OXFORD
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

Prepared by the Oxford Open Space Committee

Technical Assistance Provided by

CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

March 2007

Funding for this Plan was Provided by:

The Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.

Photo Credit: Alan Dabrowski, French River

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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

The 2007 Open Space and Recreation Plan was funded in part with a generous grant of $5,000 from the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. (QSHC). The funds supported the hiring of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to act as advisor and editor to the Oxford Open Space Committee. Committee members themselves wrote the majority of the text contained in the Plan after thoroughly researching the various elements that make up the Plan and interviewing experts with first-hand knowledge of the Town's natural and historic resources. The Planning Department lent its mapping expertise to prepare the many maps contained in this document. Committee members also identified the major goals and objectives that will drive future initiatives, and developed the Action Plan that sets forth concrete actions to be pursued over the next five years. As a result, the Plan truly represents a community-driven effort to preserve Oxford's special heritage.

To help understand public sentiment, the Committee prepared a survey instrument that was mailed to every household in Oxford. Over 1400 responses were received, for a return rate of 27%. The citizens quite emphatically expressed their desire to control future growth and preserve open space. The results supported the efforts of the Committee to take appropriate steps to protect valuable open space lands and the many significant historical assets in Oxford. Residents also felt strongly about improving access for water-based recreation, especially the French River. Finally, the most desired recreation improvements sought by respondents include hiking and bicycling trails, swimming areas, and playgrounds. The results of the survey are discussed in Section 7 and are presented in Appendix A in both percentages and absolute numbers.

Section 5 contains a detailed inventory of open space sites in Oxford. The primary location for recreational pursuits is approximately 900 acres of land managed by the federal Army Corps of Engineers for flood control purposes along the French River. The Commonwealth owns several tracts amounting to about 300 acres. The Town itself owns little land for conservation and passive recreation purposes, with most of its properties devoted to schools and active recreation sites. However, there is a significant amount of land in Oxford that receives reduced property assessments by keeping land in active use for agricultural, forestry, and recreational purposes; such land amounts to over 4,400 acres. This undeveloped property presents a significant opportunity for future development as landowners may remove their property from an approved tax abatement program, and if not purchased by the Town or its assigned representative, proceed to develop the property according to the Town's zoning and subdivision controls. With development pressures difficult to resist, it is imperative that the Town work to preserve lands that contain significant natural and historical value for future generations to enjoy.

After carefully considering existing conditions and needs, and with a sense of urgency based upon a rapid pace of development, the Committee has adopted 8 goals to help guide the community's future growth while seeking to retain its most valued characteristics. These are:

1. Preserve Oxford's Small Town Character by Managing New Growth.
2. Preserve Oxford's Historic Resources to Preserve Links to the Town's Past.
3. Protect Oxford's Ground Water Resources to Insure Purity of the Town's Water Supplies for Future Generations.
4. Improve Access to and Enjoyment of the French River and Work to Bring About Improved Water Quality.

5. Increase the Trail Network in Oxford by Developing New Links to Long Range Trails and by Providing Access to Unique Features and Natural Areas.
6. Acquire Parcels that Contain Significant Natural and Cultural Values.
7. Improve Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Programs.
8. Improve the Quality of, and Access to, Oxford's Surface Waters.

Using these goals as guiding principles, the Committee developed a Five-Year Action Plan that sets forth an ambitious agenda of activities intended to address long-range needs of the community. With many important ideas calling for attention, the Committee suggests that the Selectmen establish a permanent Open Space Committee with a charge of partnering with other public and private organizations to advance these worthwhile projects to implementation. Other critical Action Plan items include:

- With high public support for trail development, the Plan suggests the creation of a Trail Committee to advance specific projects, most notably the development of a multi-purpose rail trail in cooperation with neighboring Auburn and Webster.
- The French River is assigned a critical role in the Plan. As a long-range vision, the River should be designated as a greenway with land acquired or protected that has high potential for water-based recreation, increases public access and enjoyment, and preserves valuable habitat for wildlife and rare plant species.
- Oxford's wealth of historic assets are well-documented in the Plan, and given current threats, firm resolve is needed to ensure these community resources are not lost for future residents.
- Due to high levels of participation in active recreation activities, improvement of existing parks is needed. The Plan also recommends the development of a new Town Park to create a multi-use facility and community gathering place to foster community spirit.
- The historic Town Center has largely retained a small town village flavor, but regulatory actions are needed to insure future growth is compatible with existing character, which is a source of pride for Oxford residents.
- Oxford should examine its other development regulations for conformance to Smart Growth techniques and best management practices to insure future development preserves valuable resources and advances community interests.
- The Community Preservation Act should be carefully scrutinized for its potential to fund the initiatives recommended in the Plan that come with a price tag. An outreach campaign may be needed to assess whether the Town will support adoption of the Act.

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

This Open Space and Recreation Plan will help to preserve our natural, historical, and recreational resources, and recommends strategies to improve and enhance these resources over the next five years. It will allow us to identify how land is being used and what parcels we may recommend protecting for open space purposes. Together with other Town committees this Plan will help to preserve the rural character and unique features Oxford has to offer.

This plan is a comprehensive revision of the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan that was written in 1988. Since that document is now out-dated, we have endeavored to develop new approaches to resource protection and improvement of Oxford's recreation opportunities.

B. Planning Process

In the spring of 2005 the Board of Selectmen created an Open Space Committee to address the loss of valuable open space and to recommend strategies to preserve Oxford's special character. The Town received a grant from the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. (QSHC) to re-write this part of the Town's Master Plan. The Open Space Committee consists of:

Alice Shaw, Chairman	Virginia Suklis, Vice Chairman
Jane Stafford, Secretary	Craig Cortis
Jeff Stafford	Anne Renzi
Susan Seibel	Susan Gallant
Deborah Lamarche	Bob Levite (Advisor)
Carol Colena	

We also had the help of the Town Engineer, Joseph Zeneski, and Laura Lakose and Christine Grimando, Oxford's GIS Specialists. The Historic and Recreation Commissions provided insight into their areas of expertise. The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, provided technical assistance to the Committee with funds received from the QSHC. Glen Krevosky, a local environmental specialist, provided invaluable assistance in understanding local habitats. Members of the French River Connection provided a great deal of information about significant resources along the French River.

The Committee prepared and mailed a survey to all households in January 2006. A summary of the results of can be found in our Section 7, Analysis of Needs, and the full survey is available in Appendix A.

Committee members undertook research and data collection tasks with the able assistance of Town staff, volunteer board members, and state and regional agencies. Many statistics were compiled from a variety of state and local government agencies. In addition, members interviewed many state and local officials to identify and incorporate plans and strategies for preserving Oxford's natural resources and improving recreation services.

Members of the community took an active role in writing this plan. All of the Committee members volunteered to tackle different sections of the Plan in order to become intimately familiar with their area of interest. During the process, the members became very knowledgeable of the many facets of Oxford's open space and recreation situation and will strive to continue to learn as well as promote involvement of all of Oxford's stakeholders in implementing this Plan.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

Oxford is located in southern Worcester County. It has been described as a "bedroom" town due to its location on I-395. We have the ability to offer businesses easy on and off access to the highway at three interchanges. We are bordered by Dudley and Charlton on the west, Millbury and Sutton on the east, Douglas and Webster on the South, and Leicester and Auburn on the north. From Worcester, Oxford is about 14 miles south, and 51 miles southwest of Boston.

Almost all of Oxford lies within the French River Basin except for the extreme eastern edge of the Town, which lies in the Blackstone River Basin. Map 8 displays the locations of the watershed boundaries. The headwaters of the French River lie in neighboring Leicester and southeast Spencer. As it travels from north to south through town, the River begins with a relatively low flow and increases in size before entering Webster. The Oxford-Rochdale Sewage Treatment Plant discharges into the French River in North Oxford, and because of low flow is restricted in its ability to expand further. Most of Oxford, relies upon on-site septic systems for wastewater treatment. Constructing a sewage treatment plant in South Oxford would be difficult because of the low flows of the River during the summer. Instead, Oxford has negotiated agreements with the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement Plan in Auburn to accommodate some wastewater from primarily commercial and industrial development in the Route 20 Corridor. Because of extensive flooding that occurred throughout the French River Basin from the 1955 flood, the Army Corps of Engineer constructed a flood control project at Hodges Village in central Oxford. This facility has successfully mitigated further damage from flooding while providing an extensive natural area for wildlife habitat and facilities for both passive and active recreation. Today, the French River is viewed as a regional recreational resource offering opportunities for long-distance canoeing and hiking due to long stretches of land remaining in a natural state.

While Massachusetts as a whole is experiencing slow growth and a loss of population, central Massachusetts continues to grow at a brisk rate. Due to rapid growth in Oxford, Town Meeting implemented a rate of development zoning by-law restricting the number of homes that may be built on a parcel of land until 2010. This will allow our town time to study the needs of our community, refurbish our infrastructure, and study growth patterns to ensure we maintain our rural character while allowing growth that does not burden existing residents.

Neighboring Charlton continues to experience very rapid growth and has witnessed a substantial increase in the number of new single family homes. This new growth has an effect on our town as motorists use Sutton Ave. and Charlton St. to travel to and from work. Oxford is facing major traffic problems on all roads coming into the Town Center. There has also been a noticeable increase in the number of cars using Sutton Ave. and Charlton St. to get to Dudley Rd., which leads to Webster and Dudley. To the north, Auburn does not cause significant traffic pressures on Oxford due to the many retail and service businesses within that town, allowing residents to meet their needs "in town". However, many Auburn residents have moved to Oxford to live in a quieter place, with less traffic, and a more rural setting.

Oxford's economy is limited; however, Auburn and Webster with their many businesses provide us with the goods and services we need, while we strive to maintain our small town atmosphere and rural setting.

B. History

The Nipmuck Indian tribe populated the Oxford area in the 1600's. Chief Black James sold the area to the Massachusetts Colony, which in turn granted a nine by twelve mile parcel of land to Major Joseph Dudley, Daniel Cox, John Blackwell, and Thomas Freake.

French Huguenots settlers came here in 1686 and settled around the area of Fort Hill. The village included houses, a fort, and a chapel. In 1687, the Huguenots held services in the first Episcopal Church. The present church, known as Grace Episcopal Church, was from stone quarried from a nearby hill as a gift from George Hodges, whose burial plot is located to the rear the Church. Along the French River and adjacent streams the settlement prospered and set up mills. In 1696, attacks by Indians, especially the Johnson Massacre in August, 1696, caused the settlement to abandon their village. They tried to return in 1699, but attacks during Queen Anne's War caused final abandonment in 1704.

In 1713, 30 English families settled in the Oxford Center area, establishing the first permanent settlement. They laid out a broad, straight thoroughfare called "Eight Rod Way", which later became Main Street. It was over 100 ft. wide, lined with trees on both sides. In the spring, the scent of the crabapple blossoms would fill the air. House lots of the English settlers were located upon the central highway. Today, many of the older homes still line Main Street. The first meeting house, the First Congregational Church, was built on the northwest corner of the common, near present day Church Street in 1721. The present house is the fourth dedicated in 1829, a stained-glass window on the south wall of the church was dedicated in memory of Miss Clara Barton in 1913.

Tradition has it that the wide, straight road was established because Oxford was supposed to become the county seat. That idea was rejected by the residents because they thought becoming the county seat would bring corruption of morals to the youth of the community. Most settlers were farmers, with some industrial activity just beginning. In 1715, the first mill was built by Daniel Elliot along Wellington Brook.

By 1775 Oxford's basic settlement pattern was established. The Center was the focus of the town's major commercial and cultural activities, with the North Common area, near present day Main Street, Dana and Rocky Hill Roads and Millbury Boulevard servicing as a secondary civic and religious center. Small mill sites developed into 19th century mill villages. Agricultural uplands maintained the same use until the post-World War II era. The first cemetery in Oxford, now called the South Cemetery, was the Old Burying Ground. Known as a Colonel, Ebenezer Learned became quite active in the patriot cause. He and his men marched on the Lexington Alarm, fought at Bunker Hill, the Evacuation of Boston and Valley Forge. Ebenezer Learned also served as a Selectman, Moderator, Assessor and Justice of the Peace in Oxford. He is buried in the South Cemetery. In 1778 the area of Ward, present day Auburn, was established as a separate town. There were about a thousand people living in Oxford in 1790.

Joshua Stockwell built a bridge at Sacarrappa in 1792, with a mill adjacent to the raceway, for the purpose of making nails. On the north side of the brook a house, blacksmith's shop and a school house were built. In 1813 Samuel Slater established a cotton spinning mill in a part of Oxford that later became part of Webster. The population increased to over 2,000 by 1830 as manufacturing and the textile industry prospered. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was born on December 25, 1821. She entered the Hall of Fame for Great Americans in 1976 as its 100th member. A postage stamp in her honor was issued in 1948. The house she was born in still

stands, and is open to the public by appointment and on specified days. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1816 the first textile mill in present day Oxford was established near the site of the 1715 Elliot mill site. Industrial growth with attendant population and commercial growth took place from 1830 through 1860. During May of 1847, the North Oxford Baptist Church was dedicated to fill the spiritual needs of a growing community of worshippers. In this period shoe and boot making became the major industry in Oxford. Although economic growth slowed down due to the Civil War, a recovery of the textile industry occurred in the 1880's and through the rest of the century to 1905.

Oxford's growth varied when Webster was established in 1832. Throughout the industrial period, 1830 through 1860, agricultural activities in the outlying areas remained steady with the rural area not sharing in the building and economic boom of the period. The railroad was built right through Huguenot Square effectively dividing the town. Population increased as villages developed around the growing textile mills and other businesses where workers found employment.

During the depression of the mid and late 1870's, the industrial base and textile activities saw many changes. In the late 1880's, the textile industry recovered. New industries expanded rapidly in this period, particularly the box, cloth board, and lumber businesses. In 1898 the shoe industry went out of business and the last shoe manufacturer closed. Farms and acreage under cultivation grew during this period. The population grew to 1,938 in 1875. Between 1905 and 1915 the population grew from 2,927 to 3,476.

The most important civic change of this period was the relocation of the Town Hall in 1873 to Oxford Center from the North Common. The tower was added in 1888. The move re-established the civic focus at the Center for the first time since 1748. At the turn of the century the trolley gave residents the ability to work and shop outside of Oxford. Road construction replaced dirt paths; small roads were widened to allow for increased vehicular traffic. More recently, two large housing developments in the 1950's created a need for larger educational facilities. Built in 1903-1904, the Free Public Library was given as a gift from Mr. Charles Larned. The stained-glass window above the main entrance shows the departure of Pilgrims from Holland in 1620. In the Library's Museum, a Historical exhibit is on display.

Oxford continued to grow and thrive. Population grew from 3,476 in 1915 to 4,623 in 1940. With the advent of the automobile, Route 12 (Main Street) was established as a major north-south traffic route from Worcester to Norwich, Connecticut. In this era most of the residential development broke away from the traditional settlement patterns and became more dispersed.

During the 1950's and 1960's Oxford's population grew from 5,851 to 9,282. Unfortunately, this growth was not accompanied by proportional commercial and industrial development, and Oxford became more of a bedroom community within the Worcester Metropolitan area. With the development of Interstate Highways, Routes I-90 and I-395, Oxford became an attractive place to live, being readily accessible to the area's major job markets. Entering the 1960's to the 1970's Oxford's population arose to 10,345. The Town has continued to grow and has seen many changes. With this growth and continued change, Oxford needs to be ever more careful with its remaining undeveloped land.

The Oxford Historical Commission is a part of municipal government charged with the responsibility to address the need for historic preservation. The ultimate responsibility for

carrying out historic preservation, however, rests within the community. The Historical Commission has no doubt that Oxford can retain its historic identity, and at the same time, allow for growth. Growth does not require the destruction of historic properties. Growth can occur along with historic preservation. With sensitivity, creativity and a genuine respect for the Town, an old structure can be put to a new use without significantly altering the exterior. New construction can be built to blend in with the old without demolishing our historic resources. Oxford must be alert to all proposals if our historical character is to be retained during the years ahead.

Today, however, Oxford is at a crossroads. While Huguenot Square, otherwise known as Oxford Center, is located at the crossroads of Main Street and Charlton St./Sutton Ave., it is also at a crossroads for destruction or preservation. Huguenot Square is at risk as are other historic properties in town. The Commission is very concerned with the future of the old High School which helps to define the historic district within which it is located. What is done with each historic property affects the entire community. It is important to recognize that with the disappearance of even one more piece of Oxford's history, there is less history remaining to preserve.

The Huguenot Fort site is considered the most historically sensitive area of this town. With the accompanying Preservation Restriction it is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The Davis houses located on Lovett Road and one Davis House on Sutton Avenue are among the earliest homes remaining from the English settlers. Included on the State Register of Historic Places is the Hudson House on Hudson Road, which is considered the oldest home remaining in Oxford. The Clara Barton Birthplace (Homestead) is also listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The old barn is located on the same parcel.

The number of historic properties in Oxford is not limited to those on the State Register, nor is it limited to those on the list of "Oxford Properties Recommended for Listing in the National Register." This list was compiled from the Massachusetts Historical Commission's study of Oxford in 1984. They are:

- Bartlett's Bridge, Clara Barton Road over the French River
- Clara Barton Homestead, Clara Barton Road
- 15 Charlton St.
- 7 Charlton St.
- Capt. Abijah Davis House, 243 Main St.
- William Hudson House, Hudson Road
- Huguenot Fort, Fort Hill Road
- Allen L. Joslin House, 34 Main Street
- Benjamin Pain House, 259 Main Street

Several old houses are important pieces of Oxford's history. One of these is "Buffalo Hill Farm", which was built by Dr. Elliot P. Joslin and is still in the family. Another interesting house is what is known as the "Clara Barton Summer Home" on Charlton St. This is the residence that Clara Barton came to for rest. Many other homes in Oxford are equally significant to this town's history.

Villages were/are an important part of this town. They developed around the growing textile industry and other businesses where workers found employment beginning in the early 1800's. These villages grew as this employment promised a more prosperous way of life for people

coming into this country. The 1984 Study of Historic Properties in Oxford that was commissioned by Massachusetts Historical Commission and carried out through the Oxford Historical Commission clearly identified several villages and the area designated as Oxford Center as worthy of consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They include:

- Wells Street and Watch Street
- Learnedville, otherwise known as Texas Village on Route 56 located between Route 20 and Route 12
- North Oxford along Route 12 from Leicester Street south to Depot Road including Clara Barton Road and 1 Old Depot Road. This area includes Hawes Village/White Village at the southern most end.
- North Common area from Federal Hill Road south along Route 12 through Chaffee village including Holman Street
- Oxford Center between Front Street and Huguenot Road including Maple Road, Fremont Street, Barton Street, East Main Street and some properties just west of the center on Charlton Street and some properties just east of the center on Sutton Ave.
- Huguenot Square otherwise known specifically as Oxford Center at the crossroads of Sutton Ave and Charlton Street. In addition to being included in the Oxford Center area referenced in the line above, it is listed separately here to call attention to the history reflected in it. It is at the heart of this community. When this area is considered for National Register designation these two (#5 and #6) would probably need to more clearly defined.
- Howarth Village

Monuments and historical markers publicly mark important places and events in Oxford, and recognize people who have served their town and country. They include, but are not limited to:

- The Daughters of the American Revolution Monument was erected on Camp Hill in 1911 by members of the D.A.R. It was removed recently to make way for a large housing development. The town awaits its return to Camp Hill.
- The Johnson Monument is on Main Street near Sunset Lane in memory of what was known as the Johnson Massacre.
- Joslin Park is a reminder of the generosity of Dr. Elliot P. Joslin. Located on Main Street it includes memorials to Veterans of the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
- The 1872 North Gore District 8 School House was moved from Merriam District to Joslin Park.
- War memorials are found on Main Street within the Oxford Center area and in other areas as well.
- The Maanexit Ford is found on Harwood Street.
- A marker at the corner of Marshall and Bacon Streets notes Lindbergh's landing site at the old Oxford Airport.
- Special Milestone Markers are found throughout the town.
- Several markers and monuments recognize individuals such as the Hartland Monument as well as others.
- Although Memorial Hall (Oxford Town Hall) can be listed under historic town owned buildings it is also appropriate to list it here as a memorial to veterans from Oxford who served in the Civil War.

Designated historic areas of Oxford include, but are not limited to the following:

- The Old Burying Ground now known as South Cemetery is located behind the Congregational Church.
- North Cemetery, especially the old cemetery lots in the northeast corner closest to Main St.
- Gore Cemetery on Pleasant Street in Merriam District
- St. Roch's Cemetery on Federal Hill Road
- Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery at Grace Episcopal Church
- Clark Cemetery on Prospect Hill (only a small portion of it is in Oxford)
- Old Pope Cellar Hole is located north-east of Strack's Corner (Walkers on Route 12). It is between that location at the Eddy House at the end of Bailey Road.
- The "Dell Queen" Silver Mine (referenced in Ida Miller Semon's History of North Oxford, 1969) may have been in Auburn to the north of the intersection of Routes 12 and 20 in Oxford.
- The "Devil's Den" (probably the cave referred to as Clara Barton Cave on the original list) is off Clara Barton Road. It is reached from the road to Lane Corp. using Stumpy Pond as a landmark.
- Old Indian Burial ground thought to be at the end of what is now Water Street
- A rock outcropping just North of Sutton Ave overlooking what is now I-395, traditionally thought to provide shelter of Native Americans
- Old mill site on Sutton Ave at Fort Hill Road
- Site of the Chamois/washed leather mill just off Sutton Avenue in a field along the brook leading southwest from Eames Pond.
- Maanexit Dam may possibly be located near the Maanexit Ford Crossing the French River at Harwood Street.
- The Sacarrappa Bridge and nearby raceway which was part of the mill site known to make nails, etc., on Sacarrappa Road
- The Blacksmith Shop and Toll House on Sutton Avenue at Joe Jenny Road
- The Sibley Mill otherwise known as Krintzman's Mill on Route 12 in North Oxford
- Old Mill on Clara Barton Road near Main Street
- Chaffee Brothers Complex on Route 12
- Huguenot Fort with the Huguenot Monument is found on Mayo's Hill otherwise known as Fort Hill Road (Noted at beginning of report)
- The Huguenot Oak is reported to be one of the oaks used to guide settlers to the Fort; is found on Huguenot Road at Russell Lane
- Huguenot Church and Burial Site is traditionally thought to be north of Huguenot Road just before it meets Holbrook Road
- The French Gardens located off Fort Hill Road south of 94 Fort Hill Road
- Bartlett Bridge is already on the State Register with the remaining stone work just to the north of it
- In addition, Larned Cave is on the list of historic properties. At this time, its location is uncertain, but with additional research/time its location may be found. It is possibly connected with a bank robbery of many years ago.

With the exception of the Huguenot Fort, Cemeteries and bridges, all of the above are now located on privately owned property.

Historically significant town buildings include, but are not limited to:

- The Old High School on Main Street built in 1913 on Main Street is at risk because it is now unoccupied and without heat. Its presence is an anchor for the historic Main Street area.

- The Allen L. Joslin School, built more than 75 years ago, is also now at risk because it is unoccupied and without heat.
- 1872 District 8 North Gore School House (also listed under Monuments and Memorial markers)
- Huguenot Steamer No. 1, located at the old fire station on Route 12 in North Oxford, is now being rebuilt through the work of the Oxford Firefighters Association. Ownership with restrictions was actually turned over to the Firefighters Association a few years ago.
- Oxford Free Public Library. The recent addition respects the historical integrity of the original structure.
- Memorial Hall (Oxford Town Hall) is also listed under Monuments and Memorial markers. Its historical integrity has been respected and preserved.

Historically significant churches in Oxford as all located on Main Street:

- Universalist Church: Although it is considerably changed from the original form, the present structure remains the oldest Universalist Church in the world, 1792-93
- Congregational Church
- First Baptist Church
- Grace Episcopal Church
- St. Ann Church

C. Population Characteristics

Oxford's growth over the past 20 years has stayed at a more even pace than that of our neighboring towns. Charlton had the largest increase of 1,687 between 1990 and 2000, followed by Sutton with an increase of 1,426. Webster had the least increase, (219), while Oxford stayed somewhat in the middle at 794. Charlton's and Sutton's growth may be due to their rural character and abundance of vacant land, or the accessibility of I-395 through Oxford.

Table 1
Population Growth-Neighboring Communities

Year	Oxford	Auburn	Charlton	Douglas	Dudley	Millbury	Sutton	Webster
1980	11,680	14,845	6,719	3,730	8,717	11,808	5,855	14,480
1990	12,588	15,005	9,576	5,438	9,540	12,228	6,824	16,196
	7.5%	1.1%	42.5%	45.8%	9.4%	3.6%	16.5%	11.9%
2000	13,352	15,901	11,263	7,045	10,036	12,784	8,250	16,415
	6.3%	6.0%	17.6%	29.6%	5.2%	4.5%	20.9%	1.3%

Growth in surrounding towns suggests that we will be affected by excess traffic traveling through Oxford, and by new people wanting to re-locate here. This is the time for Oxford to take inventory of its open space and preserve its natural resources. Since this so important to Oxford's future, Town Meeting adopted a growth management by-law, restricting the number of building permits issued in a calendar year. This will allow the Town time to address concerns about traffic, school over crowding, loss of teacher aides, and maintaining town services, such as police, fire and road maintenance.

Table 2
Oxford's Median Family Income

Year	Per Capita Income	Median Family Income	Percent Increase
1970	$2,782	$10,621	3.8%
1980	6,190	19,798	3.2%
1990	16,937	52,233	3.08%
2000	21,828	57,270	3.12%

Table 2 clearly shows that family income had drastically increased from 1980 to 1990, but much less from 1990 to 2000. This slower trend can be caused by many reasons: economy, size of families, loss of jobs, or decrease in pay. While income continues to grow, the people living here or moving here are more likely retirees, empty nesters, or those just starting out.

Table 3
Age of Population

	1990	2000	Change
Under 5	920	868	-52
5-14	1,950	2,008	58
15-19	924	887	-37
20-34	3,163	2,537	-626
35-44	2,222	2,485	263
45-54	1,083	1,988	905
55-64	971	1,097	126
65-74	849	823	26
75-84	359	532	173
85+	147	127	20

Table 3 indicates that we have had a slight decrease in children under 19, but a substantial decrease in our 20-34 year old population. The largest increase occurred in the 35-54 year old age brackets. This may be a group of people who have lived here for more than twenty years and are nearing retirement age. Those in the 55-64 year range also increased slightly, indicating retirees are choosing to stay here in Oxford.

Table 4
Household Composition

	Total Households	Total Family Households	Total Non-Family Households	Total Householder Living Alone	Total Married Couples	Elder Living Alone
1990	4,514	3,446	1,068	908	2,847	323
2000	5,069	3,584	1,485	1,193	2,808	409
Change	12.3%	4.0%	39.0%	31.4%	-1.4%	26.6%

Our total households increased by over 12%, while family households grew by only 4.0% during the decade. Married couples actually declined by 1.4%. Large increases occurred in non-family households, householders living alone, and elders living alone.

Interestingly, we have people living here that travel long distances to and from work, which indicates that Oxford is an affordable, desirable place to live. The Board of Selectman sent out a survey in which people reported having moved from Auburn and other surrounding towns because of the rural character. From 1990-2000:

- More people drove to work alone.
- Fewer people car pooled.
- Only 23 people used public transportation.
- Dramatic increases occurred in people commuting longer distances:
  1. 47.5% increase of people who drove 30-44 minutes to work.
  2. 62% increase of people who drove 45 minutes or more to work.
  3. 40% increase of people leaving between 5:00-5:59 am.

While we have found that people travel out of Oxford to work we do have some very thriving businesses here that employ Oxford residents as well as outsiders. Here is a list of a few of our businesses:

♦ Wal-Mart	300 employees	Retail
♦ Jevic	120 employees	Transportation
♦ Sunbridge Nursing Home	98 employees	Nursing Home
♦ Lamountain Bros.	96 employees	Construction
♦ IPG Photonics	90 employees	Fiber Optic Cable Mfg.
♦ Periwinkles	74 employees	Restaurant

Union

♦ Government employees	44	National Association of
♦ Oxford Education Association	149	School
♦ Mass. Coalition of Police	16	Police
♦ Teamsters Local #107	3	Police

Oxford has seen its population grow at varying levels over the years. Much of this can be attributed to I-395, attracting people to a suburban community, but with easy access to all major

cities. Rapid building took place in the 1980's, but growth has remained at a fairly steady pace since then.

Table 5
Population Growth

Year	# of People	Density	Numerical Change	% Change
1930	3,943	- -	- -	- -
1940	4,623		680	17.2%
1950	5,851		1,228	26.6%
1960	9,282		3,431	58.6%
1970	10,345	387	1,063	11.5%
1980	11,680	437	1,335	12.9%
1990	12,588	473	908	7.8%
2000	13,352	502	764	6.1%

D. Growth and Development Patterns

1. Patterns and Tends

Oxford began in the 1600's with mills and farms. The center, Main Street, has always been the focus of the Town, and outward growth has occurred from there. Main Street today is still a mix of small family retail stores, historic homes, churches and schools. The 1950's and 1960's brought large population increases. Most of the development took place along the Main St. axis, consisting largely of small single family ranch-style and cape cod-style homes. Many homes were built in Greenbriar before the dangers of flooding were appreciated. All of the homes were moved to other locations, and Greenbrier is vacant today.

Until recently, most development was closely situated along the Main St. corridor. In the 1970's Oxford witnessed the construction of I-395 and the development of three exits. About this time Oxford welcomed Orchard Hill, a rent subsidized apartment complex, and Sherwood Forest, a low income housing development. Density has increased due to these developments. With continued suburbanization in the late 60's and early 70's, we noticed our schools were getting crowded and double sessions took place while the Town planned for a new High School. Additional developments began to spread out to the east and west, and some also went to the north end of town. In the 80's and 90's growth slowed, but housing spread into vacant fields on large single family lots. Homes were also getting larger and more defined.

Today, the town continues to grow but at a modest pace. While much of central Oxford is developed, builders are forced to go even further into outlying woodlands, building larger homes on larger size lots. While this has occurred, wildlife populations have been impacted. By disturbing the woodlands, animals are forced out of their natural habitat and may no longer be able to maintain viable populations in town. Now is an important time to study and take inventory of the precious lands we have left if we are to preserve our natural resources. We have several large pieces of Chapter land (chapter 61, 61A and 61B) that are at risk of being developed.

The long-term outlook for Oxford is for one of considerable growth. Table 6 contains the results of a "Build-Out Analysis" conducted in 2000 and displays the amount of future development that could occur. The build-out analysis is based upon zoning regulations in effect at that time, and is designed to take into account environmental conditions that limit the Town's development potential. The results do not provide a timeframe for predicting growth but do provide a glimpse into the future by quantifying the maximum amount of development that can occur if no changes are made to alter the outcomes.

Of Oxford's total land area of approximately 17,000 acres almost 9,600 acres (56%) are considered potentially available for additional development. However, given large lot sizes in districts where the land is most prevalent, and significant environmental constraints, most notably steep slopes, this area could accommodate over 5,000 new residential lots in town, leading to over 14,000 new residents and almost 4,000 new students. This equates to about one lot for every two acres of available land. Such a large lot pattern of growth has the advantage of limiting the overall density of development in the community, but would result in almost complete disruption of wildlife habitat and place great strain on the Town's natural resources, to say nothing of the fiscal impacts on taxpayers. While the build-out study by no means predicts this will be the ultimate outcome of existing policies, it does raise an alarm for local officials to consider Smart Growth alternatives to conventional development practices in order to preserve the natural environment and Oxford's community character. In addition, Oxford also has large tracts zoned for industrial and commercial purposes, that if built to their maximum potential, would yield over 6.5 million square feet of new buildable floor area. Such growth would have significant traffic impacts on both major highways and local roads, and would likely lead to increased stress on local water resources due to increased pavement and higher concentrations of storm water pollutants.

Table 6
Summary Buildout Statistics

Buildout Factor	Results
Developable Land (acres)	9,594
Total Residential Lots	5,052
Total Residential Units	5,397
Comm./Ind. Buildable Floor Area (sq. ft.)	6,553,320
Residential Water Use (gallons per day)	1,093,084
Comm./Ind. Water Use (gallons per day)	491,499
Municipal Solid Waste (tons)	8,788
Non-Recycled Solid Waste (tons)	5,320
New Residents	14,574
New Students	3,973
New Residential Subdivision Roads (miles)	87.6

Source: CMRPC

LEGEND - ZONING DISTRICTS

- CENTRAL BUSINESS
- CENTRAL PROFESSIONAL
- CONSERVATION
- GENERAL BUSINESS
- HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE
- INDUSTRIAL
- LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
- NORTH OXFORD BUSINESS
- RESIDENTIAL-1
- RESIDENTIAL-2
- RESIDENTIAL-3
- RESIDENTIAL-4

RESIDENTIAL-4
NORTH OXFORD BUSINESS
GENERAL BUSINESS
LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
CONSERVATION
CENTRAL PROFESSIONAL
HIGHWAY INTERCHANGE
RESIDENTIAL-3
CENTRAL BUSINESS
RESIDENTIAL-1
RESIDENTIAL-2
INDUSTRIAL

Miles
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6

ZONING MAP

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

N W E S

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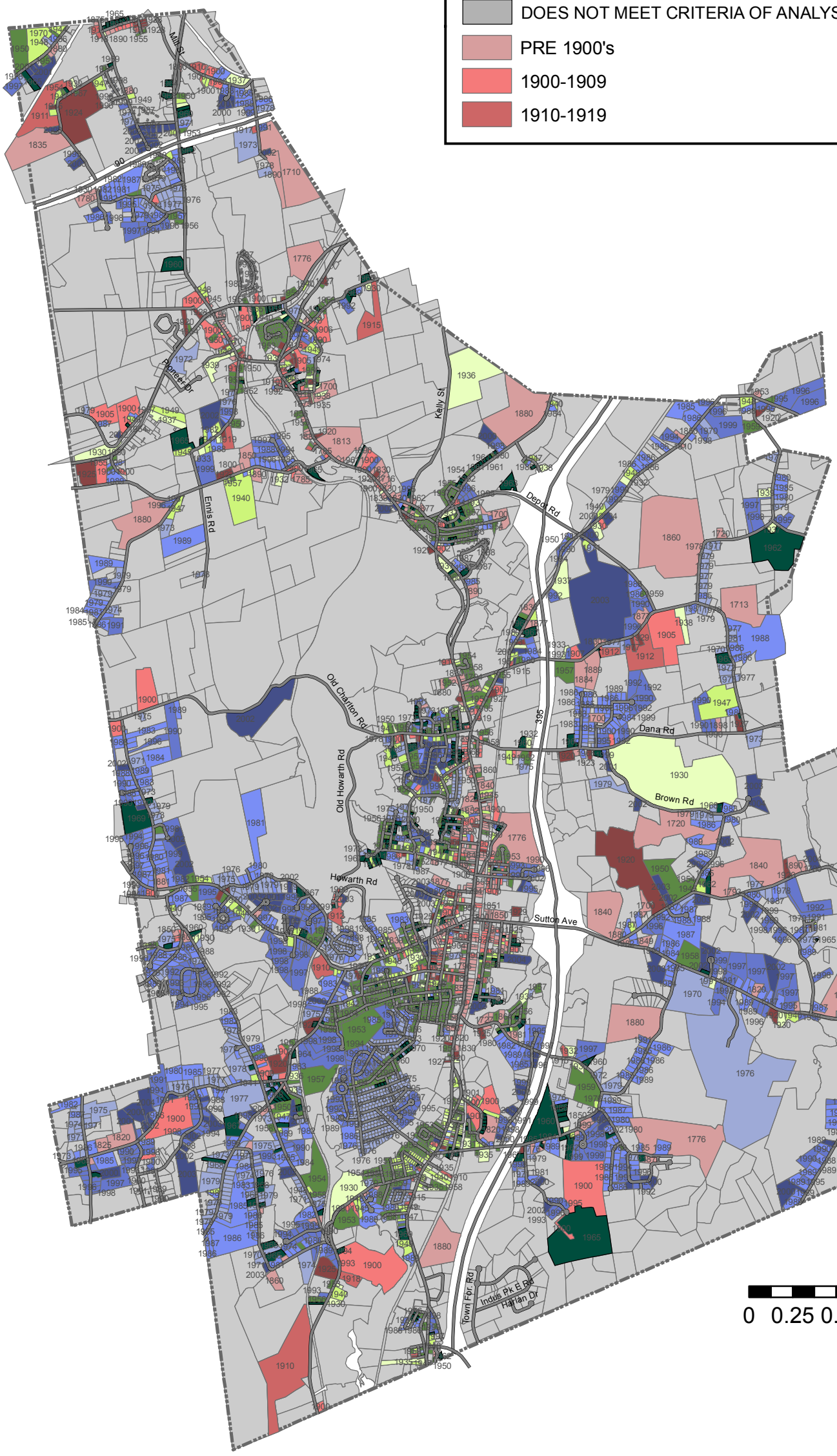
TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT BY DECADE



DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA OF ANALYSIS
PRE 1900's
1900-1909
1910-1919
1920-1929
1930-1939
1940-1949
1950-1959
1960-1969
1970-1979
1980-1989
1990-1999
2000+

Residential Development by Decade- 4,441 parcels met the criteria of a residential unit in this analysis. Oxford has a large population of pre-1900 housing. Housing built before 1900 include 459 units, roughly 10% of the housing stock. The housing stock in this set are clustered around Main Street, a street widely used by residents and visitors and thus sets the 'tone' of Turn-of-the-Century style for this community.

Development by Decade

Time	# of units
2000+-	176
1990's-	541
1980's-	903
1970's-	600
1960's-	292
1950's-	919
1940's-	248
1930's-	118
1920's-	87
1910's-	62
1900-1909-	181
pre 1900-	459

Miles
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT BY DECADE

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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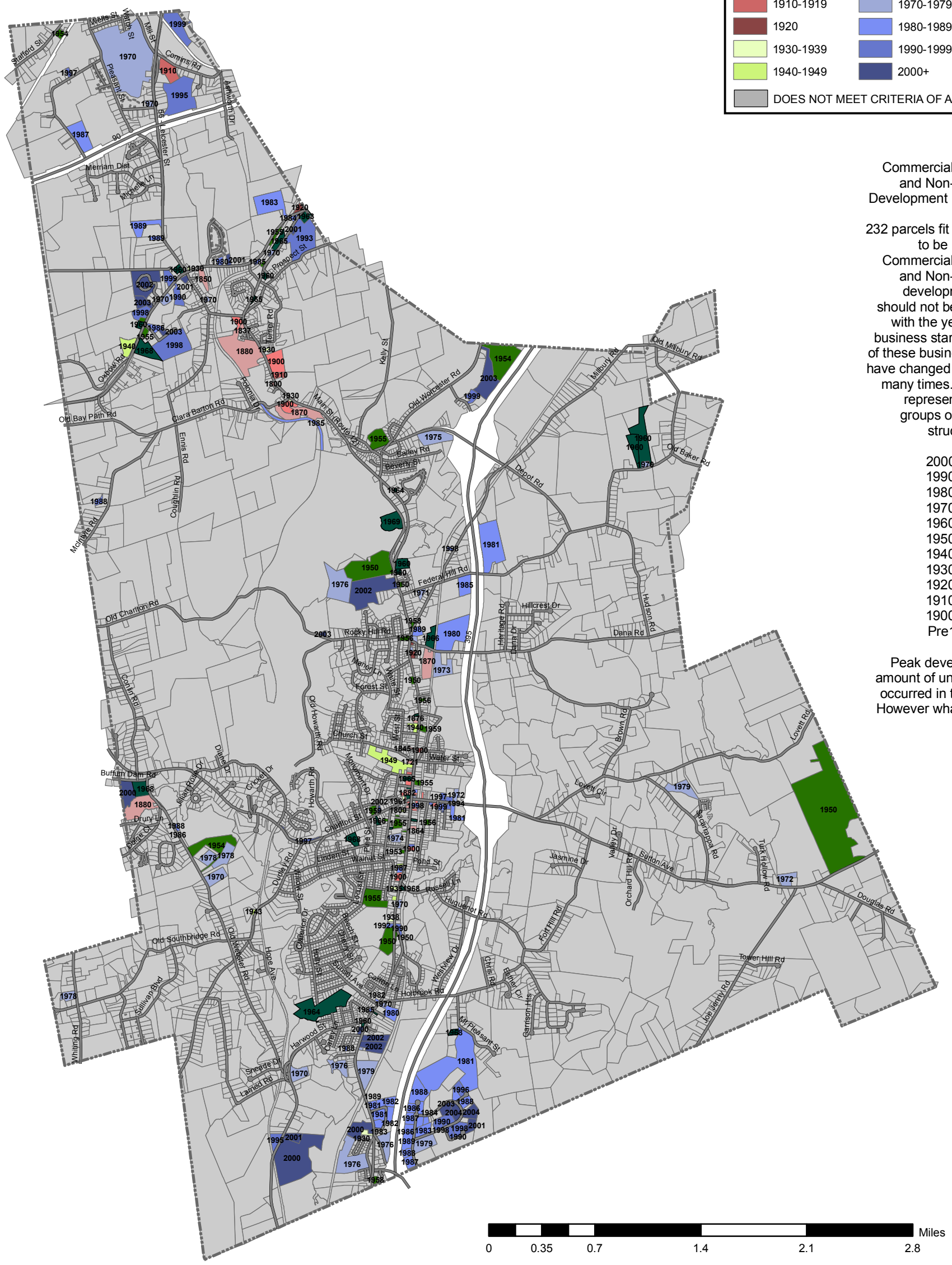
TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.



Commercial, Industrial and Non-residential Development by Decade

232 parcels fit the criteria to be included in Commercial, Industrial and Non-residential development. This should not be confused with the year that the business started. Many of these businesses may have changed ownership many times. This data represents the age groups of a specific structural type.

2000+	22
1990-1999	26
1980-1989	45
1970-1979	30
1960-1969	28
1950-1959	28
1940-1949	7
1930-1939	7
1920-1929	4
1910-1919	4
1900-1909	14
Pre1900	29

Peak development in amount of units created occurred in the 1980's. However what this data

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT BY DECADE

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

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2. Infrastructure

Water System

Oxford currently has 11 public water supply wells, and three of these are used for the community's water supply by the Aquarion Water Company. According to the Mass. DEP, these wells pump water at the following rates: 475, 408 and 703 gallons per minute. The water consumption of Oxford residents on the public water supply system is 66 gallons per capita per day.

The Mass. Water Resources Commission categories river basins according to the stress placed on water supply. The French River Basin is a medium stress basin; this means that the target per capita per day water consumption for the public water supply should not exceed 65 gallons per day. Some interesting water facts are shown below.

Aquarion customers

- Parcels served - 2,507
- Residents served - 7,154
- Portion of population provided with Aquarion water - 54.6%
- Portion of parcels supplied by Aquarion water - 42%

Private well residents

- Parcels with private wells - 3,470
- Residents provided with private well water - 5,900
- Portion of population using private wells for water supply - 45.4%
- Portion of parcels using private wells as water source - 58%

Oxford needs to pay close attention to its water resources. Over developing land puts a strain on the natural aquifers as they cannot be replenished as quickly as water is taken out. We must be careful to insure we use this resource wisely.

Sewer System

There are 335 parcels in town that are provided with municipal sewer. The sewer services are part of the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District. The sewer plant is actually located in Auburn. Oxford has negotiated with the District for an allowance of 100,000 gallons per day, of which only 40,000 gallons are currently being used.

North Oxford is served by the Oxford-Rochdale wastewater plant, with a discharge into the French River. It was originally built as a 0.18 million gallon per day facility. It was upgraded in 1995 with a doubling of its capacity to treat 0.368 million per gallon per day. The upgrade was done as part of an enforcement order by the Mass. DEP.

TOTAL RESIDENTS - 13,099
TOTAL PARCELS IN ANALYSIS 5,950

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION-
OXFORD CURRENTLY HAS 11 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS. THREE OF WHICH ARE USED FOR THE COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY (AQUARION) THESE WELLS REPORTEDLY PUMP WATER AT THE FOLLOWING RATES; 475,408 AND 703 GPM (GALLONS PER MINUTE).-MASS DEP

PER CAPITA PER DAY WATER CONSUMPTION FOR OXFORD RESIDENTS USING WATER SUPPLIED BY THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY (AQUARION) = 66 GALLONS.

THE WATER RESOURCE COMMISSION OF MASSACHUSETTS DEFINES WATER RESOURCE BASINS INTO CATEGORIES ACCORDING TO THE 'HEALTH' OF THE WATER SUPPLY, THE CATEGORIES ARE; HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW AND UNDEFINED STRESSED AREAS. OXFORD RESIDES IN A 'MEDIUM STRESS BASIN' WHICH MEANS THAT THE TARGET PER CAPITA PER DAY WATER CONSUMPTION FOR THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SHOULD NOT EXCEED 65 GPD (GALLONS PER DAY).

WATER SOURCE STATISTICS

AQUARION CUSTOMERS

PARCELS SERVED 2,507

RESIDENTS SERVED 7,154

PORTION OF POPULATION PROVIDED WITH AQUARION WATER- 54.6%

PORTION OF PARCELS SUPPLIED BY AQUARION WATER - 42%

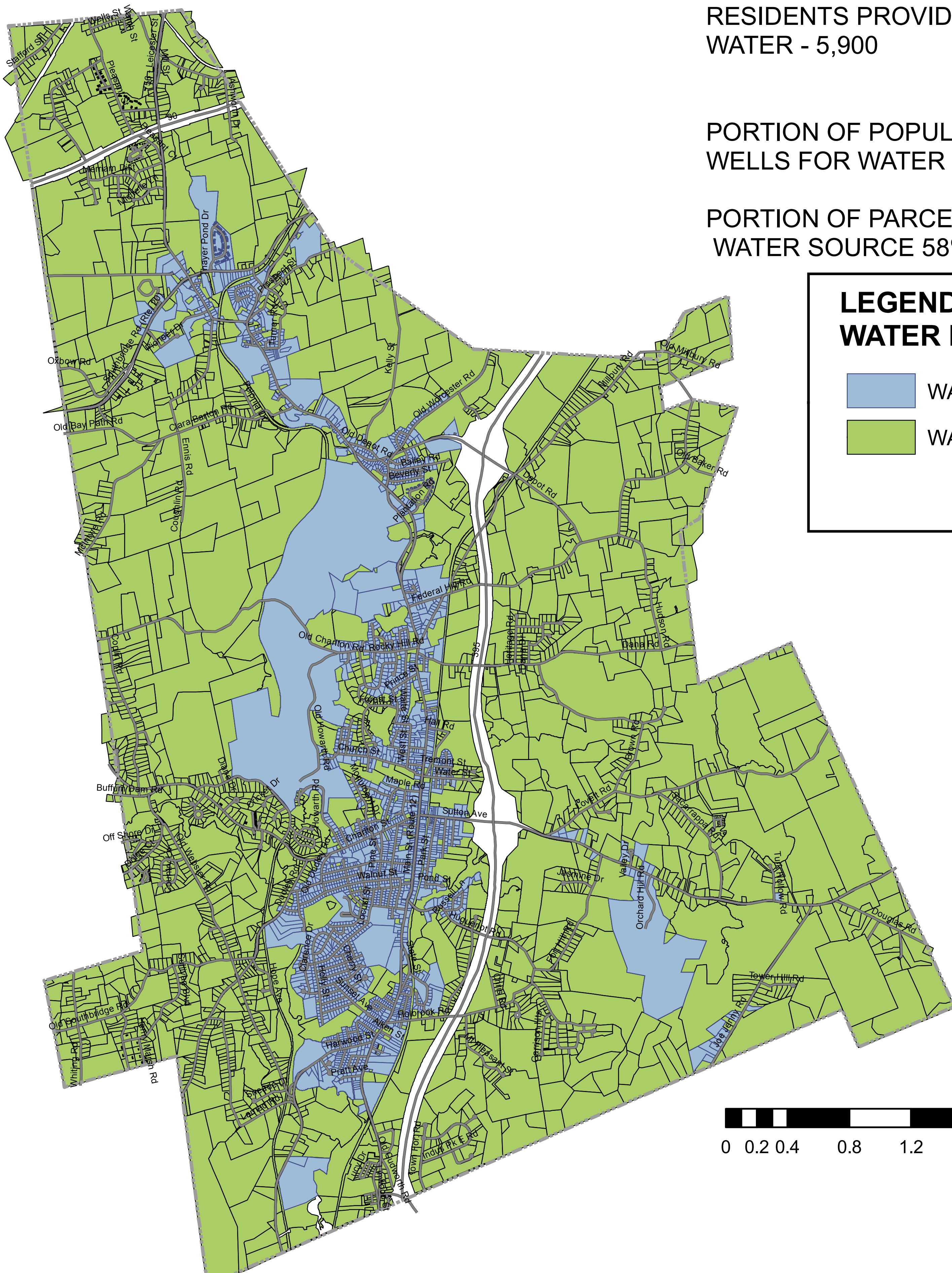
PRIVATE WELL RESIDENTS

PARCELS WITH PRIVATE WELLS - 3,470

RESIDENTS PROVIDED WITH PRIVATE WELL WATER - 5,900

PORTION OF POPULATION USING PRIVATE WELLS FOR WATER SUPPLY - 45.4 %

PORTION OF PARCELS USING PRIVATE WELLS AS WATER SOURCE 58%



LEGEND-SOURCE OF WATER BY PARCEL

- WATER SUPPLIED BY AQUARION
- WATER SUPPLIED BY WELL

Miles
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6

WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

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TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

Municipal Sewer

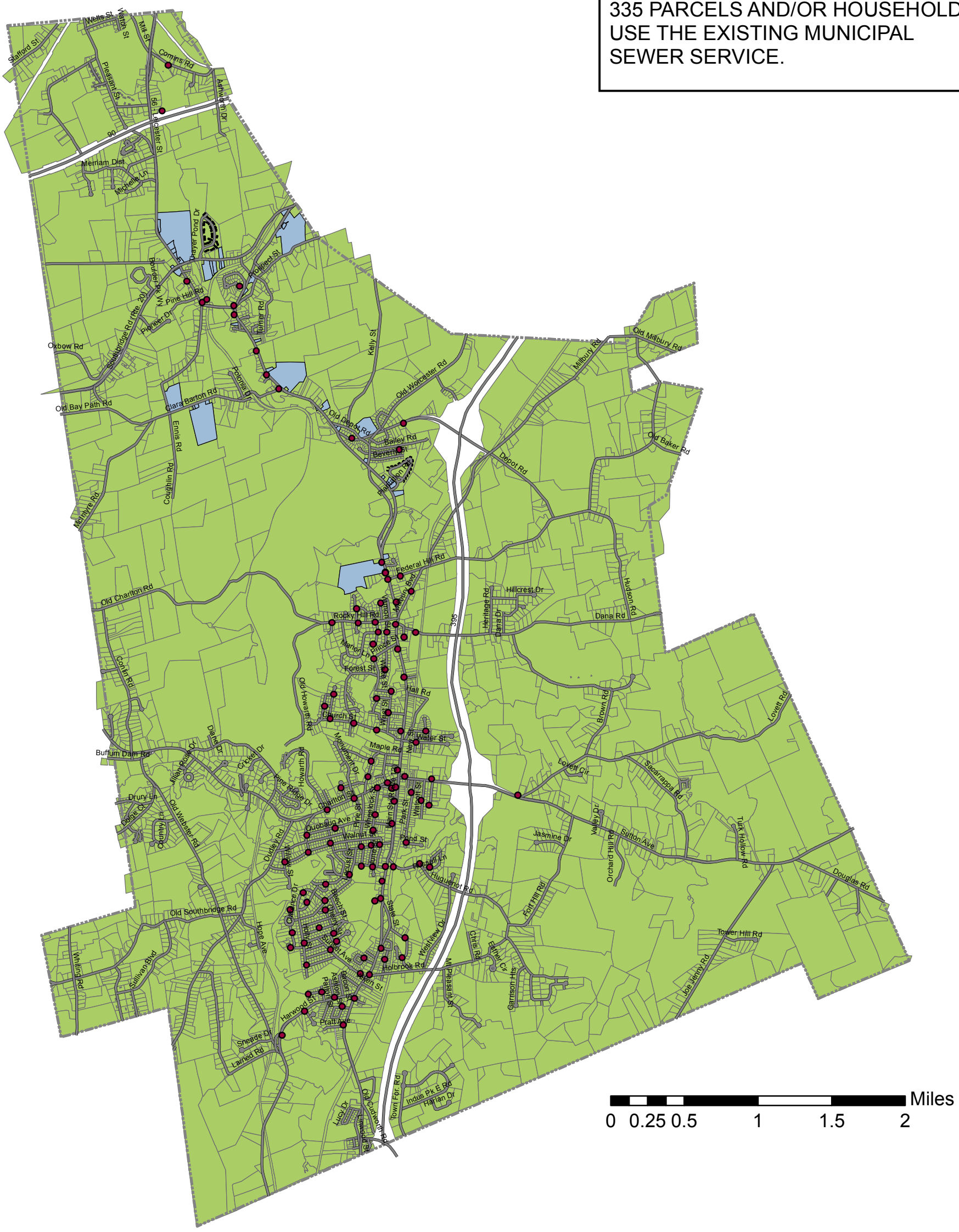
335 parcels in town are provided with municipal sewer services. The sewer services are part of a regional network system called the Water Pollution Abatement District. The sewer treatment plant, actually located in Auburn has negotiated with the Town of Oxford allowance of 100,000 gpd (gallons per day) of which only 40,000 gpd are currently being used.

LEGEND

- FIRE HYDRANTS

PARCELS USING TOWN SEWER SERVICES

335 PARCELS AND/OR HOUSEHOLDS USE THE EXISTING MUNICIPAL SEWER SERVICE.



SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE AND HYDRANTS

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

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TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

Transportation System

Oxford has excellent access to the interstate highway network, a factor that has undoubtedly contributed to its steady residential growth. The major transportation route is I-395 with three exits in Oxford: in North Oxford (Depot Road), Sutton Ave. (Town Center), and Cudworth Road. (South Oxford). I-395 connects to I-90 and I-290 in Auburn immediately to the north and to Connecticut to the south. Route 20 is a major trucking route that traverses through North Oxford in an east west direction; in recent years, Route 20 has witnessed significant industrial and warehousing development. And as note above, Route 12 travels through the center of Town in a north-south direction and historically has been the main artery through Oxford.

Oxford is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority. It provides fixed route and complementary para-transit service between Worcester, Auburn, Oxford, and Webster. Amtrak train service and commuter rail into Boston are available in Worcester.

Charlton Street and Dudley Road connect Oxford to Webster, Charlton and Dudley and acts as a feeder route to I-395 for those living near-by. As a result Oxford Center has become quite congested during peak hour periods. Sutton Ave. is experiencing major traffic problems as Oxford and the surrounding towns grow and use the route as a means to get to I-395. Businesses along Sutton Ave. are also affected by the congested traffic during the peak traffic periods.

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission completed a Transportation Plan for Oxford in 2005 which provides a great deal of data and information on Oxford's transportation network and contains a number of significant recommendations for improvements.

OXFORD DESIGNATED SCENIC ROADS

Scenic Road Bylaw
To protect the visual character of the community, Oxford has established Scenic Road Bylaws. These bylaws pertain to roads designated 'scenic' and include regulations on limitations of cutting or removal or trees, reconstruction or widening of the streets and destruction or alteration of stone walls. The intent behind the bylaws are to ensure the visual character of the community stays intact.

LEGEND-TRANSPORTATION CHARACTERISTICS

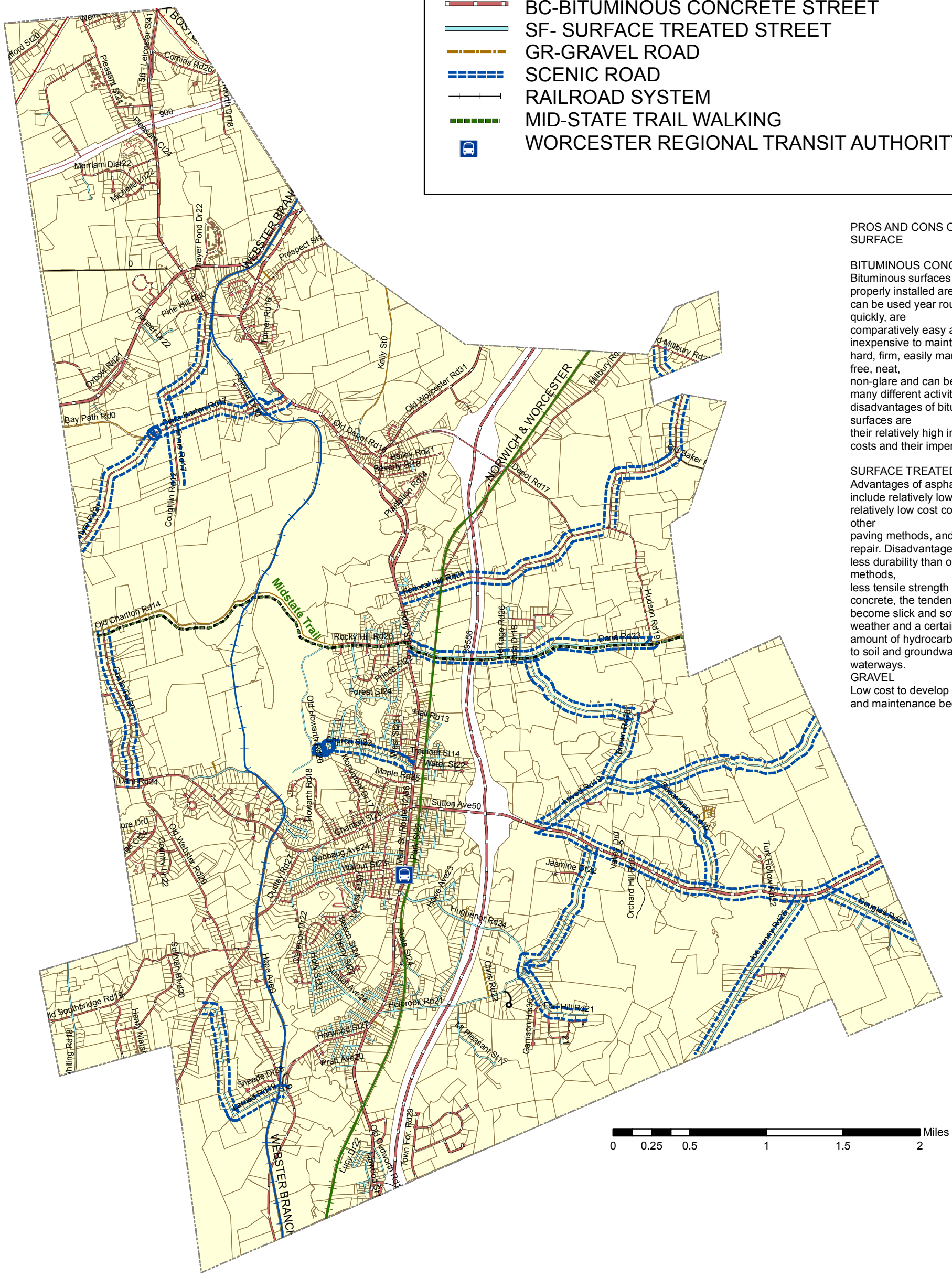
FORMAT OF DATA:
STREET NAME- WIDTH I.E. (BLUEBERRY LN - 22)

- BC-BITUMINOUS CONCRETE STREET
- SF- SURFACE TREATED STREET
- GR-GRAVEL ROAD
- SCENIC ROAD
- RAILROAD SYSTEM
- MID-STATE TRAIL WALKING
- WORCESTER REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY STOP

PROS AND CONS OF STREET SURFACE

BITUMINOUS CONCRETE-
Bituminous surfaces when properly installed are: durable, can be used year round, drain quickly, are comparatively easy and inexpensive to maintain, resilient, hard, firm, easily marked, dust free, neat, non-glare and can be used for many different activities.The disadvantages of bituminous surfaces are their relatively high installation costs and their imperviousness.

SURFACE TREATED-ASPHALT-
Advantages of asphalt roadways include relatively low noise, relatively low cost compared with other paving methods, and ease of repair. Disadvantages include less durability than other paving methods, less tensile strength than concrete, the tendency to become slick and soft in hot weather and a certain amount of hydrocarbon pollution to soil and groundwater or waterways.
GRAVEL
Low cost to develop but high dust and maintenance become issues.



TRANSPORTATION
OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SPRING 2006

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TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. Geology, Soils, and Topography

The terrain of Oxford, like much of New England, is controlled by the glacial geology of the predominant river basin of the area, that of the French River. The basin has been referred to as a worn-down mountain area as the result of internal folding, glaciation, ordinary weathering, and storm erosion. A large part of the northern half of North America is covered by a layer of unconsolidated material of many kinds transported and deposited during the melting of the glacial ice. The area is predominantly underlain with schist with occasional exposures of granite outcrops. The exposed schist is generally weathered and fractured. Other types of metamorphic rock present are phyllite, quartzite, and gneiss. Bedrock is overlain by glacial outwash with fill and kame terraces scattered about. Other evidence of the Pleistocene glaciations include drumlins, eskers, recessional and ground moraines, glacial striae, and drift. Quite frequently sand and gravel are found on one side of the streams, while the other side has schist exposures. The land surface in the French River basin has considerable variability from upland to lowland, from rugged ledge to flood-prone flatness.

Glaciation, indicating the general direction of the advance of the Wisconsin Ice Sheet, has carved a hilly and rocky landscape in Oxford, resulting in the appearance of steep slopes and ridges surrounding the developed strip along the Route 12 and Route 395 corridors.

Soils within the town of Oxford are composed mostly of glacial till, water sorted sand and gravels, clay, silt, and fine sands. The principal bedrock materials underlying the region are granite, gneiss, schist, sandstone, shale, slate, phylitte, and limestone. Geologically speaking, the soils of the French River basin and surrounding area are relatively young, the result of a cold New England climate which retards the development of soil from the parent glacial material. Some organic material has accumulated and the soils have derived a brown coloration due both to the organic content and the oxidation of iron on the soil minerals.

The well-drained upland soils in the area are classified in the Gloucester, Charlton, Paxton, and Brookfield series. Those soils which have developed under high moisture conditions are principally of the Sutton and Whitman series, and those developed under deficient moisture conditions are in the Hinckley (hills) and Merrimac (plains) series. Soils in areas of recently deposited alluvium (along stream beds) are grouped in the Ondawa series. In addition, small areas of muck occur throughout the region.

1. Geology's Effect on Development and Recreation

The effect of Oxford's geologic and soil conditions on the growth of the community can be clearly discerned by examining the five soils characteristics maps displayed on Map 7. The broad level valley created by the French River in central and southern Oxford has been the location of extensive single family residential development. Soils here are well drained and conducive to on-site septic systems, of crucial importance since most of Oxford lacks sewerage to this day. Framing the river valley are steep hillsides with shallow soils and hardpan that limit development due to slow percolation rates for septic systems. Steep slopes rising from the valley floor further limit new road construction, and shallow soils are easily erodible when disturbed for development. Typical of higher ridges, wetlands and hydric soils can be found along streams and depressions that must be protected for the ecological functions they perform.

Highway development is also influenced by Oxford's topographic conditions. I-395 traverses Oxford in a north-south fashion through the gently sloping French River Valley. Route 12, the principal local highway corridor and main thoroughfare prior to the advent of I-395, similarly travels in a north south direction from the Auburn to Webster town lines. Oxford Center is located on Route 12 and is the historic focal point of the community. East west travel is limited due to the presence of the major ridgelines noted above. Exceptions include the Mass. Turnpike and Route 20 in North Oxford and Sutton Street/Charlton Street in the center of the community, which seek less steep routes between the ridges where possible. Route 20, a major truck route traversing the entire state, has largely developed with industrial and trucking companies, but the narrow width of developable land sandwiched on either side by ridges and rocky terrain, prohibits further industrial expansion with deep setbacks from the highway. The north-south trending ridgelines generally limit the number of east west routes, thus placing a great burden on those that do exist to accommodate increasing travel demand from communities to the east and west.

Recreational development is similarly influenced by Oxford's principal land forms. Active recreation areas are entirely located within the broad valley of the French River. These include Ruel Field, 27 Locust St., Carbuncle Pond, 495 Main St.; Woodward Little League Fields, 660 Main St.; and the Greenbriar Recreation Area, 591 Main St. These facilities are described in Section 5 of this Plan. Greenbriar is located in the Hodges Village flood control area and is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Steep slopes and shallow soils make recreational field development difficult away from the valley floor, and there are no active recreation areas in these locations. The French River itself is a major recreational resource offering fishing, canoeing, and kayaking experiences in a natural setting. The Army Corps also maintains an extensive network of trails for hiking and bicycling in its extensive holdings. Neither the Town, state, nor federal governments own large conservation or forest lands in Oxford in the higher elevations that could offer public access for hiking and nature study.

B. Landscape Character

1. Essential Structure of Community

Oxford's wide main street (Route 12), the second largest main street in New England, bisects the town from north to south and is surrounded by rocky hills. The main commercial district is along Main Street consisting of mostly small local businesses. Most residential development extends off of Main Street into small neighborhoods with inter-connected street grids. In recent years, residential development has sprawled outward into the outlying agricultural lands that nestle in among the hills. Also running north to south, parallel to Main Street, is Interstate 395.

Most of Oxford is zoned for various types of residential use. Main Street is zoned Central Business or Central Professional uses and Route 20, which runs east to west in North Oxford, is zoned General Business. There are large pockets of land zoned Industrial or Light Industrial in various areas of town. To the south, along Main Street and Route 395 and as far west as Old Webster Road, there are many acres zoned for Industrial and Light Industrial uses.

Other large areas zoned Industrial are the north portion of Old Webster Road, land to the south of Federal Hill Road, the northern section of Old Worcester Road, and Route 56 both near Route 20 and in the Mill Street/Comins Road area. Additional areas zoned Light Industrial are to the north and east of Millbury Road. One area of Oxford, where Sutton Avenue intersects with Route 395, is zoned Highway Interchange. A Conservation district is in effect in the Greenbriar/Hodges Village Dam area.

2. Effects of Development

Oxford currently has in effect the traditional suburban zoning pattern separating land uses. Because of this approach to development, Oxford will continue to spread out as it grows, new development eating up open space, agricultural land, scenic vistas, and wildlife habitat. Oxford residents will find increasing inconvenience as development spreads as they will need to spend more time in traffic caused by a growing population and greater distances between their homes and the places that they work, shop, and go to school. Greater distances and inhospitable pedestrian walkways and streetscapes will continue to force more and more people to get in their cars, clogging already overburdened streets and parking areas.

As conventional development patterns continue to dominate, Oxford will begin to see the emergence of strip malls (most likely developed along Rt. 12 or at I-395 interchanges, or replacing quaint, historic structures in the center of town) and the continuance of large suburban tract developments indistinguishable from tract housing all over the United States. These bland, characterless structures will contribute to the loss of Oxford's rural New England character. Oxford will lose those historic, cultural, and architectural characteristics which make our town distinct, independent, and unique.

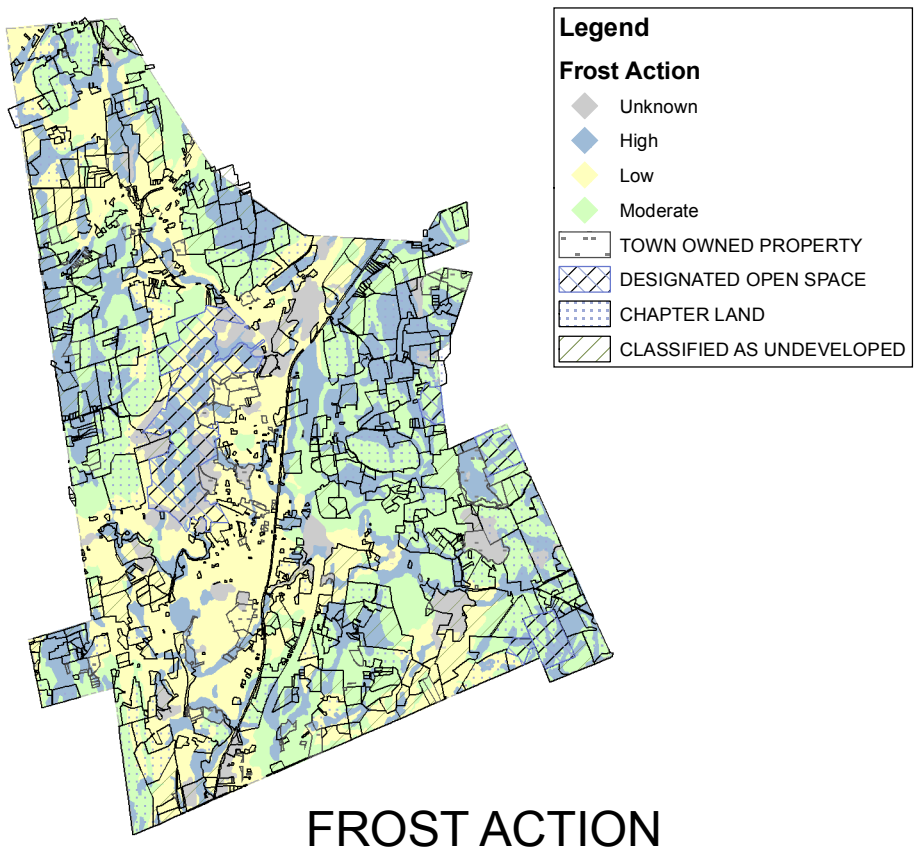
As Oxford continues its suburban sprawl, the quality of life of its residents will continue to decline as natural landscapes and open space disappear. Recreation opportunities will become more limited, forcing residents to climb in their cars and seek places of recreation in other communities. Deterioration of the environment will become apparent through declining air and water quality, disappearance of indigenous species of plants and animals, increasing noise and light pollution, and the loss of wind and erosion control. As national chain stores with no ties to the community replace local businesses, low paying, unsecured jobs will be the major employment opportunities Oxford has to offer.

With increased uncontrolled traditional development, the residents of Oxford can expect the cost of living in Oxford to rise dramatically. As the population grows, the need for town services (including schools) and infrastructure will increase causing a significant rise in property taxes. As development pollutes our environment we will need to buy clean water from other communities at significant cost to the consumer.

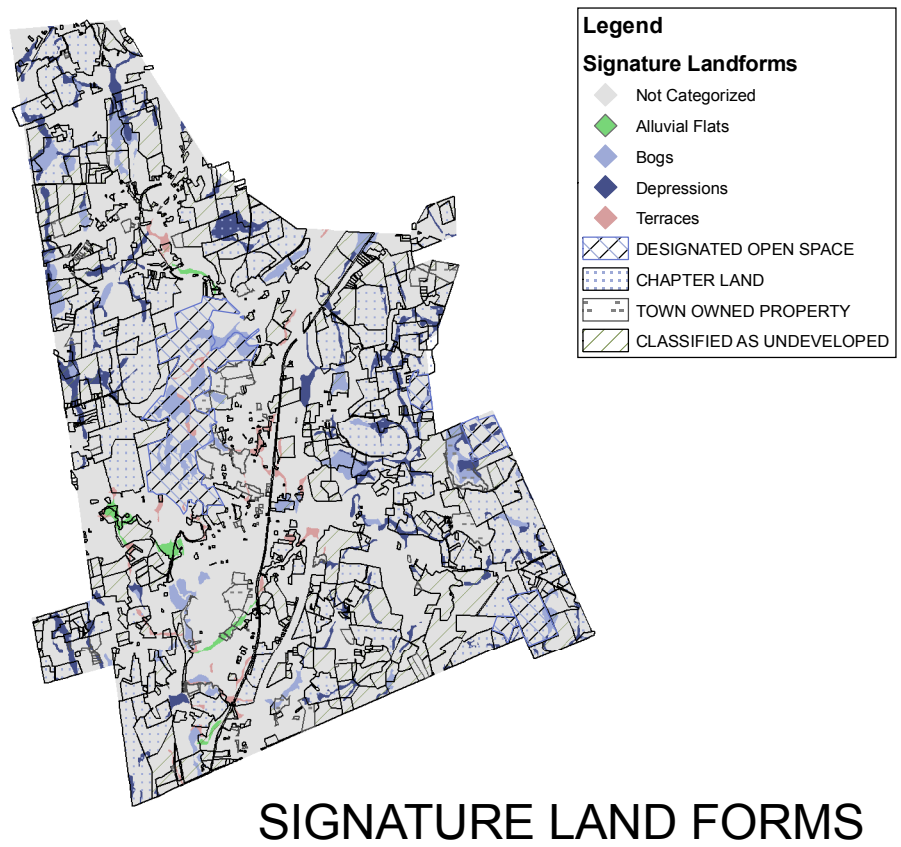
C. Water Resources

1. Watersheds

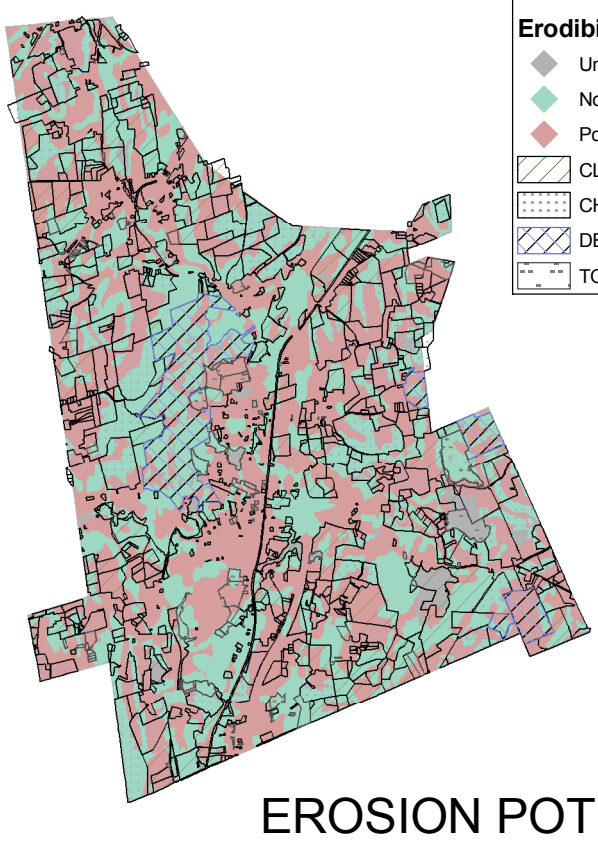
There are two watershed areas within Oxford. The main watershed is that of the French River. A small portion of southeast Oxford, in the area of Stump Pond**,** lies in the Blackstone River watershed. The drainage divide between these two watersheds lies between Sacarrappa Pond and Singletary Pond.



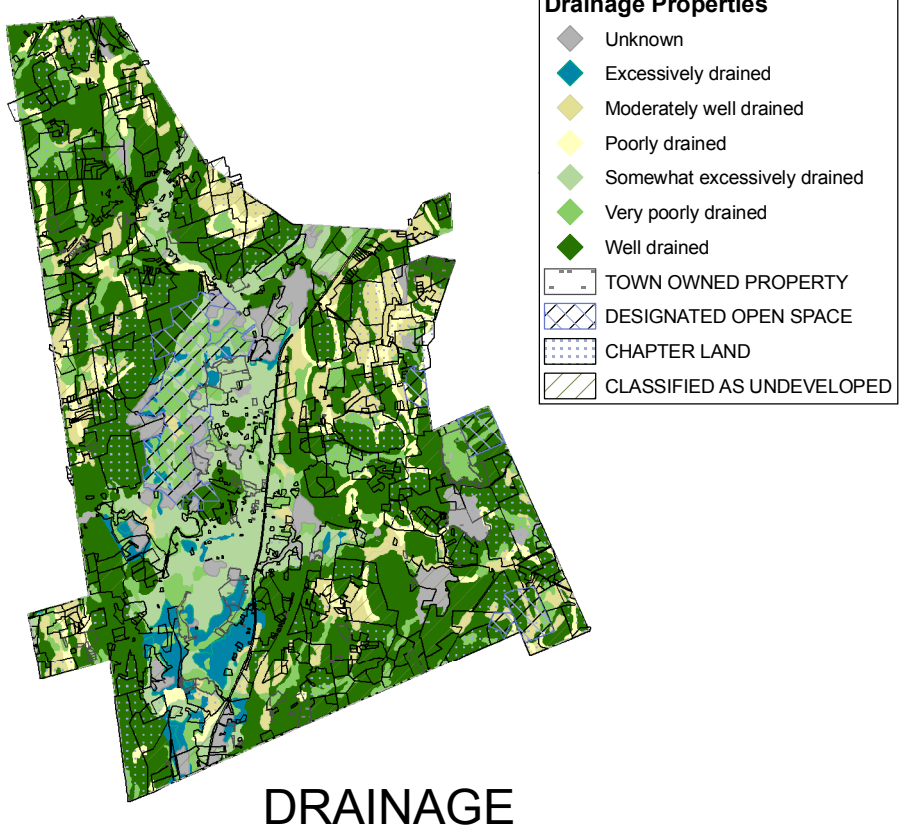
FROST ACTION



SIGNATURE LAND FORMS



EROSION POTENTIAL



DRAINAGE

Signature features are features in the landscape that hold distinction from the rest of the area. These types of elements may stem from topographic variation, hydrographic elements or man-made alterations of the landscape. Further investigation of significant landforms may reveal portions of the landscape that provide visual interest, recreational opportunity or be designated as a portion of the landscape in need of revitalization.

Frost Action-Damage from frost action results from the formation of segregated ice crystals and ice lenses in the soil and the subsequent loss of soil strength when the ground thaws. Frost heave damages highway and airfield pavements. It is less of a problem for dwellings and buildings that have footings which extend below the depth of frost penetration. In cold climates, unheated structures that have concrete or asphalt floors can be damaged by frost heave. Driveways, patios, and sidewalks can heave and crack. The thawing of the ice causes a collapse of surface elevation and produces free water perches on the still frozen soil below. Soil strength is reduced. Back slopes and side slopes of cuts and fills can slough during thawing. Seedlings and young plants of clover, alfalfa, wheat, and oats can be raised out of the soil or have their root systems damaged by frost heave (NRCS).
Rating:
(1)Low. Soils are rarely susceptible to the formation of ice lenses.
(2)Moderate. Soils are susceptible to the formation of ice lenses, which results in frost heave and subsequent loss of soi strength.
(3) High. Soils are highly susceptible to the formation of ice lenses, which results in frost heave and subsequent loss of soil strength.

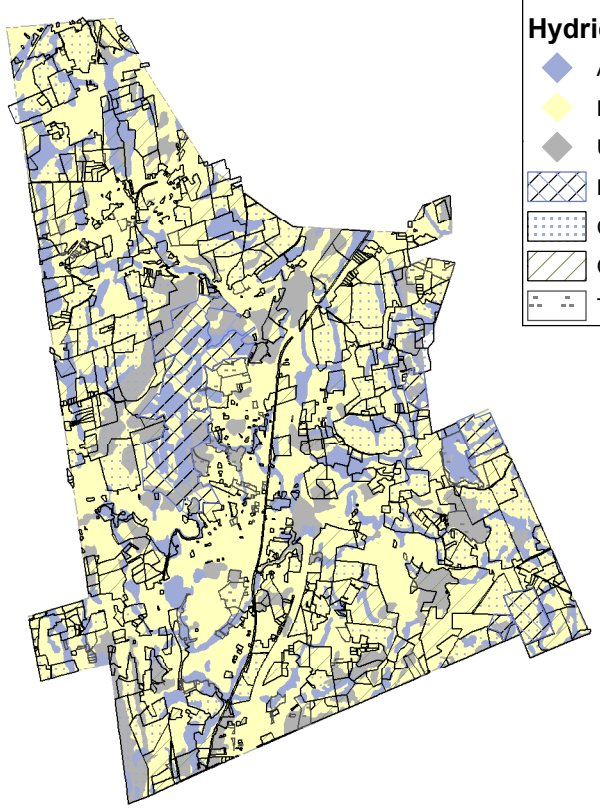
Erosion Potential-Erosion is the detachment and movement of soil material. The process may be natural or accelerated by human activity. Depending on the local landscape and weather conditions, erosion may be very slow or very rapid.

Natural erosion has sculptured landforms on the uplands and built landforms on the lowlands. Its rate and distribution in time controls the age of land surfaces and many of the internal properties of soils on the surfaces. Landscapes and their soils are evaluated from the perspective of their natural erosional history. Natural erosion is an important process that affects soil formation and, like man-induced erosion, may remove all or part of soils formed in the natural landscape. Accelerated erosion is largely the consequence of human activity. The primary causes are tillage, grazing, and cutting of timber (NRCS).

Drainage-Drainage class identifies the natural drainage condition of the soil. It refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods. The seven natural drainage classes are: (1) excessively drained, (2) somewhat excessively drained, (3) well drained, (4) moderately well drained, (5) somewhat poorly drained, (6) poorly drained, and (7) very poorly drained. Drainage classes provide a guide to the limitations and potentials of the soil for field crops, forestry, range, wildlife, and recreational uses. The class roughly indicates the degree, frequency, and duration of wetness, which are factors in rating soils for various uses (NRCS).

Hydric Soils-NRCS states that the definition of a hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part". A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Hydric soils along with hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are used to define wetlands.

* Source- SSurgo Data-NRCS



HYDRIC SOILS

N
W
E
S

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

2. Surface Water

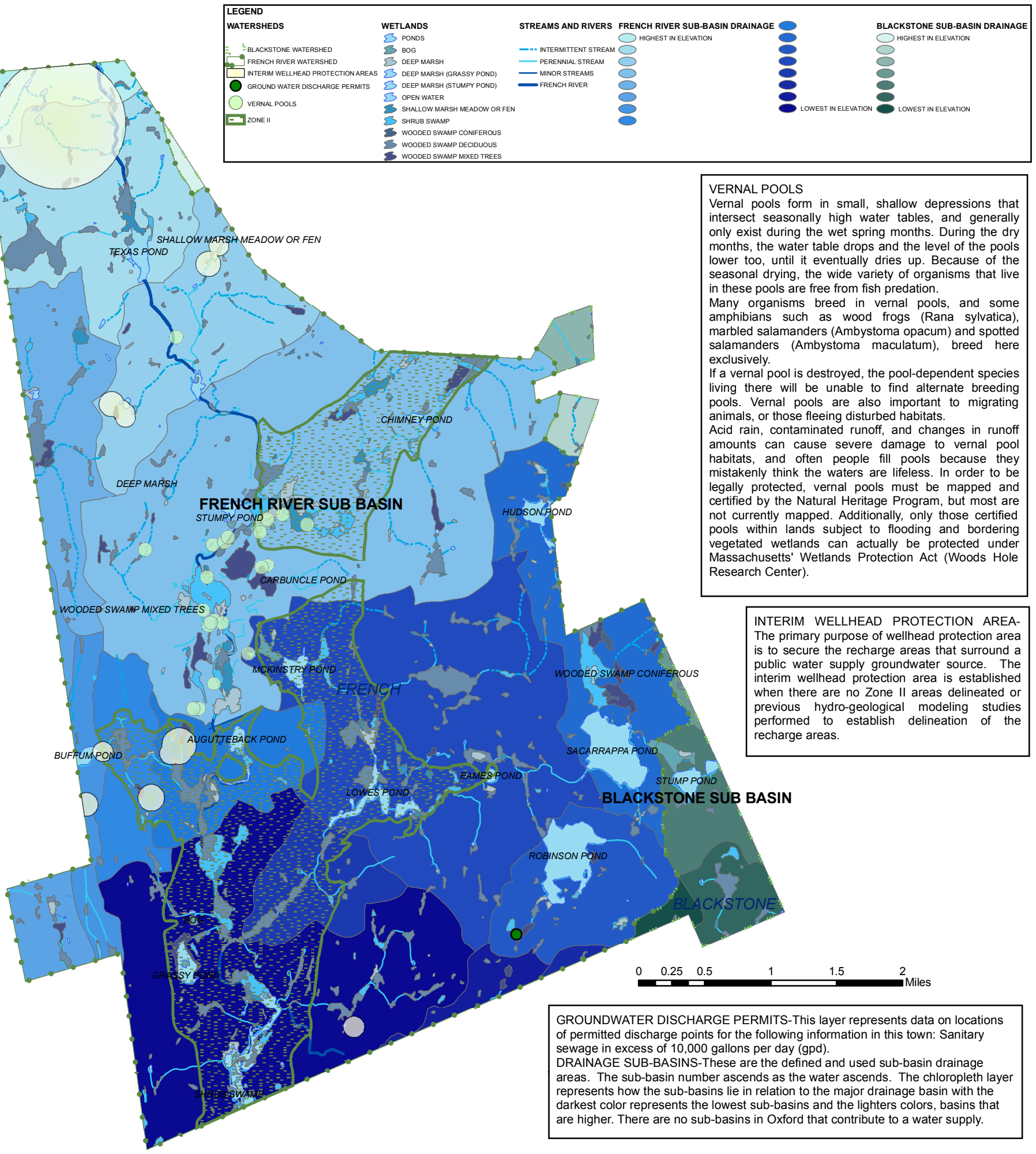
Virtually the entire town of Oxford lies within the French River Drainage Basin containing the headwater streams of the Shetucket River, which is one of the two major tributaries of the Thames River in Connecticut. The French River begins at Sargent's Pond in Leicester and flows southward through Oxford to its confluence with the Quinebaug River in northeastern Connecticut. The French River Corridor varies from a fast-flowing channel to broad pond areas.

The French River enters Oxford just south of Stafford Street (Leicester) and passes over the ruins of a dam. Approximately 1000 feet south of this dam, a tributary stream enters the River from the east. The combined flow passes under Route 56 and widens. South of Route 56, in the Cominsville area, there are wetlands and fields. On the east side of the River, north of Mill Street, there is a shrub-sedge wetland. The ground is soggy, and there are run-off ditches connecting the wetland to the River. The wetland extends north nearly to Route 56. South of Mill Street, north of the Allen Textile Company dam, the River enters an extensive wet meadow and shrub wetland filling the flood plain. South of the meadow, the River passes over an old dam and catwalk structure.

South of Cominsville, the River flow as a fast, shallow, broad stream south to the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), where it is joined by two streams and road drainage. After passing under the Massachusetts Turnpike, the River continues to flow southward as a fast, fairly broad stream for about 1000 feet until the topography flattens. Here, a broad wetland area of mixed emergent marsh and forested wetlands occurs. The wetland extends to approximately 2500 feet south of Route 90, where the River enlarges to form Texas Pond. A tributary stream flows to the west side of this pond. Texas Pond is navigable for typical recreational purposes, but the river to its north and south is not. Texas Pond includes several areas of bordering vegetated wetland along its shores. These are found in small bays, especially in the north end, and are mainly cattail marsh. The River flows from Texas Pond over a broad stone dam and passes under Route 20.

South of Route 20, the River flows as a broad, shallow river with limited shrub wetland on each bank. This stretch of the River flows through land that is developed for industrial and residential uses. The River passes under Route 56 near its intersection with Route 12. To the north and south of the bridge, the riverbank has been revetted with large stones. The River elevation drops abruptly over a line of rocks just north of the bridge. Immediately south of the Route 56 bridge, the River flows through woods and developed land. Approximately 1000 feet south of the bridge, the River is joined on the west side by a tributary draining a pond at the Clara Barton Camp. A little further south, the River widens into a pond. In this stretch there is extensive forested wetland on the west side, between the River and the Clara Barton Camp tributary. There is also some forested wetland on the east side of the River. The River forms Bartlett Pond close to Clara Barton Road, after flowing through a shrub/emergent marsh. This latter pond includes cattail marsh in the north end and in small bays. Bordering shrub wetland occurs on the southwest side, with alder, maple, and dogwood. The pond drains over a wide stone dam into several rocky channels under white pine and red maple woods.

South of the dam at Clara Barton Road, the River flows as a narrow channel bounded by steep slopes to the west. In this stretch the River flows over boulders and forms a Cascade area about 3000 feet south of Clara Barton Road.



VERNAL POOLS
Vernal pools form in small, shallow depressions that intersect seasonally high water tables, and generally only exist during the wet spring months. During the dry months, the water table drops and the level of the pools lower too, until it eventually dries up. Because of the seasonal drying, the wide variety of organisms that live in these pools are free from fish predation.
Many organisms breed in vernal pools, and some amphibians such as wood frogs (Rana sylvatica), marbled salamanders (Ambystoma opacum) and spotted salamanders (Ambystoma maculatum), breed here exclusively.
If a vernal pool is destroyed, the pool-dependent species living there will be unable to find alternate breeding pools. Vernal pools are also important to migrating animals, or those fleeing disturbed habitats.
Acid rain, contaminated runoff, and changes in runoff amounts can cause severe damage to vernal pool habitats, and often people fill pools because they mistakenly think the waters are lifeless. In order to be legally protected, vernal pools must be mapped and certified by the Natural Heritage Program, but most are not currently mapped. Additionally, only those certified pools within lands subject to flooding and bordering vegetated wetlands can actually be protected under Massachusetts' Wetlands Protection Act (Woods Hole Research Center).

INTERIM WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREA-The primary purpose of wellhead protection area is to secure the recharge areas that surround a public water supply groundwater source. The interim wellhead protection area is established when there are no Zone II areas delineated or previous hydro-geological modeling studies performed to establish delineation of the recharge areas.

GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE PERMITS-This layer represents data on locations of permitted discharge points for the following information in this town: Sanitary sewage in excess of 10,000 gallons per day (gpd).
DRAINAGE SUB-BASINS-These are the defined and used sub-basin drainage areas. The sub-basin number ascends as the water ascends. The chloropleth layer represents how the sub-basins lie in relation to the major drainage basin with the darkest color represents the lowest sub-basins and the lighters colors, basins that are higher. There are no sub-basins in Oxford that contribute to a water supply.

WETLANDS
According to the DEP wetland data, the town of Oxford has 1,618 acres of wetlands. Broken down categorically according to characteristics used by the Department of Environmental Protection the wetlands in Oxford consist primarily of:
Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees: 204 acres
Wooded Swamp Deciduous: 809 acres
Wooded Swamp Coniferous: 10 acres
Shrub Swamp: 311 acres
Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen:103 acres
Bog: 39 acres
Deep Marsh:139 acres
Water bodies listed as ponds: 207 acres

Selected terms and types of wetlands (Mitsch, Gosselink.1993). Swamp definitions (EPA.2005)
Bog: Peat accumulation usually dominated by moss. Receives only direct precipitation; characterized by acid water, low alkalinity, and low nutrients.
Fen: Peat accumulation; may be dominated by sedge, reed, shrub or forest. Receives some surface runoff and/or ground water, which has neutral pH and moderate to high nutrients.
Marsh: Permanently or periodically inundated site characterized by nutrient-rich water. In Europe, must have a mineral substrate and lack peat accumulation.
Swamp: Characterized by forest, shrub, or reed cover (fen).Particularly a forested wetland in North America.Depends on nutrient-rich ground water derived from mineral soils.
Wet meadow: Open prairie, grassland or savannah with waterlogged soils but without standing water for most of the year.
Open water: Deeper, normally perennial pools within wetlands and shallow portions of lakes and rivers. Typically home to submerged macrophytes.
Shrub Swamps: Shrub swamps, are similar to forested swamps, except that shrubby vegetation such as buttonbush, willow, dogwood (Cornus sp.) , and swamp rose (Rosa palustris) predominates. In fact, forested and shrub swamps are often found adjacent to one another. The soil is often water logged for much of the year, and covered at times by as much as a few feet of water because this type of swamp is found along slow moving streams and in floodplains.
Wooded Swamp: Forested swamps are found throughout the United States. They are often inundated with floodwater from nearby rivers and streams. Sometimes, they are covered by many feet of very slowly moving or standing water. In very dry years they may represent the only shallow water for miles and their presence is critical to the survival of wetland-dependent species like wood ducks (Aix sponsa), river otters (Lutra canadensis), and cottonmouth snakes (Agkistrodon piscivorus). Some of the common species of trees found in these wetlands are red maple and pin oak (Quercus palustris) in the Northern United States, overcup oak (Quercus lyrata) and cypress in the South, and willows (Salix spp.) and western hemlock (Tsuga sp.) in the Northwest.
Forested refers to vegetated wetland systems with woody plants 6 meters or taller. (Cowardin, L.M. et. al.1979)

When the wetland characteristics for the town of Oxford are analyzed according to characteristics used by the National Wetland Inventory data, the primary classification for the Oxford wetland are Palustrine Forested Wetlands.
The Palustrine System includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergents, mosses or lichens. The Palustrine System was developed to group the vegetated wetlands traditionally called by such names as marsh, swamp, bog, fen, and prairie, which are found throughout the United States. It also includes the small, shallow, permanent or intermittent water bodies often called ponds. Palustrine wetlands may be situated shoreward of lakes, river channels, or estuaries; on river floodplains; in

HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

N W E S

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution intrepreting positional accuracy. Produced by the Town of Oxford Land Management Office in conjunction with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

South of the French River Cascade, the River continues to flow below steep slopes on the west side. The east side has nearly flat, open land and includes fields cleared for recreational uses, extensive wetlands such as cattail marshes and shrub swamps, and marsh areas under flooded-out standing dead trees. The River occupies only a small portion of the land which could be covered by water under maximum retention conditions at the Hodges Village Dam. Just north of the flood control dam, the River widens into a large pond, Mill Pond. Shrub swamp and emergent marsh border the open water.

The River leaves the reservoir over a concrete spillway and forms a pond. From the pond south to the North Village Dam in Webster, the River is navigable by canoe or small boat, crossing under bridges at Charlton Street, Dudley Road, Harwood Street, and Bigelow Road.

South of the pond, the River flows through fairly flat land with extensive areas of shrub wetlands. Just before Charlton Street, there is an area of wet meadow. South of Charlton Street, there are extensive areas of shrub and forested swamp and emergent marsh wetlands filling the River flood plain around the River's winding channel.

In addition to the French River, other water bodies in Oxford include:

Auguttebeck Pond
Batty Brook
Barber's Hollow Brook
Buffum Pond
Bugg Swamp
Carbuncle Pond
Cedar Swamp
Chimney Pond
Mill Brook
Eames Pond
Grassy Pond
Howarth's Swamp
Hudson Pond
Little River
Lowes Brook
Lowes Pond
McKinstry Pond
Robinson Pond
Sacarrappa Pond
Stump Pond
Stumpy Pond
Texas Pond
Thayer Pond
Wellington Brook
Clara Barton Pond

Some of the more prominent water bodies are described below:

Carbuncle Pond was originally called Town Pond. Carbuncle Pond is the deepest pond in the town of Oxford. It is also the only pond in Oxford that is stocked with trout by the Department of Fish and Game.

McKinstry Pond was built in 1940 by Merton B. McKinstry and consists of approximately 19 acres. This land had been used as a cranberry bog and hay meadow and was surrounded by spring-fed streams. Mr. McKinstry had a love for nature, and being an avid hunter and fisherman he constructed the pond as a fishing hole and bait house for himself and fellow members of his gun club. A contractor dug a shallow basin that filled with water from the natural springs, and the water level is controlled by two dams at either end of the pond. The land was sold to the Town of Oxford on June 12, 1973 for a token fee of $100. It was sold with restrictions that it only be used for an animal and bird sanctuary and other conservation and recreational purposes, and that it remain known as McKinstry Pond. The Pond has a problem with noxious aquatic weeds.

Buffumville Lake straddles the Town boundary of Charlton and Oxford. It is a large lake of approximately 186 acres operated by the Army Corps of Engineers for flood control purposes. Buffumville Dam was built in 1958 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in response to the floods of the 1936 which caused tremendous damage to the area. The watershed is 76 percent forested and most of remaining watershed consists of rural and agricultural land use. The Corps

operates a public swimming area and provides a 300-foot long beach with picnic tables, grills and some recreational amenities. The seven-mile Lake Shore Trail begins at the beach and goes around the entire lake. In addition, Park Rangers hold special interpretive programs on the cultural and natural environment, water resources, water safety and flood control. The Corps provides a handicapped fishing dock and intends to construct an accessible platform on Buffumville Beach. The beach is also accessible to those in wheelchairs. A boat ramp and culvert underneath Oxford Road permit boating on both sides of the lake. No fee is required for launching a boat or canoe at the launching ramp.

According to the TMDL report for the French River Basin[3] *Hudson Pond* is only about 15 acres. During its last assessment in 1994, the Pond has a serious problem with noxious aquatic plants. The assessment noted: "A 21 September 1994 synoptic survey indicates that 75% of the pond was covered with floating leaf plants. It is likely that the coverage is 100% (including submerged plants and floating leaf) overall."

Lowes Pond[4] is a small impoundment of approximately 33 acres. The dam is old and leaking but holds back about 10 vertical feet of water. I-395 bisects the pond and interchange number 4 is adjacent to the shore, thus, the interstate is a major contributor to stormwater runoff. Lowes Pond was also assessed by DEP in the summer of 1994 and the assessment reported: "A 21 September 1994 synoptic survey indicates that 75% to 100% of the pond was covered with aquatic plants. It consisted of mostly floating leaf plants."

Robinson Pond is a large pond of approximately 99 acres. Robinson Pond was assessed by DEP in the summer of 1994 and the assessment comments reported[5]: "Historically moderate total phosphorus levels and very dense growths of aquatic macrophytes (primarily Myriophyllum sp.) cover the entire pond. A synoptic survey conducted on 21 Sept. 1994 noted 100% floating vegetation (Nypmphaea sp. primarily) at the north end of the pond and 75-100% in the west cove and south end of the pond." In addition, the dam is in a state of serious repair. With funding provided by a Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant from EOEA, the engineering firm of Fuss & O'Neill completed the "Robinson Pond Visual Inspection Report" in 2006 and estimated the cost to repair the dam between $294,000 and $630,000.

Texas Pond is a small reservoir of approximately 28 acres. The dam has been breached, but a shallow reservoir remains. The Pond is located a short distance downstream of the Oxford Rochdale wastewater treatment plant and is also below the Leicester wastewater treatment plant. The TMDL report also identified Texas Pond as having dense aquatic macrophyte growths near the shoreline around the entire pond. The weed growth is likely caused by very high total phosphorus levels and suspended solids from the wastewater treatment plants.

3. Aquifer Recharge Areas

According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Public Water Supplies Datalayer, Oxford has eleven public water supply sources:

Aquarion Water Company- Aquarion Water Company supplies water to the town of Oxford and obtains its water supply from three overburden wells. The wells are located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent

[3] Draft Total Maximum Daily Loads of Phosphorus for Selected French Basin Lakes, Mass. DEP, 2002, page 29.
[4] Ibid., page 35.
[5] Ibid., page 43.

contaminant migration. The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the system is High based on the presence of high threat land uses in the Zone II area such as body shops, gas stations, service stations/auto repair shops, bus and truck terminals, dry cleaners, junk and salvage yards, paint shops, railroad tracks and yards, repair shops, large quantity hazardous waste generators, and underground storage tanks.

American Stone Mix, Inc.: - The well for the American Stone Mix, Inc. is located outside of the on-site building to the east. The well has a Zone I of 100 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 415 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. The overall susceptibility to contamination for the well is High based on the presence of high threat activities in the Zone I and IWPA areas, specifically, the presence of manufacturing activities and hazardous material storage.

Fabrico, Inc.: - The well for the facility is located in the woods to the northeast of the building. The well has a Zone I of 108 feet and an IWPA of 425 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability of contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. The overall susceptibility to contamination for the well is High, based on the presence of high threat activities in the IWPA area, specifically, storage of hazardous materials and a machine/metalworking shop.

American Polymers, Inc.: - American Polymers, Inc. obtains its water supply from a deep bedrock well with a jet pump about ten feet from the road within an adjacent building. The well has a Zone I of 100 feet and an IWPA of 411 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. The overall susceptibility for the well is High, based on the presence of high threat activities in the Zone I and IWPA areas, specifically, a machine/metalworking shop and a junk yard/salvage yard/body work/repair shop.

Pinewood on the Green: - The wells for the facility are located to the west of the condominium buildings, away from Pleasant Street. Each well has a Zone I of 245 feet and an IWPA of 605 feet. The wells are located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contamination migration. The overall susceptibility to contamination for the wells is Moderate, based on the presence of moderate threat land uses and activities in the Zone I or IWPA area such as parking lots/driveways/roads, golf course, cemetery, septic system, above ground fuel storage, and structures.

Buffumville Heights Estates: - Buffumville Heights Condominiums gets its water supply from two wells. Well #1 has a Zone I of 167 feet and an IWPA of 462 feet. Well #2 has a Zone I of 172 feet and an IWPA of 467 feet. The wells are located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the wells is Moderate, based on the presence of moderate threat land uses and activities in the Zone I and IWPA areas, specifically, parking areas, fertilizer storage and use, septic system, and structures.

Toria Heights Condominiums: - The well for the facility is located behind the two condominium buildings. The well has a Zone I of 267 feet and an IWPA of 688 feet. The wells are located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. The overall susceptibility to contamination for the wells is Moderate, based on the presence of moderate threat land uses in the Zone I and IWPA areas such as parking areas and roads, lawn care and gardening, and septic system.

Charlton Street Apartments: - Charlton Street Apartments gets its water supply from a well located on the premises. The well has a Zone I of 100 feet and an IWPA of 466 feet. The well is located in an aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers that can prevent contaminant migration. The overall susceptibility to contamination for the well is Moderate, based on the presence of moderate threat land uses and activities in the Zone I and IWPA areas, specifically, parking areas, fertilizer storage and use, septic system, and structures.

4. Flood Hazard Areas

Historically, the French River region experienced several major floods. The Hodges Village Flood Control Dam was constructed in 1959 at a cost of $4.4 million by the US Army Corps of Engineers in response to the floods of 1936 and 1955 which caused tremendous property damage and took many lives. The dam is an earth and rock fill embankment with a concrete spillway section and four earth dikes. It is part of a system of six flood control dams designed and built by the USACOE to control flooding from Oxford to Long Island Sound.

Hodges Village Dam is comprised of almost 1200 acres of land. The reservoir has no permanent pool of water; however the land is typically swampy and floods in the springtime. The USACOE manages the natural resources for multiple uses: flood control, wildlife habitat, forest production, watershed protection, and outdoor recreation.

Currently, Hodges Village Dam has over 15 miles of trails for hiking, nature study, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding. On the west side of the French River, dirt bikes and snowmobiles are allowed on designated trails. Hunting is allowed in season on the west side of the river. Fishing and canoeing are also allowed, with access at Augutteback Pond in Greenbriar Park.

5. Wetlands

According to the Department of Environmental Protection wetland data, Oxford has 1,618 acres of wetlands. Broken down according to characteristics, the wetlands in Oxford consist primarily of:

Wooded Swamp Mixed Trees- 204 acres
Wooded Swamp Deciduous- 809 acres
Wooded Swamp Coniferous- 10 acres
Shrub Swamp- 311 acres
Shallow Marsh Meadow or Fen- 103 acres
Bog- 39 acres
Deep Marsh- 139 acres
Water bodies listed as Ponds- 207 acres

According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Core Habitats represent habitat for the state's rare plant and animal populations and include exemplary natural communities in Massachusetts. They are the most critical sites for biodiversity conservation across the state. Three Core Habitats have been identified in Oxford. Core Habitat BM974 encompasses Eddy Pond and a variety of wetland habitats, including an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp at the south end of Eddy Pond and continuing south of Cedar Street. A moderate-sized, good quality level bog community that is buffered by forested upland is also found here. The majority of this core habitat remains unprotected. Core Habitat BM1069 encompasses

Douglas State Forest, Douglas Cedar Swamp, and Douglas Woods, as well as upland forests, vernal pools, scattered wetlands, and riparian areas. This core habitat contains important natural communities, including the largest and best Kettlehole Wet Meadow in the state, several examples of inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamps, and a good Acidic Graminoid Fen. Most of the exemplary natural communities within this core habitat occur on glacially deposited sandy outwash and till. Kettleholes and basin wetlands are commonly encountered here, providing a good mix of habitats within the surrounding Oak and Pine-Oak forests. Core Habitat C1006 is a small site for a rare plant.

Additionally, there are numerous wetlands associated with the French River. The main wetland types in the corridor include emergent marshes, submergent/aquatic communities, and forested and shrub/scrub wetlands. Large wetland areas occur primarily in the flood storage reserve area to Hodges Village Dam and along the winding river channel to the south of the dam. In the latter area, there is an extensive buttonbrush-dogwood wetland spreading from the river channel to both sides and growing under flooded conditions in the spring.

D. Vegetation

1. General Inventory

Typical species expected for the Oxford area include the following:

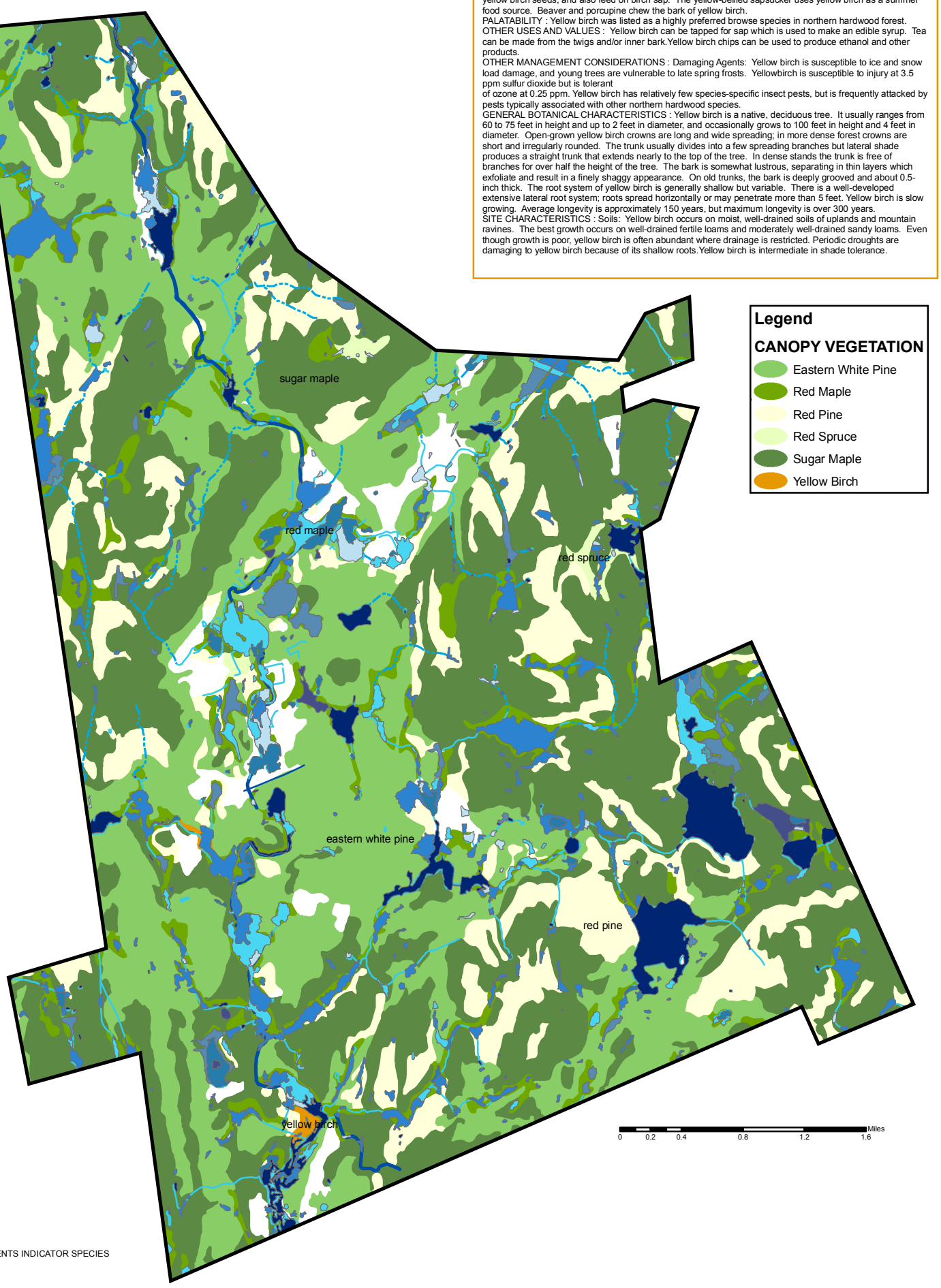
Wildflowers: Lizard's Tail; Wild Ginger; Dutchman's Pipe; Virginia Snakeroot; Water-lily; Pond-lily; Marsh Marigold; Leather Flower; Virgin's Bower; Curlflower; Goldenseal; Purple Meadow Rue; Rue Anemone; American Globeflower; Goldthread; Hepaticas; Wild Columbine; Red Baneberry; Spring Larkspur; Bristly Crowfoot; Swamp and Tall Buttercup; Wood Anemone; Thimbleweed; Blue Cohosh; Mayapple; Twinleaf; Greater Celandine; Bloodroot; Dutchman's Breeches; Squirrel Corn; Allegheny Vine; Pale Corydalis; Stinging Nettle; Pokeweed; Four O'Clock; Rock Sandwort; Chickweed; Starry Campion; Catchflies; Bladder Campion; Bouncing Bet; Deptford Pink; Lamb's Quarters; Common Purslane; Carpetweed; Water Smartweed; Pinkweed; Curly Dock; St. Johnswort; St. Peterswort; Pineweed; Rose, Musk, and Marsh Mallows; Velvetleaf; Flower-of-an-hour; Northern Pitcher Plant; Sundew; Common Blue and White Violets; Maypop; Rockrose; Wild and Star Cucumber; Wintercress; Wild Radish; Black Mustard; Dame's Rocket; Cutleaf Toothwart; Whitlow Grass; Watercress; Springcress; Bearberry; Checkerberry; American Cranberry; Mayflower; Pipsissewa; Wintergreen; Shinleaf; Indian Pipe; Pinesap; Wandflower; Primrose; Shooting Star; Loosestrife; Starflower; Scarlet Pimpernel; Wall Pepper; Orpine; Roseroot; Ditch Stonecrop; Early Saxifrage; Grass of Parnassus; Bishop's Cap; Allegheny Foamflower; Meadow Sweet; Wild Strawberry; Steeplebush; American Burnet; Marsh and Tall Cinquefoil; Silverweed; Fivefingers; Purple Avens; Wild Senna; Partridge and Butterfly Pea; Cow, Crown, and Milk Vetch; Beach Pea; Wild Licorice; Birdfoot Trefoil; Rattlebox; Groundnut; Blue Lupine; False Indigo; Red, White, Crimson, and Rabbit's Foot Clovers; White Sweet Clover; Showy Tick Trefoil; Round-headed Bush Clover; Alfalfa; Fireweed; Common and Showy Evening Primrose; Mistletoe; Bunchberry; Pale Meadow Beauty; Deergrass; Climbing Bittersweet; Allegheny Spurge; Poison Ivy; Cypress Spurge; Snow-on-the-mountain; Wild Poinsettia; Wild Grape; Virginia Creeper; Wild Geranium; Jewelweed; Yellow, Violet, and Wood Sorrels; Gaywings; Seneca Snakeroot; Orange and Field Milkwort; Common Flax; Wild Sarsaparilla; American Spikenard; Indian Pink; Dwarf and American Ginseng; Harbinger of Spring; Golden Alexander; Queen Anne's Lace; Cow Parsnip; Rattlesnake Master; Poison Hemlock; Great Angelica; Pennywort; Fringed, Downy, and Bottle Gentians; Buckbean; Rose and Marsh Pinks; Running Myrtle; Bluestar; Spreading Dogbane; Indian Hemp; Common,

RED MAPLE
HABITAT TYPES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES:
Red maple is one of the most widely distributed trees in eastern North America. Red maple occurs as a dominant or codominant in several eastern deciduous forests and deciduous swamp communities with black ash (Fraxinus nigra), yellow birch (Betula alleghaniensis), northern red oak (Quercus rubra), black oak (Q. velutinus), aspen (Populus tremuloides), and elm (Ulmus spp.). In mesic upland communities of the Southeast, it grows as an overstory dominant with sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua)
and water oak (Quercus palustris).
IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE: Red maple is browsed by some wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, moose, elk, and snowshoe hare.
COVER VALUE: Maples provide cover for many species of wildlife. The screech owl, pileated woodpecker, and common flicker nest in cavities in many species of maple. Cavities in red maples in river floodplain communities are often well suited for cavity nesters such as the wood duck.
OTHER USES AND VALUES: Red maple is characterized by showy fruits and flowers and colorful fall foliage. Red maple can be used to make maple syrup, although sugar maple is much more commonly used. Red maple is one of the first trees to flower in early spring .
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS: Toxicity: Red maple browse is toxic to cattle and horses, particularly during the summer and late fall.
Insects/disease: Loopers, spanworms, the gallmaking maple borer, maple callus borer, Columbian timber borer, and various scale insects are common damaging agents.
Damage: Red maple is tolerant of water-logged soils and flooding and is intermediately tolerant of ice damage. Red maple is susceptible to decay after mechanical damage. Butt rot, trunk rot fungi, heart rot, and stem diseases are common in damaged trees; even increment boring can cause result in serious decay. Pollution: Red maple is relatively tolerant of landfill-contaminated gases, but ambient air pollution can damage the foliage.
GENERAL BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Red maple is a deciduous tree that grows 30 to 90 feet tall and up to 4 feet in diameter. The bark is smooth and gray but darkens and becomes furrowed in narrow ridges with age.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS: Red maple grows throughout through out much of the deciduous forest of eastern North America. It occurs on a variety of wet to dry sites in dense woods and in openings. Red maple grows in low, rich woods, along the margins of lakes, marshes, and swamps, in hammocks, wet thickets, and on floodplains and stream terraces. Red maple also occurs in drier upland woodlands, low-elevation cove forests, dry sandy plains, and on stable dunes. Red maple is a common dominant in many forest types and is considered a major species or associate in more that 56 cover types. In much of the Northeast it grows as an overstory.

EASTERN WHITE PINE
GENERAL BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Eastern white pine is a large, native, evergreen conifer. It grows rapidly and in 40 years can be 60 feet tall and 8 to 10 inches in d.b.h.. Eastern white pine commonly reaches 200 years of age and may exceed 450 years. In closed stands, boles are free of branches for over two-thirds of their length. Needles are 2.5 to 5.0 inches long, and the winged seeds are about 0.8 inches long. The roots are widespreading and moderately deep without a distinct taproot .
HABITAT TYPES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES: Eastern white pine frequently dominates or codominates xeric northern pine forests. In mixed hardwood forests, it often occurs as a scattered dominant tree towering above the surrounding hardwoods.
IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE: Eastern white pine provides food and habitat for numerous wildlife species. Songbirds and small mammals eat eastern white pine seeds. Snowshoe hares, white-tailed deer, and cottontails browse the foliage; the bark is eaten by various mammals. Pocket gophers graze the roots of seedlings and young trees. Northeastern pine forests can support a rich community of breeding birds. Bald eagles build nests in living eastern white pine, usually at a main branch located below the crown top. Eastern white pine, especially those with broken tops, provide valuable habitat for cavity-nesting wildlife.
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS : Two of the more damaging pests of eastern white pine are the white pine weevil (Pissodes strobi) and white pine blister rust (Cronartium ribicola). Eastern white pine is infrequently planted in the north-central region because of the inevitable damage caused by the rust beetle (Conophthorus coniperda), which is often responsible for complete crop failure. Eastern white pine is intermediate in shade tolerance and is present in all successional stages. It is a pioneer species on oldfields and other disturbed sites, a long-lived successional species, and aphysiographic climax species on dry, sandy soils.

YELLOW BIRCH
HABITAT TYPES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES : Yellow birch is usually found singly or in small groups, growing with American beech (Fagus grandifolia), maples (Acer spp.), particularly sugar maple (A. saccharum), ashes (Fraxinus spp.), aspens (Populus spp.), other birches (Betula spp.), eastern white pine (Pinus strobus), red spruce (Picea rubens), and balsam fir (Abies balsamea). Yellow birch is a dominant, codominant, or important species in northern hardwoods-red spruce forest, northern hardwoods, transition hardwoods-eastern white pine, and in central hardwoods-eastern hemlock-eastern white pine. Small trees and shrubs associated with yellow birch include sweet birch (B. lenta), ironwood (Ostrya virginiana), American hornbeam (Carpinus caroliniana), striped maple (A. pensylvanicum), mountain maple, alternate-leaved dogwood (Cornus alternifolia), beaked hazelnut (Corylus cornuta), Atlantic leatherwood (Dirca palustris), witch-hazel (Hamamelis virginiana), American fly honeysuckle (Lonicera canadensis), American mountain-ash (Sorbus americana), Canada elderberry (Sambucus canadensis), Canada yew (Taxus canadensis), and mapleleaf viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium).
IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE : Yellow birch is browsed by moose, white-tailed deer, and snowshoe hare. Deer consume large numbers of seedlings in summer, and prefer green leaves and woody stems in fall. Yellow birch seeds are consumed by common redpoll, pine siskin, chickadees, and other songbirds. Ruffed grouse feed on seeds, catkins, and buds. Red squirrel cut and store mature strobili, eat yellow birch seeds, and also feed on birch sap. The yellow-bellied sapsucker uses yellow birch as a summer food source. Beaver and porcupine chew the bark of yellow birch.
PALATABILITY : Yellow birch was listed as a highly preferred browse species in northern hardwood forest.
OTHER USES AND VALUES : Yellow birch can be tapped for sap which is used to make an edible syrup. Tea can be made from the twigs and/or inner bark.Yellow birch chips can be used to produce ethanol and other products.
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS : Damaging Agents: Yellow birch is susceptible to ice and snow load damage, and young trees are vulnerable to late spring frosts. Yellowbirch is susceptible to injury at 3.5 ppm sulfur dioxide but is tolerant
of ozone at 0.25 ppm. Yellow birch has relatively few species-specific insect pests, but is frequently attacked by pests typically associated with other northern hardwood species.
GENERAL BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS : Yellow birch is a native, deciduous tree. It usually ranges from 60 to 75 feet in height and up to 2 feet in diameter, and occasionally grows to 100 feet in height and 4 feet in diameter. Open-grown yellow birch crowns are long and wide spreading; in more dense forest crowns are short and irregularly rounded. The trunk usually divides into a few spreading branches but lateral shade produces a straight trunk that extends nearly to the top of the tree. In dense stands the trunk is free of branches for over half the height of the tree. The bark is somewhat lustrous, separating in thin layers which exfoliate and result in a finely shaggy appearance. On old trunks, the bark is deeply grooved and about 0.5-inch thick. The root system of yellow birch is generally shallow but variable. There is a well-developed extensive lateral root system; roots spread horizontally or may penetrate more than 5 feet. Yellow birch is slow growing. Average longevity is approximately 150 years, but maximum longevity is over 300 years.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS : Soils: Yellow birch occurs on moist, well-drained soils of uplands and mountain ravines. The best growth occurs on well-drained fertile loams and moderately well-drained sandy loams. Even though growth is poor, yellow birch is often abundant where drainage is restricted. Periodic droughts are damaging to yellow birch because of its shallow roots.Yellow birch is intermediate in shade tolerance.

RED PINE
HABITAT TYPES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES : Red pine is often codominant with white pine (Pinus strobus) and/or jack pine (P. banksiana). Red pine often forms open stands.
IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE : Stands of red pine provide cover, nesting sites, and food for many species of birds and mammals. If preferred food is lacking, white-tailed deer, snowshoe hares, and cottontails will browse seedlings.
OTHER USES AND VALUES : Red pine is planted in narrow strips on sandy farmland to reduce winderosion of soil. It is also planted for Christmas trees.
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS : Red pine is one of the most extensively planted forest species in the northern United States. Several sawflies (Neodiprion spp., Diprion spp., and Acantholyda spp.) defoliate red pine and may kill seedlings. Other insects that damage red pine include Saratoga spittlebug (Aphrophora saratogensis), Zimmerman pine moth (Dioryctria zimmermani), red pine shoot moth (D. resinosella), red pine scale (Matsucoccus resinosae), European pine shoot moth (Rhyacionia buoliana), and Allegheny mound ant (Formica exsectoides). Red pine cone beetle (Conophthora resinosae), red pine cone moth (Eucosma monitorana), and red pine coneworm (Dioryctria disclusa) destroy whole cones and reduce seed production. Red pine decline, an expanding circular area of dead and dying red pine, affects 20- to 40-year-old pine. The fungi Leptographium procerum and L. terebrantis have been isolated from roots of declining trees, but not from completely healthy stands. The Leptographium spp. are thought to gain access to the root system and spread by root-to root contact. Stressed trees then succumb to insect attack by root collar weevil (Hylobius radicis), red turpentine beetle (Dendroctonus valens), and pine engraver (Ips pini). Beaked hazel and American hazel (Corylus cornuta and C. americana), aspen (Populus spp.), and mountain maple (Acer spicatum) often compete with red pine seedlings. A picloram/2,4-D mixture (Tordon 101) was tested for control of these species but caused considerable mortality of red pine seedlings.
GENERAL BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Red pine is a native, evergreen, coniferous tree with 4- to 6.5-inch-long needles and thick bark. In closed stands, red pine has a straight, limbless bole for almost three-fourths of its length and an oval crown. In open stands, branches are retained for almost the full length of the tree and are horizontally spreading or somewhat drooping. Red pine usually attains a height of 70 to 80 feet and a d.b.h. of 36 inches, but on good sites, it occasionally reaches a maximum size of almost 150 feet in height and 60 inches in d.b.h.. Red pine lives to be almost 400 years old. Red pine is very windfirm. Seedlings develop taproots 6 to 18 inches long in the first growing season. Older trees develop a widespreading and moderately deep root system. If unhindered by competition, the longest lateral roots may extend 40 feet beyond the crown radius. Vertical roots may penetrate 5 to 15 feet.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS: Red pine occurs on outwash plains, level or gently rolling sand plains, and low ridges adjacent to lakes and swamps. Red pine often grows on very exposed sites including islands, peninsulas, east shores of lakes, and steep slopes. It withstands dehydrating winter winds better than its tree associates. Red pine commonly grows in dry sandy, acidic, infertile soils. but it can grow in all types of soils, provided they are well drained. Red pine grows especially well in naturally subirrigated soils (the water table 4 to 9 feet with well-aerated surface layers.
Most tree associates of red pine, with the exception of jack pine, white pine, and aspen, grow as understory. Common tree associates on coarse, dry soils include quaking aspen (Populus tremuloides), bigtooth aspen (P. grandidentata), and bear oak (Quercus ilicifolia). On fine sands to loamy sands, associates also include oak (Quercus spp.), black cherry (Prunus serotina), and black spruce (Picea mariana). On sandy loam to loam soils, associates include sugar maple (Acer saccharum), American basswood (Tilia americana), yellow birch (Betula alleghaniensis), American beech (Fagus grandifolia), eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis), white spruce (Picea glauca), white ash (Fraxinus americana), northern white-cedar (Thuja occidentalis), and eastern hophornbean (Ostrya virginiana). Many understory shrub associates of red pine are shade intolerant but can persist in open red pine stands. Shrub associates include blueberries (Vaccinium spp.), trailing arbutus (Epigaea repens), sweetfern (Comptonia peregrina), bearberry (Arctostaphylos uva-ursi), prairie willow (Salix humilis), American hazel, beaked hazel, striped maple (Acer pensylvanicum), dwarf bush-honeysuckle (Diervilla lonicera), New Jersey tea (Ceanothus americanus), sand cherry (Prunus pumila and P. susquehanae), American fly honeysuckle (Lonicera canadensis), serviceberries (Amelanchier spp.), raspberries (Rubus spp.), and spireas (Spirea spp.).



* DATA REPRESENTS INDICATOR SPECIES

SUGAR MAPLE
HABITAT TYPES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES : Sugar maple grows in a wide variety of plant communities throughout eastern North America. It is a dominant or codominant in many northern hardwood and mixed mesophytic communities. Common codominants include beech (Fagus grandifolia), birch (Betula spp.), and American basswood (Tilia americana).
IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE: Sugar maple is commonly browsed by white-tailed deer, moose, and snowshoe hare. The red squirrel, gray squirrel, and flying squirrels feed on the seeds, buds, twigs, and leaves of sugar maple. The porcupine consumes the bark and can, in some instances, girdle the upper stem.
PALATABILITY: Sugar maple is somewhat palatable to deer. Samaras are palatable to squirrels and many other small mammals.
COVER VALUE: Numerous species of songbirds nest in sugar maple. Cavity nesters such as the black-capped chickadee excavate nest cavities or utilize preexisting cavities. The common flicker, pileated woodpecker, and screech owl also nest in maples.
OTHER USES AND VALUES: Sugar maple is the primary source of maple sugar and syrup. The maple syrup industry is important throughout much of eastern North America and accounted for more than 100 million dollars in trade during 1989. Sugar maple is an attractive shade tree and is widely planted as an ornamental. It is sometimes used in shelterbelt plantings.
OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS: Damage: Sugar maple is susceptible to wind damage and to damage caused by ice storms and winter freezes. De-icing salts often damage sugar maples which grow along roadways. Individuals within the overstory are susceptible to air pollutants such as sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, chlorides, and fluorides. Sugar maple is susceptible to logging injuries which frequently permit the entrance of decay.
Insects/disease: Sugar maple is host to numerous insects including bud miners, aphids, borers, and defoliators such as the gypsy moth, tent caterpillar, linden looper, and cankerworms .
SITE CHARACTERISTICS: Sugar maple most commonly occurs in rich, mesic woods but also grows in drier upland woods. It grows in level areas or in coves and other sheltered locations on adjacent lower slopes. Sugar maple is often associated with stream terraces, streambanks, valleys, canyons, ravines, and wooded natural levees. It is occasionally found on dry rocky hillsides. Sugar maple forms pure stands but also grows mixed with other hardwoods and scattered conifers. Common associates include American basswood, yellow birch (Betula alleghaniensis), black cherry (Prunus serotina), red spruce (Picea rubens), white spruce (P. glauca), beech, eastern white pine (Pinus strobus), eastern hemlock (Tsuga canadensis), northern red oak (Quercus rubra), white oak (Q. alba), and yellow-poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera).
Understory associates: Understory associates of sugar maple are both varied and numerous. Common shrub associates include beaked hazel (Corylus cornuta), Atlantic leatherwood (Dirca palustris), redberry elder (Sambucus pubens), alternate-leaf dogwood (Cornus alternifolia), dwarf bush-honeysuckle (Diervilla lonicera), Canada yew (Taxus canadensis), red raspberry (Rubus idaeus), and blackberries (Rubus spp.). Springbeauty (Claytonia caroliniana), large-flowered trillium (Trillium grandiflorum), anemone (Anemone spp.) marsh blue violet (Viola cucullata), downy yellow violet (V. pubescens), Solomon's-seal (Polygonatum pubescens), false Solomon's-seal (Smilacina stellata), sweet cicely (Osmorhiza spp.), adderstongue (Ophioglossom vulgatum), jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema atrorubens), clubmosses (Lycopodium spp.), and largeleaf aster (Aster macrophyllus). Sugar maple is very tolerant of shade and can persist for long periods beneath a dense forest canopy. It is noted for its ability to quickly occupy gaps created in the forest canopy.

RED SPRUCE
HABITAT TYPES AND PLANT COMMUNITIES :
Red spruce is a common dominant or codominant in the red spruce and the spruce-fir forests of the northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. Understory associates in openings include rhododendrons (Rhododendron spp.),American mountain-ash (Sorbus americana), and wild raisin (Viburnum cassinoides). Other understory associates include highbush cranberry (Viburnum edule), mountain holly (Ilex montana), mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia), speckled alder (Alnus rugosa), pin cherry (Prunus pensylvanica), serviceberry (Amelanchier spp.), raspberries (Rubus spp.), and blueberries and huckleberries (Vaccinium spp.). In closed red spruce stands, mosses, lichens, and clubmosses predominate in the understory along with wood sorrel (Oxalis spp.), trillium (Trillium spp.), and checkerberry wintergreen (Gaultheria procumbens).
IMPORTANCE TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE : Spruce grouse browse the leaves and twigs of red spruce. Mice and voles consume and store significant amounts of spruce seeds, preferring red and white spruce to balsam fir. Birds (particularly crossbills
or grosbeaks) will clip the terminal buds of young spruce, as will porcupines, bears, snowshoe hares, and, rarely, deer. Red squirrels clip twigs and terminal buds and also eat reproductive and vegetative buds. In the southern part of its range, red spruce forests are used by only a few wildlife species. Many of these species are usually only found farther north, such as snowshoe hare, wood warblers and other songbirds, rodents, and salamanders.
COVER VALUE : Red spruce provides thermal and loafing cover for spruce grouse in winter.
OTHER USES AND VALUES : Red spruce gum was formerly collected and processed for chewing gum.
Management for wildlife: Harvest practices have an effect on the resulting stand structure, and therefore on the numbers and species of birds that use red spruce habitats. Dense, young stands of red spruce support a higher population of birds but with less diversity than in older forests.
Insects and disease: Red spruce is relatively free from insects and diseases until it is mature. Mature trees are susceptible to the following insects: spruce budworm (Choristoneura fumiferana), eastern spruce beetle (Dendroctonus rufipennis), European spruce sawfly (Diprion hercyniae), yellowheaded spruce sawfly (Pikonema alaskensis), and eastern spruce gall adelgid (Adelges abietis).
GENERAL BOTANICAL CHARACTERISTICS : Red spruce is a native, evergreen conifer. It is a medium-sized tree,attaining a maximum height of 115 feet; the average mature height is 60 to 75 feet. Red spruce is very shallow rooted; most of the feeding
roots occur in the duff and top few centimeters of soil.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS : Red spruce grows in climates with cool, moist summers and cold winters. Red spruce is often found on sites that are unfavorable for other species, such as organic soils overlying rocks in mountainous locales, on steep rocky slopes with thin soils, and in wet bottomlands. Red spruce responds to canopy removal even after many years of suppression. The taller and older a seedling or sapling is, the greater. Red spruce and red spruce-fir cover types are self-maintaining. Stand composition may vary with stand age. Both red spruce and its two fir associates (balsam and Fraser) are shade tolerant, and both spruce and fir reproduction are found under spruce-fir canopies.

CANOPY VEGETATION INVENTORY
OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SPRING 2006

N W E S

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TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

Sand, and Swamp Milkweed; Butterfly Weed; Bittersweet and Black Nightshade; Buffalo Bur; Horse Nettle; Ground Cherry; Jimsonweed; Morning Glory; Wild Potato Vine; Field and Hedge Bindweed; Dodder; Creeping, Blue, and Downy Phlox; Jacob's Ladder; and Virginia Waterleaf among many others.

Shrubs: Witch Hazel; Spicebush; Labrador Tea; Rhododendron; Mountain Laurel; Highbush and Lowbush Blueberry; American Black Current; Highbush Blackberry; Multiflora Rose; Red-osier Dogwood; Poison Sumac; Buttonbush; American Elder; Nannyberry; Hobblebush; and Fly Honeysuckle.Lichens, Ferns, Mushrooms, and other nonflowering plants: Shining, Bog, and Tree Club-moss; Meadow and Rock Spike-moss; Running Cedar and Pine; Quillwort; Field Horse-tail; Scouring-rush; Water Horsetail; Water Fern, Burned Ground, Cord, Broom, Rock, Silver, Tree, Delicate Fern, Haircap, Feather, Star, Spineleaf, and Four-tooth Mosses; Common Liverwort; Fringed Waterwort; Dog, Lung, Orange Star, Map, Toadskin, Cracked Shield, Reindeer, Flabby, Beard, and Ladder Lichens; Pyxie Cups; British Soldiers; Destroying Angel; Fly Agaric; Death Cup; Caesar's Mushroom; Blusher; Napkin Amanita; Grisette; Parasol Mushroom; Smooth and Shaggy Lepiota; Green Gill Mushroom; Cone-shaped, Vermillion, and Russula Hygrophorus; Orange-brown Lactarius; Cottony-margined Milky Cap; Delicious Lactarius; Pungent and Short-stemmed Russula; Scaly Lentinus; Split-gilled Mushroom; Maroon Tricholoma; Golden Trumpets; Parasitic Asterophora; Honey Mushroom; Fairy Ring; Little Wheel Mushroom; Club-footed Clitocybe; Jack-o'-lantern; Wood Blewit; False Chanterelle; Winter Mushroom; Rooting Collybia; Golden and Bleeding Mycena; Waxy Laccaria; Russet-scaly, Greenish-yellow, and Dingy Tricholoma; Silky Volvaria; and numerous species of ferns.

2. Forest Land

According to the land use coverage provided by MassGIS, 69.2% of Oxford's land is currently forested, wetlands, or open space. Due to soil type, weather conditions, elevation, and other microclimate conditions, the typical forest in this area is white pine mixed with varying associated species including red oak; American and blue beech (ironwood); hemlock; white and gray birch; quaking and big tooth aspen; black cherry; northern white cedar; and red maple. This mixed deciduous-coniferous forest is fairly open, with a shrub understory in some places. Canopy coverage ranges from nearly one hundred percent in pure white pine stands to forty or fifty percent in beech and oak areas. There is moderate regeneration. Many of the woods appear to be in a stabilized state, not rapidly evolving toward another vegetative type. Oxford also contains "old fields," land once cleared for agriculture and later abandoned to revert to forest. Grasses and weedy species such as Queen Ann's Lace, goldenrod, and evening primrose are common. Later, shrubs appear, and eventually a forest develops on the abandoned land.

3. Agricultural Land

According to the land use coverage provided by MassGIS, 6.2% of Oxford's land is currently used for agriculture. Town records show that 2,430.63 acres of land are designated as Agricultural/Horticultural. The various uses of this agricultural land include intensive agriculture, cropland, nurseries, and pasture.

4. Wetland Vegetation

Along the Cominsville section of the French River there is a strip of bordering vegetated wetland along the riverbanks, primarily made up of shrubs including alder, red maple, dogwood, and pussy willow. There is a small patch of cattail wetland not far south from Stafford Street. South of Route 56 there are wetlands and fields. On the east side of the river, north of Mill Street, there

is a shrub-sedge wetland. Wetland species include sweet birch, red maple, highbush blueberry, ironwood, alder, sedges, dogwood, sensitive fern, pasture rose, and cattail.

South of Mill Street, north of the Allen Textile Company dam, the River enters an extensive wet meadow and shrub wetland filling the floodplain. Alder, meadowsweet, elderberry, and other shrubs fringe the wet meadow including woolgrass, tussock sedge, and rushes.

Approximately 1000 feet south of the Massachusetts Turnpike, a broad wetland area of mixed emergent marsh and forested wetland occurs. At Texas Pond, several areas of bordering vegetated wetland occur along the shores, mainly cattail marshes. South of the Route 56 bridge the River widens into a pond with extensive forested wetland on both the west and east sides.

After flowing through a shrub/emergent marsh, the river forms Bartlett Pond. The pond includes cattail marsh in the north end. Bordering shrub wetland occurs on the southwest side with alder, maple, and dogwood. The pond drains over a wide stone dam into several rocky channels under white pine and red maple woods.

South of the French River Cascade, the Greenbriar area includes extensive wetlands such as cattail marshes and shrub swamps. Just north of the flood control dam, the river widens into Mill Pond. Shrub swamp and emergent marsh border the open water.

South of the pond at Hodges Village, the River flows through fairly flat land with mixed forest and pine stands and extensive areas of shrub wetlands. Bordering wetlands include dogwood, red maple, buttonbrush, and alder shrubs and sedges. The River is fairly shallow and, in place, these shrubs extend well out into the channel or form islands. Just before Charlton Street, there is an area of wet meadow.

South of Charlton Street, there are extensive areas of shrub and forested swamp and emergent marsh wetlands filling in the floodplain around the River's winding channel. Buttonbrush and dogwood dominate and grow in standing water as dense colonies. Aquatic plants such as milfoil also occur in this area.

5. Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Seven rare species of plants have been identified in Oxford. Core Habitat BM1069 includes the state's only population of Sclerolepis (Sclerolepis uniflora; status: Endangered), a delicate, creeping plant of sunny pondshores. Also growing here is a small population of Slender Cottongrass (Eriophorum gracile; status: Threatened), which is found within an excellent example of an Acidic Graminoid Fen. Core Habitat BM974 includes a population of Great Laurel (Rhododendron maximum; status: Threatened). Other areas of Oxford are home to Spreading Tick-Trefoil (Desmodium humisfusum; status: Endangered), Climbing Fern (Lygodium palmatum; status: Special Concern), Adder's-Tongue Fern (Ophioglossum pusillum; status: Threatened), and Pale Green Orchis (Platanthera flava var herbiola; status: Threatened).

6. Unique Natural Resources

French River Cascades: Located just north of the Hodges Village Flood Control lands and easily accessible from Route 12, the small cascade in the French River is a scenic asset. Together with the industrial remnants in the woods nearby, this area has good potential for a picnic area.

Legend

- Midstate Trail
- NHESP Living Waters Critical Supporting Watershed
- NHESP BioMap Core Habitat
- NHESP BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape
- UNDEVELOPED LAND
- OPEN SPACE
- CHAPTER61
- 83_FT_OVERLAY
- Streets

A connection between the status of the landscape defined as; 'Chapter Land', 'Open Space' or 'Undeveloped' and portions of the landscape identified by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as 'Special Interest Areas' should be a starting point for further investigation of exceptional landscapes in this community. These portions of the landscape may hold special value as open space, low-impact recreation areas, visual corridors and connectivity points for the 'Green Infrastructure' in Oxford.

Core Habitats
Both BioMap and Living Waters delineate Core Habitats that identify the most critical sites for biodiversity conservation across the state. Core Habitats represent habitat for the state's most viable rare plant and animal populations and include exemplary natural communities and aquatic habitats.

BioMap Core Habitat depicts the most viable habitat for rare species and natural communities in Massachusetts. The goal of the BioMap is to promote strategic land protection by producing a map showing areas, that if protected, would provide suitable habitat over the long term for the maximum number of Massachusetts' terrestrial and wetland plant and animal species and natural communities (Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. 2005). Oxford has three areas that qualify as Core Habitat areas. One of these areas, in the western portion of Oxford is located in space delineated as currently non-developed land. The second portion of core habitat, located in the south west portion of Oxford, resides in a mix of land use areas but all considered as chapter land, already delineated open space, or land considered as non-developed. The last portion of landscape considered as core habitat is located on private properties with a mix of land use classifications according to the assessor's data.

Core Habitat BM974

Natural Communities

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Level Bog		Vulnerable

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Great Laurel	Rhododendron maximum	Threatened

Invertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Hessel's Hairstreak (Rare Invertebrate)	Callophrys hesselli	Spec.C.-Sen.

This Core Habitat encompasses Eddy Pond and a variety of wetland habitats, including an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp that supports rare species such as Hessel's Haistreak butterfly and Great Laurel. A good-quality Level Bog community is also found here. Much of this Core Habitat remains unprotected.

Natural Communities
This Core Habitat contains a moderate-sized, good-quality Level Bog that is buffered by forested upland. Level Bogs are dwarf shrub peatlands, generally with pronounced hummock and hollow formations. These wetland peatlands are our most acidic and nutrient-poor, because they receive little overland water input, and are not connected to the water table.

Plants
A population of the Great Laurel, which is threatened in many locations by browsing deer, is found within an Atlantic White Cedar Swamp in this Core Habitat.

Invertebrates
This Core Habitat includes an Atlantic White Cedar swamp and bog at the south end of Eddy Pond (and continuing south of Cedar Street) that is habitat for Hessel's Hairstreak butterfly and other rare species. A fraction of the cedar swamp habitat is located on municipal conservation land, but the majority of this Core Habitat appears to be unprotected.

Supporting Natural Landscapes provide buffers around the Core Habitats, connectivity between Core Habitats, sufficient space for ecosystems to function, and contiguous undeveloped habitat for common species.

* Data and supporting information provided by Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program. Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program states that their methodology for deriving the information on this map is as follows: Core Habitat is based on verified data that corresponds to actual locations on the

Core Habitat C1069

Natural Communities

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Acidic Graminoid Fen		Vulnerable
Inland Atlantic White Cedar Swamp		Imperiled
Kettlehole Wet Meadow		Vulnerable

Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Sclerolepis	Sclerolepis unif.	Endangered
Slender Cottongrass	Eriophorum gracile	Threatened

Invertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Hessel's Hairstreak	Callophrys hesseli	Spec.Conc.

Vertebrates

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Eastern Box Turtle	Terrapene carolina	Spec. Conc.
4-toed Salamander	Hemidactylium scut.	Spec. Conc.
Marbled Sal.	Ambystoma opacum	Threatened
Spotted Turtle	Clemmys guttata	Spec. Conc.
Spring Sal.	Gyrinophilus porphyriti	Spec. Conc.
Wood Turtle	Clemmys insculpta	Spec. Conc.

Miles
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2

Living Waters Critical Supporting Watersheds are those areas with more immediate hydrologic contributions to Living Waters Core Habitats. As such, they represent the areas with the highest potential to sustain or degrade Core Habitats. Oxford has two areas delineated in the Critical Supporting Watershed map. In the southern part of Oxford a portion of the town offers serious concerns according to the NEHS Critical Supporting Watersheds data.

According to the NEHS Data this area has the following concerns:
Potential threat rating from impervious surfaces-High
Potential threat rating from road density-High
Potential threat rating from road crossing-High
Potential threat rating from potential point sources-High

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BIODIVERSITY

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SPRING 2006

Rocky Hill: Rocky Hill is a high ridge located west of the French River in North Oxford, adjacent to the Hodges Village Flood Control land. This hill is one of the few remaining undeveloped high spots in Oxford, and could potentially provide views of the French River corridor. Its rocky, wooded terrain invites hiking trails. Its south end is being quarried for crushed stone. Eventually, the crest of the quarry may provide views of the French River area and the town of Oxford.

Hemlock Grove: Growing on a talus of tumbled boulders toward the north end of Rocky Hill is an isolated, ecologically unique, pure hemlock grove.

Cedar Swamps: A large cedar swamp is located in the flood storage reserve area for Hodges Village Dam. Another cedar swamp exists at the south end of Eddy Pond in Core Habitat BM974 and several examples lie within Core Habitat 1069.

Waterfall: A small waterfall is located near Old Charlton Road at the south end of Rocky Hill along an un-named tributary brook to the French River.

7. Vegetation Mapping Projects

The French River Connection is a grassroots organization of mostly Webster and Dudley residents who have banded together to clean up and revitalize the French River. Their vision is for the French River and its shoreline to become a greenway that is used, enjoyed, and treasured by residents and visitors to the French River region. In preparing the greenway plan, members of the connection have done extensive vegetation mapping of the river, shoreline, and wetland areas.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

1. Inventory

Typical species expected for the French River area include the following:

Mammals: white-tailed deer; raccoon; skunk; red fox; eastern coyote, beaver, red and eastern gray squirrels; porcupine; woodchuck; chipmunk; little and big brown bats; river otter; muskrat; red-backed and meadow voles; white-footed gray mouse; meadow and woodland jumping mice; opossum; masked and water shrews; star-nosed mole; eastern and New England cottontail rabbits; and snowshoe hare.

Birds: Canada goose; blue-winged teal; wood, black, and mallard ducks; osprey; northern harrier; red-tailed hawk; pheasant (stocked annually by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife); wild turkey; ruffed grouse; woodcock; great horned and barrel owls; red-headed, black-backed, hairy, downy, and pileated woodpeckers; yellow-bellied sapsucker; belted kingfisher; green and great blue herons; American kestrel; spotted sandpiper; rock and mourning doves; yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos; common flicker; eastern kingbird; eastern phoebe; least flycatcher, eastern wood pewee; tree, bank, rough-winged, and barn swallows; blue jay; common crow; black-capped chickadee; tufted titmouse; white-breasted nuthatch; house wren; mockingbird; gray catbird; brown thrasher; American robin; wood thrush; veery; cedar waxwing; starling; red-eyed vireo; black-and-white, yellow, chestnut-sided, and prairie warblers; ovenbird; common yellow throat; American redstart; house sparrow; red-winged blackbird; northern oriole; common grackle; brown-headed cowbird; scarlet tanager; cardinal; rose-breasted grosbeak; indigo bunting; purple finch; American goldfinch; rufous sided towhee; field, swamp, and song sparrows; and turkey vulture.

Reptiles and Amphibians: marbled, Jefferson, blue-spotted, spotted, northern dusky, and northern two-lined salamanders; red-spotted newt; eastern, American, and Fowler's toads; spring peeper; gray tree, bull, green, pickerel, wood, and leopard frogs; snapping, box, musk, and painted turtles; northern water, northern brown, northern redbelly, eastern garter, Delay's, hognose, ringneck, black racer, green, king, and eastern ribbon snakes.

Fish: yellow and brown bullhead; large and small mouth bass; yellow and white perch; yellow and white-bellied horn pout; redfin and common ndula; pumpkinseed; white sucker; carp; northern pike; chain pickerel; black crappie; bluegill; river dace; and American eel in warm waters. In cold-water fisheries also exist and support native brown trout, northern blacknose dace; and stocked brook, brown, and rainbow trout.

Surface water also provides habitat for numerous species of aquatic insects.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife currently stocks Carbuncle Pond, the Little River, Lowes Brook, and the French River with trout. Approximately 500 rainbow trout are annually stocked into Carbuncle Pond, adjacent to the Hodges Village Dam reservoir area. Approximately 300 brook and brown trout are stocked in both the Little River and Lowes Brook. With increased water quality of the River, 1000 brook and brown trout were stocked in the main stem of the French River for the first time in 1989. The stocking in the main stem took place below the Hodges Village Flood Control Dam from Charlton Street, Dudley Road, and Harwood Street. In some areas, the shallowness of the River and consequent warm summer temperatures restrict development of a high-quality, self-supporting fishery.

2. Vernal Pools

Vernal pools, also known as ephemeral pools, autumnal pools**,** or temporary woodland ponds, typically fill with water in the autumn or winter due to rising groundwater and rainfall and remain ponded through the spring and into summer. Vernal pools dry completely by the middle or end of summer each year, or at least every few years. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations. Many amphibian and invertebrate species rely on breeding habitat that is free of fish predators. Some amphibians such as wood frogs (Rana sylvatica), marbled salamanders (Ambystoma opacum), and spotted salamanders (Ambystoma maculatum) breed here exclusively. If a vernal pool is destroyed, the pool-dependent species living there will be unable to find alternate breeding pools. In order to be legally protected, vernal pools must be mapped and certified by the Natural Heritage Program, but most are not mapped. Oxford has 24 certified vernal pools.

3. Corridors for Wildlife Migration

With a long and virtually unspoiled stretch through Oxford, the French River provides an excellent north-south migratory corridor for many species of wildlife. After passing through the largely undeveloped flood control property at Hodges Village, the River enters a broad wild area containing marshes and coves, providing excellent wildlife habitat. Migratory bird species such as Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, and American Woodcock use the river summer through fall. The river is also home to many other animals year-round such as beaver, muskrat, and White-tailed Deer.

4. Rare Species

Eight rare species of invertebrates have been identified in Oxford. Core Habitat BM974 provides habitat for a healthy population of the rare Hessel's Hairstreak Butterfly (Callophyrus hesseli;

status: Special Concern). This species is known to have occurred at this site for over 35 years and is one of the two most viable populations of Hessel's Hairstreak in the state. Core Habitat BM1069 contains some of the largest roadless areas in eastern Massachusetts that provide significant habitat for the Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene ndulate; status: Special Concern). These areas also provide habitat for widely distributed populations of Spotted Turtles (Clemmys guttata; status: Special Concern), and clusters of vernal pools and associated small wetlands support populations of Marbled Salamanders (Ambystoma opacum; status: Threatened) at several locations. The southern-most population of Spring Salamanders (Gyrinophilus porphyriticus; status: Special Concern) in Massachusetts east of the Connecticut River is found here and at least one population of Four-toed Salamanders (Hemidactylium scutatum; status: Special Concern) is present. Other areas of Oxford support populations of Wood Turtles (Clemmys insculpta; status: Special Concern) and Triangle Floaters (Alasmidonta ndulate; status: Special Concern).

F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

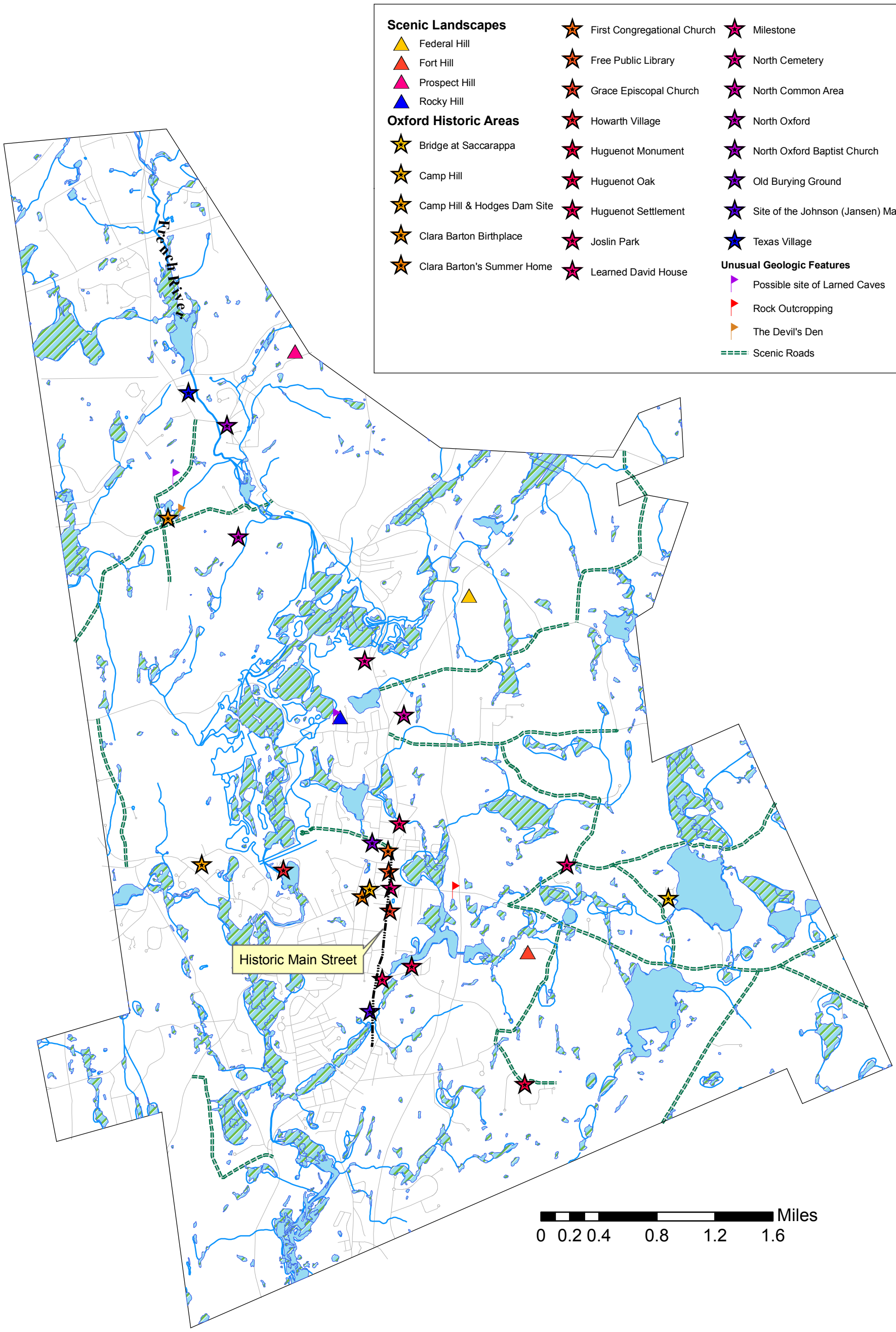
1. Scenic Landscapes

Oxford is located on the eastern side of the New England Upland Region of the state. The mean elevation for Oxford is 669 feet above sea level. Southern portions of Oxford house some of the lowest elevations in the community and thus some areas are considered to be in floodplains. Higher elevations in the community, up to 892 feet above sea level, offer visual vantage points to view the rest of Oxford and surrounding communities. These areas include Fort Hill, Buffalo Hill, Rocky Hill, Federal Hill, Taft Hill, Triangle Hill, and Prospect Hill. As well, these higher elevations in the community are the most visible from the most viewing areas.

Like much of New England, Oxford has several scenic roads**,** many lined with stone walls. By approval at the annual Town Meeting on March 1, 1975, the following roads have been designated as scenic roads:

- Lovett Road
- Sutton Avenue east of Lovett Road
- Clara Barton Road
- Conlin Road
- Ennis Road
- Dana Road boundary of cemetery wall
- Federal Hill Road
- Sacarrappa Road
- Fort Hill Road
- Joe Jenny Road
- Larned Road
- McIntyre Road
- Church Street from Main Street to west
- Brown Road

Because these roads have been designated as Scenic Roads, the cutting or removal of trees or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls, or portions thereof, shall not be allowed for any purpose including those for repairs, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work with respect to those roads, except by the prior written consent of the Planning Board. Unfortunately, in the years between the designation of these scenic roads and the present, rampant development has caused much destruction of trees and stone walls along these roadways.



Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

OXFORD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

N W E S

Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution intrepreting positional accuracy. Produced by the Town of Oxford Land Management Office in conjunction with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

The French River affords numerous areas of scenic natural landscape including the French River Cascades. Additionally, Sacarrappa Pond and, most notably, Robinson Pond are remarkably pristine ponds surrounded by very little development.

2. Unusual Geologic Features

The Devil's Den: (May also have been referred to as "Clara Barton Cave") Located off Clara Barton Road and reached from the road to Lane Corporation using Stumpy Pond as a landmark.

Larned Caves: Small boulder caves whose location is currently uncertain. Some research indicates they may be located off Ennis Road or near the crest of Rocky Hill.

Rock Outcropping: Located just north of Sutton Avenue overlooking what is now I-395. This outcropping is traditionally thought to have provided shelter to Native Americans.

3. Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Areas

The French River has been a major force behind the history and cultural development of the region. Prehistoric and later peoples frequently settled in river regions due to the availability of drinking, cooking, and washing water, water-based transportation, energy possibilities, and the abundance of food due to the presence of plants and animals that occupy riverine areas.

Pre-colonial history of the French River Corridor is not well known. According to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, no systematic archaeological research has been completed in the study area. It is likely that native settlements may have been located along the French River. The Nipmuc, Mohegan, Manchaug, Pequot, Waentuck, and Narragansett Indians are all thought to have used the French River region. Some eastern Massachusetts tribes may also have used the region. The Central Turnpike, connecting Boston to New York via Connecticut, is thought to lie along an Indian trail.

Post-European history is better known. The availability of water power from the French River with dam installation resulted in the development of an extensive textile mill industry in the area. Mills were established in Hodges Village, North Oxford, Rochdale, and Texas.

Other industries once operating in town include shoe and boot manufacturing, clothing manufacturing, lumber and wood products processing, and metalworking. Agriculture was and continues to be practiced in Oxford.

Many artifacts remain from Oxford's industrial period. The most obvious are the surviving mill buildings and water control structures. Additionally, there are numerous historic and cultural landmarks from other periods in Oxford's history including four that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

a. Milestone: For two centuries this marker has told travelers that 53½ miles lay between this corner (Sigourney Street) and the state capital. The milestone was erected in 1771.

b. Grace Episcopal Church: The first Episcopal service was held as early as 1687 by the Huguenots. The present church was constructed from stone quarried from a nearby hill as a gift from George Hodges, whose burial plot is located to the rear of the church.

c. Main Street: This was the principal avenue of the Town at the time of its early settlement in 1713. It is over 100 feet wide and lined with trees on both sides. Many older homes still line Main Street.

d. Site of the Johnson Massacre: The massacre of the Johnson family during an Indian raid on August 25, 1696 brought the first Huguenot settlement to an end.

e. Huguenot Oak Tree: The last living evidence of the Huguenot presence in Oxford located on the corner of Huguenot Road and Russell Lane.

f. Huguenot Monument Erected to the memory of the Huguenot settlers on the site of the original Fort that was constructed in 1686. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

g. Learned Davis House Unique ¾ design built in 1785 by Learned Davis. Davis was a state representative, selectman, assessor, and member of the school committee.

h. Clara Barton Summer Home The summers of Clara Barton's last 10 years were spent at her home at 28 Charlton Street.

i. Hodges Village Dam and Reservoir A federal flood control project that brings much needed flood protection to the French River Basin.

j. Camp Hill The site of the camp of Colonel Nathan Rice's Regiments of the New England Division of Adam's Provisional Army in 1799 and 1800. The camp was visited by Alexander Hamilton in 1800.

k. Free Public Library Built in 1903 as a gift from Mr. Charles Larned. The stained glass window above the former main entrance shows the departure of the Pilgrims from Holland in 1620. A fine historical exhibit is on display in the library's museum.

l. First Congregational Church The first meeting house built in Oxford. The present house is the fourth on the site, dedicated in 1829.

m. Old Burying Ground (South Cemetery). The first cemetery in Oxford. General Ebenezer Learned and Reverend Campbell (first minister of the Congregational Church) are buried here. Many other interesting stones can be found including that of a slave named "Diana."

n. Joslin Park A gift from Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, the land was the location of one of the first public schools in Oxford. It includes memorials to the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars as well as the 1872 North Gore District 8 Schoolhouse.

o. North Cemetery Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, and Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, founder of the Joslin Diabetes Foundation and noted in the treatment of Diabetes, are buried here.

p. Clara Barton Birthplace Clara Barton was born here December 25, 1821. She has been entered into the Hall of Fame for Great Americans and the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A camp for diabetic girls is currently located on the property.

q. North Oxford Baptist Church Dedicated in May of 1847.

r. Bartlett's Bridge Located on Clara Barton Road over the French River. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

s. Hudson House Located on Hudson Road and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hudson House is the oldest standing house in Oxford.

t. Buffalo Hill Former summer home of Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, founder of the Joslin Diabetes Foundation.

u. Daughters of the American Revolution Monument Erected on Camp Hill in 1911. It was removed recently to make way for a large housing development.

v. Marker Located on the corner of Marshall and Bacon Streets, this marker notes Lindbergh's landing site at the old Oxford Airport.

w. Oxford Town Hall Located in Oxford Center, this building is a memorial to veterans of the Civil War.

Additionally, the Massachusetts Historical Commission has identified several villages and the area designated as Oxford Center as worthy of consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. They include:

a. Wells Street and Watch Street

b. Learnedville (Texas Village) on Route 56 between Routes 20 and 12

c. North Oxford along Route 12 from Leicester Street south to Depot Road including Clara Barton Road and 1 Old Depot Road. This area includes Hawes Village and White Village at the southern end.

d. North Common area from Federal Hill Road south along Route 12 through Chaffee Village including Holman Street.

e. Oxford Center between Front Street and Huguenot including Maple Road, Fremont Street, Barton Street, East Main Street, and some properties just west of the center on Charlton Street, and some properties just east of the center on Sutton Avenue.

f. Huguenot Square (Oxford Center) at the crossroads of Sutton Avenue and Charlton Street.

4. Unique Environments

Oxford has been designated by Congress as one of the 35 towns that make up the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. This region has been recognized as a unique natural resource because it has retained its rural character within the most urbanized region of the country. Known as "The Last Green Valley," the area has retained important prehistoric archeological sites, diversified agriculture, excellent water quality, beautiful rural landscapes, and a large acreage of parks and other permanent space for recreation. The National Park Service describes The Last Green Valley as "...still notable for its quality of life and quality of place. Amid the enormous economic and population changes of the twentieth century, the region has retained its fundamental attributes of lush pastures and woodlands, clean streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes; small cities and smaller towns representing important developments in American history; and continuing opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy a rural, small-town lifestyle."

According to the Green Valley Institute, erosion of the natural character of The Last Green Valley through development would have direct, irrevocable, and negative effects on America, particularly southern New England. The forests of this area provide oxygen for 8.3 million people and filter and store 1.2 million tons of carbon that would otherwise remain airborne. The forests also produce 1.4 million tons of topsoil every year, compensating for erosion in stressed parts of the ecosystem. There is an abundance of clean water in the corridor due to the large swaths of forests with greatly reduce nitrogen loading of waterways.

G. Environmental Challenges

1. Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites

Oxford has 39 reported hazardous wastes sites since 1993 according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Most of these sites are businesses that deal with oil or other hazardous materials. (Some sites caused by motor vehicle accidents are not listed).

1. Jevic Transportation Terminal 6 Pioneer Drive
2. Extra Space Storage Facility 103 Southbridge Road
3. Oxford Equipment Company 120 Southbridge Road
4. Tri-State Stone, Inc 120 Southbridge Road
5. ENT, Inc 138 Southbridge Road
6. Shell Station 138 Southbridge Road
7. Central Oil 141 Southbridge Road
8. JF Industries Mail Express 37 Southbridge Road
9. X-Mart Mobil 93 Southbridge Road
10. Oxford Airport 127A Federal Hill Road
11. Industrial Park/CC Eastern, Inc 1 Hawksley Road
12. ALS Oil Company 105 Huguenot Road
13. Fabrico, Inc 19 Industrial Park Road
14. Getty/Marane Station 105 Main Street
15. Frito Lay, Inc 105-160 Main Street
16. Farrar Auto 204 Main Street
17. First Congregational Church 355 Main Street
18. Sunoco Station 366 Main Street
19. Value Gas Station (former) 423-425 Main Street
20. Webster Spring Garage 430 Main Street
21. Exxon Station (former) 496 Main Street
22. Rossi Cleaners 720 Main Street
23. Peter Pan Bus Lines 731 Main Street
24. Wal-Mart 740 Main Street
25. R&M Leasing 430-432 Main Street
26. Cumberland Farms Main Street and Route 20
27. Harris Oil Co 7 Merriam District
28. Bonnette Automotive 456 Main Street
29. Krintzman Mills 672 Main Street
30. Tri County 723 Main Street
31. American Polymers 235 Old Webster Road
32. Mass Crushing and Recycling Old Worcester Road
33. Food and Fuel (former) 117 Main Street
34. Prosource Distribution Services 122 Main Street
35. McCarthy Motors 217 Main Street

36. Orchard Hill Estates 165 Sutton Avenue
37. Butler Fuel Corp 254 Sutton Avenue
38. Oxford Auto Auction Town Forest Road
39. Dussault Residential Release 720 West Main Street

The number of hazardous waste sites is of grave concern since many Oxford businesses are located on Main Street within a Zone II water supply protection area.

2. Landfills

Oxford's unlined 5-acre municipal landfill closed in 1987 and was capped in 1991. DEP certified completion of the cap in 1995. It is believed to not be a source of any environmental contamination. Two other landfills are listed in DEP's landfill inventory: Martin Brothers Farm Dump located on Kelley St., and the municipally-owned Oxford Dump on Federal Hill Rd. Neither of these landfills are lined or capped, and it is unknown if they pose a threat to the environment. A solid waste transfer station operates in Oxford at 200 Leicester Street. It is currently permitted by DEP to process an average of 100 tons per day of construction and demolition waste. In January 2006 the owner submitted a request for a Major Modification of an Existing Site Assignment to increase its handling to an average of 650 tons per day.

3. Impaired Water Bodies

DEP completed a report of contamination of local water bodies in its report "Total Maximum Daily Loads of Phosphorus for Selected French Basin Lakes" in 2002. The purpose of the study was to develop a "pollution budget" to restore the health of impaired water bodies. This process includes identifying the source(s) of excess nutrients from point source and non-point (indirect) discharges, determining the maximum amount of the nutrients that can be received by the water body to stop degradation of its water quality, and developing a plan to achieve that goal. Table 7 below identifies the waters in Oxford that appear on DEP's "303d" list of impaired water bodies.

Table 7
List of Impaired Waters in Oxford

Name	Size (Ac.)	Stressor
Hudson Pond	15.4	Noxious aquatic plants
Lowes Pond	33.4	Noxious aquatic plants
McKinstry Pond	15.9	Noxious aquatic plants
Robinson Pond	99.3	Noxious aquatic plants
Buffum Pond	23.2	Exotic species
Buffumville Lake	199	Metals, exotic species, noxious aquatic plants
Texas Pond	27.9	Metals, noxious aquatic plants
French River, Upstream of Clara Barton Rd.	2.4 miles	Metals
Thayer Pond	6.4	Metals, nutrients, turbidity

4. Erosion and Sedimentation and Storm Water

As development increases in Oxford, the remaining land undergoing construction is increasingly on challenging slopes and in close proximity to wetlands. Lowe's Pond, south of Sutton Avenue and near Route 395, for example, has been the object of concern and frequent site visits in recent years as development near its shores has triggered erosion and siltation into its waters.

In response to these issues Oxford added three new chapters to its General By-Laws in 2005: Chapter Sixty-five, DISCHARGES TO THE MUNICIPAL STORM DRAIN SYSTEM, Chapter Sixty-six, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND LAND DISTURBANCE, and Chapter Sixty-seven, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, each of which seek to regulate discharges into the municipal storm sewer system and the streams and waterways of the Town. Stormwater Management is overseen by the Oxford Department of Public Works, the Conservation Commission, and the Planning Board.

The Town also adopted the Robinson Pond Protection District By-law in May of 2006 to provide controls over the intensity and type of land use around Robinson Pond to protect the pond's water quality from the adverse impacts of stormwater runoff and on-site sewage disposal from potential residential development.

SECTION 5:
OXFORD OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

A. Open Space in Oxford

This section contains an inventory of the public and private "open space" currently present in Oxford. As used here, open space is intended to signify land that is either publicly owned and permanently set aside for conservation or recreation purposes, or land that is privately owned and temporarily set aside for recreation or management of natural resources. Individual landowners that choose to retain their property for recreation, agriculture, or forestry may apply to the Board of Assessors for a tax abatement if they agree to keep their land undeveloped and productive. These are known as "chapter lands" because of the state laws that encourage landowners to leave their property open in exchange for some public benefit. In return, the owners received a reduced tax assessment on their property, i.e. the land is assessed for its current use rather than its market value, which is frequently much higher if the land is suitable for development.

Table 8
Summary of Open Space Lands

Category	Acres
State-Owned Land	303.7
Federal Land	901.3
Municipal Open Space	570.5
Private Recreation Land	240.5
Agricultural/Horticultural Land	2,430.7
Land with Forestry Plans	1,744.1

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) owns the largest unfragmented tract of open space in Oxford. Over 900 acres of land along the French River was taken for flood control purposes in central Oxford in order to protect down stream property from flood damage. The Army Corps allows a variety of recreational activities and maintains an extensive trail network through the area that offers access to hikers to extensive natural areas. The Corps also provides active recreational facilities at Greenbriar for use by local recreation programs. Canoeing and kayaking is also offered with parking and put-in available at Auguetteback Pond. The River is generally quite calm and provides opportunity for quiet reflection and enjoyment of nature.

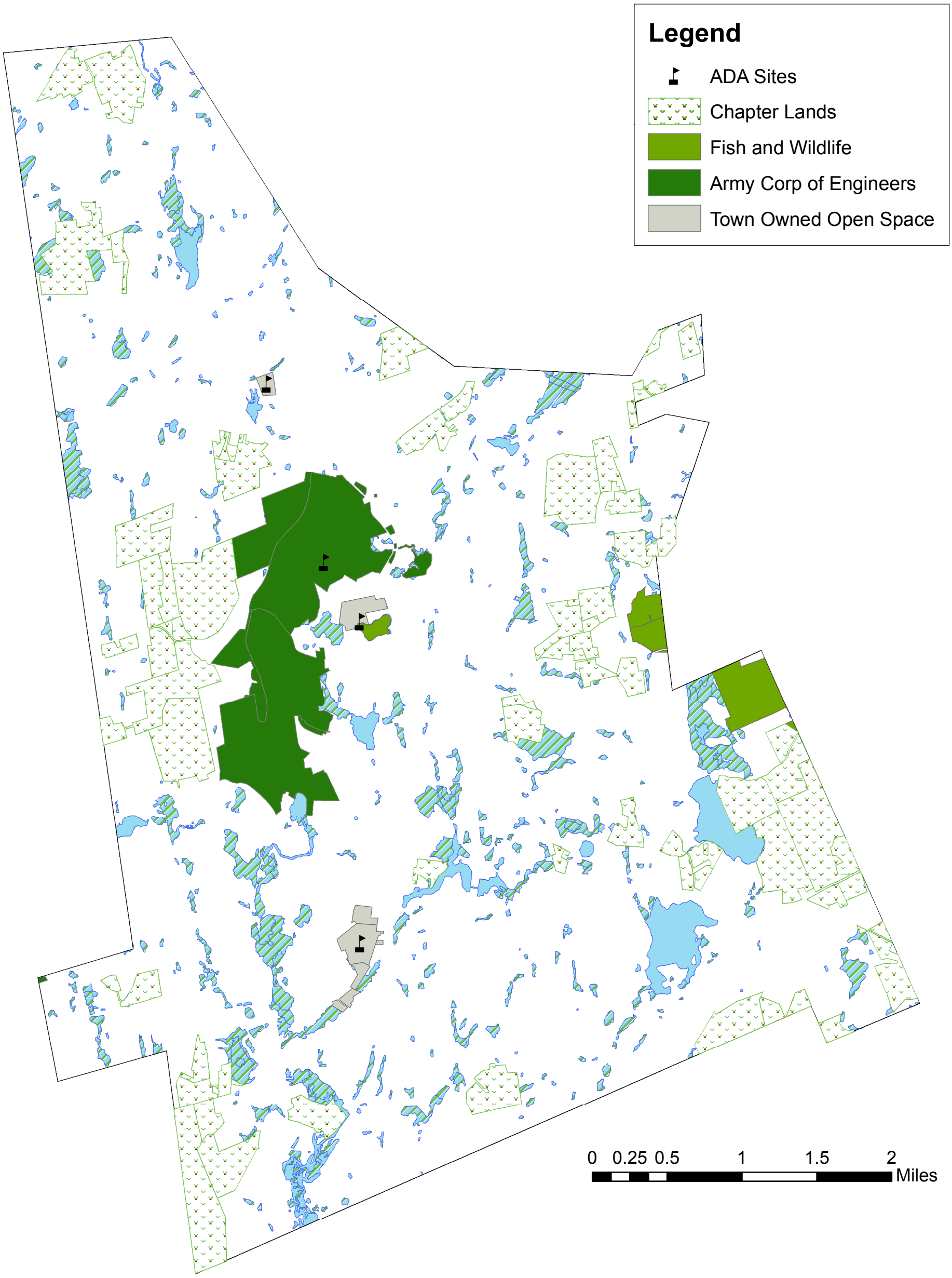
Table 9
Open Space Inventory

Address	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Type of Grant	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Harvard St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Beverly St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Main St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Main St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Con.	High
Main St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Con.	High
Main St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Con.	High
30 Howarth Rd.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Sub.	High
Old Charlton Rd.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Woodland Drive	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Whiting Rd.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Coughlin Rd.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
591 Main St.	Army Corp of Engineers	Recreation	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
Eight Lots Rd.	Div. of Fish. & Wildlife	Con. Land	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	High
Eight Lots Rd.	Div. of Fish. & Wildlife	Con. Land	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	High
Hudson Rd.	Div. of Fish. & Wildlife	Con. Land	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	High
Hudson Rd.	Div. of Fish. & Wildlife	Con. Land	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	High
Lovett Rd.	Div. of Fish. & Wildlife	Con. Land	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	High
Main Street	Div. of Fish. & Wildlife	Con. Land	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	High
660 Main St	Town of Oxford	Recreation - Sports Fields	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
497 Main St	Town of Oxford	Recreation - Sports Fields and Beach Area	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
27 Locust St	Town Of Oxford	Recreation - Sports Fields	Good	Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	Yes	Res.	High
28 Pleasant St	EAV Realty LLC	Ch.61B Golfing Areas	Good	Golfing Areas	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Pleasant St	EAV Realty LLC	Ch.61B Golfing Areas	Good	Golfing Areas	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Federal Hill Rd	Raymond S Shivick	Ch.61A Vegetables	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
80 Old Worcester Rd	Martin Realty Company	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
31 Clara Barton Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Old Charlton Rd	Anthony M Devoe	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
31 Merriam Dist	Donald P Morin	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Leicester St	Donald P Morin	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary

Address	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Type of Grant	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Leicester St	Donald P Morin	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
110 Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Charlton St	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Millbury Rd	Edwin P Eames	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Millbury Rd	Alice E Brossman	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
115 Kelley St	Martin Realty Company	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Federal Hill Rd	Raymond S Shivick	Ch.61A Vegetables	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Federal Hill Rd	Raymond S Shivick	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Lt Ind	Temporary
Depot Rd	Martin Realty Company	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
35 Clara Barton Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
33 Clara Barton Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
29 Clara Barton Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
3 Wallace Ct	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
1 Wallace Ct	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Federal Hill Rd	Bigelow Nurseries, Inc	Ch.61A Nurseries	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Lt Ind	Temporary
103 Federal Hill Rd	Bigelow Nurseries, Inc	Ch.61A Nurseries	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Federal Hill Rd	David M Krevosky	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Hudson Rd	Paul R Sepuka	Ch.61B Hunting Areas	Good	Hunting Areas	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
60 Hudson Rd	Paul R Sepuka	Ch.61B Hunting Areas	Good	Hunting Areas	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Old Charlton Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Hudson Rd	Paul R Sepuka	Ch.61B Hunting Areas	Good	Hunting Areas	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Coughlin Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Old Charlton Rd	David A Goodall	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Old Charlton Rd	John S Lane & Son, Inc.	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Old Charlton Rd	David A Goodall	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
30 Old Charlton Rd	Harry E Stone	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Dana Rd	Buffalo Hill Trust	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Old Charlton Rd	John S Lane & Son Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary

Address	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Type of Grant	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
57 Brown Rd	Joseph J Dumas Jr	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Brown Rd	Joseph Dumas Jr	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
26A Conlin Rd	Louis Prunier	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Lovett Rd	Whittier Farms Inc	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sacarrappa Rd	James Winsky	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
120 Lovett Rd	Singletary Rod & Gun Club	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sutton Ave	Singletary Rod & Gun Club Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
300 Sutton Ave	Singletary Rod & Gun Club Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Lovett Rd	Rene Hamel	Ch.61A Orchards	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sutton Ave	James F Butler	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sutton Ave	Whittier Farms Inc	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Douglas Rd	Emerson G Smith	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sacarrappa Rd	David Winsky	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sacarrappa Rd	David Winsky	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
8R Fort Hill Rd	Melissa L Shultz	Ch.61A Tillable Forage	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
135 Sutton Ave	Barbara Shultz	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sacarrappa Rd	Michael J Winsky	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Walcott St	Beatrice R Rodier	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
299 Sutton Ave	Virginia R Suklis	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Sutton Ave	Virginia R Suklis	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Douglas Rd	Whittier Farms Inc	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Douglas Rd	Gregory R Shaw	Ch.61A Wetland, scrub, rock	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Douglas Rd	Whittier Farms Inc	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
49 Old Southbridge Rd	Virginia A Germain	Ch.61B Hunting Areas	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
66 Old Southbridge Rd	Daniel J Degnan	Ch.61A Tillable Forage C	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Larned Rd	Lee Forest Nominee Tr.	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Joe Jenny Rd	Emerson G Smith	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Joe Jenny Rd	Emerson G Smith	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Joe Jenny Rd	Emerson G Smith	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
167 Dudley Rd	Richard K Novak	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary

Address	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Type of Grant	Public Access	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Larned Rd	Peter Forest Nominee Tr.	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
60 Mt Pleasant St	Amy F Hanley	Ch.61B Nature Study	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Coughlin Rd	Southern Mass. Community Land Trust, Inc	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
223 Federal Hill Rd	Raymond S Shivick	Ch.61A Vegetables	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Lt Ind	Temporary
49 Larned Rd	Michael J Stewart	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Larned Rd	Peter Forest Nominee Tr.	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
70 Old Webster Rd	Ronald A Thibeault	Ch.61A Vegetables	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Larned Rd	David Weyburne	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary
Larned Rd	Sue Forest Nominee Tr.	Ch.61 Forest	Good	Not Currently Used for Recreation	N/A	No	Res.	Temporary



CURRENT OPEN SPACE LANDS

OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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Information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. This information is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analysis. Use caution intrepreting positional accuracy. Produced by the Town of Oxford Land Management Office in conjunction with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

TOWN OF OXFORD INCORPORATED 1713 MASS.

B. Recreation

The Oxford Recreation Commission was reorganized in May 2005. Current members include Joel Masley, Chairman, Roger McCarthy, Vice Chairman, Alexandria Colebourn, Secretary and members Daniel Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Laramee, John Castellani, and Glenda Sprague. Their goals are to create and continue programs that will enhance a wide range of recreational opportunities and to develop recreational land for the use of the citizens of Oxford.

Oxford has several fields and trails for youth and adults to enjoy. Recent improvements have been made to many of the fields as a result of the hard work of the Recreation Committee. All fields are maintained by the Highway Department, the school maintenance team, and associated committees of the various leagues and teams. Most of the recreational fields and parks are lit at night for evening use and have plenty of parking areas. At most areas there are portable toilets available.

High School and Middle School Athletic Fields: The schools are located on Main Street, and their properties abut. The fields are between both schools, behind and aside of the buildings. Principal uses include soccer, baseball, football, softball, field hockey, and track. The ROTC also uses the fields for practicing their drills, and town residents use the track for walking. There are lights for night games on the football field. The fields and structures (such as goals and bleachers) are in good repair and the area is kept free of trash and other debris.

North Oxford Little League Field: This field is located on Main Street and there is ample parking available. The field is fenced-in and the property includes bleachers, dugouts, and a batting cage, all of which are in good repair. There is also a working concession stand on the property that the Recreation Committee operates the stand for fund raising purposes. There are lights on the field for night games. Just outside the fenced-in area there is a basketball court called North Courts. The court is lit at night for informal pick-up games after work hours.

Greenbriar: This is a large recreational area consisting of three tennis courts, two volleyball courts, two baseball fields and a skateboard park. The minor league field is also used for T-ball. The baseball fields are fenced in and include bleachers and dugouts. There are restroom facilities available, which are unlocked during field use. A rustic stone stage is also on the site. The areas around the fields and courts are lit at night but not all areas are illuminated, and some activities are not offered after dusk.

The road entering Greenbriar is paved for the first 50 feet and is not in good repair. The rest of the road throughout the site is dirt. The fields, courts, and structures are in good repair and the area is clear of trash or other debris. There is some graffiti on the cement structures at the skateboard park.

In addition to the playing fields, there are trails throughout the area for walking, biking, snow shoeing, and horseback riding.

Carbuncle Pond: The pond is open for swimming, swimming lessons, and a summer program for children. A lifeguard is on duty for most of the summer. In 2006, there will be a new slide and walking blocks, and the swings have been repaired. This has been made possible in part by the Smolenski/Millett fund. There are picnic benches and grassy areas to enjoy as well. The area is clean and mowed, and the playground structures and picnic benches are in good repair. It may be possible to create a trail to connect to the Greenbriar trails from this site.

Old Joslin School Field: The Joslin Elementary School is currently closed. Formerly, the field was used for various physical education activities as well as soccer and T-ball. This large field is partially fenced in but has no grass and is not in use. Adjacent to the field is Treasureland Playground. The area is fenced in and contains swings, slides, a seesaw, and multiple climbing structures. There is a paved parking area. The site is in excellent repair.

Chaffee School and Clara Barton School: On both school properties are new playgrounds for use by school children as well as for use by the public after school hours.

Ruel Field: This field area currently has three fields, a basketball court, walking trails and a cement building with bathrooms. It offers a men's softball league, a Jack Benny Softball League, a men's soccer league, girl's lassie league, Oxford youth soccer, and T-ball. In the spring of 2006 a transformation will take place here, making new fields, new access roads, new bathroom facilities, sitting areas, and a play area for small children. Fences will be installed and trees will be planted to make the area a more enjoyable place to visit.

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY GOALS

A. Description of Process

Previous to the initiation of this planning process, Oxford had not engaged in a community-wide goal setting process for open space and recreation issues since the 1988 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Since it was generally agreed that this Plan was outdated and had not been seriously examined for a decade or more, the Open Space Committee agreed that goals and objectives needed to be re-formulated to reflect existing views.

As the Committee became actively involved in the research and writing of various sections of the Plan, discussions around the table soon developed into long-range thinking about the needs of the community and the impacts of impending development. It became clear that strong actions would be needed if the Town's cherished historical sites and valuable natural resources were to be preserved in the face of the growth to come. A strong emphasis emerged that the development of this Plan could serve as the impetus for the development of new Town policies that could manage growth while preserving the essential fabric of the community.

The Committee prepared a mailed survey form that sought to assess the wishes of the public, not just with how to enhance open space and recreation concerns, but also to gauge public sentiment for preserving town character. The Committee was surprised and encouraged that the results did indeed reveal a common belief that the Town should take great care in its policies and actions to manage development and preserve its resources before opportunities now available are closed. With strong development forces at play, the Town has perhaps a generation to take decisive action to prevent Oxford from becoming just another anonymous suburb. The Committee's goals and objectives were fully aired at a public forum held on May 25th at the Town Hall. The meeting was televised via local cable so those at home could view the discussion and learn about the Committee's work. Strong support for the goals and objectives was clearly indicated during the forum and by comments made to the members after the meeting.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Oxford residents today have clearly expressed their desire for the Town to do all within its abilities to preserve its small town character and protect its natural resources. The key elements of this strategy include:

- Carefully managing growth
- Preserving historical assets
- Protecting water resources
- Revitalizing the French River and creating a multi-purpose greenway for public enjoyment
- Developing an inter-connected trail network
- Acquiring parcels that contain significant natural and cultural resources
- Improving recreational facilities and programs
- Improving access to the Town's beautiful streams and ponds

SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. Oxford Open Space and Recreation Survey

In January 2006, the Oxford Open Space Committee in conjunction with the Oxford Planning Department, conducted a survey of town residents regarding their opinions on open space and recreation for the town of Oxford. The Open Space Committee compiled the survey questions based on similar surveys conducted in several area towns. Once the questions were compiled, they were modified to be more specific to the town of Oxford and to eliminate confusion and bias. With the assistance of the Planning Department and with funding provided by the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, the completed survey was mailed to more than 5,200 households in Oxford. By the end of February 2006, the Planning Department received and tabulated a total of 1,417 responses (27% of all households). The large number of responses (similar surveys typically generate a 7-10% response) is indicative of the importance of the issue of open space and recreation to town residents. A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix A.

The survey was divided into three parts: Open Space, Recreation, and Economic Development. The Open Space section contained five questions.

On the first question, "Open fields for agriculture and undeveloped forest land are prominent features of Oxford's landscape. Is preserving these areas important to you?" 82.5% of respondents indicated "Yes."

The second question, "Should Oxford take measures to control future growth?" a similar number (81.9%) indicated "Yes." It is clear from these responses that preserving open space and controlling growth is of great concern to the majority of town residents. In addition, question two asked respondents for their opinions on how growth should be regulated. Among six choices, the top two dealt with residential development. 63.6% felt that restricting the number of multi-family homes was important, 41.7% felt that restricting the number of single family homes was important. It seems clear that town residents feel that controlling residential development will have a positive impact on the town.

The next two questions dealt with the issue of how to control growth and preserve open space. Question three asked residents what they would be willing to do to preserve open space. The top two preferences far exceeded any of the other options. 61.8% indicated that they would be willing to vote for the Town to buy land if it would not raise taxes, and 42.3% would approve a tax program to eliminate property taxes for senior citizens willing to donate their land to the Town. While Oxford residents very much want to preserve land they are concerned about the cost of doing so.

Question four in the Open Space section asked residents if they knew of any scenic vistas, unique environments, or historic areas that they would like to see preserved. The most common responses, in descending order, were: Clara Barton sites, Fort Hill Area, Downtown Main Street, Huguenot Area, French River, Buffumville, Greenbriar, Hodges Village Dam, Pine Ridge Golf Course, Carbuncle, and the Casavant Area. These sites represent the best that Oxford has to offer historically and some are critical for recreation purposes. Oxford residents are anxious to preserve them.

The last question in the Open Space section asked whether residents would support passage of the Community Preservation Act. On this question, responses were nearly evenly divided between

"Yes" (31.4%), "No" (38.7%), and "Not Sure" (29.9%). This appears to be a topic that residents may need more information about. The Open Space Committee feels that they would like to see more residents responding either "Yes" or "No" so that there would be a clearer picture of whether there is support for adoption in Oxford.

The second section of the survey dealt with the topic of Recreation in Oxford. Two questions were asked of the respondents. Question 6 asked opinions on the Town's water resources. The majority of residents (55.9%) felt that public access to Oxford's water resources should be expanded. Given the amount of frontage that Oxford has on the French River and the number of small to mid-sized ponds in town, it would seem that more public access to these areas is feasible. The majority of residents (59%) also felt that the maintenance of Oxford's current water resources is sufficient and that the amount of water-based recreation opportunities is sufficient (54.1%).

Question 7 asked residents their preferences for expanding recreation opportunities in Oxford. Facilities in rank order from highest to lowest are:

1. Hiking trails
2. Biking trails
3. Swimming
4. Playgrounds
5. Fishing
6. Basketball courts
7. Ball fields
8. Boating
9. Hunting
10. Tennis courts

Other write-in suggestions include walking trails, ATV areas, parks, dog parks, pool, skating areas, recreation areas, and golf. The highest preference appears to favor trails, followed by water-based recreation and playground sports.

The third section of the survey dealt with resident's opinions on Economic Development. Question eight asked what residents saw as the major disadvantage of economic development. The top two areas of concern were more auto traffic (52.9%) and more truck traffic (45.9%). Clearly, Oxford residents continue to be concerned about increased traffic in town.

Question 9 asked what kind of development residents would support if petitions were presented for re-zoning. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, residents were most in favor of re-zoning land for conservation purposes. Residents may recognize the value of preserving land for future generations, and may understand that costs associated with development bring about a persistent increase in taxes to pay for the services that new residents inevitably require. Retail use was the second highest preference, followed closely by Office and Professional uses. It has been generally assumed by local officials that resident were supportive of more retail activity in Oxford so that they would be able to purchase goods and services locally without having to go to neighboring Auburn, Millbury, and Webster. Light industry (#4), tourism (#5), and manufacturing (#6) were the three least favored land uses to re-zone for.

Question 10 sought to gauge people's opinions about recycling. A clear majority of respondents (66.7%) would like to see an expanded recycling program in town. These responses are indicative of the community members' concern for Oxford's environment.

The last question on the survey asked residents what they feel are the most critical problems facing our town. Nine choices were listed with an additional space for write-in answers. The top three concerns of respondents were the local property tax burden (54.3%), too much housing development (36.3%), and loss of the Town's rural character (33.9%). Clearly, Oxford residents

remain concerned about rising taxes and over-development.

According to the demographic information received, the Open Space and Recreation Survey represents the opinions of 3,715 Oxford residents. The community would like to see more preservation of land for open space and recreation, while curbing tax increases. The Open Space Committee is committed to responding to these concerns of the town residents and sincerely thanks all who responded.

B. State and Regional Needs

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) contains a detailed analysis of needs for recreation activities and provides a useful benchmark with which to compare identified needs in Oxford. The SCORP lists the most important needs for the entire state as well as differences by Region. Since Oxford falls within the Central Region in the Plan's scheme, those results pertinent to this Plan are presented below.

1. State Needs

According to the SCORP, "Overall, the greatest statewide need is for trail-based activities, with walking and road biking indicated as the individual activities in greatest demand. Field-based activities rank second as priority needs for new facilities, with playground activity, tennis, and golfing ranked at the top of the activity need list. Finally, a strong need exists for water-based activities, with swimming indicated as the facility most needed statewide." The ten most needed or desired facilities for Massachusetts based upon the percent of survey respondents using facilities are:

Table 10
Top 10 Statewide Recreation Needs

Desired Facility	Percent of Respondents Using the Facility
1. Swimming	14.8%
2. Walking	13.8%
3. Road Biking	12.9%
4. Playground Activity	9.9%
5. Tennis	8.0%
6. Golfing	7.9%
7. Hiking	7.1%
8. Mountain Biking	6.7%
9. Basketball	6.2%
10. Baseball	5.3%

2. Regional Needs

Similar results were obtained for the Central Region although the rank order of items and their magnitude varies, and three items were valued more highly by regional respondents than in the

statewide results. Swimming and walking were rated as number 1 and 2 in both cases, but hiking moved from number 7 in the state results to third place in the Central Region. In addition, mountain biking was ranked 8th statewide but moved up to 6th place in the regional analysis. Interestingly, picnicking, nature study, and fishing were important to residents of the Central region but did not make the top 10 list in the statewide analysis. Finally, Central region residents did not identify tennis courts, basketball courts, or baseball fields among their most important needs as was the case statewide.

Table 11
Top 10 Regional Recreation Needs

Desired Facility	Percent of Respondents Using the Facility	SCORP Rank
1. Swimming	17.0%	1
2. Walking	16.5%	2
3. Hiking	14.4%	7
4. Road Biking	12.1%	3
5. Playground Activity	10.2%	4
6. Mountain Biking	8.5%	8
7. Golfing	8.3%	6
8. Picnicking	5.3%	NA
9. Nature Study- tied	3.5%	NA
9. Fishing –tied	3.5%	NA

It is interesting to compare the results of the SCORP survey with the open space and recreation survey prepared for this Plan. Question 7 of the Town survey discussed above also contains the top 10 preferences among residents for expanding recreational opportunities. While Oxford's top five items appear in the Regional list above, local residents seem to engage in more active pursuits than other towns in the Central Region and have identified basketball courts, ball fields, boating, hunting, and tennis courts as important local needs.

C. Summary of Resource Protection Needs

Problem or Concern	Need
The poor water quality of the French River inhibits enjoyment of the resource by residents.	Organize key stakeholders with an interest in River clean-up and develop a multi-faceted strategy to achieve Class B designation.
Proposed development threatens the water quality of Robinson Pond.	Adopt a Watershed Protection District to insure proposed development does not degrade the water quality of the pond.
Oxford's many historic resources could be lost through tear-downs or from inappropriate development on adjacent property.	Insure that the community is aware of its historic assets and consider appropriate measures to protect and preserve these resources.
Future development in outlying areas may result in the loss of valuable open space.	To develop appropriate regulatory tools that require preservation of valuable natural resources and to target development to areas where existing infrastructure can accommodate new growth.
Oxford continues to loose its agricultural land to development.	Identify measures that can preserve agricultural land in order to maintain links to Oxford's agrarian past.
Oxford's water supplies are not adequately protected from contamination by inappropriate development.	Assess land use threats that lie within Zones 1 and II of water supply wells and identify appropriate regulatory controls that can insure ground water resources are protected.
Residents support re-zoning land for Conservation purposes.	Landowners are entitled to fair compensation if all viable economic uses of land are prohibited by zoning. Encourage private land protection efforts and Town Meeting support for purchase of valuable tracts of open space.
Core habitat areas in Oxford are not adequately protected.	Identify the key lands that are important to permanently protect from development in order to preserve habitat necessary for endangered species to survive.
Proposed development could disrupt greenways and migratory corridors essential for certain wildlife species.	Seek the assistance of wildlife experts to identify such corridors and insure future development maintains wildlife migration patterns.

D. Summary of Community Needs

Problem or Concern	Need
Oxford desires to promote economic development in order to achieve a balanced tax base. Residents prefer retail and office development.	Insure economic activity is in keeping with Town character and does not degrade the natural environment.
New development is bringing about increases in traffic congestion, especially in the Town Center.	Insure traffic impacts from new development are mitigated by the developer. Study road improvements that can improve traffic flow.
Development pressure in the Town Center may cause a loss of its unique character and physical appearance.	Develop land use controls that will insure future development is in keeping with Oxford Center's unique character.
Residents desire greater access to the Town's water resources, especially the French River.	Analyze existing water access options and identify other opportunities for direct access for River recreation.
Heavy use of existing fields and recreation areas may bring about a degradation of grass and equipment.	Insure sufficient funding is in place to adequately maintain the Town's recreation facilities.
Large lot subdivisions will result in an inefficient use of land and cause suburban sprawl to be the dominant land use in Oxford.	Consider alternatives to conventional large lot subdivisions that will yield a more compact pattern of development and preserve valuable open space.
People with disabilities may not be able to fully participate in active and passive recreation opportunities.	Open communication with the disabled community to insure their needs are addressed in the Town's parks and conservation areas.
As the Town's population becomes increasingly older, financial resources may need to be re-allocated to satisfy local needs.	Monitor population aging and insure financial resources are equitably distributed according to need.
Residents desire expanded opportunities for hiking and bicycling.	Engage interested parties in planning and implementing new walking trails and bicycle paths in Oxford.
Zoning regulations have not been reviewed recently to determine if they contain strong measures for protecting Oxford's resources.	Engage the Planning Board in undertaking a thorough review of the Zoning Bylaw to make sure it contains flexible techniques for managing development and protecting resources.

E. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

Problem or Concern	Need
The Town has inadequate resources to accomplish its open space, historic preservation and affordable housing objectives.	Explore the impact of adopting the Community Preservation Act and educate citizens if local officials deem it desirable.
Private sector resources have not been fully tapped to help the Town meet its open space objectives.	Consider creating a non-profit land trust to advise owners about the benefits of land donations and conservation restrictions. A trust could also accept land and monetary contributions to increase the amount of protected open space in Oxford.
Land removed from Chapter 61, 61A and 61B may be lost to development for lack of viable strategy aimed at preserving such land.	Develop a strategy to act quickly to purchase or preserve valuable open space when the Town is given the right of first refusal on Chapter lands.

SECTION 8
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Preserve Oxford's Small Town Character by Managing New Growth

Objectives:

1. Prepare design guidelines for new development in the Town Center and along Main Street that respects period architectural styles and land use patterns.
2. Promote open space residential design (cluster development) to preserve sensitive resources when land is developed.
3. Understanding that Oxford residents desire greater economic development, such development should be subject to design guidelines that reflect Oxford's small town character.
4. Complete updating the Master Plan to prepare a multi-faceted approach aimed at preserving Town character and meeting other community needs.

Goal 2: Preserve Oxford's Historic Resources to Preserve Links to the Town's Past

Objectives:

1. Consider nominations of historic village areas to the National Register of Historic Places as National Historic Districts. Such areas include:
   a. Learnedville (Texas Village) on Route 56 between Routes 20 and 12;
   b. North Oxford along Route 12 from Leicester Street south to Depot Road including Clara Barton Road and 1 Old Depot Road. This area includes Hawes Village and White Village at the southern end;
   c. North Common area from Federal Hill Road south along Route 12 through Chaffee Village including Holman Street;
   d. Oxford Center between Front Street and Huguenot including Maple Road, Fremont Street, Barton Street, East Main Street, and some properties just west of the center on Charlton Street, and some properties just east of the center on Sutton Avenue;
   e. Huguenot Square (Oxford Center);
   f. Howarth Village; and
   g. Wells Street and Watch Street.
2. To insure development of land surrounding historic resources respects their historic character, establish zoning criteria that will require evaluation of impacts on historic resources.
3. Consider a demolition delay bylaw that provides opportunities for preserving historic resources without resorting to demolition.

Goal 3: Protect Oxford's Ground Water Resources to Insure Purity of the Town's Water Supplies for Future Generations

Objectives:

1. Adopt water supply protection controls that meet DEP's Wellhead Protection Regulations in 310 CMR 22.21(2).
2. Prepare a comprehensive water supply protection plan to identify potential threats in Zones I and II of Aquarion's water supply wells, and work cooperatively with the water company and property owners to insure important ground water supplies are adequately protected.
3. Develop recommendations for removing land uses that threaten water quality or insure adequate measures are in place to prevent contamination of the water supply.
4. Educate homeowners on residential practices that could adversely affect water quality i.e. lawn chemicals, septic system practices, deicing chemicals, etc. in order to help protect drinking water sources.

Goal 4: Improve Access to and Enjoyment of the French River and Work to Bring About Improved Water Quality

Objectives:

1. Purchase strategic parcels along the River to improve public access and protect sensitive resources such as vernal pools, wetlands, and significant wildlife habitat.
2. Promote canoeing and kayaking activities by improving access to the River with controlled parking and designated put-ins.
3. Prepare a Greenway Plan that establishes a long-range strategy for public access and protection of natural resources along its entire length in Oxford.
4. Monitor and remediate land uses that are adversely affecting the River, and improve storm water management practices to minimize non-point sources of pollution.

Goal 5: Increase the Trail Network in Oxford by Developing New Links to Long Range Trails and by Providing Access to Unique Features and Natural Areas

Objectives:

1. The Mid-State Trail passes through Town in east-west direction and runs the entire length of Massachusetts. Since long stretches of the Trail are not on permanently protected lands, trail advocates should work with landowners to preserve vital corridors or seek funding to acquire such properties when threatened with development.
2. The Army Corps of Engineers maintains an extensive trail network in the flood control area. The Corps's assistance should be sought to improve the trail system within the area as well as to help develop key links to the network elsewhere in Town.
3. Use the rail bed of the former Webster Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad to create a north-south pathway linking Auburn with Webster.
4. Establish a Trails Committee to prepare a trail plan and oversee development of an extensive trail network.

5. Seek to develop/improve one mile of trail each year.
6. Identify logical trailhead locations, create small parking lots, and generally improve public access.
7. Seek donations of cash, materials, and labor to build and maintain trails.

Goal 6: Acquire Parcels that Contain Significant Natural and Cultural Values

Objectives:

1. Specific unique resources in Oxford that should be protected include:
   a. The Cascades
   b. Rocky Hill
   c. Hemlock Grove
   d. Clara Barton sites
   e. Pine Ridge Golf Course
   f. Casavant Area
   g. Atlantic Cedar Swamps
   h. The Waterfall, along an unnamed tributary to the French River
   i. Lands containing rare or endangered species
   j. Hilltops that offer scenic views of Oxford and the surrounding area, including Fort Hill, Buffalo Hill, Rocky Hill, Federal Hill, Taft Hill, Triangle Hill, and Prospect Hill.
   k. The Devil's Den (a.k.a. Clara Barton Cave)
   l. Larned Cave
   m. The Rock Outcropping

2. Preserve significant wildlife habitat to insure rare and endangered species have sufficient natural areas to flourish in Oxford. Wildlife advocates should:
   a. Identify and certify vernal pools;
   b. Conduct field research to verify the existence of endangered plant and animal species;
   c. Seek to permanently protect lands in the BioMap Core Habitat areas; and
   d. Identify wildlife migration corridors and insure such areas are protected sufficiently to allow the unimpeded movement of indigenous species.

3. Establish a non-profit land trust as a vehicle to promote preservation of Open Space by accepting donations of land and raising private contributions for strategic purchases.

4. Develop partnerships with key environmental organizations and state and federal agencies that manage resources in Oxford, and enlist their support in the land acquisition process. Such entities include: The Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor and its implementing entity, the Green Valley Institute, the Army Corps of Engineers, the French River Connection, and the Mass. DFW, DCR, and Cooperative Extension Service.

Goal 7: Improve Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Programs

Objectives:

1. Develop a Town Park to create a multi-use facility that can provide a variety of active and passive recreational services for all age groups, including recreation facilities for organized sports, open fields for community events, and public gardens for horticultural displays.

2. Seek Town funds and volunteer assistance to improve the following recreation sites:

    a. Ruel Field

    b. Greenbriar

    c. Carbuncle Pond

    d. Rocky Hill Road field

3. With large participation rates, the following program offerings should be expanded by the Recreation Commission:

    a. Swimming

    b. Basketball

    c. Events and programs at the Community Center

Goal 8: Improve the Quality of, and Access to, Oxford's Surface Waters

Objectives:

1. Acquire land that provides public access to streams and ponds, especially Sacarrappa Pond.
2. Develop hiking trails into and around water bodies to offer views of water.
3. Develop a signage program to identify key assets and promote conservation of resources.
4. Enhance access to water bodies for fishing, especially those that are re-stocked each spring.
5. Improve water quality of Oxford's impaired water bodies appearing on DEP's 303(d) list, including: Hudson Pond, Lowes Pond, McKinstry Pond, Robinson Pond, Buffum Pond, Buffumville Lake, Texas Pond, and Thayer Pond.

SECTION 9
FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

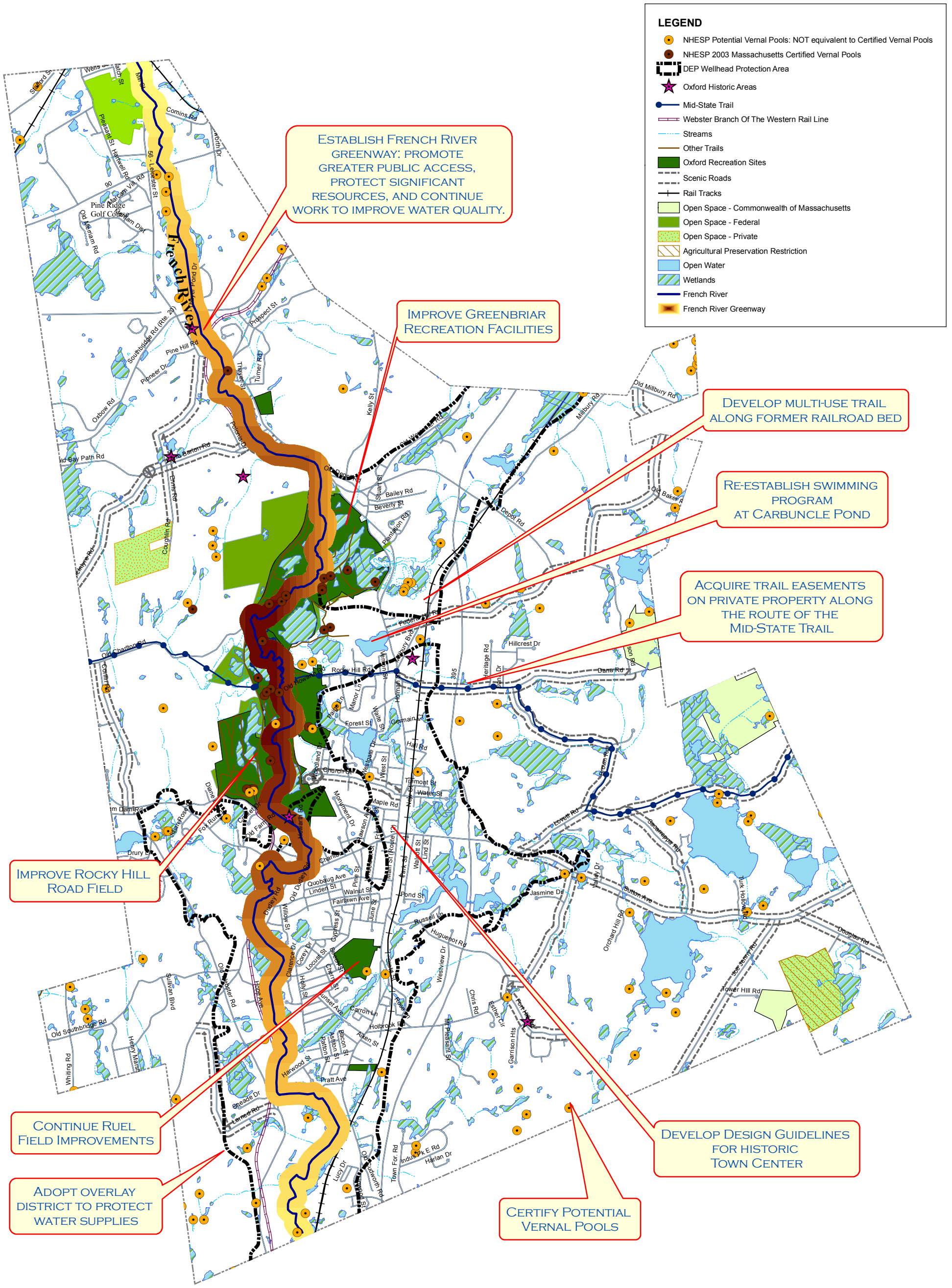
Goal	Goals and Strategies	Responsible Entity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
1	**Preserve Oxford's Small Town Character by Managing New Growth**						
	Establish a permanent Open Space Committee	Board of Selectmen					
	Review the Zoning Bylaw for conformance to Smart Growth Principles. Seek implementation of specific measures that will further this goal.	Planning Board					
	Begin educational program to inform residents of advantages of adopting the Community Preservation Act.	Open Space Committee					
	Seek adoption of the CPA.	Open Space Committee					
	Conduct a detailed Natural Resources Inventory to identify resources threatened by development.	Conservation Commission					
	Review the Rate of Development Bylaw to determine its impacts and revise as appropriate.	Planning Board Open Space Committee					
	Implement Open Space Residential Design concepts in the Zoning Bylaw.	Planning Board					
	Prepare design guidelines for the Town Center and Main Street, and adopt zoning controls to insure new development and re-development are in keeping with existing character.	Planning Board					

Goal	Goals and Strategies	Responsible Entity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
2	**Preserve Oxford's Historic Resources to Preserve Links to the Town's Past**						
	Identify specific neighborhoods and villages that could be nominated as Historic Districts.	Historical Commission					
	Conduct educational campaign to inform residents within these areas of the advantages of nomination.	Historical Commission					
	Propose nominations of historic districts.	Historical Commission					
	Develop and implement historic signage program.	Historical Commission Highway Department					
	Engage the community in appreciating the Town's history by conducting tours and preparing outreach materials.	Historical Commission					
3	**Protect Oxford's Ground Water Resources to Insure Purity of the Town's Water Supplies for Future Generations**						
	Propose a Low Impact Development Bylaw to minimize pollution and flooding from storm water runoff.	Planning Board					
	Adopt water supply protection controls to insure public wells are protected from contamination.	Planning Board					
	Prepare information handouts to educate residents about proper handling of products that could contribute to ground water contamination.	Board of Selectmen					

Goal	Goals and Strategies	Responsible Entity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
4	**Improve Access to and Enjoyment of the French River and Work to Bring About Improved Water Quality**						
	Continue cleanup of French River and work closely with state and local advocacy groups such as the French River Connection.	Open Space Committee Local civic organizations e.g. scouts, seniors					
	Work toward developing a French River Greenway with walking trails, bridge crossings, small parks to improve public access, and preservation of key open space parcels.	Open Space Committee					
	Conduct the canoe access study approved and funded by the Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor.	Open Space Committee					
	Based on the study's recommendations, develop one or more canoe put-ins.	Board of Selectmen Highway Department					
5	**Increase the Trail Network in Oxford by Developing New Links to Long Range Trails and Providing Access to Unique Features and Natural Areas**						
	Encourage landowners to record Conservation Restrictions on their land that allow for public access.	Open Space Committee					
	Establish a Trails Committee.	Board of Selectmen					
	Work with Auburn, Webster, and Dudley to develop a multi-purpose trail along the former Webster Branch of the Boston & Albany Railroad.	Trails Committee					
	Identify and map all existing trails in Oxford and prepare a trail plan for new trails.	Trails Committee					

Goal	Goals and Strategies	Responsible Entity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
	Tap into the expertise of the Army Corps of Engineers to help develop new trails in Oxford. Recruit volunteers to help with new trail development and maintain existing trails.	Trails Committee					
6	**Acquire Parcels that Contain Significant Natural and Cultural Values**						
	Create an informational packet for landowners that encourages voluntary land preservation techniques.	Open Space Committee					
	Create a non-profit land trust to accept land donations and assist in purchasing key open space parcels.	Open Space Committee					
	Discuss with older residents the advantages of the Life Estate method of preserving land while continuing to live on their property.	Open Space Committee					
	Develop a priority list of important open space parcels that should be acquired to implement key concepts in this Plan.	Open Space Committee					
	Apply for Self-Help funds and other grant programs to preserve key open space parcels.	Open Space Committee Planning Department					
	Implement a vernal pool certification program to insure their protection.	Conservation Commission					
7	**Improve Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Programs**						
	Develop a Town Park to create a multi-use facility for a variety of recreational activities for all age groups.	Recreation Commission					

Goal	Goals and Strategies	Responsible Entity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
	Finish remaining elements of Ruel Field development plan.	Recreation Commission					
	Develop programs to introduce children in Oxford to local wildlife and fauna.	Conservation Commission School Department					
	Bring back free swimming lessons at Carbuncle Pond.	Recreation Commission					
	Develop a brochure to inform residents of recreation programs offered and facilities available at town fields.	Recreation Commission					
	Explore public-private partnerships to obtain funds and labor to improve Town facilities	Recreation Commission Open Space Committee					
8	**Improve the Quality of, and Access to, Oxford's Surface Waters**						
	Develop a plan to improve access to town ponds for fishing.	Open Space Committee					
	Seek funding and develop locations for public access to town ponds.	Open Space Committee					
	Post signs to discourage illegal dumping and enforce prohibitions with fines.	Board of Selectmen					
	Determine ownership of Robinson Pond and research provisions to restrict public access. Monitor proposed development around the Pond.	Planning Department Open Space Committee					



FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN

OXFORD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

2006

SECTION 10
COMMENT LETTERS

Town Manager

Oxford Planning Board

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

Town of Oxford

Town Manager's Office
325 Main Street
Oxford, Massachusetts 01540

Telephones:
(508) 987-6030
(508) 987-6027
Fax: (508) 987-5868

January 24, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114 - 2524

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Town of Oxford, I am writing in support of the 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan; I give my approval of its findings and recommendations.

Very truly yours,

Joseph M. Zeneski, Acting Town Manager

JMZ/cg

TOWN OF OXFORD
Chairman
Oxford Planning Board
325 Main Street
Oxford, MA 01540-1727
Tel: 508.987.6045
Fax: 508.987.3934

January 22, 2007

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114 - 2524

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Oxford Planning Board, I am writing in support of the 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan; the Board approves of its findings and recommendations.

Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Escolas, Jr., Chairman
Oxford Planning Board

CDG/cdg

CMRPC
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

Lawrence B. Adams — Executive Director
Carl E. Hellstrom — Transportation Manager
William V. Scanlan — Community Dev. Manager
Paul J. Samara — GIS Coordinator
John F. Knipe — Commission Chairman

December 4, 2006

Jennifer Soper
Division of Conservation Services, EOEA
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Soper:

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of Oxford's recently completed Open Space & Recreation Plan. CMRPC provided technical assistance for this effort, but the document itself was largely prepared by Oxford's volunteer Open Space Committee. The Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor provided funding for the study, and the Town's GIS staff provided a significant in-kind contribution by preparing all of the maps included in the Plan.

The Open Space Committee has done a very thorough job and the final document appears to fully comply with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. Oxford was an active participant in our 2001 trail investigation study entitled, Southwest Subregion Inter-Community Trail Connection Feasibility Study. Oxford's Open Space Plan will provide the Town with the opportunity to pursue some of the trail ideas contained in our study, as well as protect critical land areas from future development and/or over-development.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find Oxford's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts.

The Town of Oxford will be well served by having a State-approved up-to-date Plan for the provision of recreation facilities and programs, as well as the preservation and protection of its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Sincerely,

William Scanlan, AICP
Community Development Manager

cc: Oxford Open Space Committee

35 Harvard Street - Second Floor
Worcester, MA 01609-2801
www.cmrpc.org
508.756.7717 V
508.792.6818 F

Appendix A
Survey Results

Oxford Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

The Oxford Planning Department and the Oxford Open Space Committee are currently in the process of updating Oxford's Open Space and Recreation Plan. An updated Open Space Plan is the first step toward creating a new Master Plan for the Town of Oxford. This long-range plan will help guide development toward the vision of the members of the community. This survey gives you the opportunity to express your views regarding Oxford's future. The Planning Department and the Open Space Committee sincerely thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

(On each question, please check all that apply)

OPEN SPACE

1. Open fields for agriculture and undeveloped forest land are prominent features of Oxford's landscape. Is preserving these areas important to you? 1140 Yes 136 No 105 Not Sure

(36 Surveys were blank for this question)

2. Should Oxford take measures to control future growth? 1072 Yes 162 No 75 Not Sure

(108 Surveys were blank for this question)

If yes, how should the town control or regulate growth?

591 Restrict the number of new single family homes

901 Restrict the number of new multi-family homes

359 Adopt more restrictive zoning regulations

110 Limit water/sewer hookups

349 Restrict industrial development

293 Restrict commercial development

96 Other (please specify) _____

3. To preserve open space in town would you:

67 Donate land to the town

45 Sell land to the town at a bargain price

63 Donate money to buy land

149 Sell land to the town at fair market value

600 Approve a tax program to eliminate property taxes for senior citizens willing to donate their land to the town

875 Vote for the town to buy land if it can be done without raising taxes

363 Vote for the town to buy land if the average residential tax bill would increase by $25 or less

198 Vote for the town to buy land if the average residential tax bill would increase by $50 or less

4. Oxford has many interesting attributes as a town. Do you know of any scenic vistas, unique environments, or historical areas that you would like to see preserved? 426 Yes 297 No 505 Not Sure

(189 Surveys were left blank for this question)

If yes, please specify: (Most Common) Clara Barton Sites 85, Fort Hill Area 56, Downtown Main Street Area 53, Huguenot Area 50, French River Area 48, Buffumville Area 43, Greenbriar Area 41, Hodges Dam Area 35, Pine Ridge Golf Course 17, Carbuncle Area 16, Casavant Area 11.

5. Would you support passage of the Community Preservation Act for the town of Oxford?

429 Yes 528 No 409 Not Sure

(51 Surveys were left blank for this question)

(The Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. c.44B, allows communities to adopt, by Town Meeting vote and election, a surcharge on property taxes (up to a maximum of 3%). This surcharge amount plus matching funds from the State is to be set aside and used for open space, but not including land for recreational use, for historic resources and for community housing.)

RECREATION

6. Oxford has a significant amount of frontage on the French River and numerous small to mid-sized ponds scattered throughout town. What is your opinion on public access to these resources, their maintenance by the town, and their availability for recreation opportunities?

Access:
- **553** The current amount of public access to Oxford's water resources is sufficient.
- **702** Public access to Oxford's water resources needs to be expanded.

Town Maintenance:
- **697** The town's current level of maintenance of Oxford's water resources is sufficient.
- **484** The town's maintenance of Oxford's water resources needs to be improved.

Water-Based Recreation Opportunities:
- **656** The current amount of water-based recreation opportunities is sufficient.
- **556** Oxford needs more water-based recreation opportunities.

7. What types of recreation opportunities would you like to see more of in town?

239	ball fields	**720**	hiking trails	**403**	playgrounds	**109**	tennis courts
486	swimming	**225**	boating	**242**	basketball courts	**357**	fishing
113	hunting	**641**	biking trails	**185**	other (please specify)		

(Most Common) Walking Trails/Areas 22, ATV Areas 14, Parks 13, Dog Parks 11, Pool 10, Ice/Roller Skating Areas 10, Recreation Areas 9, Golf 9, Grocery Store 4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8. What do you see as the major disadvantage(s) of encouraging economic development in Oxford?

742	More auto traffic	**650**	More truck traffic	**409**	environmental problems
542	Changing the character of Oxford	**110**	Other (please specify) _____		

9. Would you support the rezoning of land currently zoned as residential for:

749	Conservation	**278**	Tourism	**378**	Retail use
375	Office and Professional	**300**	Light industry	**144**	Manufacturing

10. Would you support an expanded recycling program (i.e., an expansion in the variety of items collected for recycling?) 873 Yes 176 No 259 Not Sure

(109 Surveys were left blank for this question)

11. Which of the following do you feel are the most critical problems facing our town?

515	too much housing development	**64**	not enough housing development
165	too much commercial development	**401**	not enough commercial development
480	loss of town's rural character	**329**	loss of agricultural land
283	lack of adequate recreation areas	**770**	local property tax burden
150	water pollution	**186**	other (please specify)

Other Most Common: School System 44, Grocery Store 20, Taxes 19, Need for Business 15, Traffic 11, Need for Water/Sewer 10.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please tell us about your household.

How many people in your home: **5192** Males **1879** Females **1836**

How many children under 18: **868**

How many people over 60: **609**

How long have you lived in town:

205 less than 5 years **236** 5-10 years **259** 10-20 years **684** more than 20 years

(33 of the surveys were left blank in the demographic section)

Oxford Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey
(Showing Results by Percentages)

The Oxford Planning Department and the Oxford Open Space Committee are currently in the process of updating Oxford's Open Space and Recreation Plan. An updated Open Space Plan is the first step toward creating a new Master Plan for the Town of Oxford. This long-range plan will help guide development toward the vision of the members of the community. This survey gives you the opportunity to express your views regarding Oxford's future. The Planning Department and the Open Space Committee sincerely thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

(On each question, please check all that apply)

OPEN SPACE

1. Open fields for agriculture and undeveloped forest land are prominent features of Oxford's landscape. Is preserving these areas important to you? 82.5% Yes 9.8% No 7.6% Not Sure

(36 Surveys were blank for this question)

2. Should Oxford take measures to control future growth? 81.9% Yes 12.4% No 5.7% Not Sure

(108 Surveys were blank for this question)

If yes, how should the town control or regulate growth?

41.7% Restrict the number of new single family homes **63.6%** Restrict the number of new multi-family homes

25.3% Adopt more restrictive zoning regulations **7.8%** Limit water/sewer hookups

24.6% Restrict industrial development **20.7%** Restrict commercial development

Other (please specify) _____

3. To preserve open space in town would you: (by rank, 1 = highest)

4.7% Donate land to the town **3.2%** Sell land to the town at a bargain price

4.4% Donate money to buy land **10.5%** Sell land to the town at fair market value

42.3% Approve a tax program to eliminate property taxes for senior citizens willing to donate their land to the town

61.8% Vote for the town to buy land if it can be done without raising taxes

25.6% Vote for the town to buy land if the average residential tax bill would increase by $25 or less

14.0% Vote for the town to buy land if the average residential tax bill would increase by $50 or less

4. Oxford has many interesting attributes as a town. Do you know of any scenic vistas, unique environments, or historical areas that you would like to see preserved?
34.7% Yes 24.2% No 41.1% Not Sure

(189 Surveys were left blank for this question)

If yes, please specify: (Most Common) Clara Barton Sites 85, Fort Hill Area 56, Downtown Main Street Area 53, Huguenot Area 50, French River Area 48, Buffumville Area 43, Greenbriar Area 41, Hodges Dam Area 35, Pine Ridge Golf Course 17, Carbuncle Area 16, Casavant Area 11.

5. Would you support passage of the Community Preservation Act for the town of Oxford?

31.4% Yes **38.7% No** **29.9% Not Sure**

(51 Surveys were left blank for this question)

(The Community Preservation Act, M.G.L. c.44B, allows communities to adopt, by Town Meeting vote and election, a surcharge on property taxes (up to a maximum of 3%). This surcharge amount plus matching funds from the State is to be set aside and used for open space, but not including land for recreational use, for historic resources and for community housing.)

RECREATION

6. Oxford has a significant amount of frontage on the French River and numerous small to mid-sized ponds scattered throughout town. What is your opinion on public access to these resources, their maintenance by the town, and their availability for recreation opportunities?

Access: **44.1%** The current amount of public access to Oxford's water resources is sufficient.
55.9% Public access to Oxford's water resources needs to be expanded.

Town Maintenance:
59.0% The town's current level of maintenance of Oxford's water resources is sufficient.
41.0% The town's maintenance of Oxford's water resources needs to be improved.

Water-Based Recreation Opportunities:
54.1% The current amount of water-based recreation opportunities is sufficient.
45.9% Oxford needs more water-based recreation opportunities.

7. What types of recreation opportunities would you like to see more of in town? (by rank, 1 = highest)

16.9%	ball fields	**50.8%**	hiking trails	**28.4%**	playgrounds	**7.7%**	tennis courts
34.3%	swimming	**15.9%**	boating	**17.1%**	basketball courts	**25.2%**	fishing
8.0%	hunting	**45.2%**	biking trails	**13.1%**	other (please specify)		

(Most Common) Walking Trails/Areas 22, ATV Areas 14, Parks 13, Dog Parks 11, Pool 10, Ice/Roller Skating Areas 10, Recreation Areas 9, Golf 9, Grocery Store 4

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

8. What do you see as the major disadvantage(s) of encouraging economic development in Oxford? (by rank, 1 = highest)

52.4% More auto traffic **45.9%** More truck traffic **28.9%** environmental problems

38.2% Changing the character of Oxford _____ Other (please specify) _____

9. Would you support the rezoning of land currently zoned as residential for: (by rank, 1 = highest)

52.9%	Conservation	**19.6%**	Tourism	**26.7%**	Retail use
26.5%	Office and Professional	**21.2%**	Light industry	**10.2%**	Manufacturing

10. Would you support an expanded recycling program (i.e., an expansion in the variety of items collected for recycling?) **66.7% Yes** **13.5% No** **19.8% Not Sure**

(109 Surveys were left blank for this question)

11. Which of the following do you feel are the most critical problems facing our town? (by rank, 1 = highest)

36.3%	too much housing development	**4.5%**	not enough housing development
11.6%	too much commercial development	**28.3%**	not enough commercial development
33.9%	loss of town's rural character	**23.2%**	loss of agricultural land
20.0%	lack of adequate recreation areas	**54.3%**	local property tax burden
10.6%	water pollution	____	other (please specify)

Other Most Common: School System 44, Grocery Store 20, Taxes 19, Need for Business 15, Traffic 11, Need for Water/Sewer 10.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please tell us about your household.

How many people in your home: **5192** Males **1879** Females **1836**

How many children under 18: **868**

How many people over 60: **609**

How long have you lived in town:

14.8% less than 5 years **17.1%** 5-10 years **18.7%** 10-20 years **49.4%** more than 20 years

(33 of the surveys were left blank in the demographic section)

Appendix B
Funding Mechanisms and Programs

PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Municipal Purchase

Sponsoring Agency:	Town of Oxford.
Approximate Funding Maximum:	Dependent on Town Meeting.
Program Description:	This tool is probably the most direct and effective way for a town to achieve the acquisition objectives of its open space plan. Towns may either issue bonds to cover purchases or in some cases include a purchase item in the general budget. Bond issues are quite common and provide communities with the flexibility to negotiate with property owners, knowing that money has already been authorized to complete the acquisition. In practice, towns generally ask for authorization to float a bond to cover open space acquisition, and then once a deal has been negotiated return to town meeting for the actual appropriation.
Priority for Pursuing:	High.
Chances of Success:	Moderate. Will depend on a vigorous public outreach campaign prior to town meeting and the general referendum.

Massachusetts Self-Help Program

Sponsoring Agency:	Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS).
Approximate Funding Maximum:	$500,000, but may be raised or lowered at the discretion of EOEA. A Reimbursement Rate is calculated based on each community's equalized valuation per capita decile ranking. Reimbursement rates range from 52% to 70%.
Program Description:	The Program provides a percentage (typically over 50%) of reimbursement for the purchase of land for conservation and passive recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farm land. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required.
Priority for Pursuing:	High.
Chances of Success:	High. Towns must have an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan that is no more than five years old. Each round may contain

priority categories for funding that if addressed, can increase changes of funding.

Massachusetts Urban Self-Help Program

Sponsoring Agency:	Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS).
Approximate Funding Maximum:	$500,000, but may be raised or lowered at the discretion of EOEA. A Reimbursement Rate is calculated based on each community's equalized valuation per capita decile ranking. Reimbursement rates range from 52% to 70%.
Program Description:	The Urban Self-Help Program assists cities and towns of over 35,000 in population with the acquisition of parkland, as well as construction of new parks and renovation of existing parks. Grants are available for the acquisition of land, and the construction, restoration, or rehabilitation of land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Smaller towns may also qualify for these grants where projects are designed to provide statewide or regional recreational facilities or up to a maximum grant of $50,000 for smaller recreational projects.
Priority for Pursuing:	High.
Chances of Success:	High. Towns must have an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan that is no more than five years old. Each round may contain priority categories for funding that if addressed, can increase changes of funding. Since Oxford contains fewer than 35,000 people, only regional or statewide projects should be pursued.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund

Sponsoring Agency:	National Park Service, administered statewide by the Mass. Division of Conservation Services (DCS).
Approximate Funding Maximum:	Generally $500,000, but may be raised or lowered at the discretion of EOEA. Provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development and renovation of park, recreation or conservation areas
Program Description:	The Program provides funding for the acquisition or improvement of recreation land, including the development of active recreation facilities.
Priority for Pursuing:	Moderate.
Chances of Success:	Moderate depending on the level of funding provided to the Commonwealth from the NPS.

Community Preservation Act (CPA)

Sponsoring Agency:	Town of Oxford.
Approximate Funding Maximum:	Dependent on Town Meeting.
Program Description:	For towns that adopt the provisions of the Act, communities may levy a property tax surcharge of up to three percent, with the state providing a match from deed transfer fees collected by Registries of Deeds. Exemptions can be enacted as local options to minimize the impact on certain segments of the population. A local CPA Committee is charged with collecting and expending funds, as well as deciding which projects to pursue with the money collected. At least 10% of the monies raised must be used for open space, historic preservation, and affordable housing. With land protection as one of the specific goals of the CPA, the program represents an excellent tool for preserving key properties in Town.
Priority for Pursuing:	High.
Chances of Success:	High.

Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

Sponsoring Agency	Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Approximate Funding Maximum	$500,000. A 50% match is required.
Program Description	This grant program provides funding to public water systems and municipalities for land acquisitions that protect public drinking water supplies and drinking water quality. Eligible land acquisitions include land located in existing or future drinking water supply areas. Land may be acquired through purchase of fee simple title, purchase of a conservation restriction, or purchase of a combination of fee simple title and conservation restriction(s).
Priority for Pursuing:	Moderate. Since water sources are owned and operated by a private water company. The Town is eligible to apply for funds in cooperation with the private water supplier.
Chance of Success	Moderate

Limited Development

Sponsoring Agency	Town Meeting, often in cooperation with a Land Trust
Approximate Funding Maximum	No maximum

Program Description	In a limited development project, the town may purchase a large parcel at fair market value where a development proposal is pending in order to preserve open space or protect important natural or historical resources. Through a community planning process, several parcels, usually with sufficient road frontage as required by zoning, are divided from the main parcel and sold to private developers. The sale price of the parcels in many instances is sufficient to recoup the entire cost of the purchase.
Priority for Pursuing:	Moderate. The Town must be willing to make a substantial outlay of funds to acquire open space and wait several years before developable parcels are sold to recoup its investment.
Chance of Success	High. Many communities have used this technique quite effectively.

STUDIES AND CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE

Public Works and Economic Development (PWED) Program

Sponsoring Agency:	Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT).
Approximate Funding Maximum:	$1,000,000.
Program Description:	This program is primarily intended to make roadway improvements that promote economic development. Communities have also received grants to revitalize town centers and town commons, including making sidewalk and pedestrian improvements, burying overhead utility, making streetscape improvements, and improving roadways.
Priority for Pursuing:	Moderate.
Chances of Success:	Medium. The program could provide funding to make traffic and aesthetic improvements in Oxford Center.

Lakes and Ponds Program

Sponsoring Agency:	Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Approximate Funding Maximum:	$300,000 for Demonstration Projects.
Program Description:	This program is the Successor program to DEP's Clean Lakes Program (Chapter 628). Eligible activities include, lake management analysis and planning, public education, and watershed and in-lake management techniques. The program requires a 50% cash match. Projects can help restore water quality, fund capital intensive best management practices, and implement stormwater management controls.
Priority for Pursuing:	Moderate.

Chances of Success: Moderate.

Greenways and Trails Demonstration Grant Program

Sponsoring Agency: Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Approximate Funding Maximum: $5,000. DCR will also consider requests of up to $10,000 for multi-town greenway and trail projects. These additional funds are intended to promote linkages across town boundaries and foster partnerships among neighboring communities.

Program Description: Greenways and trail projects are at the center of this program. Funding categories include: planning, research, mapping, public education and community outreach, ecological assessment, and trail construction, maintenance and expansion. The program is intended to foster connections of people to landscape features and advance community-based greenway and trail initiatives throughout Massachusetts.

Priority for Pursuing: Moderate.

Chances of Success: High with a good proposal.

Recreational Trails Grants Program

Sponsoring Agency Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Approximate Funding Maximum The grant will provide 80% reimbursement, with a 20% local match. Grant amounts (not including the match) may range from $2,000 to $50,000. Requests for amounts greater than $50,000 will be considered for larger projects with statewide or regional significance.

Program Description The Recreational Trails Program provides funding for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. Funding is available to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The Program is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered in Massachusetts on a reimbursement basis by DCR, in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board, and the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT). The program legislation requires that 30% of program funds be reserved for projects related to motorized trail use, 30% for non-motorized projects, and 40% for projects that facilitate diverse trail uses.

Priority for Pursuing: High. This plan identifies a number of trail projects that could be quickly implemented through a successful Recreational Trails Grant.

Chance of Success: High

Transportation Enhancement Program

Sponsoring Agency: Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Approximate Funding Maximum: None, but a $100,000 minimum is requested by MHD.

Program Description: Money is provided to a variety of transportation "enhancement" projects. Eligible projects should enhance pedestrian or bicycle safety, or preserve historical or archaeological resources. Property acquisition is also eligible if it is clearly related to the surface transportation system or to a high priority preservation project.

Priority for Pursuing: Moderate.

Chances of Success: Low. The program is very competitive with many other communities seeking limited funds.

NON-ACQUISITION PROGRAMS

Conservation Restrictions (CRs)

Sponsoring Agency: Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS).

Approximate Funding Maximum: Only technical support available.

Program Description: Conservation restrictions (CR's) are legal, enforceable agreements, authorized by the state, which are made between a landowner and a charitable organization, or a town. They are used primarily to keep land in a "natural or scenic open condition". Restrictions can be written so that certain uses are permitted and others prohibited, e.g. the current owner may continue to occupy an existing house on the land, but may restrict the construction of any additional houses. Grantors of restrictions may also be able to benefit by reductions in various taxes including property, estate and income.

Priority for Pursuing: High.

Chances of Success: Depends on property owner.

Assessment Act (M.G.L. Chapters 61, 61A and 61B)

Sponsoring Agency: Local Board of Assessors and Mass. and Mass. Department of Revenue

Approximate Funding Maximum: No public funds required.

Program Description: These programs make available special property tax assessments to owners who agree to restrict their land to a particular use. Chapter 61 applies to lands actively devoted to forestry use, 61A applies to active agricultural lands, and 61B applies to public recreational lands like wildlife sanctuaries and golf courses. Generally, properties are assessed at their current use value rather than their development value. This translates into a substantial property tax savings for owners. The program also requires landowners who wish to leave the program to offer the community a right-of-first-refusal to purchase the property at the price of a bona fide Purchase and Sales Agreement. Many communities have worked with non-profit land trusts to raise the funds needed to purchase valuable open space in this manner.

Priority for Pursuing: High

Chances of Success: Depends on property owner.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions

Sponsoring Agency: Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)

Approximate Funding Maximum: Varies depending upon market value of farmland.

Program Description: This program insures that active farms stay in agricultural production. The program offers farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "fair market agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.

Priority for Pursuing: High.

Chances of Success: Depends on property owner.

Appendix C
ADA Self-Evaluation Report

Town of Oxford

PART I: ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- **Designation of an ADA Coordinator**

  The ADA Coordinator for the Town of Oxford is Joseph Zeneski, Town Engineer/Planner.

- **Grievance Procedures**

  See attached.

- **Public Notification Requirements**

  The Town of Oxford does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Town of Oxford does not have specific recruitment materials, but includes EOE language in all job postings. Assistant with application is available. See attached sample notification. See attached memo on compliance.

Part II: Program Accessibility

Facility Inventory.

Four recreational facilities fall under the jurisdiction of the Town of Oxford. Those facilities are as follows:

1. Woodward Little League fields (660 Main Street)
2. Ruel Field (27 Locust Street)
3. Carbuncle Pond beach area (495 Main Street)
4. Greenbriar Recreation Facilities (591 Main Street)

An inventory of the facilities follows. Inventory sheets are attached.

Woodward Little League field is located at 660 Main Street. The property also contains a basketball court. There are not delineated parking spaces and no designated handicapped parking areas. Access to the little league field and basketball court is possible at level ground, with wide, obstruction free entryways through all their respective fences. The little league field is grass and dirt as is common, the basketball court is evenly surfaced. There are several sets of bleachers with the first seating levels 17-21 inches from the ground. There is a building on this property with an access ramp and accessible bathrooms.

Ruel Field is located at 27 Locust Street. The property contains soccer and baseball fields and basketball courts. The basketball courts are evenly surfaced, whereas the soccer and baseball fields are grass and dirt. Access to all of these is at a level slope with no necessary step-up. Fences to each of the fields each have wide, obstruction free entryways. Parking is not delineated or paved, but there are two handicapped parking signs on the property.

Access to Carbuncle Pond beach area is located at a road turnoff at 495 Main Street. Carbuncle Pond is a state owned pond, most of the property around the pond is private property except for a small beach area maintained by the town. Parking is not delineated and is unevenly surfaced, with no handicapped parking spaces. The slope between the parking area and the beach is relatively steep down a grassy hill, following the natural contours of the site. There are no paths down to the beach. There are two slides and several swing-sets at the site spaced at least five feet apart from each other. The swings are of several types and heights. There is a men and women's bathroom on the site, which are not accessible facilities.

Greenbriar Recreation Area is located at 591 Main Street. The land itself is federally owned, but there are recreational facilities on the site that are maintained by the town. There are two paved and marked handicap parking spaces adjacent to handicap accessible men's and women's bathrooms. The drive into the area where the recreational facilities are located is down a steep, uneven dirt slope. The ground between parking spots and tennis and basketball courts is rutted and uneven. There is direct, wide, unobstructed access to the courts, which are evenly surfaced.

Transition Plan: There currently plans for the improvements to the Ruel Field, though improved accessibility is not specified. The proposal is mostly concerned with field expansion and leveling. The other sites have no immediate site improvement plans.

For the General Public

Equal Access to Facilities and Activities Grievance Policy

The Town of Oxford strives to provide prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging action prohibited by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Town Engineer/Planner, serving as the ADA Coordinator will be available to meet with citizens and employees during Town Hall hours of operation (9: 00 am - 4:30 pm).

When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, an effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint or program policy clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten working days (assuming the complaint is not anonymous) from its receipt. If either verbal or written means of communication to grievances is needed, either will be made available upon request.

In the event a written grievance needs to be submitted to the ADA Coordinator, assistance in writing the grievance will be provided upon request.

Correspondence should be addressed to: Town Engineer/Planner, Memorial Town Hall, 325 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540. (508) 987-6042.

Oxford
Massachusetts

← return to homepage

Cemetery | Other Offices | Positions | Pay Online

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TOWN OF OXFORD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Oxford (population 13,000) is looking for a particular individual to take on the responsibilities of Assistant DPW Director and Highway Superintendent. The successful applicant must have the skills and experience to handle the Highway Superintendent position and the qualifications to become DPW Director upon the near-future retirement of the current Director. As Assistant Director, the successful applicant will assist in the supervision and coordination of all DPW responsibilities in the areas of Highway, Cemeteries, Vehicle Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, and Building Maintenance including the preparation of project specific and departmental budgets. As Highway Superintendent, the successful applicant shall supervise and coordinate the activities of 9 full-time employees, up to three seasonal part-time employees, and several contractors to fulfill direct responsibility for the care and maintenance of approximately 91 miles of Town roads and streets including winter operations, drainage systems, and storm water management systems. Candidates should have a strong background in administration of Public Works activities; good "people skills"; an ability to speak persuasively and knowledgably in public; and a good budgetary sense. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or related field; five years of experience in a public works setting; and knowledge of the General Laws and Storm Water Management regulations. Salary range is $49,168 to $72,134 depending on education and experience. Send resumes and cover letter to be received before November 15, 2006 to:

Office of the Town Manager

325 Main Street

Oxford, MA 01540

Tel: 508-987-6030

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REQUIREMENTS

The TOWN OF OXFORD advises applicants, participants and the public that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, services, and activities.

The TOWN OF OXFORD has designated the following person to coordinate efforts to comply with these requirements. Inquires, requests, and complaints should be directed to:

Joseph M. Zeneski, P.E.
Town Engineer/Planner
325 Main Street
Oxford, MA 01540
Tel. *(508)* 987-6043

Dennis A. Power

Dennis A. Power, Town Manager

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities **None**	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 **None**	Pools	Entrance
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
		Shade provided
Play Areas (tot lots) **None**	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 **No** *basketball **Yes** *tennis **Yes**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths **No**
		Berm cuts onto courts **Yes**
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating **No**
Boat Docks **No**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities **None**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming **None**	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance **No**	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

PARKING Mostly not delineated			
Total Spaces		*Required Accessible Spaces*	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces **Yes**	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	✓		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	**N/A**		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	✓		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	✓		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	✓		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	✓		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	✓		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	**N/A**		
Curbcut 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			
RAMPS None			
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 $1\frac{1}{4}$" and 2"			
Clearance of $1\frac{1}{2}$" 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			

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
$1\frac{1}{4}$" diameter			
$1\frac{1}{2}$" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Greenbriar Recreation Area Location: 591 Main Street

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			
Lifting device			
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			
Non-slip surface			

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			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
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			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

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, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities **None**	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 **Yes**	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
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	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 **Yes** *basketball **Yes** *tennis **No**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts **Yes**
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating **Yes, bleachers**
Boat Docks **No**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities **No**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming **No**	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance **No**	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

PARKING Not marked/delineated			
Total Spaces		*Required Accessible Spaces*	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		✓	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		✓	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		✓	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		✓	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		✓	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		✓	
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			**No curbs to cut**
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	**N/A**		
RAMPS			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Slope Maximum 1:12		✓	
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			**One handrail- other side is building**
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	**N/A**		
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 $1\frac{1}{4}$" and 2"			
Clearance of $1\frac{1}{2}$" between wall and wall rail			**None near wall**
Non-slip surface	✓		
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	**N/A**		**No change of direction**

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

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

NOTES

This site is outdoors, accessible at street level. Mostly grass. Basketball court is evenly surfaced.

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
$1\frac{1}{4}$" diameter			
$1\frac{1}{2}$" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Woodward Little League Fields Location: 660 Main Street

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			
Lifting device			
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			
Non-slip surface			

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			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
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			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

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, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches **Bleachers**	Located adjacent to accessible paths **Yes**
		Access to Open Spaces **Yes**
		Back and Arm Rests **Yes**
		Adequate number **Yes**
	Grills **No**	Height of Cooking Surface
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Trash Cans **3**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters **None**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails	**None**	Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities	Pools **None**	Entrance
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	Beaches **None**	Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
		Shade provided
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides **None**	Same experience provided to all
	Access Routes **None**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
Game Areas: *ballfield **Yes** *basketball **Yes** *tennis **Yes**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts **Yes**
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating **Yes**
Boat Docks	Access Routes **N/A**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities **None**	Access Routes **N/A**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible? **No**	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired **No**	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings **No**	

Notes: Ballfield / soccer field / basketball court. Not much equipment

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

PARKING			
Total Spaces **Not market / striped**		*Required Accessible Spaces*	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces **Two accessible spaces**	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	✓		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	✓		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	✓		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		✓	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	✓		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	**N/A**		
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	**N/A**		
RAMPS None			
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 $1\frac{1}{4}$" and 2"			
Clearance of $1\frac{1}{2}$" 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			

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

STAIRS and DOORS			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Stairs **None**			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between $1\frac{1}{4}$" and $1\frac{1}{2}$"			
$1\frac{1}{2}$" clearance between wall and handrail			
Doors **None**			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum $\frac{1}{2}$" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
$1\frac{1}{4}$" diameter			
$1\frac{1}{2}$" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

NOTES

Restrooms were locked on visit.

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Floors **N/A**			
Non-slip surface			
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains **None**			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones **None**			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES **Sing at entrance only at parking lot**			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Switches, Controls and Signs **N/A**			
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			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs **Sign at entrance only at parking lot**			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	✓		
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			**N/A**
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high	✓		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		✓	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	✓		

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Ruel Field **Location: 27 Locust Street**

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			**None**
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			
Lifting device			
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			
Non-slip surface			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			**None**
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			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
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			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

LOCATION

PICNICKING			**None**
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, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond Location: 495 Main Street

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches **None**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills **None**	Height of Cooking Surface
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Trash Cans **2**	Located adjacent to accessible paths **At edge of parking lot**
	Picnic Shelters **None**	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails		Surface material **Small dirt path through trees**
		Dimensions **Irregular**
		Rails **No**
		Signage (for visually impaired) **No**
Swimming Facilities	Pools **None**	Entrance
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	Beaches **Yes**	Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
		Shade provided
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. **2 swings, 3 slides**	Same experience provided to all **Yes**
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair **Yes**
Game Areas: **N/A** *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating
Boat Docks **N/A**	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities **N/A**	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? **Day camp in summer**	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired **No**	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings **No**	

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond **Location: 495 Main Street**

PARKING			
Total Spaces		*Required Accessible Spaces*	
Up to 25 **Not striped**		1 space ✓	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		✓	**Not an accessible path between parking lot and the beach**
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		✓	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	✓		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	✓		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	✓		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	✓		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	✓		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		✓	
Curbcut 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		**NA**	
RAMPS None			
Specification **N/A**	*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 $1\frac{1}{4}$" and 2"			
Clearance of $1\frac{1}{2}$" 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			

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond **Location: 495 Main Street**

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

NOTES

Parking lot leads directly to a grass hill that follows the natural contour of the site - no path down to the beach other than this.

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond **Location: 495 Main Street**

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

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond Location: 495 Main Street

RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules Locked			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
At least one Sink:			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach			
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim			
Extends at least 22" from the wall			
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high			
Cover exposed pipes with insulation			
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)			
At least one Stall:			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep			
Stall door is 36" wide			
Stall door swings out			
Stall door is self closing			
Stall door has a pull latch			
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor			
Coat hook is 54" high			
Toilet			
18" from center to nearest side wall			
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture			
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor			
Grab Bars			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
$1\frac{1}{4}$" diameter			
$1\frac{1}{2}$" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
Fixtures			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor			
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")			
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor			

NOTES
This site was checked off-season, so restrooms were locked.

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond Location: 495 Main Street

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES None			
Specification	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments/Transition Notes*
Floors			
Non-slip surface			
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			
Drinking Fountains			
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
Telephones			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES **None**			
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			
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			
Signs **One sign at entrance to parking lot announcing it is Carbuncle Pond**			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	✓		
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers a t least 1¼" high	✓		
Letters and numbers raised .03"		✓	
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	✓		

NOTES

Facility Inventory: Carbuncle Pond Location: 495 Main Street

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area			**None**
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			
Lifting device			
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			
Non-slip surface			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use			**None**
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			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
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			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

LOCATION

PICNICKING			**None**
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, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			