACTIVITY	**EQUIPMENT**	**Notes**
Tot Lot	Access Routes	The tot lot is accessed by a stone dust path from the end of an asphalt path.
	Equipment	Playground equipment and 3 benches are located on a wood chip surface. There are 4 swings, of which one is accessible. Other equipment includes a slide and some climbing structures. The equipment was chosen in conjunction with the Commission on Disability and is accessible. There is room to move between the structures.
PARKING		
Total Spaces	-	There are no parking spaces.
Required Accessible Spaces:	-	NA
Existing Accessible Spaces:	-	None
SIGNAGE	There are no signs to indicate the direction to the facilities for someone in a wheelchair, though the direction is clear.	
SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES		
Path of Travel	There is no accessible path of travel to or within the tot lot	
Entrances	There is a single stone dust path from the end of Pheasant Hill Street	
	The entrance contains sufficient width but not a smooth surface.	
Disembarking area at entrance	There is not sufficient width at the disembarking area for a van-accessible space.	
PICNIC FACILITIES	Tables and Benches	There are 3 benches and 1 picnic table. The table is only 24” high so not wheelchair accessible. The benches have backs but no sides.
	Trash cans	There is a single trash can (no recycling). It is not on an accessible path (but path will be made accessible

Westwood Swimming Pool

Address: 200 Nahatan Street
Parcel No.: 21-048
Acreage: 36.46 (High School site)
Facilities: Indoor swimming pool, parking lot, restrooms, showers, water fountains, emergency telephone, lifts.

This modern facility includes handicapped accessible restrooms and showers. The paved parking lot includes the required number (3) of handicapped spaces, and they are located directly in front of the main entrance with an access ramp and short accessible path to the entrance. Wide, unobstructed corridors facilitate access to both the main pool area and the spectator area. There is a stairway down to the pool area with a lift (with backup generator) for persons with disabilities. The pool itself has a graduated step ramp plus a lift to facilitate access, as well as an alternative access/exit path without stairs in cases of emergency. Audible and lighted emergency alarms are located throughout the facility. Special programs and custom private lessons are provided for persons with special needs. Overall the facility provides excellent access.

Westwood Swimming Pool

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance: Easily accessible from parking spaces
		Location from accessible parking Yes
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired Yes
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water
		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 *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim Yes
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired Yes	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings Yes	

LOCATION

PARKING			
Total Spaces		*Required Accessible Spaces*	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		**3 spaces**	**Yes**
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
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.	NA		
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		
	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		
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is	X		
Curb cut 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 **NA**			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

LOCATION

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
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		There is a stairway, but with a lift beside it.
Path is stable, firm and s lip 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 1/2 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"	X		
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 *not* 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			There is no vestibule.
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			There are no elevators.
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened	X		
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			Not applicable.
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			There are no grates.
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			Entrances are accessible.
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	X		

NOTES

LOCATION

STAIRS and DOORS			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Stairs			
No open risers	X		
Nosings not projecting	X		
Treads no less than 11" wide	X		
Handrails on both sides	X		
Handrails 34"-38" above tread	X		
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)	X		
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip has a smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"	X		
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	X		
Doors			
Minimum 32" clear opening	X		
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	X		
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	X		
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	X		
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)	X		
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	X		
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	X		
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			There is no revolving door.
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			There is no door opening to hazardous area.

NOTES

LOCATION

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
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			34"
Extends at least 22" from the wall		X	20"
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		17"
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1 1/4" diameter	X		
1 1/2" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		33"
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

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Floors			
Non-slip surface	X		
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	X		
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	X		
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	X		
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet	X		
Hand operated push button or level controls	X		
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	X		
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain	X		One of 2 is recessed and meets dimensions.
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	X		
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor	X		48"
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide	X		
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified	X		
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
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	X		Lights are all on sensors to automatically turn on and off.
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	X		
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	x		
Signs			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	X		
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	X		
Letters and numbers a t least 1 1/4" high		X	1"
Letters and numbers raised .03"	X		
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	X		

NOTES

LOCATION

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
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	X		Graduated step ramp
Lifting device	X		
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	X		
Non-slip surface	X		

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	X		
Floors are non-slip surface	X		
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	X		
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	X		
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	X		
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	X		
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	X		Except seats are not padded.
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds	X		
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	X		One stall has L-shaped bar with one leg of it less than 48" because stall is less than 48".
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	X		

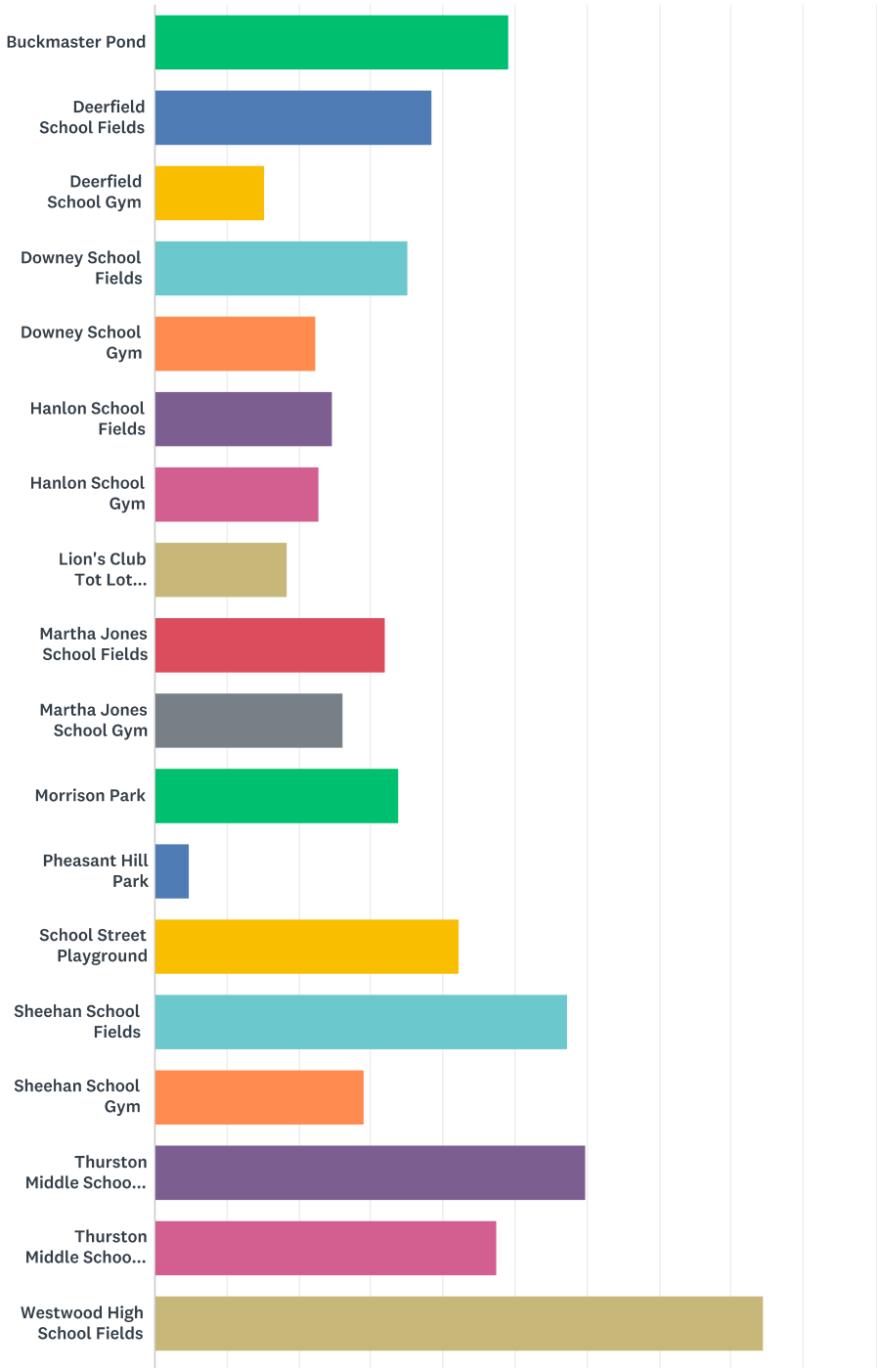
LOCATION

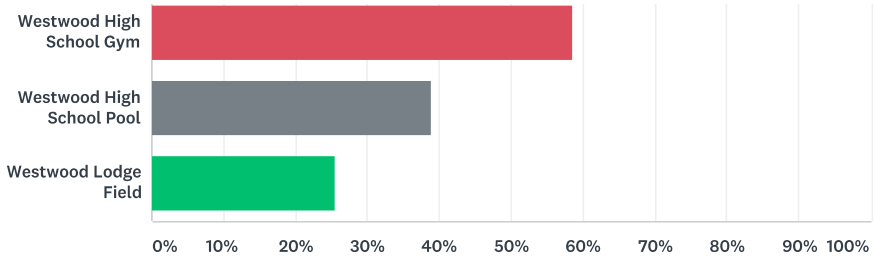
PICNICKING			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			
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, firma nd 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			

OSRP Survey Results

Q1 In the past year, which of the following recreation areas listed below did you or your family use?

Answered: 783 Skipped: 24

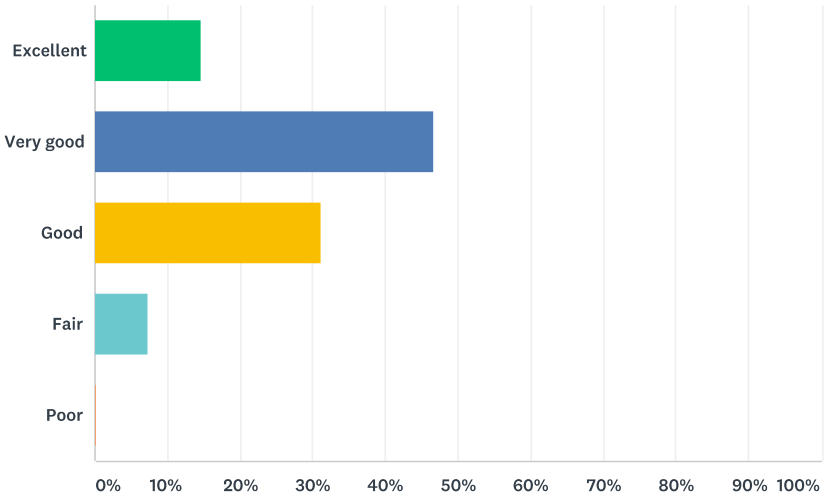




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Buckmaster Pond	49.17%	385
Deerfield School Fields	38.57%	302
Deerfield School Gym	15.20%	119
Downey School Fields	35.12%	275
Downey School Gym	22.48%	176
Hanlon School Fields	24.78%	194
Hanlon School Gym	22.73%	178
Lion's Club Tot Lot Playground	18.39%	144
Martha Jones School Fields	31.93%	250
Martha Jones School Gym	26.05%	204
Morrison Park	33.84%	265
Pheasant Hill Park	4.73%	37
School Street Playground	42.27%	331
Sheehan School Fields	57.34%	449
Sheehan School Gym	29.12%	228
Thurston Middle School Fields	59.90%	469
Thurston Middle School Gym	47.51%	372
Westwood High School Fields	84.55%	662
Westwood High School Gym	58.62%	459
Westwood High School Pool	38.95%	305
Westwood Lodge Field	25.54%	200
Total Respondents: 783		

Q2 How would you evaluate the overall quality of the recreational facilities found in Westwood?

Answered: 789 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	14.70%	116
Very good	46.64%	368
Good	31.18%	246
Fair	7.22%	57
Poor	0.25%	2
TOTAL		789

Q3 Please explain:

Answered: 649 Skipped: 158

Individual answers not categorized.

Q4 Please identify any recreational facilities you think need to be developed or improved:

Answered: 646 Skipped: 161

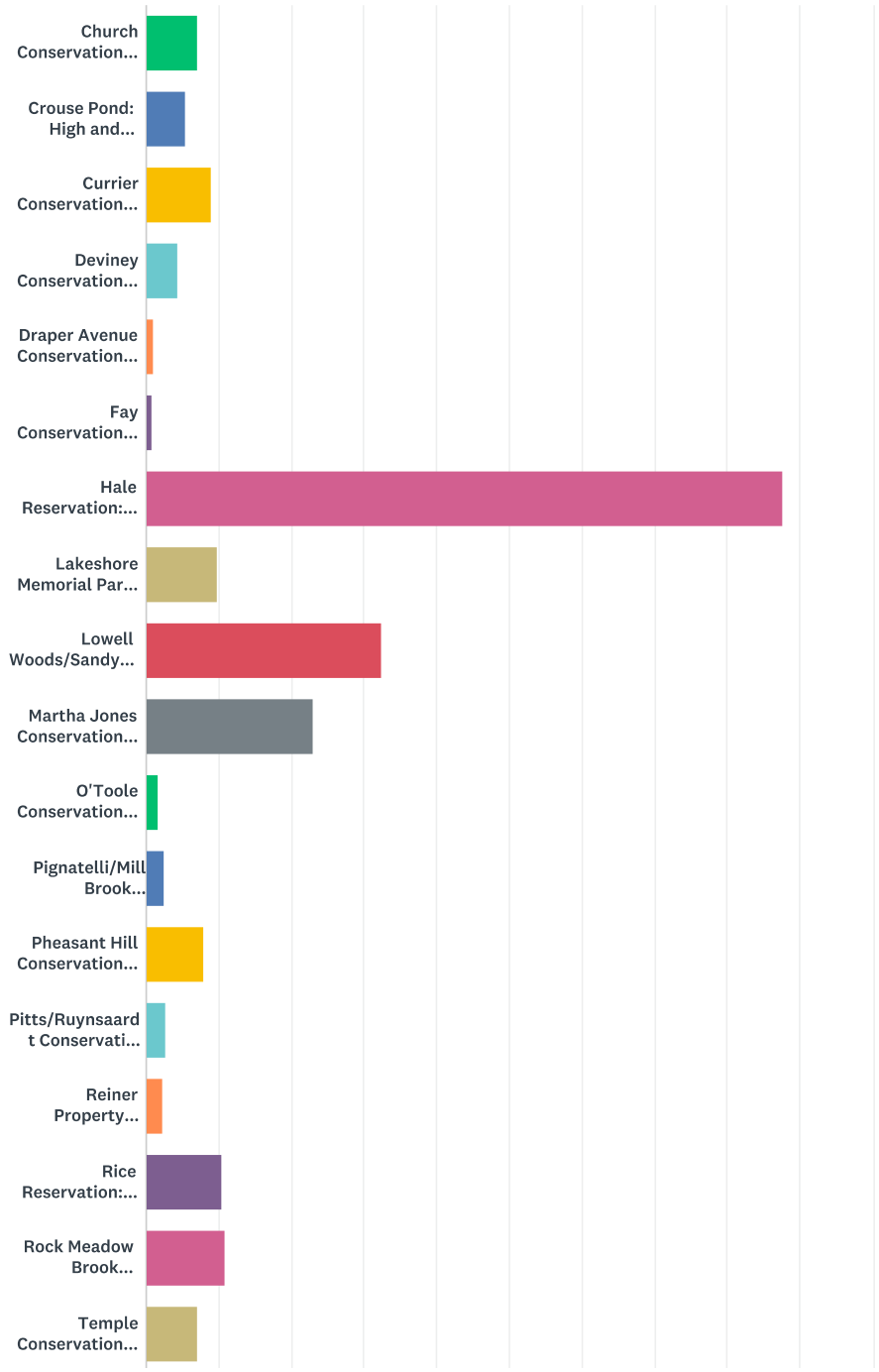
Responses in Common:

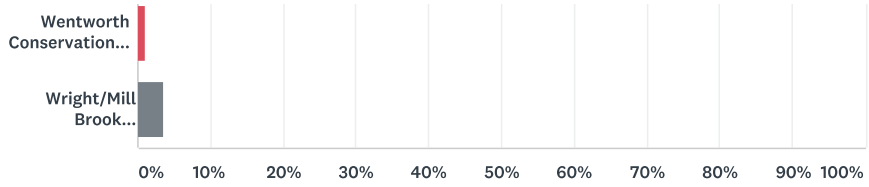
- University Station Area
- Properties along Gay Street/Gay Street, for bike route or walking paths
- Westwood Lodge Land
- Hale Reservation
- First Parish Parcel
- Land adjacent to the high school/Nahattan Street entrance to WHS

Nov 13 - Dec 3, 2017	Feb 1 - March 1, 2018
641	168
More soccer and lacrosse fields	Deerfield outdoor court
School St Baseball fields	Softball fields
Elementary school gyms	High School weight room
More connecting sidewalks and trails, as well as bike paths	Buckmaster Pond
More lighting in most fields	
More basketball gyms	
Sheehan gyms and fields	
Pheasant Hill Park	
Playground run-down	

Q5 In the past year, what town/nonprofit open space areas listed below did you or your family use?

Answered: 675 Skipped: 132

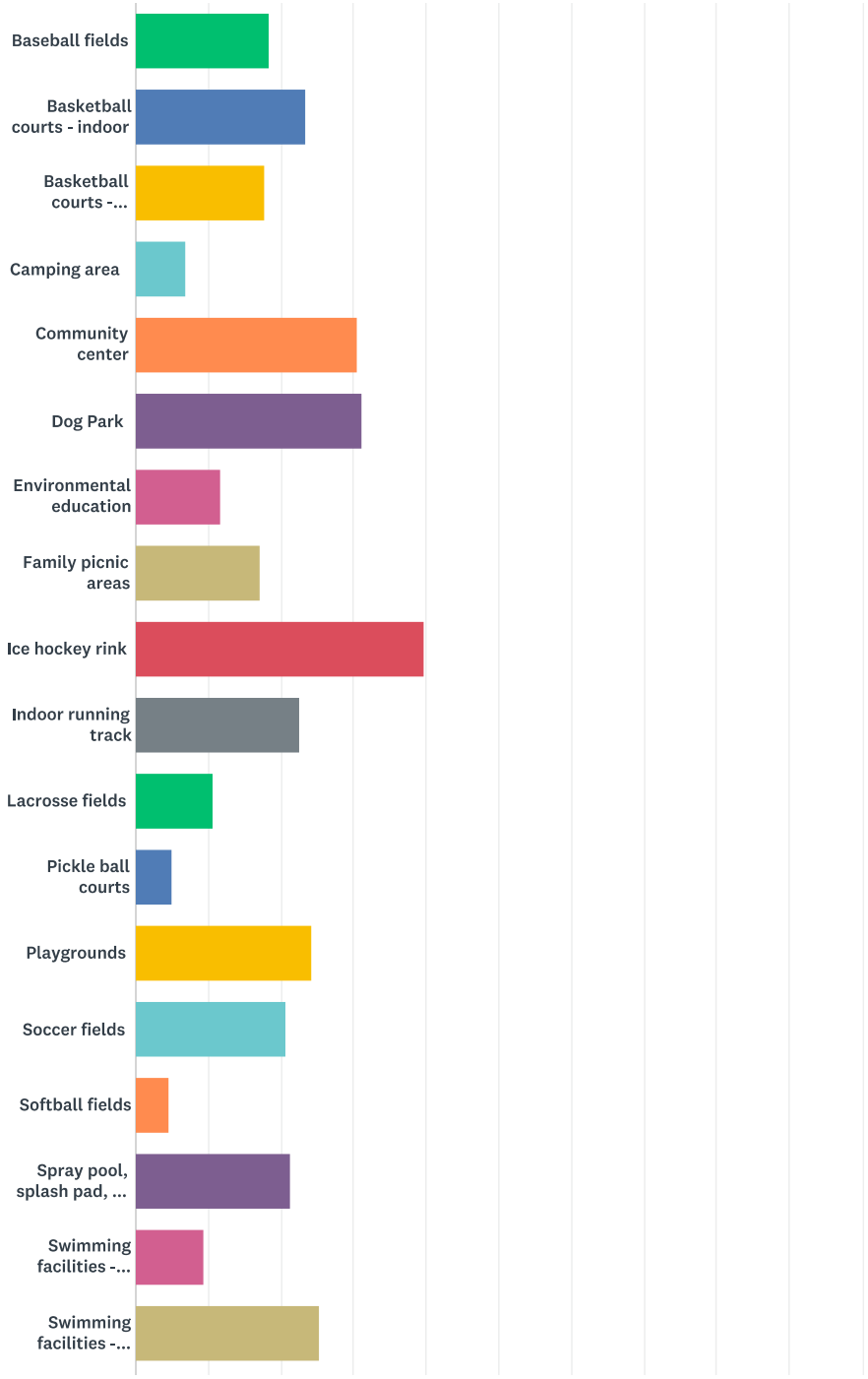


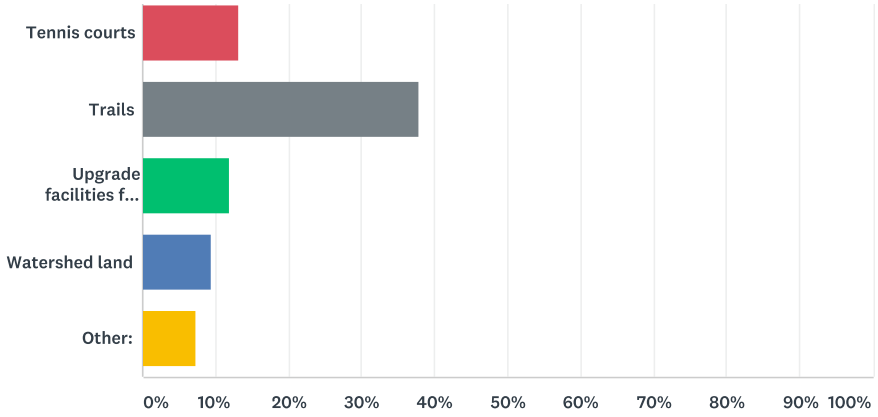


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Church Conservation Area: High Street	7.11%	48
Crouse Pond: High and Westwood Streets	5.48%	37
Currier Conservation Area: Downey and Canton Streets and Booth Drive	9.04%	61
Deviney Conservation Area: Between High and Hartford Streets	4.44%	30
Draper Avenue Conservation Area: Draper Avenue and Stanford Drive	1.04%	7
Fay Conservation Area: Coach Lane (rear)	0.74%	5
Hale Reservation: Carby Street	87.56%	591
Lakeshore Memorial Park: High Street and Lake Shore Drive	9.78%	66
Lowell Woods/Sandy Valley/Mulvehill/Fox Meadow/Germany Brook Conservation Area	32.44%	219
Martha Jones Conservation Area: Edgewood and Sunrise Roads, Martha Jones School	23.11%	156
O'Toole Conservation Area: Smith Drive and Providence Pike	1.78%	12
Pignatelli/Mill Brook Reservation: Hartford Street	2.52%	17
Pheasant Hill Conservation Area: Burgess Ave and Town line	7.85%	53
Pitts/Ruynsaardt Conservation Area: High Street	2.67%	18
Reiner Property Conservation Area: Nahatan Street	2.22%	15
Rice Reservation: Pond, Gay, and Thatcher Streets, Senior High School	10.52%	71
Rock Meadow Brook Conservation Area: along Brook, Conant, and Dover Roads and High Rock Street	10.81%	73
Temple Conservation Area: Pond Street	7.11%	48
Wentworth Conservation Area: Wentworth and Curtis Streets	1.04%	7
Wright/Mill Brook Conservation Area: Hartford Street	3.56%	24
Total Respondents: 675		

Q6 Check up to five items below that you feel should be a priority in Westwood in the next five years.

Answered: 791 Skipped: 16





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball fields	18.46%	146
Basketball courts - indoor	23.39%	185
Basketball courts - outdoor	17.70%	140
Camping area	6.83%	54
Community center	30.47%	241
Dog Park	31.23%	247
Environmental education	11.63%	92
Family picnic areas	17.07%	135
Ice hockey rink	39.70%	314
Indoor running track	22.50%	178
Lacrosse fields	10.75%	85
Pickle ball courts	4.93%	39
Playgrounds	24.27%	192
Soccer fields	20.73%	164
Softball fields	4.68%	37
Spray pool, splash pad, or water features	21.37%	169
Swimming facilities - indoor	9.48%	75
Swimming facilities - outdoor	25.28%	200
Tennis courts	13.15%	104
Trails	37.80%	299
Upgrade facilities for handicapped accessibility	11.88%	94
Watershed land	9.48%	75
Other:	7.33%	58

Q7 What areas in Westwood should be acquired or repurposed for the future use of town residents for recreation or conservation purposes? Please describe the site(s) in detail below.

Answered: 457 Skipped: 350

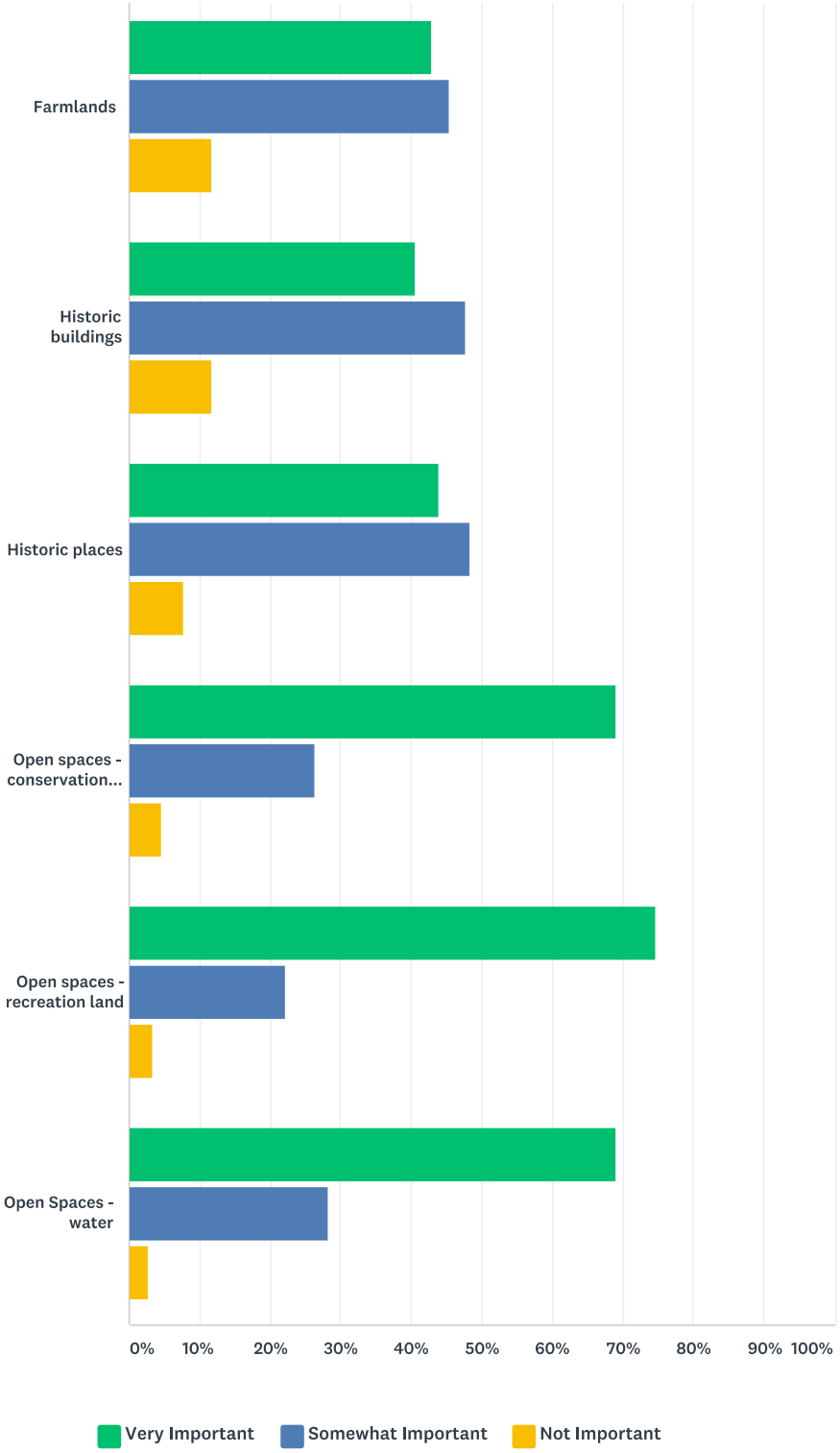
Responses in Common:

- University Station Area
- Properties along Gay Street/Gay Street, for bike route or walking paths
- Westwood Lodge Land
- Hale Reservation
- First Parish Parcel
- Land adjacent to the high school/Nahattan Street entrance to WHS

Nov 13 - Dec 3, 2017	Feb 1 - March 1, 2018
641	168
Town's property in Islington	Sheehan School grounds
The Canton/Downey Area	Islington Community Center
More indoor space for winter activities	Rice Reservation
Corner of Fox Hill and High Street	Westwood Station
Pheasant Hill Park	
Deerfield School	
Buckmaster Pond	

Q8 How important is it to you to preserve the following?

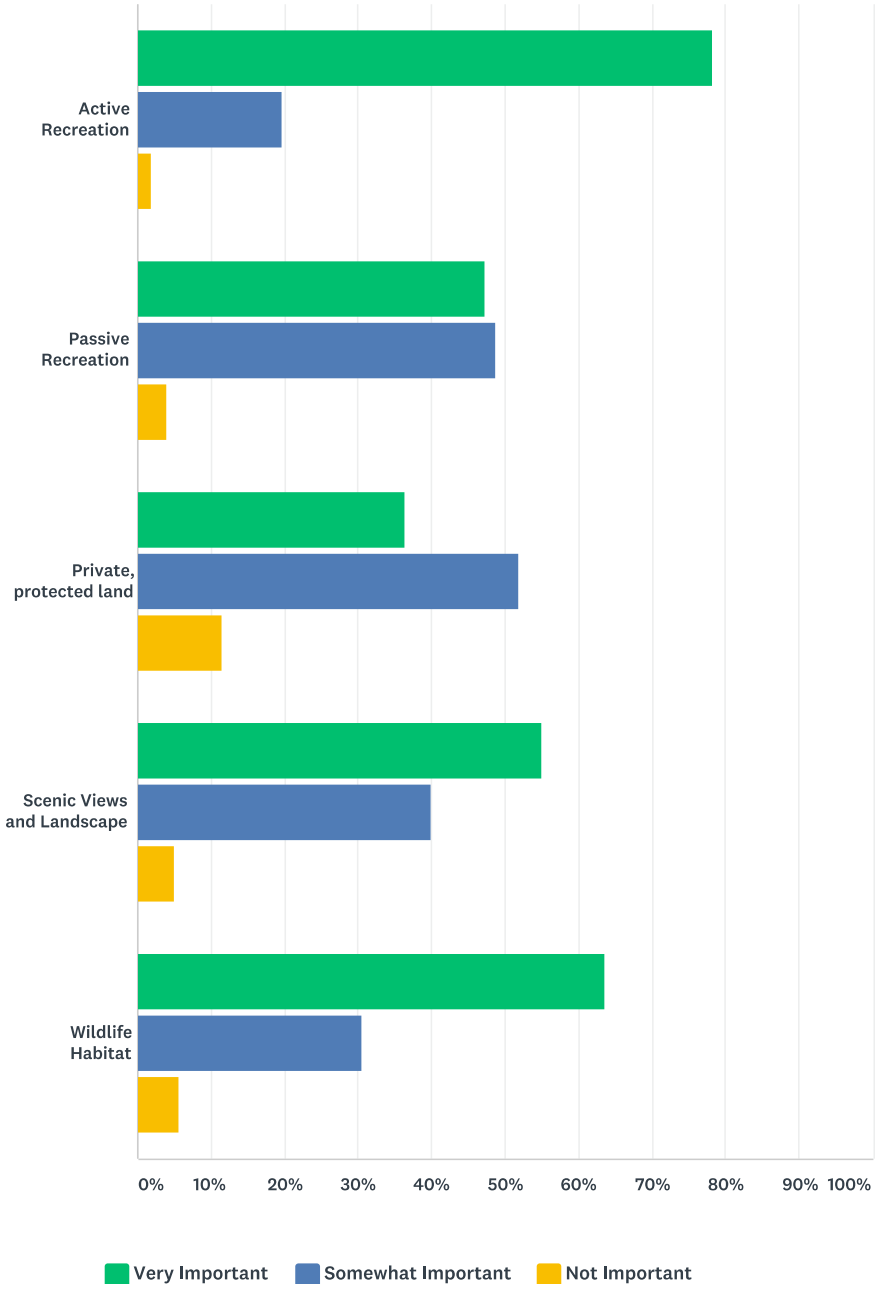
Answered: 786 Skipped: 21



	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Farmlands	42.84% 332	45.42% 352	11.74% 91	775
Historic buildings	40.52% 314	47.74% 370	11.74% 91	775
Historic places	43.99% 337	48.30% 370	7.70% 59	766
Open spaces - conservation land	69.02% 537	26.35% 205	4.63% 36	778
Open spaces - recreation land	74.58% 581	22.08% 172	3.34% 26	779
Open Spaces - water	69.07% 536	28.22% 219	2.71% 21	776

Q9 How would you rate the following features of current and future open space in the Town?

Answered: 776 Skipped: 31



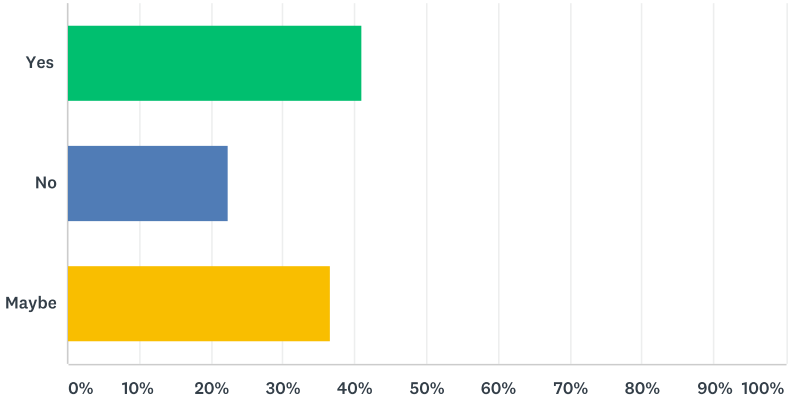
	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL

Westwood Open Space and Recreation Survey SurveyMonkey

Active Recreation	78.28% 602	19.77% 152	1.95% 15	769
Passive Recreation	47.28% 357	48.74% 368	3.97% 30	755
Private, protected land	36.41% 276	51.98% 394	11.61% 88	758
Scenic Views and Landscape	55.02% 422	39.90% 306	5.08% 39	767
Wildlife Habitat	63.62% 488	30.64% 235	5.74% 44	767

Q10 Would you support an effort to adopt the Community Preservation Act? The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a Massachusetts state law (M.G.L. Chapter 44B) passed in 2000. It enables communities that adopt it to create a local dedicated fund for open space preservation, preservation of historic resources, development of affordable housing and the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. Funds for these purposes are raised through a voter-authorized surcharge on local property tax bills of up to 3%. Local adoption of CPA triggers annual distributions from the state's Community Preservation Trust Fund to the town's Community Preservation Fund. Currently, 156 cities and towns have adopted the CPA. Westwood last considered the CPA in 2001, when it failed to pass.

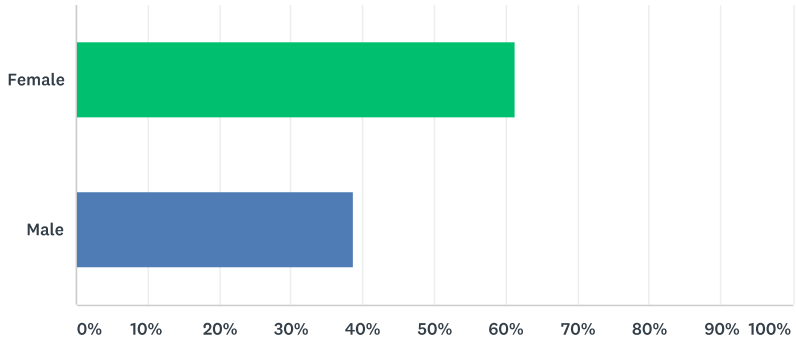
Answered: 779 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	40.95%	319
No	22.34%	174
Maybe	36.71%	286
TOTAL		779

Q11 What is your gender?

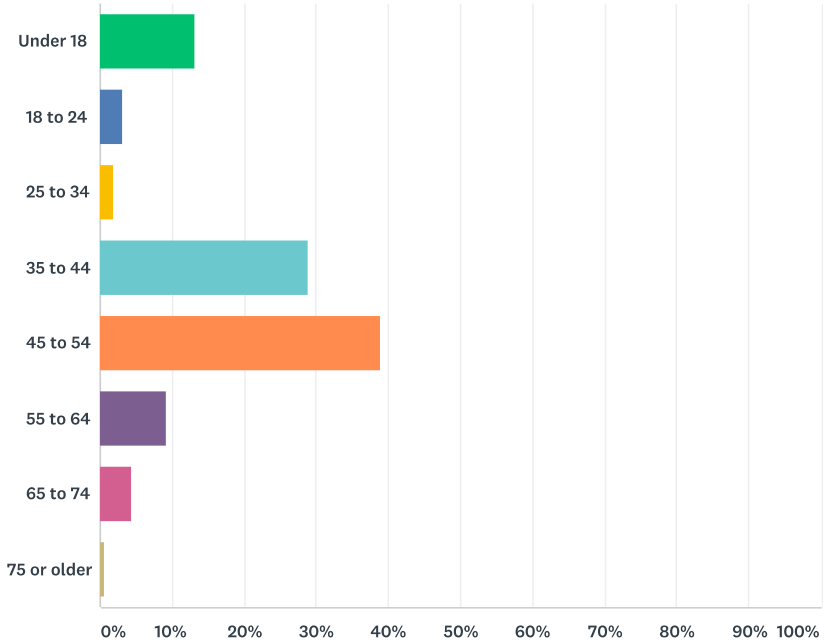
Answered: 759 Skipped: 48



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	61.40%	466
Male	38.60%	293
TOTAL		759

Q12 What is your age?

Answered: 757 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	13.08%	99
18 to 24	3.04%	23
25 to 34	1.85%	14
35 to 44	28.80%	218
45 to 54	38.84%	294
55 to 64	9.25%	70
65 to 74	4.49%	34
75 or older	0.66%	5
TOTAL		757