



# West Boylston, MA

## Open Space and Recreation Plan

*August 2018*



Prepared by the  
West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) and the  
West Boylston Parks Commission (Commission)  
with Technical Assistance from the  
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following individuals and organizations have contributed to this and/or earlier drafts Open Space and Recreation Plans for the Town of West Boylston:

### WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

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- Barbara Wyatt
- Brenda Bowman
- Gary Flynn
- John Hadley
- Mike Peckar
- Raymond DeSanti
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### PARKS COMMISSIONERS

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- West Boylston Building Department
- Board of Assessors Office

### LOCAL AND STATE CONTRIBUTORS

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- Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection, John Scannell and Jim French
- Water District Superintendent, Michael Coveney
- Greater Worcester Land Trust
- Wachusett Greenways
- Seven Hills Wheelmen
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission



## 1. PLAN SUMMARY

### 1A. OVERVIEW

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP) compiles environmental and recreational information specific to West Boylston to provide a guiding document for the next seven (7) years. The OSRP, once accepted by the State, will qualify the town for multiple State funding opportunities through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA).

The intent of the OSRP is to document local open space and recreation status, needs, and concerns, and to include these issues in all building development and facility repair/maintenance projects initiated by the Town. Implementation of the May 2016 Complete Streets Policy, intended to improve access for bicycle and pedestrian use along roadways to schools, residences, and businesses will help. Utilization of this funding source, up to \$400,000, will implement projects not considered feasible otherwise.

The recent accomplishments of the Parks Commission, including creating field use scheduling, evaluating facilities conditions, considering enhancements at Goodale Park, constructing a new practice field, and improving safety fencing. The highest needs noted for Parks are to improve substandard (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)) facilities (track and baseball fields), fill the Recreation Director position, evaluate swimming options, ensure fields remain at Mixer property, improve elder and universal access to existing fields.

The Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) initiated the Complete Streets Policy and has worked to protect multiple open space properties that were on the properties of interest list through coordination with DCR land acquisition and Greater Worcester Land Trust. The proximity to Town drinking water sources and mapped aquifers increases the need to protect these undeveloped lands and Community Preservation Funds can be used for this purpose. The OSIC advocates for protection of existing Town open spaces because “once it is developed, it doesn’t come back.” The OSIC encourages use of the State Chapter 61 Program which allows landowners to pay significantly-reduced taxes on property formally designated in forested, agricultural, or recreational use. Action Items associated with open space include: improve/expand walking and bicycle access throughout town, acquire/protect priority open space parcels, encourage landowner donations/designations to limit development, and investigate a fenced dog park.

The OSIC coordinated two town-wide surveys recently, one in the fall of 2013 and another in the summer of 2016, where responses from more than 350 households were received. 88% of the respondents believed it was important to protect open space and nature, with the most used facilities being sidewalks and local trails for walking. The three (3) most important items to fund were sidewalks, a swimming facility, and protecting open space near town wells.



In [Section 9. Seven Year Action Plan](#), there is a complete list of Action Items to implement each of the stated goals over the next seven (7) years, which note funding sources, timeframe, and responsible party; highlights are shown on [Map 10: Action Plan Map](#).

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## PLAN SUMMARY

The benefits of open and recreational spaces, whether privately or publicly owned, are numerous. They contribute to quality of life and community character, provide a center for community activities, protect and enhance nearby property values, attract businesses, and do not burden the town with excessive expenses. Open space protects our water supplies and also provides natural areas for stormwater infiltration, wildlife corridors, improves air quality, and reduces localized flooding. Recreation facilities provide venues for family and community sharing and personal growth and development.

Today West Boylston is at a crossroads; feeling the cumulative pressures of urban development and business expansion, population increases, aging infrastructure, aging citizens, fewer school-aged citizens, and budget shortfalls. Providing recreational opportunities for the whole community is a fundamental part of the character of West Boylston that should be continued and expanded. Given the small amount of town-owned land, especially near our drinking water wells, there is a dire need to preserve open space threatened by development.

The West Boylston Water District's Source Water Protection Plan state, "Residential and commercial developments, with all of their associated land uses, are the biggest threats to a drinking water supply. Their contamination is slow and insidious, often overlooked until a crisis is thrust upon the community, usually requiring a lot of funding to remediate.

Residents value the areas of their town that are rural. Rural landscaped provides many benefits including wildlife habitat, aquifer/surface water recharge, farmland, and aesthetic beauty. It is critically important that town officials discuss alternatives to development with landowners to preserve open space."

In order to secure and protect valuable parcels of open space, it is essential to bring forth today's issues and concerns regarding development, land exchanges, and open space and



**Goodale Park.** Photo credit CMRPC.



recreational needs. If the town does not take significant steps to preserve open space in West Boylston, it may be too late. Once developed, open space is essentially lost forever.

The West Boylston Parks Commission (the Commission) and the Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) have a responsibility to increase awareness of local citizens and public officials to the benefits of providing recreation opportunities for all the town's citizens, and of acquiring, preserving and managing open space, which includes updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan. To complete this Plan, the West Boylston OSIC worked together with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to analyze current conditions, gather public feedback, and generate the following seven-year action plan.

## 1B. PLAN PROCESS

This OSRP builds an understanding of West Boylston's current place in the region, its history and sense of self, its demographics, and its growth and development patterns. A thorough review of the geology, landscape, water resources, vegetation, wildlife and fisheries, unique and scenic resources, as well as, environmental challenges was necessary to develop a clear picture of the area's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Working with the Town's assessor and others, an inventory of public and private lands of conservation and recreation interest was compiled.



**West Boylston Town Offices.** Photo credit CMRPC.

This is the third revision of West Boylston's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). The original OSRP plan was completed in 1996 with revised plans in 2002 and 2009. Both versions laid the groundwork for this updated Open Space and Recreation Plan, the purpose of which is to evaluate current conditions, issues and concerns; and to plan for the future.

The plan identifies those special places and spaces that town residents enjoy, and sets out a strategy for improving open space and recreation opportunities in a manner that is sustainable for future generations. Central themes running through this document are to protect the town's drinking water, and to provide open space and recreation opportunities together with land conservation programs that enhance the health and safety of its citizens and preserve the character of the Town. [Section 9. Seven Year Action Plan](#) includes progressive steps to increase community information dissemination and involvement, to improve recreational opportunities for West Boylston's residents and visitors, and to



foster economic growth by promoting its open space and recreation opportunities. It stipulates detailed action steps, time frames, and suggests responsible parties to assist West Boylston to move forward. This Open Space and Recreation Plan reaffirms West Boylston's desire to meet the following goals:

1. Protect and Preserve Open Space Parcels
2. Maintain and Enhance the Town's Recreation Facilities
3. Protect and Enhance Opportunities to Access and Enjoy Natural Resources
4. Plan and Develop Greenways and Walkable Connections in the Town with Consideration to Appropriate Regional Connections
5. Conduct Sound Management of Open Space and Recreation Facilities



## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The West Boylston Parks Commission (the Commission) is tasked with the duty to lay out and improve public parks, make rules for their use and governance. Subject to appropriation, they shall have the power to conduct park programs and recreation program activities at places other than such public parks. The Commission ensures the availability of safe and well-maintained recreation facilities throughout the town.

The West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) is an advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen whose mission is:



**Open Space at Goodale Park.** Photo Credit CMRPC.

***Maintain a balanced approach to provide safe open space and recreational opportunities for active and passive activities, to provide a safe and adequate water supply, to enhance the Town character, and to support opportunities for agriculture and wildlife to flourish in a fiscally-responsible manner.***

The OSIC believes open space represents more than lands set aside for aesthetic beauty and/or recreational use. Open space, as described in this plan, also ensures public health through water supply protection and providing a wide range of recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities of townspeople. Once accepted, the Town will qualify for a variety of open space and recreation project funding programs.

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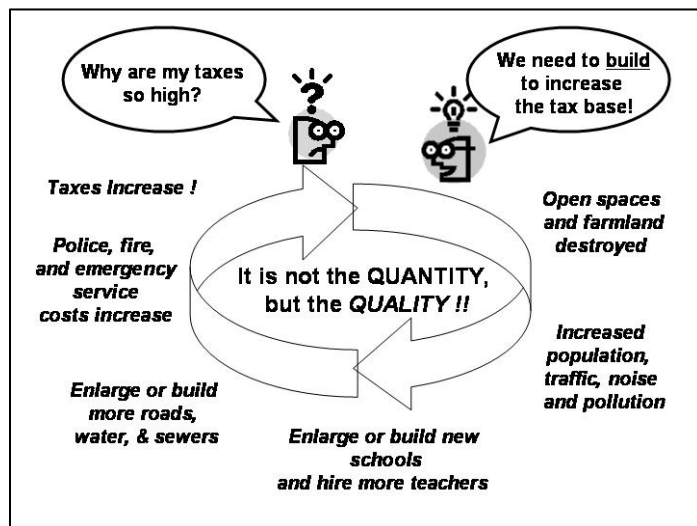
### OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE VISION

Although West Boylston is no longer a rural farming community, a desire to remain a semi-rural and close-knit community is the reason many people choose to live here, as well as the proximity to the Wachusett Reservoir. However, West Boylston's location abutting the City of Worcester generates significant development pressures. The Town has undergone significant transformation from a rural community of small farms in a close working relationship with the land into a growing suburban bedroom community composed of a mixture of small business and light industry. In recent years, the pace of residential, commercial and industrial development has quickened dramatically and now



threatens the town's public health, safety, character, rural landscape and overall quality of life. Town officials frequently state their desire for an increase in business and development to provide economic opportunity, additional revenue and to lower property taxes. However, although there are exceptions, the general rule is that the larger the town/city, the higher the taxes.<sup>1</sup> This is because development requires town services (i.e. water, sewer, road maintenance, education, police, fire, emergency services and trash disposal) and studies have shown that urban/suburban residential growth rarely pays its own way. This begins a cycle in which development leads to loss of open space, more infrastructure, increased municipal financial burdens (to pay for new roads, schools, public safety and emergency services) and increased taxes as shown in the diagram below. West Boylston is on the edge of this precipice, and this development strategy needs to be seriously reassessed in the next update of the Town-wide Master Plan.

A long-term community vision, as presented in an updated Master Plan will help guide the town's strategic decisions. Each immediate decision made by any Town Board or Commission should fit in to the plan to reach the overall goal. The 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan implementation strategy outlines steps that allow the Town to preserve the very best of West Boylston and check those actions that would diminish it as a special place.



**Cycle of Development and Increasing Municipal Services and Taxes**

The OSIC would like to see the Town move away from arguments that pit growth against preservation, and instead focus on protecting natural resources and improving quality of life while also encouraging responsible growth. Open space needs to be recognized as enriching and not impeding growth and development. This plan is an effort to hold on to the best of West Boylston, while responding to the pressures in a rapidly changing world; and ensuring public health and safety decisions are made in a fiscally-sound manner.

<sup>1</sup> The Trust for Public Land. (TPL). 1999. Long-term relationship between development and property tax bills. TPL New England Region Report.



*Imagine driving around West Boylston 20 years from now. What will you see? Will the town be an attractive and affordable place to live and work? Will it have a safe and healthy environment, creative and efficient uses of our natural resources, with a welcoming village character that sustains its connection to the past, and a sense of place for families seeking a quieter alternative? Or will you see a community characterized by urban sprawl, crumbling municipal infrastructure, and unorganized business/industrial development resulting in degradation of public health, air, and drinking water? Which future would you rather see?*

*Planning can preserve our valued resources and create opportunities to develop our community.*

West Boylston is facing a critical crossroads. The Town needs to determine how to respond to development pressure, while also protecting watersheds that maintain clean and ample drinking water for our community. The OSIC intends to work to promote a future that balances public health and safety, fiscal stability, and a managed development program. The OSIC believes that the majority of residents want to preserve these aspects of life in West Boylston, as well as retain and expand its unique community character.

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## DEFINITIONS

To differentiate between open space and lands used for recreational facilities, this plan utilizes the following definitions. This by no means is intended to prioritize one aspect over the other within this report.

When the term “*Open space*” is used in this document, it refers to undeveloped land, both publicly and privately owned. It is land in a predominantly natural state or altered for natural resources-based uses (i.e., farming, orchards, forestry, hunting and fishing, walking-type parks and trails), and may include, but is not limited to agricultural lands, fields, wooded areas, forests, wetlands and water bodies. Examples of publicly owned open space would be Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) land, the Mass Central Rail Trail, Water District land, and undeveloped county/state land associated with the House of Corrections. Examples of privately owned open space include farms, forest lands, and passive recreation areas.

The term “*recreational open space*” or “*recreation*” refers to land used for active recreational purposes, such as Woodland Park, athletic fields, or golf courses. Land used for active recreation does not qualify technically as open space because, for example, these parcels often have portions covered with paved surfaces such as that for tennis courts, basketball courts and parking lots. In addition, athletic fields require regular fertilizer applications and are usually installed with fencing and outbuildings. Since this plan deals with both open space and recreation, we have presented an approach to obtain the benefits of developing new and maintaining existing recreational facilities, without losing scarce valued environmental assets. In addition, grants and partnerships between federal, state and local agencies are often based on recommendations the applicant community makes in its Open Space and Recreation



Plan. Hence, we recognize and embrace opportunities for healthy outdoor activities, be it hiking along forest trails or a competitive soccer or football field.

## 2B. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### PUBLIC BOARDS

The West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee consists of seven (7) members, listed below. The committee meets once a month at the Town Hall.

- Barbara Wyatt (Resident)
- Brenda Bowman (Resident)
- Gary Flynn (Parks Commission)
- John Hadley (Conservation Commission)
- Mike Peckar (Resident)
- Raymond DeSanti (Resident)
- Vincent Vignaly (Planning Board)

The West Boylston Parks Commission consists of five (5) members, listed below:

- Gary Flynn (Resident)
- James Pedone (School Designee)
- John Pitro (Resident)
- Robert Dunne (Resident)
- Steven Blake (Resident)

This Plan is a working document intended to focus and direct the efforts of many boards and commissions in West Boylston to provide safe and varied opportunities for recreation.

### LOCAL INTERVIEWS

Members of the committee and/or CMRPC staff attended Parks Commission meetings, and spoke with the Water District, Director of the DPW, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, and received valuable assistance from the Town Administrator's Municipal Assistant. Ms. Anita M. Scheipers, Town Administrator and Chairman of the West Boylston Town-Wide Planning Committee, attended meetings as well. Members and CMRPC discussed open space and recreation opportunities and concerns with agency staff from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Greater Worcester Land Trust, Wachusett Greenways, Seven Hills Wheelmen and other recreational groups across the region.



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## PUBLIC SURVEY

The OSIC conducted monthly meetings, a public survey, a public forum, and a public hearing to encourage community involvement. The public survey was conducted during the summer of 2016 on-line in Survey Monkey and was also provided in hard copy at a variety of locations including the library, the Town Hall, the Senior Center, Angell Brook Community and Freedom Village apartments, among others. The link to the survey was distributed through the Town Administrator's blog, was posted on the Town's website and Facebook page, was listed on the electronic sign at the Town Common, and notice was provided in the individual electric bills. The link was also sent out by the school superintendent. Feedback from the survey is included in [Section 7B. Summary of Community Needs.](#)

### Open Space and Recreation Plan: YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

*The West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee is updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan. We want your opinions on topics such as: open space conservation, water resource protection, local agriculture, and the overall town character. The survey will have questions addressing your understanding of the town's current open space, what preservation needs you believe are most important, and what types of recreation spaces you value and participate in.*

**Hard copies are available at the Town Hall, Beaman Memorial Public Library, and Senior Center. The survey can also be taken online at [TINYURL.COM/WB-OSRP](http://TINYURL.COM/WB-OSRP).**

Please deliver or mail all hard copy response to the outside mailbox at the Town Hall located at:  
West Boylston Municipal Offices



140 Worcester Street  
West Boylston, MA 01583



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## PUBLIC FORUMS

The Committee organized two public forums at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room. The first was held on the evening of June 2, 2016 to discuss the draft plan and survey results, and to draft goals, objectives and an action plan. The second was held on March 21, 2017 to get comments on a final draft of the OSRP. Feedback from the public forums is included in the [Section 7B. Summary of Community Needs.](#)

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## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Upon completion of the DRAFT OSRP, the committee posted the draft on the Town website. Formal notices of opportunities for public comments were sent directly to all subscribers on the Town of West Boylston's website to receive hearing notices. The OSIC presented the plan and received feedback directly from members of the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Parks Facilities Committee, Parks Commission, Planning Board and Town-wide Planning Committee at separate meetings with each of these boards. The Committee also solicited public input from Town Boards and Commissions, neighborhood groups, and environmental groups through the posting of the plan on the Town Website and distribution of draft versions of Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. An official notice was sent to all individual citizens who have subscribed to notices of any public hearings in West Boylston. While response was limited, the information was used as one of many methods of gauging the public's needs and desires.



### 3. COMMUNITY SETTING

#### 3A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

West Boylston is a small residential suburb of Worcester, Massachusetts, the second largest city in New England. The Town is located in central Massachusetts, north of Worcester, west of Boylston, south of Sterling and east of Holden. West Boylston has approximately 300 business including retail, service, and light manufacturing companies. Businesses are mainly located on Route 12 and industries are mainly in the Hartwell Street Industrial Area.

Similar to the four other towns (Boylston, Holden, Princeton, Sterling) within the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed, housing is generally single-family in traditional residential areas and subdivisions. Within this region, most retail businesses are located in the strip commercial developments or in shopping plazas. The Town is accessed by Routes 12, 140, and 110 as well as Interstate 190. A railway track also traverses the town and is utilized daily for the transport of freight.

Most of the town is located in the Wachusett Reservoir's watershed and twenty percent (20%) of the Wachusett Reservoir is located in West Boylston. The watershed offers beautiful scenery for both residents and visitors and the Reservoir presents a fishing challenge to many sport enthusiasts. Limited passive recreation around the Reservoir is popular for the residents and visitors. While natural areas abound around the Reservoir, utilization is limited somewhat due to protections necessary for water quality.

West Boylston is located within the region served by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. CMRPC is the designated regional planning agency (RPA) for the Central Massachusetts region, which includes the City of Worcester and the surrounding 39 communities. This region encompasses the southern two-thirds of Worcester County. CMRPC provides municipal and regional planning for Land Use and Transportation, as well as a variety of Community Development services. For regional context, a locator map for West Boylston is included as [Map 1: Regional Context Map](#).

#### 3B. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

West Boylston was once populated by Native Americans. The land was rich in open fields, hills and valleys, and many streams and springs made it an ideal location along a Native American trail to Mt. Wachusett. Near the rivers are indications of Native American settlement and corn patches. European settlers arrived in West Boylston around 1720 as part of the Lancaster Population grant.

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#### INCORPORATION

As more families came to settle in the community, they became unwilling to travel to the Congregational Church in Boylston for church services and town meetings. A group of families, led by Ezra Beaman, constructed a church three miles west of Boylston on the site present Common in West Boylston. The group desired to become their own town, and in 1796 they received precinct status from



the state legislature. However, it was not until 1808 that West Boylston became a town thanks to the determined efforts of businessmen and politician Ezra Beaman.

At its incorporation in 1808, the town took parts of territory from Boylston, Sterling, Shrewsbury and Holden. The Town's location – at the site where the Quinapoxet River joined the Stillwater River and formed the southern branch of the Nashua River – was an important factor in the town's development. The original inhabitants were farmers, but with an abundant water supply a few businesses were started along the waterways. A grist mill, saw mill and blacksmith shop soon appeared. A number of different small mills were built in response to the growth in the population. These evolved into larger and more varied industries. Since the first mills were wooden structures, fire was a constant danger and as a result many of the rebuilt buildings were made of stone or brick.

Robert Bailey Thomas, the founder of the Old Farmer's Almanac, lived on a farm in West Boylston, Massachusetts. Thomas calculated the cycles of the moon and compiled essays and historical facts for inclusion in the yearly almanacs. He served as the town clerk of West Boylston in 1808 and as a state legislator in 1820.<sup>2</sup> West Boylston was also the home to Reed Pipe Organs, some of which are still in use today.<sup>3</sup>

By the mid 1800's, the Worcester and Nashua Railroad came through town, and in 1880 the Central Massachusetts Railroad and the Boston to Northampton came through the Oakdale section of town. The advent of the railroads allowed large quantities of farm products to be shipped to Boston on a daily basis. Crops including corn, rye, wheat, oats, milk and cider, contributed to the prosperity of West Boylston. Manufacturing continued to grow with cotton, wool and wire products being made, as well as scythes, boots and baskets. One well known manufacturer from this time was Erastus Bigelow. Bigelow Mills was where the first power loom for weaving carpets was invented.

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## WACHUSETT RESERVOIR

By 1890, the town had approximately 3,000 residents with five (5) churches, ten (10) schools and several meeting halls. At that time, Boston was seeking to increase its water supply and the Metropolitan Water Board was created under the provisions of Chapter 488 of the Acts of the year 1895. The Board selected West Boylston as the best place to construct a reservoir and soon the state began taking land including the Town center along the river. Over 1,500 residents were displaced, as well as eight schools, three churches, most of the farms and all of the mills. The construction of the Wachusett Reservoir cost \$11 million and required over 750 laborers, many of which were immigrants from Italy. Following completion of the Wachusett Dam in Clinton, the valley was flooded in 1905, thus forming the Wachusett

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<sup>2</sup> American Antiquarian Portrait Bios. Accessed via: <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Inventories/Portraits/bios/133.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> A Handbook of New England, Second Edition. 1917. Porter E. Sargent. Accessed via: [https://books.google.com/books?id=jKETAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA393&lpg=PA393&dq=west+boylston+pipe+organ+manufactur&source=bl&ots=GliOaKKsDS&sig=jr8iEyBC2cZugPF-kMUOcLDov38&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwil5MP4\\_YPQAhVn\\_4MKHQzKC6sQ6AEIMDAD#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=jKETAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA393&lpg=PA393&dq=west+boylston+pipe+organ+manufactur&source=bl&ots=GliOaKKsDS&sig=jr8iEyBC2cZugPF-kMUOcLDov38&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwil5MP4_YPQAhVn_4MKHQzKC6sQ6AEIMDAD#v=onepage&q&f=false)



Reservoir. The Reservoir encompasses over one square mile out of the nearly 14 square miles of the town. The lovely Old Stone Church stands as the last reminder of the town that once existed in the valley.

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## FARMING

West Boylston had high quality fertile soils – some of the best in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – and as such, agriculture, including dairy farming, and timber harvesting flourished. Agriculture was productive despite the hills and rocks that characterized the landscape. Prior to postwar World War II, small family farms included dairy, fruit trees and vegetables. After World War II, there was a steady loss of these farms to subdivisions and commercial development. The farms and related open space were especially significant for the town's water supply protection providing both underground recharge and safeguarding the surface waters.

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## CURRENT CONDITIONS

Today, West Boylston is mostly a residential “bedroom” town. Absent the Wachusett Reservoir, the Town may have faced the fate of many mill towns: abandoned mills and high unemployment. Although the Reservoir was a disaster for the town at the time of formation, today it is a picturesque landmark which provides passive recreational opportunities and scenic beauty. See Section 4.F (Scenic and Unique Environments) for additional historic information and for properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>

## 3C. POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

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### POPULATION

To plan for West Boylston's open space and recreation needs, the size, density, age and composition of the town's population must be considered. From 1940 to 2010, the town's population more than quadrupled, growing from 1,822 to 7,792 residents. However, it is important to note that the Worcester County Jail and House of Corrections is located in West Boylston. While the capacity of the jail is approximately 800, it hosts approximately 1,300 inmates each year. When these numbers are discounted, the population more than tripled during this period<sup>8</sup>.

As shown in the exhibit below, the greatest period of growth occurred in the 1950s, when the population grew 115%. Since that time the population has still grown overall, albeit at a slower rate than in the 1950's and 1960s. In the 1960s, the population grew 15.3%. It decreased by 2.6% in the 1970's, and decreased again by 7% in 1990 with a total citizen population of 5,770 in 1990. From 1990 to 2000,

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<sup>4</sup> Edgar Whitcomb, West Boylston Historical Commission, 1996

<sup>5</sup> Worcester Area League of Women Voters, “Know Your Town,” 1977

<sup>6</sup> “Transformation of a mill town,” The Banner, January 8, 1987

<sup>7</sup> Ron Borjeson, West Boylston Historical Commission, 2000-2002

<sup>8</sup> Sheriff's Office, Worcester County/State Jail, West Boylston, October 10, 2000

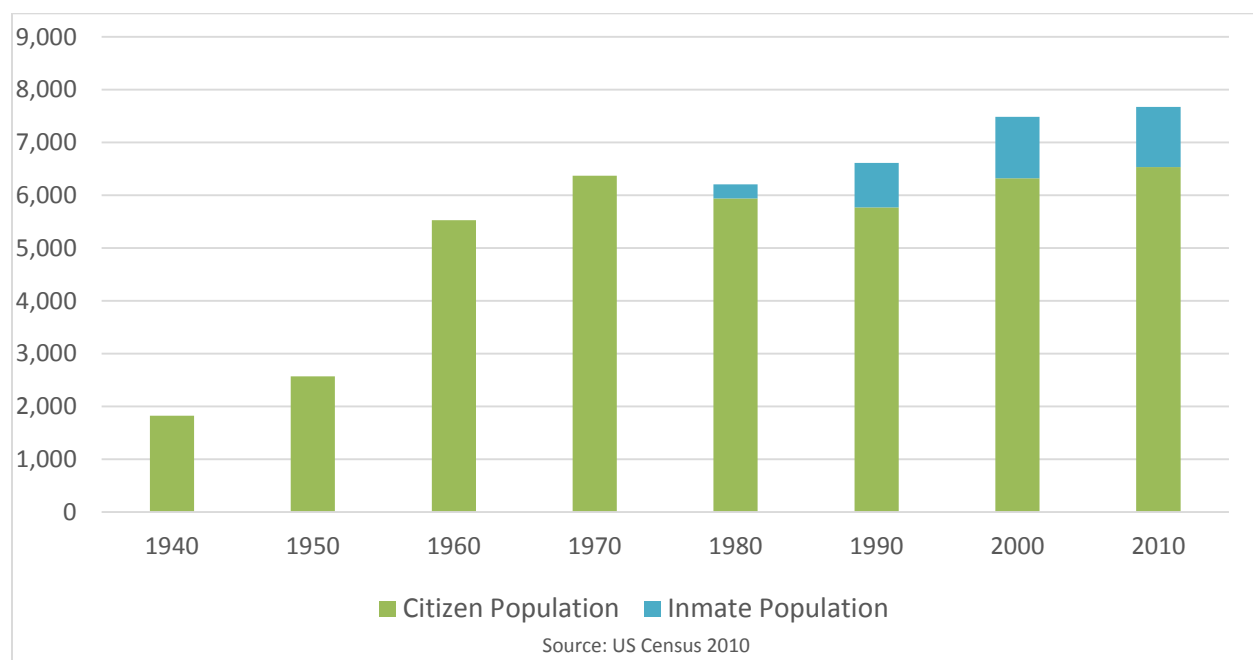


the citizen population increased by 7%, and in 2010, the citizen population grew to 6,531 indicating growth rate of 3%. The 2010 citizen population is 100 citizens fewer than the citizen population in 1980 (before the construction of the jail).

**Exhibit 1: West Boylston Population Estimates Table and Graph**

Year	Citizen Population	Inmate Population	Total Population	% Change Citizens	% Total Change
1940	1,822	--	1,822	--	--
1950	2,570	--	2,570	41.10%	41.10%
1960	5,526	--	5,526	115.00%	115.00%
1970	6,369	--	6,369	15.30%	15.30%
1980	5,936	268	6,204	-2.60%	-2.60%
1990	5,770	841	6,611	-7.00%	6.60%
2000	6,320	1,161	7,481	7.10%	13.20%
2010	6,531	1,138	7,669	3.00%	2.50%

Source: US Census 2010 and West Boylston Housing Production Plan, 2012.



Please note that this OSRP is associated with the citizen population and not the inmate population. Thus, the focus of the population evaluation shown below is for the citizen population, not including the inmate population. Unless otherwise noted, all numbers refer to the citizen population.



## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

CMRPC regularly publishes population projections for transportation planning purposes, which are vetted with communities.<sup>9</sup> As part of the 2011 Long Range Transportation Plan, town-level projections were developed based upon past growth trends, land use and infrastructure capacity, planned future projects, and stakeholder input. Populations estimates for West Boylston indicate that by the year 2040 the population of will be about 8,700. This represents an increase of 14%, which is similar to the percent growth estimated for Shrewsbury, as shown in the exhibit below. The two (2) towns experience similar development patterns because both have limited developable lands, though Shrewsbury's is due to build out, while West Boylston's is due to the extent of land owned by DCR. It is noted that similar aggressive projections were made in the 2005 Master Plan that suggested that the town's population would be 8,412 by 2010. The actual census count was 7,669 in 2010.

In looking at the population projections for the town Water District in 2001, Tata & Howard, Inc. estimated that the town's population would increase to 8,681 by the year 2020.<sup>10</sup>

**Exhibit 2: Population Projections**

Town	2010	2020	2030	2040	% Change 2010 to 2040
<b>West Boylston</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>8,105</b>	<b>8,512</b>	<b>8,766</b>	<b>14%</b>
Boylston	4,355	4,627	4,684	4,901	13%
Holden	17,346	19,314	21,209	21,712	25%
Shrewsbury	35,608	37,790	39,641	41,071	15%
Sterling	7,808	7,950	7,750	7,500	-4%
Worcester	181,045	188,064	194,372	197,196	9%
Source: Population Projections as published in the Regional Transportation Plan and Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)					
Note: These values include the inmate population					

As reported in the 2010 US Census, West Boylston has a smaller population than many of its neighbors, including the City of Worcester, Shrewsbury, Holden and Sterling. The only neighboring municipality with a smaller population is Boylston, with 4,355 people.

<sup>9</sup> For comparison purposes, in the year 2000, CMRPC projected that the 2010 population of West Boylston would be 7,209. The actual population in 2010 was 7,669 according to the U.S. Census. Previous to the year 2000 projects were made at the sub-regional level and are not available for the town of West Boylston.

<sup>10</sup> Tata & Howard, Inc., "Open Space Plan – Water Supply, T&H No. 1360," December 6, 2001, Draft Attachment – Section 3-Population Projections



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## POPULATION DENSITY

West Boylston has a total of 13.8 square miles of land with a population density was of 472 persons per square mile in 2010. This density is higher than Boylston and Sterling, but lower than Holden, Shrewsbury and the City of Worcester, as seen in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 3: Population Density in West Boylston and Surrounding Communities in 2010**

Geographic Area	Total Population	Square Miles	Persons Per Square Mile
Boylston	4,335	19.7	221
Sterling	7,808	32	247
Holden	17,346	36	479
<b>West Boylston Citizen Population</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>472</b>
Shrewsbury	35,608	22	1,646
Worcester	181,045	38	4,695
Worcester County	798,552	1,579	528
Massachusetts	6,547,629	10,554	620
Source: US Census 2010			

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## HOUSEHOLDS

The number of households has been growing over the past few decades as shown in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 4: Number of Households in West Boylston 1980-2010**

Year	# Households	% Total Change
1980	2,048	8.10%
1990	2,214	7.50%
2000	2,413	8.25%
2010	2,616	7.76%
Source: US Census 2010 and West Boylston Master Plan (2005)		

During the 1980s, the number of households grew by 8.1 percent (8.1%) and has continued to increase at a rate between seven and eight percent (7-8 %) since that time. At the same time, the number of people per household has been decreasing from 3.03 people per household in 1980 to 2.56 in 2000 and 2010, which indicates households are getting smaller.



## POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Age group distribution in West Boylston has changed considerably since 1960. In 1960, the 15 and younger age group comprised 35.8%, which decreased to 15.8% in 1990 and increased again to 18% in 2000. Since that time, it has hovered around 13% to 14%. The population of the 65 or older population comprised only 7.1% in 1960 and since then has seen a steady increase to 16.3% in 1990, 14.7% in 2000, and 18% in 2010 as shown in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 5: Population by Age Group**

Age Group	1960		1970		1980		1990		2000		2010	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Under 15	1,980	36%	1,843	29%	1,152	19%	1,047	16%	1,323	18%	1,041	14%
15-24	501	9%	1,005	16%	1,097	18%	907	14%	913	12%	429	6%
25-44	1,664	30%	1,407	22%	1,653	27%	2,217	34%	2,446	33%	1,896	26%
45-64	990	18%	1,573	25%	1,573	25%	1,359	21%	1,698	23%	2,586	35%
Over 64	391	7%	567	9%	729	12%	1,081	16%	1,101	15%	1,336	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,526</b>		<b>6,395</b>		<b>6,204</b>		<b>6,611</b>		<b>7,481</b>		<b>7,288</b>	

Source: US Census 2010

In terms of population, in 2010, 35% of the population fell into the 45-64 age group. Those aged 25-44 made up 26%. Together, these two large groups, whose ages range from 25 to 64, made up over half the town's population. In 2014, the largest age group in town was between 45 and 64 years old.

The elderly population (greater than age 64) is expected to continue to grow significantly as the large baby boomer generation (those born after World War II) ages. Those 64 and older increased from a total of 391 residents in 1960 to 1,336 residents in 2010, or a 242%. In addition to an aging population, the influx of new seniors to town was because Hillside Village and Angell Brook developments, containing 249 units of new over-55 housing, was permitted and constructed between 2002 and 2010.

Growth or decline in the population of the various age groups has implications for schools and classroom sizes, recreation facilities, municipal services, housing, and economic development needs for the community. Younger and school aged residents have a need for more active recreation facilities such as soccer and baseball fields. The population under the age of 25 dropped by 766 persons from 2000 to 2010. For middle-aged residents, active recreation areas for league sports may be needed as well as passive recreation facilities and special provisions like wheelchair accessibility may be needed. In sum, these age trends taken with the increase in the Town's total population will create pressures for the provision of open space and passive recreation facilities over more active sports field facilities.



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## POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

The population within the town is unevenly distributed. According to the Town's Housing Plan, Precinct 1, which is in the southern part of town, contains 1,357 people per square mile and 4,206 people total, while Precinct 2, which is in the northern part of town, contains only 324 people per square mile and 3,463 people total. This is largely because of the large amount of DCR-owned land in the northern Precinct 1 compared with Precinct 2.

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## INCOME

The median household income in West Boylston was estimated at \$53,777 in 2000 and \$79,906 in 2010. This is approximately 77% above the Worcester County average of \$45,036 in 2010 and 6% higher than the Massachusetts average household income, which was \$64,509 in 2010. These estimates are based on the 2000 and 2010 U.S Census., and are shown in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 6: Median Household Income**

Geographic Location	2000 Median Household Income	2010 Median Household Income
West Boylston	\$53,777	\$79,906
Boylston	\$67,703	\$88,214
Sterling	\$67,188	\$102,115
Holden	\$64,297	\$88,405
Worcester	\$35,623	\$45,036
Shrewsbury	\$64,237	\$85,697
Worcester County	\$47,874	\$64,152
Massachusetts	\$50,502	\$64,509
Source: US Census 2000 and 2010		

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## EMPLOYMENT

According to the Division of Employment and Training in Massachusetts, in 2016 West Boylston had a labor force of 3,093. Of these, 2,926 were employed and 167 were unemployed contributing to an unemployment rate of 5.4%. This is roughly one percent higher than the state unemployment average of 4.5%. The unemployment rate in West Boylston has been declining – the March 2016 rate for West Boylston is 0.4% lower than the 2015 average and 4% lower than the 2010 average, signaling a rebound from the 2008 recession as shown in the following exhibit.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Mass.gov Labor Market Information. Accessed via: <http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/>



**Exhibit 7: Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment: West Boylston**

Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate (%)	Percent Below poverty level*
2016	3,093	2,926	167	5.4	Not available
2015	3,086	2,908	178	5.8	Not available
2014	3,092	2,894	198	6.4	5.4
2013	3,091	2,854	237	7.7	4.9
2012	3,063	2,834	229	7.5	4.1
2011	3,034	2,783	251	8.3	3.6
2010	3,036	2,750	286	9.4	1.6
MA (6/2016)	3,572,600	3,413,000	159,500	4.5	11.6
US (12/2016)	159,640,000	152,151,000	7,529,000	5	4.7
Town Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and ACS Survey/ US Census 2014 MA Source: <a href="http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/pdf/MA2015_Workforce_and_Labor_Area_Review.pdf">http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/pdf/MA2015_Workforce_and_Labor_Area_Review.pdf</a> US Source: <a href="http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/us/usadj.htm">http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/laus/us/usadj.htm</a> <i>Note: Not seasonally corrected. All data presented is the average for the year.</i>					

The 2014 Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development reported that there were 283 establishments with an average employment of 3,717. The largest number of establishments is in health care and social assistance (39), however, 10 educational establishments contribute the largest amount to the local economy via employee wages at almost \$15,223,448. This is a transition from 2007, where construction had the largest number of establishments, and manufacturing contributed the largest amount to the local economy via employee wages as shown in the exhibit below.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Mass.gov Municipal Employment Data: [http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi\\_town.asp](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp)



**Exhibit 8: 2014 Average Employment and Wages by Industry**

Industry	Establishments	Total Wages	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Construction	37	\$7,663,801	153	\$963
Manufacturing	12	\$14,233,813	295	\$928
Utilities	3	\$3,428,409	52	\$1,268
Wholesale Trade	18	\$14,232,219	183	\$1,496
Retail Trade	35	\$11,357,176	408	\$535
Transportation and Warehousing	8	\$8,430,001	180	\$901
Information	4	\$588,675	33	\$343
Finance and Insurance	13	\$2,764,444	55	\$967
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	5	\$454,177	9	\$970
Professional and Technical Services	24	\$10,117,513	144	\$1,351
Administrative and Waste Services	17	\$7,123,639	131	\$1,046
Educational Services	10	\$15,223,448	354	\$827
Health Care and Social Assistance	39	\$13,985,314	394	\$683
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4	\$2,184,515	86	\$488
Accommodation and Food Services	24	\$5,492,632	405	\$261
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	21	\$4,089,654	199	\$395
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>\$156,777,011</b>	<b>3,717</b>	<b>\$811</b>

Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development ([http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi\\_town.asp](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/lmi_town.asp))

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Since 2002, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) has been implementing an Environmental Justice Policy to help ensure that all Massachusetts residents experience equal protection and meaningful involvement with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This policy was instituted recognizing that communities across the Commonwealth, particularly those densely populated urban neighborhoods in and around the state's older industrial areas, are facing many environmental challenges associated with Massachusetts' industrial legacy. Residents in these predominantly low-income and minority communities – nearly 29% of the state population – lack open space and recreational resources and often live side-by-side numerous existing large and small sources of pollution and old abandoned, contaminated sites, which can pose risks to public health and the environment.

Critical to advancing Environmental Justice (EJ) in the Commonwealth is the equitable distribution of environmental assets such as parks, open space, and recreation. Toward this end, and where applicable, municipalities shall identify and prioritize open space sites in their Open Space and Recreation Plans that are socially, recreationally, and ecologically important to EJ populations within the community.



Environmental Justice populations in Massachusetts are determined by the following criteria:

- Households that earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income;
- 25% or more of the residents are minority;
- 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or
- 25% or more of the residents are lacking English proficiency.

Environmental Justice Populations for West Boylston have been mapped in [Map 2: Environmental Justice Map](#). The map indicates that there are no Environmental Justice Populations in West Boylston. However, there are Environmental Justice populations in the northern portion of Worcester, which is adjacent to the southern border of West Boylston.

Although there are technically no Environmental Justice populations in West Boylston, there are still vulnerable populations which must be considered. [Map 2: Environmental Justice Map](#) shows the areas in town with a minority population greater than 20% as well as the areas in town where persons greater than 75 years of age is 18%. These vulnerable populations should be considered throughout the Open Space Planning Process and the OSIC made an effort to reach these populations throughout the public participation process. For example, the portion of town with a high elderly population could benefit from expanded bus services. Additional bus service between West Boylston and Worcester would have the added benefit of providing Environmental Justice populations in Worcester with access to the Mass Central Rail Trail and Wachusett Reservoir. Expanded bus options include extending the bus line back to the intersection of Central Street and Prospect or looping it out to the Mass Central Rail Trail around the Thomas Basin of the Wachusett Reservoir (Thomas Street/Beaman Street intersection).

### 3D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

#### PATTERNS AND TRENDS

West Boylston's Town Center was flooded at the turn of the twentieth century when the Wachusett Reservoir was created. Since then, West Boylston has been mainly a residential community. By 2016, about 40 percent (40%) of Town's land was owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

#### *Zoning*

Similar to many other communities across the US, since 1946, West Boylston's growth has been influenced by zoning regulations. The first set of zoning bylaws specified that single family residential (SR) lots had to be a minimum of 10,000 square feet, while lots for multi-family dwelling units had to be a minimum of 7,500 square feet per unit. The minimum sizes for lots increased gradually until 1984, when the Town increased the required single family residential lot size from 30,000 to 40,000 and multi-family dwelling lot size from 15,000 to 20,000 square feet per unit. Two years later, the town passed



Aquifer Protection District Zoning to protect the recharge areas of the town's wells. This overlay zone required lot sizes to be 50,000 square feet as shown in the attached [Map 3: Zoning Map](#).

West Boylston now has six (6) main zoning districts, which are distributed across town. According to MassGIS, 79.3% of the town area is zoned for Single Family Residences, 4.8% for General Residence (multi-family housing), 4% for Commercial, 3% for Business, and 6.4% for Industrial.

**Exhibit 9: Zoning Districts**

Zoning District	Acres	Percent
Business	278.2	3.1%
Commercial/Limited Industrial	353.8	4.0%
Conservation	210.3	2.4%
General Residence	424.0	4.8%
Industrial	567.3	6.4%
Single Residence	7,005.3	79.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,838.9</b>	
Source: CMRPC, MassDOT, MassGIS		

The Business Districts cover 3.1%, or 278.2 acres. Much of this business- zoned land is a strip bordering both sides of the southern section of Route 12. The other areas zoned for business are smaller and very scattered. They are located in Oakdale at the intersection of Laurel Street and Route 140 (North Main Street), at the intersection of Prospect and Woodland Streets, at the intersection of Route 110/Prescott Street/Route 12, along the very northern part of Route 12, at the intersection of Hartwell and Shrewsbury Streets, and at the intersection of Route 12 with Prospect/Goodale Streets up to Central Street.

The Industrial District makes up 6.4%, or 567.3 acres of the land. All of this land is located in the southeastern part of town off of Hartwell, Shrewsbury, and East Mountain Streets. Commercial/Limited Industrial District land makes up 4%, or 353.8 acres. This is the area located north of I-190 abutting Holden and Sterling. This new district was voted to be added to the Zoning Map at the October 2007 Town Meeting. Only 2.4%, or 210.3 acres of the land in West Boylston is zoned Conservation. This land is located where the county/state jail and the former county hospital are sited. This conservation zoned land is almost completely surrounded by industrially zoned land. The county jail expanded into the nearby former county hospital land.

Residents have maintained the ability to build on pre-existing lots due to Zoning "grandfathering" provisions and state mandates. Additionally, under Massachusetts's Subsidized Housing law, Chapter 774, the town's Zoning Board of Appeals granted a Comprehensive Permit in 1990 that allowed single family homes with septic systems to be built on lots as small as 8,737 square feet at Lancaster Commons, which is about half a mile from the Wachusett Reservoir. With about half the single-family homes located on lots of less than half an acre, septic problems occurred. Because failing septic systems were thought to be polluting the Reservoir's tributaries, the state agreed in 1996 to pay about two-thirds



the cost of sewerage the more densely populated sections of West Boylston. Approximately 50-60% of the town's area is sewerage in a project which began in 1996 and was completed in 2005. The availability of sewerage has promoted development because land that could not accommodate septic systems could not be developed. Since sewerage have become available, this development limitation has been lost. In October 2005, Town Meeting voted to change the zoning map to expand the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) District to the east of Angell Brook. In 2005, the Planning Board revised the subdivision regulations to reduce impervious areas, increase open space, and to encourage "Low Impact Development" methods. The Incentive Zoning Bylaw passed in May 2006 allowed density bonuses if some portion of the units are Subsidized units, but it does not require a portion of all housing in town to be Subsidized. At the October 2006 Town Meeting, the town passed a Residential Cluster Development (RCD) By-law to provide an alternative residential subdivision design concept to increase the supply of desirable housing in the Town of West Boylston, while maintaining or creating additional open spaces within the community.



**Wachusett Reservoir.** Photo Credit CMRPC.

In 2009 DCR owned 2,736 acres (4.3 square miles) in town, not including the 622 acres of land under water. Since that time, they have purchased 170.3 acres, bringing the total to 2,906.3 acres of land. If land under water is included, then the total becomes 3,528.3 acres, which indicates that DCR owns approximately 40% of the land area in the town. If land under water is not included, then DCR owns approximately 33% of the land area in town. Land under water is often not included with DCR land area calculations because the land that is under water is not used to calculate the payments in lieu of taxes and it is coded differently in the Town Assessor data.

### ***Residential Development***

The Town of West Boylston offers the advantages of small-town life with the convenience of highway access to urban Worcester, Metro-West Boston and cities of the north County, Leominster and Fitchburg. The presence of the Wachusett Reservoir provides vistas of natural beauty and preserved open space but at the same time creates unique challenges to land development for residential growth.



Through its Master Plan (2005), Economic Development Plan (2011), and Housing Production Plan (2012), West Boylston desires to provide housing options for a diverse range of households while preserving its vision of a community rural in character. Just over 50% of the housing stock in West Boylston is on quarter acre lots or smaller. Based on the 2012 Assessor Data for West Boylston's housing value, and an adjusted price for a subsidized 3-bedroom apartment of \$173,400, more than 18% of the existing housing stock of West Boylston is affordable in terms of price. However, these homes are not counted in the Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI) because they do not meet state criteria as articulated in Chapter 40B, principally because they are not subsidized by the state. Building permits issued in West Boylston since 2007 are shown in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 10: Building Permits Issued in FY 2008 - FY 2016**

Year	New Single Family	Multi-Family Units	Affordable Housing Units	New Commercial Buildings
7/1/07 - 6/30/08	7	22	1	1
7/1/08 - 6/30/09	2	7	2	2
7/1/09 - 6/30/10	30	0	0	3
7/1/10 - 6/30/11	13	0	0	0
7/1/11 - 6/30/12	8	0	0	2
7/1/12 - 6/30/13	12	0	0	1
7/1/13 - 6/30/14	26	0	0	1
7/1/14 - 6/30/15	11	0	0	1
7/1/15 - 6/30/16	8	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>
Source: West Boylston Building Department 2016				

According to the West Boylston Building Department, since 2008 there have been 117 new single family building permits issued, and 29 multi-family building permits issued. There have also been three affordable housing units created as well as 14 new commercial buildings.

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## INFRASTRUCTURE

As a second key feature for West Boylston's growth, the town's transportation infrastructure also plays an important role in the town's development. As recommended by the 2005 Master Plan, the Town Administrator created and appointed a Transportation Committee, to assess and focus on attention to these issues. The mission of the Transportation Committee is to advise Town Boards on transportation issues of importance to the Town and to study needs and implement targeted improvements (i.e. the Route 12 Corridor reconstruction, sidewalk and trail projects, improve dangerous intersections, etc.). The Committee was intended to work towards implementing transportation goals found in the Route 12 Master Plan and the West Boylston Master Plan and to offer suggestions to improve or add to these goals. The Planning Board initiated and drafted a Complete Streets Policy that was adopted by the



Board of Selectmen in May, 2016. The Transportation Committee is coordinating the work associated with preparation of the Prioritized Plan for the town. Once accepted the work on these plans can receive up to \$400,000 in state funding for implementation each year.

### **Roadways**

Route 12 serves as a major transportation artery in West Boylston, and acts as a vital major highway for the region. Route 12 also draws heavy traffic volumes, and serves as the primary area for local commercial activity. This especially impacts the southernmost part of the route, which feeds into Worcester at Interstate Route 190 (I-190). The I-190 interchange has resulted in a reduced demand for Route 12 as I-190 has evolved into the preferred link from Worcester to areas North and South of the city.

In 2007, West Boylston changed the zoning on 348 acres of land north of the I-190 to allow Commercial/Limited Industrial uses with hopes to encourage clean industry or retail, and expand the tax base. The DCR owns about 65 percent (65%) of the land in this area.

Other major roads exist in West Boylston, notably Routes 140 and 110, which converge with Route 12 near the Reservoir. These minor highways receive traffic from the less-traveled roads and residential streets. Most of the major roads run north/south through West Boylston.

In 1996, the Town of West Boylston upgraded Shrewsbury Street and installed sewers shortly thereafter. It was hoped that this reconstruction would reduce the number of trucks using Maple Street, which is zoned for single family residential use, but that change has not been realized.

Most recently, the Planning Board initiated an effort to participate in the Complete Streets Program. Complete Streets is an approach to local transportation planning that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to support safe and convenient access for users of all ages and abilities. Consideration is given to different modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, public transportation, as well as driving automobiles or delivery vehicles. In May 2016, the Town Selectmen



**Sidewalk by Town Hall.** *Photo Credit CMRPC.*

adopted a Complete Streets policy, which put the town on target to obtain a share of state transportation funds. With an estimated \$12.5 million available, the town has initially contracted with CMRPC to conduct the project prioritization planning effort, which the State will reimbursement the Town for up to \$50,000 in technical assistance. Long range planning is needed to incorporate the bicycle pathway systems and walking trails that were shown as a priority to respondents in the public survey.



## ***Sidewalks***

The single issue generating comments during the public surveys in 2016 and 2013; and during the Public Forums on this draft document were relative to sidewalk needs. The Townspeople want the existing sidewalks repaired and maintained and new sidewalks or walking pathways created.

The Town completed a project to construct new sidewalks and rehabilitate existing ones in 2016. The project included approximately 8,500 feet of sidewalks and cost just short of \$900,000. The future renovations and expansions depicted have not received public comment, so are still preliminary, but the highest priority areas are within a mile of the public schools and to access shopping destination points.

**Map 9B: Complete Streets Sidewalk Plan is attached.**

The sidewalk issues noted during public input included:

1. Repairing the poor conditions on Newton Street near the library, Prescott Street up to the Mixer property, and the sidewalk along Route 12 from the railroad bridge to the Worcester City Line.
2. Constructing sections of sidewalk at gap locations along Crescent Street to Pine Arden, Lower Central Street, Route 12 from the center of town (on the southbound side) to the City of Worcester, and for the extension of the Mass Central Rail Trail to get to Pleasant Street.
3. Installing new sidewalks along Goodale Street west from the tennis courts, Newton Street north of Prospect Street, Hartwell Street (from Hillside Village to Shrewsbury Street), and anything within a mile of the town schools.

## ***Bike Routes***

The only officially-designated state bike trail in West Boylston is the Rail Trail. Bicycle lanes on the roadways within a mile of the schools are often less than one foot wide, with poor pavement conditions and do not provide safe passage for young riders. However, recreational biking is still common in West Boylston due to the beautiful routes around the Wachusett Reservoir. Local groups such as the Seven Hills Wheelmen (<http://www.sevenhillswheelmen.org/>) organize rides through West Boylston on both weeknights and weekends. The heavy bike traffic in West Boylston affects both transportation planning and open space planning. It is especially important to consider bike traffic throughout these planning processes. The need to include bicycle and pedestrian improvements all along Route 140 was included as a Regional need within the Central 13 Regional Planning Project in 2012<sup>13</sup>. All changes to Routes 140 and Route 110 in West Boylston should include widening and bicycle safety improvements; and this should be included as a high priority within the Complete Streets program.

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<sup>13</sup> [http://www.cmrpc.org/Central\\_PP](http://www.cmrpc.org/Central_PP)



### **Bus Routes**

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) offers Fixed Route and Paratransit services within the Town of West Boylston, primarily providing access to the Walmart in town along Route 12. West Boylston also receives ADA paratransit service three quarters of a mile around WRTA fixed routes, including Route 12. Paratransit operates the same days and hours as the fixed route system. This service is open to people with disabilities that can show that their disability prevents them from using the fixed route service some or all of the time. This is done through an in-house application process at the WRTA Hub.



**Bus Stop in West Boylston. Photo Credit CMRPC.**

West Boylston also receives non-ADA paratransit service, which is available to residents of West Boylston who are ages 60+ and people with disabilities regardless of age. The application process is less rigorous and is generally extended to all people with disabilities. It is offered weekdays, generally 9am-3pm. Service is offered within West Boylston and one town out to Worcester, Holden and Boylston.

Together, paratransit and fixed route services are an important element of the transit infrastructure in West Boylston. With the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) fixed route buses now offering bike racks, these transportation corridors have the potential for connection with the Wachusett Greenways trails, such as the Mass Central Rail Trail. However, that connection would require the route to be extended to reach Oakdale. The Town could work together with the WRTA to expand the bus route. This is not an easy process, but is one that is worth focusing on.

Although there are technically no Environmental Justice populations in West Boylston, there are still vulnerable populations which must be considered. **Map 2: Environmental Justice and Vulnerable Populations** shows the areas in town with a minority population greater than 20% as well as the area in town where persons greater than 75 year of age is 18%. These vulnerable populations should be considered throughout the Open Space Planning Process and the OSIC made an effort to reach these populations throughout the public participation process. For example, the portion of town with a high elderly population could benefit from expanded bus services. Additional bus service between West Boylston and Worcester would have the added benefit of providing Environmental Justice populations in Worcester with access to the Mass Central Rail Trail and Wachusett Reservoir. Expanded bus options include extending the bus line back to the intersection of Central Street and Prospect or looping it out to the Mass Central Rail Trail around the Thomas Basin of the Wachusett Reservoir (Thomas



Street/Beaman Street intersection). The loop to the Mass Central Rail Trail would bring it closer to the approved 40B project at 92 North Main Street to provide these units with public transportation options.

### **Water Supply**

The availability of ample high quality water is essential for the growth and development of any community. Water connects us all and clean water is crucial for a high quality of life. The West Boylston Water District, an independent governmental body, is the primary supplier of water to the town. The District services 99% of the town's water users, and only 1% gets its water from private wells. All of the District's water is derived from groundwater sources.

Each year, the West Boylston Water District is permitted to withdraw an average 560,000 gallons of water per day. It is important to note the West Boylston Water District does not utilize any water from the Wachusett Reservoir. Instead, the Wachusett Reservoir is overseen by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which provides water for Boston and surrounding communities. When it was completed in 1905, the Wachusett Reservoir was the largest public water supply reservoir in the world.

The West Boylston Water District obtains its water from three well-fields. The Lee Street well-fields has one active well. Two inactive wells were closed in 1986 due to high levels of iron and manganese. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and MassDEP currently list manganese and iron as secondary contaminants because of aesthetic concerns including unacceptable taste and staining of fixtures.<sup>14</sup> The Pleasant Valley and Oakdale wellfields each contain one well: with a second well possibly to be developed in the Pleasant Valley area.

Residential water consumption is estimated by Tata & Howard Inc., the Water District's engineering consultants, to be 60 percent (60%) of total use. All connections are metered, offering an incentive to customers to conserve water since billing is directly related to consumption. To reduce water usage, the District placed a moratorium on the installation of new in-ground irrigation systems in March 2001, but enforcement is difficult. The District continues to investigate locations for new sources.

According to the West Boylston Water District Superintendent, the water meets Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards. Sodium, nitrate and nitrite, organic pollutants, such as solvents or toxic metals and arsenic are well below safe contaminant levels required by the Federal and State governments<sup>15</sup>. The District has also installed emergency chlorination at their existing supply sources due to the presence of total coliform bacteria detected in routine sampling rounds within the distribution system. The construction of the emergency chlorination systems was funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program administered by DEP.

Town Meeting passed an Aquifer and Watershed Protection District Zoning Bylaw in 1986. The Bylaw was amended in 1994 when the state and federal drinking water regulations were made more stringent.

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<sup>14</sup> Mass DEP Fact Sheet. Manganese in Drinking Water. Fact Sheet for Consumers. Accessed via: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/drinking/alpha/i-thru-z/mangfactsheet.pdf> and Standards and Guidelines For Contaminants In Massachusetts Drinking Waters Accessed via: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/dwstand.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Michael Coveney, Water District Superintendent, 2007 and 2016



Within this Aquifer Zone, lots must have 50,000 square feet, 150 feet of frontage, and can only have 15 percent (15%) impervious coverage (including half of the abutting roadway), whereas in other areas the minimums are 40,000 square feet, 120 feet of frontage, and no limit to impervious coverage. The Aquifer and Watershed Protection Zoning District is an overlay, superimposed on the existing zoning districts, and it applies only to future uses. Certain activities, which are considered potential threats to the water supply, are prohibited within the District. Such activities include landfills, open dumps, and storage of hazardous waste, liquid hazardous materials and petroleum products except under rigidly controlled circumstances. Other activities are allowed only with a special permit.

### **Sewers**

West Boylston did not have sewers until 2001 when a special Town Meeting voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow \$11,668,000 to construct sewers. This was designed to help DCR and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) comply with EPA's July 11, 1993 Consent Order to protect the water quality of the Wachusett Reservoir<sup>16</sup>. A Sewer Facilities Plan identified the areas that needed to be sewered, as well as septic systems that needed to be replaced. The Sewer Facilities Plan set out a program for phased construction and design to serve the areas of greatest need first.

As of January 1, 2008, there were a total of 1,515 properties connected to the municipal sewer system. The West Boylston Sewer System is managed by the Department of Public Works. It covers approximately 60 percent (60%) of the residential properties and all of the industrial and business properties in town. All properties within the Sewer District are required to connect to the sewer system. The Mandatory Sewer Connection Regulation from the Board of Health was adopted in September of 2002.



**I-190 Sign for Route 12, West Boylston Exit. Photo Credit CMRPC.**

The sewer construction has eliminated much of the local environmental contamination from failing septic systems. The sewage is transferred to the sewage treatment plant in Millbury. This has decreased ground water recharge to the local wells, which could have a negative impact on available water supply.

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<sup>16</sup> Paul Guida, Town Administrator and former Acting Superintendent of Sewers, August 2001



Since sewers have also increased development, the water must be monitored closely to assure the needed flow without negative impacts to current users.

The need for planned open space and recreation in the densely developed sewerred areas becomes more important as infill lots, that previously could not meet Title 5 requirements, have received additional development pressure to reduce minimum lot area and minimum frontage requirements to become developable due to sewer availability. If sewers are extended into outlying, open areas that are not currently included in the area to be sewerred, this will also cause additional growth and loss of open space. To prevent this from happening, the Board of Sewer Commissioners adopted two (2) policies that prohibit the extension of sewers into non-sewerred areas. It should also be noted that the DCR put policies in place to comply with Executive Order 385, the state's directive ordering its agencies not to take any action that will increase sprawl. For instance, the DCR limited the number of sewer stubs to undeveloped land.<sup>17</sup>

West Boylston's proximity to Worcester, to I-190, I-290 and Route 495, and the sewers are all factors that will encourage growth in the town. The Boston area's economy has triggered tremendous growth along Route 495, which is pushing westward toward West Boylston. Although the DCR owns 40 percent (40%) of the town to protect the Reservoir, its purchases in West Boylston have slowed and its acquisition program is more focused on land that includes or is in close proximity to streams and wetlands.

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<sup>17</sup> Jonathan Gulliver, Sewer Project Coordinator-West Boylston, DCR, March 27, 2002



## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

### 4A. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The terrain of West Boylston ranges from rolling hills to steep slopes, with some areas of exposed bedrock and three large flat swamps: the headwaters of Wauschacum Brook is along Route 12 in the North end of town; the headwaters of Malden and Gates Brooks is off of Prospect Street, and the headwaters of Muddy Brook is in the industrial area on the southern end of town. Elevations in West Boylston range from 386 feet above sea level at the shore of the Reservoir, to 870 feet above sea level at Malden Hill. About 15 percent (15%) of the area has slopes in excess of 15 percent (15%), located primarily in the West, near Malden Hill or at the edge of the Reservoir. The vegetative cover is primarily hardwood and mixed hardwood/softwood forest. Due to the soil types and hilly nature of West Boylston, erosion potential in town is low-to-moderate on the average slopes and moderate-to-high on the slopes greater than 15 percent (15%).

Most areas of West Boylston have slow percolation rates because the land consists of glacial till (hardpan), with up to 100 feet covering bedrock. The remainder of town is covered by fluvial or lacustrine stratified drift (sand/silt/gravel), especially along Malden Brook and the southern areas surrounding the Reservoir. The stratified drift ranged in depth from five (5) feet to 130 feet. These deposits are very permeable and therefore susceptible to function as a contamination transport pathway.

**Map 4: Soils and Geologic Features Map** includes location of the Prime Farmland Soils as defined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Prime Farmland Soils include land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for economically producing sustained high yields of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. This map also provides information on dominant drainage class.

The general classes of soils found in West Boylston are Hinckley-Merrimac-Windsor (north) and Paxton-Woodbridge-Canton (south). There are over twenty specific soil types, with five dominating: Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop, Hinckley sandy loam, Paxton fine sandy loam, Canton fine sandy loam, and Merrimac fine sandy loam. Based on the SCS soil survey, all these soil types are severely limited for subsurface sanitary disposal.

- Chatfield-Hollis-Rock outcrop is a well-drained soil with moderate to rapid permeability and many stones. Bedrock is generally encountered between ten and forty inches from the surface and may restrict septic system installation.
- Merrimac and Canton series consist of very deep, well-drained soils on glacial outwash plains, eskers, and stream terraces. Permeability is rapid, which makes these soils poor filters for septic system leach fields. Seepage of effluent through the substratum may cause groundwater contamination. Merrimac is the predominant soil type along Gates Brook.
- Paxton series consists of very deep, strongly sloped, well-drained soils with many stones. The permeability is slow to very slow. The limitations to soil absorption systems are the slow



permeability and the seasonally high groundwater tables. *See Map 4: Soil and Geologic Features Map.*

#### 4B. TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



**Reservoir by the Highway.** *Photo Credit CMRPC.*

The Wachusett Reservoir and its surroundings are West Boylston's most distinctive features. The diversity of landform, with rolling hills and forested upland, add beauty, character, and uniqueness to West Boylston. The town is amply endowed with streams and open space, but few farms remain, since most have been subdivided or sold to the DCR for watershed protection.

#### 4C. WATER RESOURCES

West Boylston is gifted with many water resources, including the Stillwater and Quinapoxet Rivers, which meet at the Thomas Basin and form the main tributary to the Wachusett Reservoir.

The majority of West Boylston is located in the Nashua River Watershed, except for the southern section of town, which is located in the Blackstone Watershed. This section of the Nashua River flows to the Wachusett Reservoir and therefore the majority of town is located within a drainage basin leading to an Outstanding Resource Water, being the Wachusett Reservoir, which is a surface water supply. (see *Map 5: Water Resources 1*)



**Wachusett Reservoir.** *Photo Credit CMRPC.*



- **Wachusett Reservoir:** The reservoir is eight (8) miles long, six and a half (6.5) square miles in area, and has 37 miles of shoreline. The Wachusett Reservoir covers the central region of West Boylston and parts of Boylston, Sterling, and Clinton. It is the water supply for Metropolitan Boston, supplying 2.5 million people in 61 cities and towns. Its two (2) main tributaries, the Stillwater River and Quinapoxet River, enter the Reservoir at the Thomas Basin in West Boylston. In addition, water is piped from the Quabbin Reservoir, entering the Quinapoxet River in West Boylston before it reaches the Thomas Basin.
- **Stillwater River** flows north to south through the northwest area of West Boylston, entering the Wachusett Reservoir in the north-central region of West Boylston at the Stillwater Basin.
- **Quinapoxet River** flows west to east into the Wachusett Reservoir at Thomas Basin in the northwest corner of West Boylston.
- **Waushacum Brook** flows southerly from West Waushacum Pond in Sterling to merge with the Stillwater River, entering the Wachusett Reservoir through the Stillwater Basin.
- **Malden Brook** flows north into the Thomas Basin at the western-central area of West Boylston.
- **Muddy Brook** flows north to south near the town landfill and discharges into the Reservoir's South Bay.
- **Gates Brook** flows south to north through the central business section and densely developed residential section of West Boylston. Discharges east of Route 12, and north of Route 140 into the Reservoir.
- **Angell Brook** is located in the southeastern part of West Boylston and flows southerly into Worcester to Poor Farm Brook and to City Farm Pond in Shrewsbury. It's the only stream not tributary to the Wachusett Reservoir in West Boylston.
- **West Boylston Brook** is located in the center of town and flows northeast to the Reservoir.
- **Three Lily Ponds** are located in the east central region of West Boylston, north of the Reservoir at the base of French Hill; the ponds are an estimated two (2) acres in area and are typically isolated, but only discharge to the Reservoir under extreme flooding.
- **Carroll's Pond** is located on Prospect Street, very close to the center of town flowing into West Boylston Brook. This one (1) acre pond was a farm pond and remains the site of much wildlife activity.
- **Edward's Pond** is located at the base of Malden Hill, in the northwest corner of West Boylston on Malden Street. This pond is less than an acre, but there is a small animal path that local walkers utilize.

**Map 6: Water Resources 2** depicts the water supply sources and protection zones around these sources, along with the flood hazard areas in town. **Map 6: Water Resources 2** also depicts three (3) community groundwater wells that supply West Boylston with potable water. There is also one



Transient Non-Community water supply well serving the 1000 Goodale Street facility owned by Holy Cross College. The Flood Hazard areas are delineated from maps compiled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and are located at the DPW office in West Boylston. Areas that flood regularly are limited to those locations in proximity to the larger streams located in the above list. The areas of town within the Aquifer Protection Districts are the areas that are mapped aquifers in town. The Map also indicates that wetlands in West Boylston are primarily located in the northeast, southeast, and western portions of Town. These areas are zoned as Approved Wellhead Protection Areas and are recognized by DEP as approved zones.

The **Map 3: Zoning Map** depicts these areas and the associated regulations limit potentially hazardous activities from occurring in these areas.

#### 4D. VEGETATION

The vegetation of West Boylston is determined by land use, climate, elevation, topography, aspect, and soils/geology. Vegetation serves as an anchor to topsoil, helping to control erosion. It also provides shade, animal habitat and aesthetic beauty. Traditionally timber harvesting has played an important role of New England's economy. Many years ago this was true of West Boylston as well. Timber harvesting still goes on in the Town, most of which is done on DCR-owned lands, but also on smaller properties having minor significance.

Most of the undeveloped land in West Boylston is covered in transitional hardwood and pine forest, except for areas adjacent to the Reservoir, which are heavily covered in red pine. DCR has been thinning these forests so an undergrowth of small shrubs now appears. The areas around the Reservoir are accessible and used for hiking, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing and other non-motorized forms of recreation due to the presence of numerous fire roads that exist locally.

Most of the few remaining farms, with their open fields, were bought by the DCR. From 2000 to 2010, the DCR bought the 102 acre Giobellina Farm on Fairbanks Street, which was formerly under the Chapter 61A agricultural tax exemption program. The DCR also acquired approximately 85 acres of the Antinarella Farm, including 25 acres of open fields, on Prospect Street. Much of the Smith Farm on Prescott Street, which was also under Chapter 61A, has also been acquired by the DCR, but some haying is still done there. Since 2010, 20 acres of the Mazzolini farm on Lancaster Street that had not been in operation for years was sold to the DCR, leaving only the farmhouse.<sup>18</sup>

The Wachusett Country Club, located in West Boylston, is one of the most picturesque and manicured golf courses in the State and provides wonderful panoramic views of the Wachusett Reservoir. Public lands, such as parks, ball fields, cemeteries and lawns are well-maintained; however there remains a desire for more landscaping of commercial and industrial areas in the town.

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<sup>18</sup> West Boylston 2009 OSRP.



Trees and other forms of vegetation provide important resources for a community. Open space planning should protect the volume and diversity of vegetation for a multitude of reasons. Public shade trees are located throughout West Boylston on all Town properties. Planting locations include including Goodale Park, Woodland Park, Mt. Vernon Cemetery, the Mixer Property, the Town Commons, and Town Hall. The Department of Public Works, which acts as Tree Warden, visually monitors but does not maintain street trees aside from trimming dead branches as necessary. In accordance with MGL Chapter 87, Section 3, the Town holds public hearings before removal of any public shade tree. The town has been active with the Worcester Tree Initiative and the Asian Long-horned Beetle reforestation program of the DCR. While not public, the Planning Board requires parking lots with more than 30 cars to have at least one shade tree near every 10 parking spaces.

#### 4E. FISH AND WILDLIFE

##### WILDLIFE

The list of all rare species in West Boylston under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) is shown below along with other indicators of local biodiversity, including Watch Listed plants, delisted species, and priority natural communities. Any MESA listed species with a most recent observation date within the past 25 years is considered to be current. Older dates may be species occurrences that have not been recently inventoried, or lost from Town as land use has changed (see [Exhibit 11](#), below). The Plant Watch List (WL) is an unofficial, non-regulatory list of plants of known or suspected conservation concern that NHESP is interested in tracking. Species may be included on the list for a number of reasons.

**Exhibit 11: Rare Species and Natural Communities as of August 9, 2016**

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status*	Most Recent Observation
<b>VERTEBRATES</b>			
Glyptemys insculpta	Wood Turtle	SC	1997
Caprimulgus vociferous	Eastern Whip-poor-will	SC	2013
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	T	2014
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
None			
<b>VASCULAR PLANTS</b>			
Arceuthobium pusillum	Dwarf Mistletoe	SC	1899
Cyperus houghtonii	Houghton's Flatsedge	E	2008
Lipocarpa micrantha	Dwarf Bulrush	T	2011
Ophioglossum pusillum	Adder's-tongue Fern	T	1932
<b>NATURAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
None			
<b>CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS</b>			
Certified Vernal Pools (1)			Certified: 1992
<p><b>*KEY TO MESA STATUS: E = Endangered. T = Threatened. SC = Special Concern. WL= unofficial Watch List, not regulated.</b>  Source: <a href="http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html">http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/town-species-viewer.html</a></p>			



Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program species fact sheets are included in [Appendix A](#).

## ANIMAL SPECIES

The currently known rare vertebrate animal species in West Boylston are associated with rivers and the Wachusett reservoir, and the wetlands around them. Wood Turtles spend time in streams and upland and riverside forests, but over-winter in the river (or stream) bank. The turtles also use uplands for much of their lives including foraging for food.



Wood Turtle (Animalspot.net)

The Wachusett Reservoir and surrounding undeveloped lands provide habitat for wintering Bald Eagles. A pair of eagles has been nesting on an island in the reservoir, which means that West Boylston is part of their habitat. Common Loons also nest in the Wachusett Reservoir, making the whole reservoir part of their habitat as well.

The state Threatened Orange Sallow Moth is known from just over the line in Sterling, and its open oak forest habitat continues into West Boylston. The Orange Sallow Moth (*Rhodoecia aurantiago*) inhabits dry and open oak woodland on rocky uplands (ridges, hilltops, and steep slopes), and the edges of old fields, power line cuts, and other openings within such habitat.



Large Whorled Pogonia  
Photo Courtesy of Tim Lyons

Several of the rare plants of West Boylston were more common when pastures and open fields were more common: Wild Lupine (WL), Adder's-tongue Fern (T), and Whorled Milkwort (WL) are plants of such open areas and now grow on roadsides, railroad embankments and other places where there are periodic disturbances that keep the land open. Large Whorled Pogonia (WL) is an orchid of acidic, usually

oak, forests, where it is generally uncommon. Dwarf Mistletoe (SC) grows on spruce trees, usually around the forested edges of bogs. NHESP has no records of uncommon natural communities in West Boylston. Because of the historic record of Dwarf Mistletoe and the presence of bogs in surrounding towns, bogs would be a possibility. Unfortunately, the MassDEP Wetlands data layer on MassGIS does not include any bogs, although the 'shallow marsh, meadows and fens' data could include unidentified bogs.



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## VERNAL POOLS

West Boylston has one Certified Vernal Pool (CVP) and many Potential Vernal Pools<sup>19</sup> (PVP) (identified from aerial photographs, needing verification on the ground). Areas of swamps also provide habitat for vernal pool species.

Certifying the PVPs would provide additional protection to these wetlands and the species that use them. There are several clusters of PVPs, which provide extra habitat value for the species that use them since each pool is somewhat different and provides alternate habitats in different years and seasons. Any such lands already protected are good sites for

biodiversity and good cores for larger properties. Large linked conservation land provides the best opportunities to maintain populations of rare and endangered species and limit species loss from the Town. Land protection that ties in with open space in other municipalities, and other protected open space, public or private is one way to provide important large areas of biodiversity protection. Even with so much of West Boylston being protected by DCR to protect the watershed, there are fragments that if connected to other pieces would provide better habitat.



Vernal Pool, Photo Courtesy of Mass.gov

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## BIO MAP 2

In 2012 the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, through the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and The Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program developed *BioMap2* to protect the state's biodiversity in the context of climate change. *BioMap2* (See **Map 7: Habitat Features Map**) identifies two (2) complementary spatial layers, Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape as defined below.

- Core Habitat identifies key areas that are critical for the long-term persistence of rare species and other Species of Conservation Concern, as well as a wide diversity of natural communities and intact ecosystems across the Commonwealth. Protection of Core Habitats will contribute to the conservation of specific elements of biodiversity.
- Critical Natural Landscape identifies large natural Landscape Blocks that are minimally impacted by development. If protected, these areas will provide habitat for wide-ranging native species, support intact ecological processes, maintain connectivity among habitats, and enhance ecological resilience to natural and anthropogenic disturbances in a rapidly changing world.

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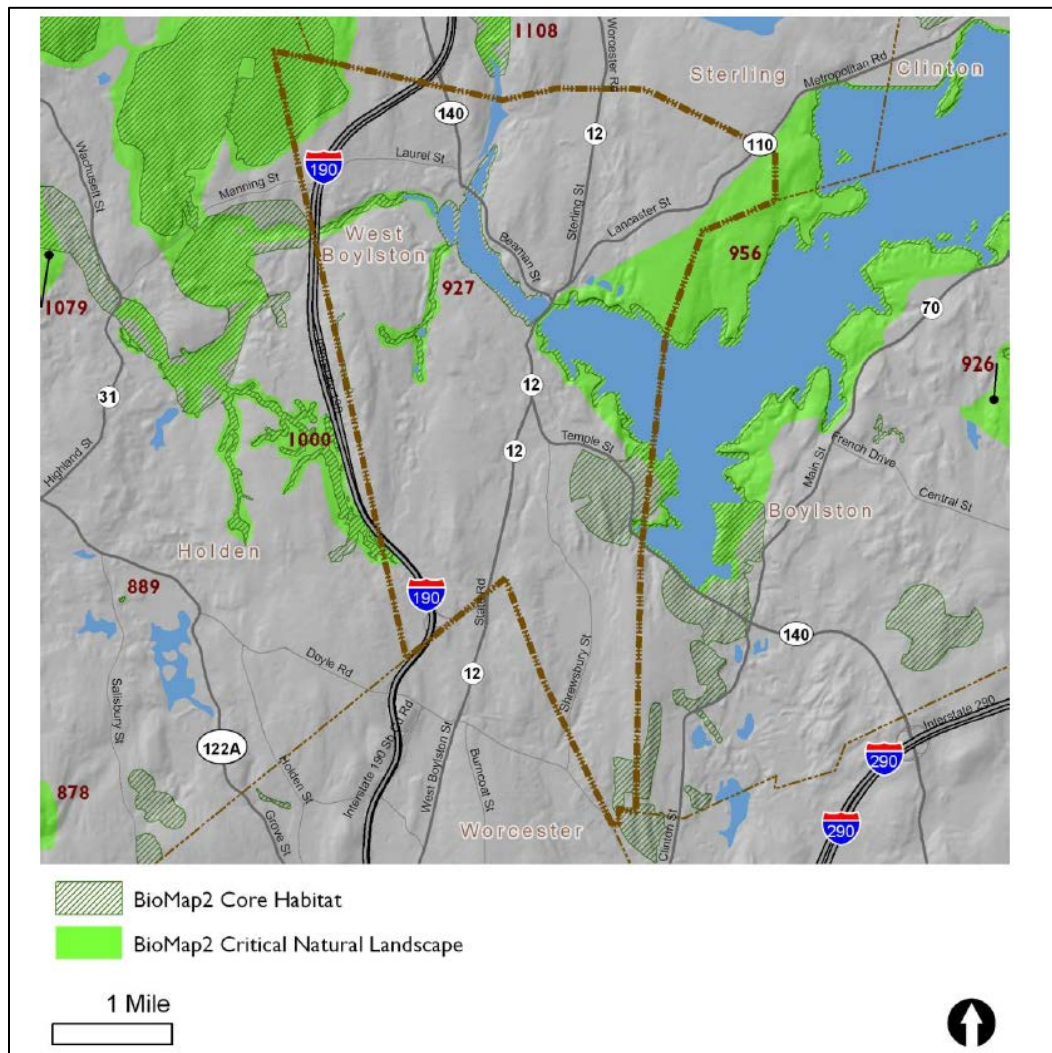
<sup>19</sup> The PVP data are available as a data layer from MassGIS at <http://www.mass.gov/mgis/pvp.htm>



Areas delineated as Critical Natural Landscape also include buffering upland around wetland, coastal, and aquatic Core Habitats to help ensure their long-term integrity.<sup>20</sup>

The most important areas of West Boylston to protect to maintain known biodiversity are the areas shown on the image below. Any work intended in these areas need to include management of the rare species and their habitats. This area is also the site of the southern-most population of self-sustaining land locked salmon. See **Map 7: Habitat Features Map**. The BioMap2 Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape for West Boylston are shown below.

**Exhibit 12: Bio Map 2 Critical Natural Landscape in West Boylston**



<sup>20</sup> Mass GIS BioMap. [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town\\_core/West%20Boylston.pdf](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/dfg/biomap/pdf/town_core/West%20Boylston.pdf)



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## FISHERIES

The Town of West Boylston has diverse and abundant aquatic habitats consisting of cold water and warm water streams and small ponds. These habitats are home to many fish species, both native or introduced and stocked. Many angling opportunities are available on DCR lands, except for the area within 100 feet of the shaft where water from Quabbin Reservoir flows into the Quinapoxet River.<sup>21</sup> Fishing from bridges is also prohibited.

### *Warm Water*

There are a few small warm water ponds in West Boylston. These ponds have similar fish species such as bass, pickerel, perch, sunfishes, bullhead, various minnows, dace and shiners. Water depth, chemistry, and aquatic vegetation vary from pond to pond. This results in different quality and quantity of fish species composition. Some shallow smaller ponds are subject to oxygen depletion during winter months and breeding stress in spring/summer results in some fish mortality. Generally, the town's ponds have good fish production capability.

### *Cold Water*

There are many small brooks in West Boylston, having both wild trout, salmon, and native char. Eastern Brook Trout is the prime species in many town brooks.

### *Wachusett Reservoir*

This 6.5 square mile water supply creates an exceptional fisheries habitat. The 37-mile shoreline is mostly open to fishing. Dates are set annually by the DCR depending on ice conditions. The Reservoir has abundant warm water and cold water species of fish. The warm water catch is dominated by smallmouth bass and yellow perch, with good numbers of white perch, rock bass, bluegills, pumpkinseeds and bullheads also harvested. Analysis of creel census data conducted at the Reservoir reveals a limited harvest period of lake trout, brown trout and rainbow trout. Landlocked salmon fishing is popular during spring and fall. Thousands of salmon spawn each fall up the Stillwater River. Unlike Atlantic salmon, which is protected by law, the Stillwater salmon offer a unique fishing opportunity in Massachusetts.<sup>22</sup> Abundant numbers of prey



**Wachusett Reservoir.** *Photo Credit CMRPC.*

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<sup>21</sup> Brian Bjorklund, Wildlife Specialist, USGS

<sup>22</sup> Brian Bjorklund, Wildlife Specialist, USGS



species such as rainbow smelt are an important element contributing to the size and condition of trout and salmon. Many state record fish have been caught at Wachusett Reservoir.

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks trout in the Quinapoxet and Stillwater Rivers, as well as in other brooks such as Gates Brook. Species stocked are brook trout, rainbow trout, and brown trout.

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife have documented salmonid species in Gates Brook, almost up to Pierce Street. There is an old foundation/dam structure that is creating an impediment to further travel. Opportunities to create passable conditions should be evaluated.

Pollution in some of the waters such as Gates Brook, has caused some deformities in some species of brook trout. There are concerns with pollution in storm water runoff and street drainage. Additionally, the removal of trees, shrubs, and underbrush along the brooks has caused changes in the water temperature and oxygenation of the brooks, further resulting in fish decline. The Town worked with the state Fisheries and Wildlife Division to selectively restore some of the natural habitats.<sup>23</sup>

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## WILDLIFE

Diversity and variety of wildlife habitat are the strong points of the environment of West Boylston. Wildlife habitat includes upland forested areas, many different wetland types, early successional brushy fields, active agricultural fields, and suburban backyards. Hunting is a popular activity that brings revenue to the local communities. It also maintains a healthy wild game population by preventing overpopulation, spread of zoonotic disease, reduces crop and property damage, as well as livestock and pet predation. The wildlife species found in West Boylston are common to all of central Massachusetts. Occasionally, uncommon animals are seen in West Boylston. Moose, turkey vulture, American bald eagle, black bear, and bobcat populations are expanding and have been regularly sighted in town.<sup>24</sup>

A complete listing of wildlife species including mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians is too extensive to be noted here. There are many excellent field guides available for reference. An overabundance of gulls and geese in the region has caused water quality problems in the Reservoir. The DCR has a program to reduce the populations and limit the public's feeding of these birds. The areas in town that remain in their natural condition provide habitat for State endangered and threatened species, including the common loon, spotted turtle, dwarf mistletoe, and the Adder's Tongue fern.

### *Private Lands*

Most of the wildlife habitats consist of suburban backyards and farmland. Raccoon, whitetail deer, cottontail rabbit, grey squirrel, red fox, eastern coyote and various species of songbirds are found in this diverse environment. The abundant wildlife species are ones that can adapt to this changing habitat. This adaptability to humans can present problems at times. Crop damage, livestock predation, property damage, and health and safety concerns result from the interaction of people and wildlife, with the potential for car accidents from deer and the transmission of diseases, such as rabies, from raccoons.

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<sup>23</sup> Carolyn Padden, Chair, West Boylston Conservation Commission in 2009

<sup>24</sup> Carolyn Padden, Chair, West Boylston Conservation Commission in 2009



### Public Lands

Forty percent (40%) of West Boylston is owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Much of this land is forested. Wildlife species such as whitetail deer, ruffed grouse, grey fox, coyote, turkey, and fisher<sup>4</sup> benefit from forest habitat management conducted by this state agency. Wachusett Reservoir is home to an increasing resident Canada goose population. The large open water expanse coupled with protected shorelines and small islands create good waterfowl habitat. Other waterfowl such as loons, cormorants, dabbling and diving ducks, and gulls are seen in many areas around the Reservoir.

## 4F. SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

### UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

The existing open spaces in West Boylston create a unique mixture of an expansive open space surrounding the Wachusett Reservoir and the undeveloped wooded corridors along its tributaries for wildlife migration in all directions radiating from the body of the Reservoir. This creates a wonderful opportunity for animals to utilize corridors to access resources they need to survive. The opportunities to utilize this system should be further enhanced for the benefit of the whole region.

The Wachusett Dam and reservoir are unique geologic features to the region. To create the dam portions of Boylston, West Boylston, Clinton, and Sterling were flooded. The reservoir falls within the Nashua River Watershed and provides both a water source and as a storage reservoir for the nearby Quabbin Reservoir.

### SCENIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Town of West Boylston is located on the high ground surrounding the Wachusett Reservoir, south of Wachusett Mountain. There are many spectacular views of the mountain and the valley below, which serves as a principal asset of the region. Before 1890, the site of the village center (often referenced as the “Lower Common”) housed factories, farms, churches and homes. But today this area is the site of a great reservoir, held back by the Wachusett Dam in Clinton. Two rivers, the Quinapoxet and the Stillwater Rivers meet at the historic village center of Oakdale. From there, these rivers flow into the Thomas Basin and enter the Wachusett Reservoir. See [Map 8: Scenic & Unique Features Map](#). The May 2017 search of the Massachusetts Cultural Resources Information System is presented in [Appendix B](#).



**Old Stone Church.** Photo Credit CMRPC.



### ***Old Stone Church***

The Old Stone Church, located along Route 12, is one of the most photographed scenes of the region. It has remained a monument to the scores of buildings removed in the 1890s by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, when the Reservoir was built. The church is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The land owned by the DCR remains tightly regulated open space. Shoreline fishing is allowed at the Reservoir, but boating and swimming are prohibited. Limited use of the land surrounding the Reservoir is permitted, but it is not encouraged.

### ***Lily Ponds***

On DCR land, east of where Lancaster Street joins Route 12, is one of West Boylston's best kept secrets: three beautiful Lily Ponds. Hidden from public view, these ponds once served as the center of recreation activity in town. In 1876, West Boylston celebrated the nation's centennial at the Lily Ponds. During the 1930s and 1940s, the town's bathing beach was located at these ponds. As late as 1937, the Park Commission's Annual Report referenced the close relationship between these ponds and the town's Parks Commission stating: "The maintenance of Lily Pond bathing beach, being a recreational activity, was supervised by the Park Commission. An attendant, or life guard, was appointed for duty during certain hours daily from the middle of June until Labor Day. A new float was built and the beach improved through the addition of sand..."<sup>25</sup>.

The DCR lands and waters are undoubtedly the Town of West Boylston's most scenic resources, but there are other areas that deserve recognition as well. One such area is the Wachusett Country Club.

### ***Wachusett Country Club & Other Vista Locations***

This scenic resource is celebrating its 90th birthday this year! The Wachusett Country Club opened in 1927, when its 18-hole, public golf course was first designed by the famous golf course designer, Donald Ross. The views from its lush green fairways are a major asset to the town. From its high spot along Prospect Street, residents get truly spectacular, panoramic views looking down on the blue waters of the Reservoir, as well as views of Mt. Wachusett.<sup>26</sup> Other high elevations in town with similar beautiful views include: the top of the hill near Pleasant Street, where one can see as far east as Marlboro. At 870 feet elevation, Malden Hill is the highest spot in town and commands views of not only the Reservoir, but also Mt. Wachusett and Thomas Basin. Similarly, the view of the Old Stone Church from High Plains Cemetery, is beautiful as it overlooks the Reservoir, but it has become marred by many powerlines in its pathway.

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<sup>25</sup> Town of West Boylston, Annual Town Report, Years 1922, 1923, 1930, Report of the Park Commission

<sup>26</sup> Paul Dunn & B.J. Dunn, Donald Ross Golf Courses Everyone Can Play, Taylor Trade Publishing, 2017, pp. 152 – 153



### **Mass Central Rail Trail**

The Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) is another unique and scenic feature in West Boylston. The MCRT is located on the abandoned line of the former Mass Central



Railroad, which once ran an east-west route between Boston and Northampton. The Oakdale section of the MCRT opened in 1997 and runs from Thomas Basin to the Holden town line, along an easement on land owned by the Town. The West Boylston section of the MCRT was built and is maintained by Wachusett Greenways, in partnership with the DCR and the town. Wachusett Greenways is an all-volunteer non-profit group which focuses on the MCRT in five towns north of Worcester. In Holden, the trail runs west through the Springdale Mill River Walk, and over two bridges that were installed in the early 2000s, to River Road along DCR owned land, just over the town line in Holden and the Springdale Mill River Walk. Along the Oakdale section of the MCRT, one can see ruins of the old Whiting Mill, as well as the Quabbin Aqueduct outfall and dam. The Oakdale section is the most popular section of the MCRT, and to support the activity and trail usage, in 2006, the DCR built a new parking lot in cooperation with the Town, per an order to the West Boylston Water District requiring them to comply with federal EPA rules to keep parking areas 400 feet from the Town's Oakdale well.

The West Boylston DPW assists with maintenance for the portion of the MCRT within town. Wachusett Greenways provides trail clearing and maintenance, planned outdoor activities, and direct development of 32 miles of the proposed MCRT through the towns of Oakham, Rutland, Holden, West Boylston, and Sterling. Wachusett Greenways plans to develop the MCRT east from Oakdale to Pleasant Street, along Beaman Street and Prospect Street. Pleasant Street is a former town road that has been closed off for years and runs north from Beaman Street, east of the bridge that divides Stillwater Basin from the Thomas Basin. A large impediment to the development of that trail is the bridge mentioned above, which was rebuilt in 2002, but did not include an adequate sidewalk along its full length for safe pedestrian access. MCRT is working to overcome this impediment and hopes to improve the parking facilities in the near future.

### **Goodale Park**

Goodale Park is the town's first and most historic park. In 1911, former Selectman Aaron Goodale IV left three and a half (3.5) acres of his land at the corner of Goodale and Crescent Streets to the Town, creating Goodale Park.<sup>27</sup> That same year the "summer house" or "shelter house" off Goodale Street was added to the Park<sup>28</sup>. Back then, the former Goodale Street School was located across Crescent Street from the Park, but today's Major Edwards Elementary School and the West Boylston Middle/High School did not exist, leaving much of the area abutting Goodale Park natural and undeveloped. Active

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<sup>27</sup> Hamilton, Helen Maxwell, "the History of West Boylston," 2000, p. 177

<sup>28</sup> Town Annual Reports, Park Commission, 1922, 1923



recreational components of the Park before 1935 included one baseball field and two tennis courts, which were sometimes even used for volleyball and basketball.<sup>29</sup>

In 1931, Goodale Park was expanded after the Park's uphill neighbor, Major Victor Edwards, donated five and a half (5.5) acres of his abutting land to the Park, extending the Park to the current High School location. Probably attracted by the high elevation at the top of Goodale Park, which gave spectacular views of the Wachusett Reservoir, Major Edwards built his beautiful home, "Eastover," overlooking the Park at 18 Malden Street in 1911. A co-founder of Morgan Construction Company and holder of over 100 patents, Edwards gave much to the Town, including serving on its Park Commission. In 1931, Major Edwards also donated three and a half (3.5) acres of land on Crescent Street (across from Goodale Park), enabling construction of the Major Victor Edwards High School, which opened in 1936.<sup>30</sup> This building remains part of the Major Edwards Elementary School even after it was expanded in the 1960s.

A large grove of trees existed in the upper portion of today's Goodale Park, just below Major Edwards' home. Around 1922, these chestnut trees started dying of chestnut blight, so they were replaced with evergreen trees. This Grove lasted until the Hurricane of 1938, which blew down many of the trees. At that time, the MDC owned this upper portion of land, so, once again, the trees were replaced – this time red pines were planted by the MDC. In 1947, the MDC sold this Pine Grove land (for a token sum) to the Town.<sup>31</sup>

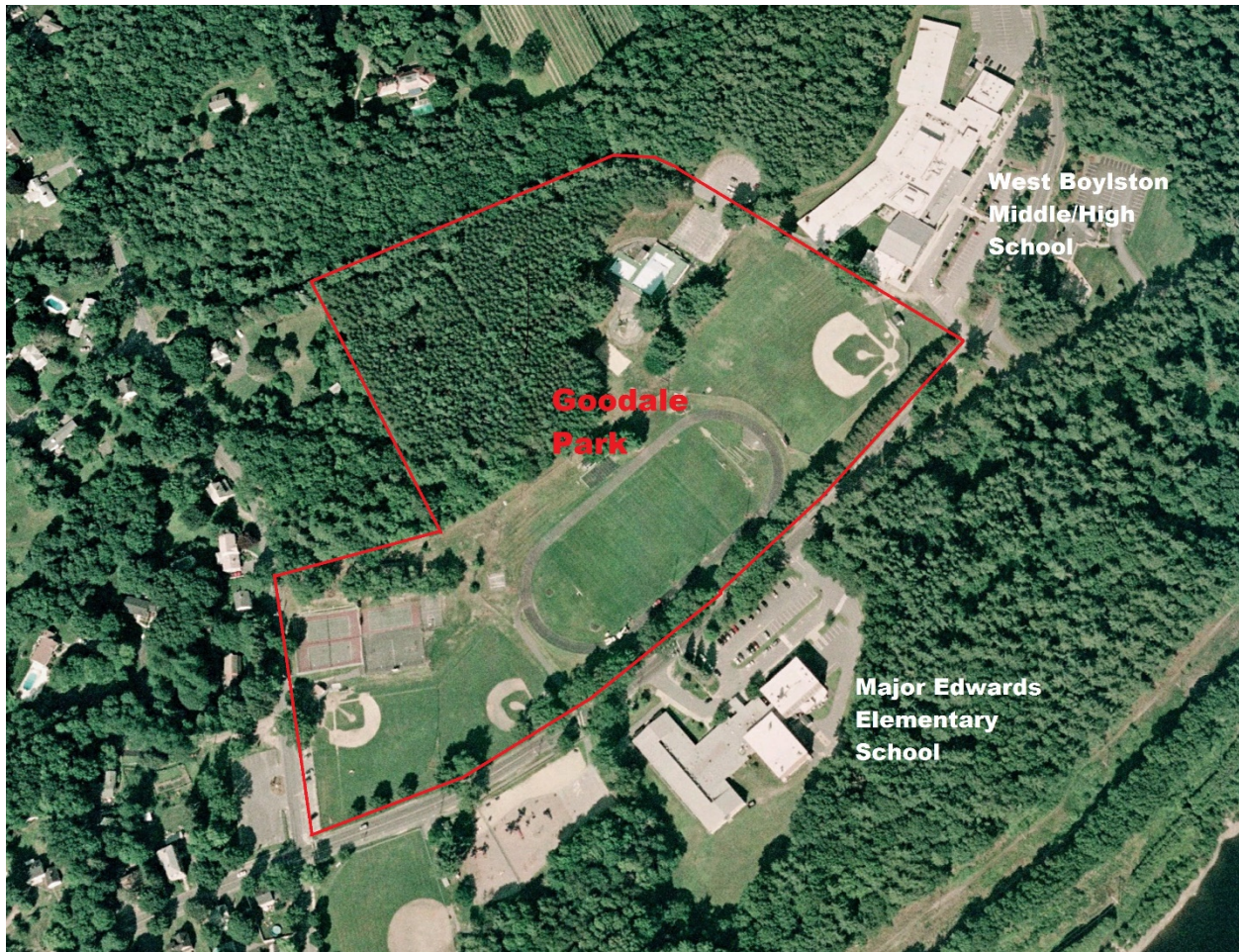
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<sup>29</sup> Town Annual Reports, Park Commission, 1916, 1917, 1928, 1931, 1932, 1934, 1935

<sup>30</sup> Hamilton, op. cit. pp. 147 – 149, 179 – 180. Also see Richard J. Giarusso, "Edwards made major contribution to town," The Banner, October 8, 1992, p. 7.

<sup>31</sup> May 10, 2002 interview with former West Boylston Historical Society President, Edgar Whitcomb.

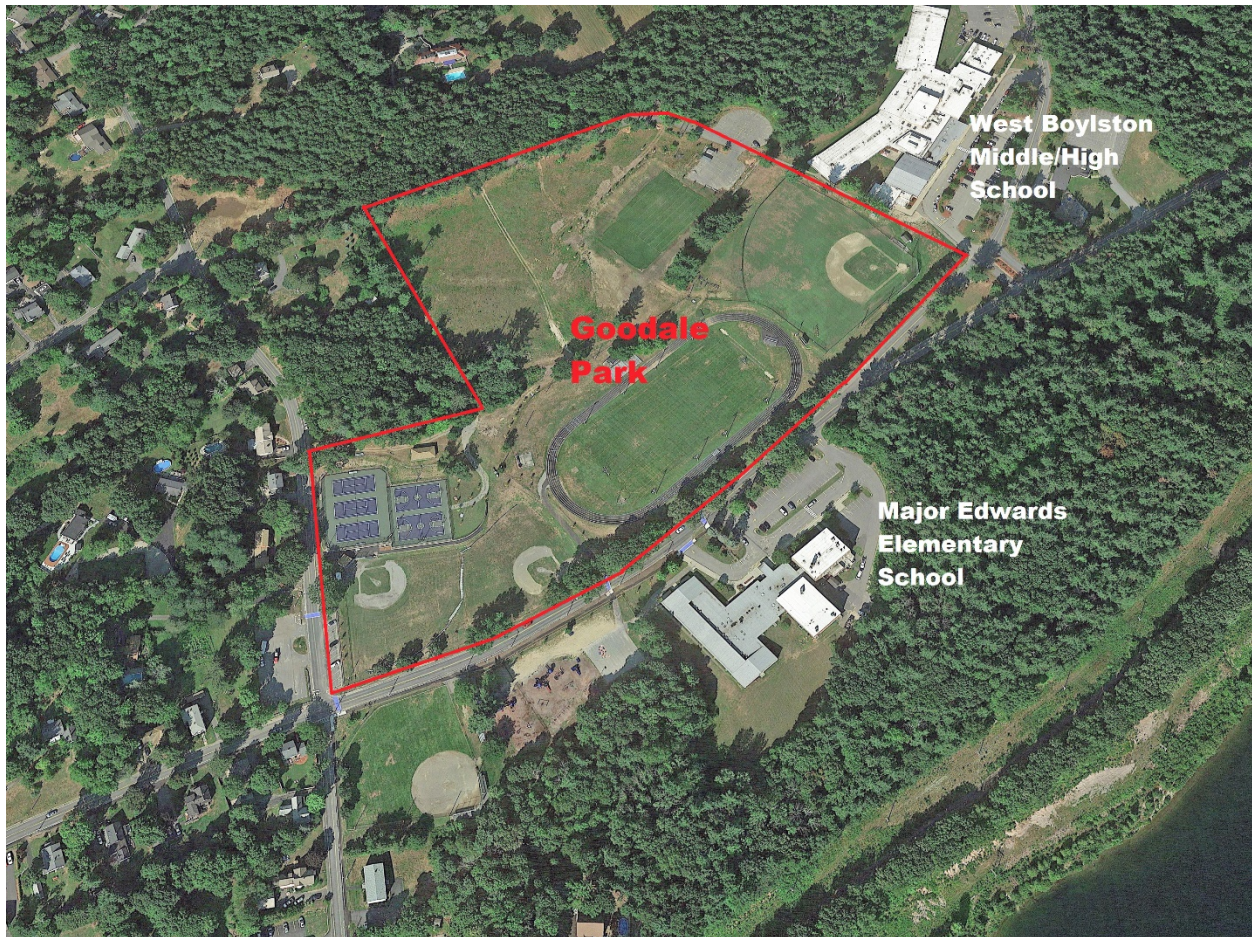




**Aerial photo of Goodale Park showing Pine Grove and pool at top – July 2007**

In 2002, the Parks Commission wanted to remove this Grove that had stood here for 80 years to install a new practice field. Many residents, however, campaigned against removing the Pine Grove. Led by the former president of West Boylston's Historical Society (Edgar Whitcomb), approximately 1,000 residents signed a petition opposing the Parks Commission's proposal and they were successful in stopping it. However, after a severe ice storm in 2008 downed many of the pines, the Parks Commission decided not to replace them and, without a formal public hearing, opted instead to remove the remaining trees. Town meeting in 2016 approved creation of a practice field in this area to relieve the overuse problems occurring at other high school fields. This new practice field is partially located where the Park's swimming pool once stood.





**Aerial Photo of Goodale Park showing loss of Pine Grove and swimming pool at top – August 2016**

The swimming pool opened in 1954 with much celebration. Given to the town by the MDC, it was located at the High School end of the Pine Grove (see July 2007 photo above). It was a hub of summer recreational activity, offering swimming lessons for children, time for adults-only swims, and a scenic picnic area in the Pine Grove for families to gather. High repair costs due to lack of maintenance and dwindling attendance led to the pool's closure in 2008 and it was finally demolished in 2014. <sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Town Annual Reports, Parks Commission 2008-2009, 2013-2014



Goodale Park is a unique park in West Boylston, not only because it is the town's first park but also because of the very important role it has played in the town's history. During World War I, it was used as a drill field by the Massachusetts State Guard. Over the years, many town events and celebrations have been held here, including the town's Centennial and Bicentennial celebrations in 1908 and 2008. Fourth of July celebrations, which used to last three days drawing people from miles away, were held here and still are.<sup>33</sup> During the summer, band concerts and other cultural events continue to be held here.



**Ballfields at Goodale Park.** *Photo Credit CMRPC.*

Although most of Goodale Park is today covered with active recreational facilities used by the High School and sports leagues, the upper portion of the Park, where the Pine Grove once was, still offers spectacular views of Wachusett Reservoir. The increasing use of chain link fences, retaining walls and large scoreboards have, however, significantly lessened the Park's natural beauty. Future use of this steep upper portion should include ways to protect and improve the passive recreational opportunities and leave natural buffers between the Park's many active sports facilities and the abutting residential properties.

Today, Goodale Park is the Town of West Boylston's most significant park and recreational facility. It provides athletic fields and open space for the adjacent High School and Major Edwards Elementary School, as well as for community leagues and recreation programs. The intensive amount of use and their age has caused the existing fields to decline. Recently, using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, the town hired BETA Inc. to guide the Town through a Master Planning process that started with assessing the site's limited area and compiling desired uses requested from user groups. All uses were evaluated to determine how best to meet the Town's needs while maximizing the facilities that could be included at the Park. BETA prepared over six (6) options for improvements to Goodale Park. Each plan was presented to the Parks Facilities Committee for review and discussion. Based on input from the committee BETA prepared a recommended Master Plan for Goodale Park, including a phasing plan that was accepted by the Parks Commission. Cost estimates were completed after geotechnical information

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<sup>33</sup> Frank A. Brown and Beverly K. Goodale for the West Boylston Historical Society, "Images of America: West Boylston Arcadia Publishing, 2005, p. 81



was conducted to evaluate earth movement costs. The facilities layout was not adjusted to optimize earth movement costs, and the completed cost was estimated to be more than \$20 million. This cost is based on the completed Concept Plan, which includes escalation costs and contingencies, but could be less if facilities are down-graded or other savings found. This project will be presented before multiple Town Meetings for support from the voters before any of it can be implemented. Moving forward, the results from this plan will be used by the Parks Commission to respond to the more immediate needs of the community while taking into consideration the fiscal constraints being placed on townspeople. Exhibit 13 is a rendering of the Goodale Park Master Plan Concept Plan and a table of the projected timing and costs of each phase of the different facilities being proposed. Additional information on the plan can be viewed at: [http://www.westboyiston-ma.gov/sites/westboyistonma/files/uploads/goodale\\_park\\_master\\_plan.pdf](http://www.westboyiston-ma.gov/sites/westboyistonma/files/uploads/goodale_park_master_plan.pdf)





# Goodale Park Master Plan



**Exhibit 13: Goodale Park Master Plan Concept Drawing And Preliminary Cost Estimates**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Cost (Millions)</b>
Phase 1 (3 Years)	Synthetic Track & Field & Stadium	\$11.10
Phase 2 (6 Years)	Little League Fields & Concession/Rest Rooms & Multi-Use Field	\$3.90
Phase 3 (8 Years)	High School Baseball Field	\$3.10
Phase 4 (11 Years)	Pool & Exercise Trail Stations	\$5.70
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$23.80</b>

***Town Commons***

The Town Commons are well-maintained and planted with a variety of flowers and shrubs. It is surrounded by many old homes, two (2) churches, the Beaman Memorial Library, two (2) fraternal buildings, and an attractive cemetery. The three (3) main sections of the Town Common provide an enjoyable setting for many community activities to occur. A gazebo on the Common hosts a variety of

summer concerts and picnicking. Other activities on the common include winter ice skating, church festivals, Scouting events, yard and craft sales. Many of the older historical buildings around the Common remain, and a selection of them were moved up from the valley before the Reservoir was built.



**Town Common.** Photo Credit CMRPC.

North of the Town Common is the Bigelow Tavern Historic District, where the old tavern serves as the headquarters for the West Boylston Historical Society. In 1992, the Bigelow Tavern Historic District,



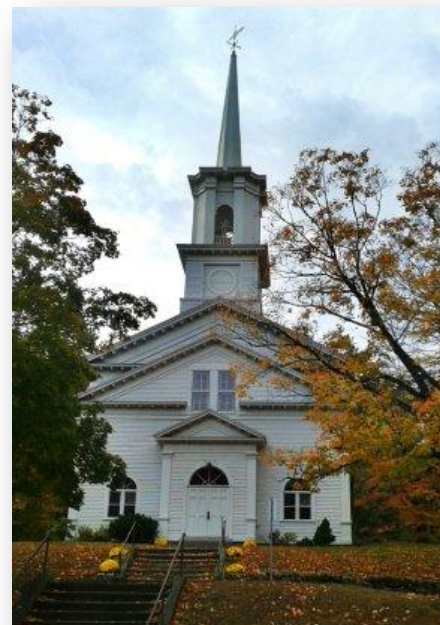
which includes properties at 60, 64, and 65 Worcester Street, was established. The properties in this district include the Bigelow Tavern, the distillery across the street, and the Seth White General Store. The store once served as a place where town meetings were held.

In 2006, the West Boylston Historical Commission was able to procure the historic circa 1780 Jacob Winn Barn from the DCR, when they decided to demolish the building. It was then moved into the West Boylston Historical Society from its original site at 77 Lancaster Street.

### ***Village of Oakdale***

Some people believe that the Village of Oakdale is the best-preserved part of town, and demonstrates what the area looked like before the Reservoir flooded the town's center in 1905. It has a number of homes that remain virtually unchanged from the time it was a busy mill town, over 100 years ago. These homes are now part of the Oakdale Historic District, which was established by the West Boylston Historical Commission in 1996. The district now includes properties in Oakdale along North Main Street, May Street, Green Street, High Street, and Waushacum Street.

The Oakdale area of town looks essentially as it did in the last century. There exists the town's oldest surviving church building, the Oakdale Methodist Church, which was built in 1858. There are four (4) of the town's remaining schoolhouses from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Oakdale remains West Boylston's only surviving mill village, although the southern section of the village, including the site of the mill and its related housing, no longer exists.



**Oakdale Methodist Church.**  
*Photo Credit CMRPC.*

Other properties included on the National Registry of Historic Places in West Boylston include: the Quinapoxet River Bridge (listed in 1990), the Old Stone Church (listed in 1973), Mount Vernon Cemetery and Holbrook Chapel on the east Town Common (listed in 2008) and in 2016 the Beaman Memorial Library was also listed.

## **4G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

### **ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE**

The Asian Longhorned beetle (ALB) is an invasive wood-boring insect that attacks hardwood trees, including maple, birch and elm. A large infestation of ALB was discovered in Worcester, MA in August 2008 and is currently under eradication. The Worcester area has removed more than 35,000 host trees to try to halt the infestation. A small infestation of just six (6) trees was found in Boston in 2010. The spread of ALB would cause negative impacts to the maple sugaring, nursery, tourism and forest product



industries of Massachusetts, and would seriously threaten our state's forest, park and street trees. Currently the ALB is found in Worcester and surrounding towns, including West Boylston. All of West Boylston is included in the regulated area to suppress and control the ALB, which means all tree removal, trimming of host trees and composting performed in the quarantined zones must follow state regulations.<sup>34</sup>

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## FISCAL CHALLENGES

By far the greatest challenge to protecting and enhancing open space and recreation is the perception that it is too expensive or that someone else is doing it. This is particularly the case in West Boylston due to the fact that DCR owns 40% of the town. State and federal governments have long recognized the need to preserve certain open space because it provides significant public good. However, decisions regarding open space preservation are increasingly being made at the local level. Local government officials and land trusts are developing fiscal capacities and experience in land management and stewardship, supplementing the services provided by state and local governments.<sup>35</sup> Local governments operate within an increasingly tight fiscal environment and are heavily dependent on the property tax for operating revenue, so the fiscal and economic implications of open space preservation decisions are of paramount consideration.

Open space supports natural ecosystems that provide direct benefits to society, though it is difficult to estimate the monetary value of such benefits. Population growth and real estate development do not necessarily provide net fiscal benefits to local governments. (That is, providing and maintaining infrastructure and other services to accommodate new residential development usually cost more than the development generates in property tax and other revenues.<sup>36</sup> Fiscal impact analyses have been conducted that compare the net effects on municipal budgets of open space. The Northeastern Office of the American Farmland Trust<sup>37</sup> studied six (6) rural towns in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York State and found that, on average, residential development required \$1.13 in municipal services for every \$1 of revenue received in property taxes. Farm, forest and open space land required only \$0.29 in services per dollar of revenue. Other cost-benefit studies have been done in the region by Commonwealth Research Group showing further regional comparisons and their results agree (see exhibit below).

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<sup>34</sup> Massachusetts Introduced Pests Outreach Project: <http://massnrc.org/pests/alb/>

<sup>35</sup> Greater Yellowstone Coalition. 1993. The fiscal and economic impacts of local conservation and community development measures: a review of the literature, and Fausold, C. J. and R. J. Lilleholm. 1996. The economic value of open space. Working Paper from the Lincoln Land Trust, Land Lines Vol. 8, No. 5.

<sup>36</sup> Ladd, H. 1992. Effects of Population Growth on Local Spending and Taxes. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy working paper, Cambridge, MA. 53 pages.

<sup>37</sup> Freedgood, J., and R.C. Wagner. 1992. Cost of Community Services Studies: Snapshots of Net Fiscal Impacts of Different Land Uses in Towns. Northeastern Office, American Farmland Trust.



**Exhibit 14: Fiscal Cost Associated with Different Land Uses**

Land Use Type	For This Much Tax Paid (Revenue Incoming)	Use This Much in Town Services (Costs to Town)
<b>Residential</b>	\$ 1.00	<b>\$ 1.13</b>
<b>Commercial</b>	\$ 1.00	<b>\$ 0.43</b>
<b>Open Space</b>	\$ 1.00	<b>\$ 0.29</b>
Source: Northeastern Office of the American Farmland Trust		

Although the OSIC does not have the resources to analyze data specifically for West Boylston at this time, general findings from these studies show:

- Residential development typically incurs a net fiscal cost to the town
- Commercial development typically generates a net fiscal surplus, but attracts more residential development, and
- Open space, forests and farmlands typically generate a net fiscal surplus to the town AND are fiscally better for the town than residential development and equal to or better than non-residential development.

Many other studies have confirmed that significant increases in land value are associated with proximity to open space lands.<sup>38</sup> This increase in property value is not included in the above cost computations. It should also be noted here that though the DCR does not pay taxes, they do pay the Town a Payment In-lieu-of Taxes (PILOT payment) which in 2016 was \$670,855 paid annually. This amount would greatly affect the calculations in West Boylston and make the return on DCR property even more beneficial to the town than any other typical open space.

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## RAILWAYS

The Town has requested, but has been denied access to data to learn what chemicals and/or nuclear materials are being transported on the railroad that passes through West Boylston. Since the railroad travels over the Reservoir at Thomas Basin and right through the town, there is some concern regarding potential spills. The PanAm Railroad – Guilford Line has been contacted, but responded that release of the information is a security risk.

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## WATER DISTRICT

Providing safe, affordable, and reliable potable water is a serious challenge. The West Boylston Water District has talked with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority about the possibility of getting water

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<sup>38</sup> Lacy, J. 1990. An Examination of Market Appreciation for Clustered Housing with Permanent Open Space. Center for Rural Massachusetts, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA. 14 pages.



from Wachusett Reservoir in the future, but this appears to be cost prohibitive. In addition, since most of this water would eventually be discharged into the town's sewers, it would mean water being transferred out of our watershed and would probably need state approval under the Interbasin Transfer Act. There is concern that withdrawal up to the old safe yield of the existing wells will result in a water supply deficit of 0.10 million gallons per day (mgd) under a maximum day demand (MDD) in 2020. The Inter-basin transfer and its repercussions had been brought to the Town's attention early in the sewer planning and again when the mandatory sewer connection requirement from the Board of Health was made. Sewer use in 2007 transported an average of 481,000 gallons of water per day from the ground in West Boylston to the sewage treatment plant in Millbury. This reduced volume of recharge to the town wells may be a significant concern. It was estimated to increase to 587,000 gallons per day in 2020.<sup>39</sup>

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## SEWER

The sewer project was implemented to reduce pollution of small backyard streams from failing septic systems. When residents voted approval of the sewer project at town meeting, they were told that connections would not be mandatory if their septic system met Title 5 regulations. As a result of the low hookup rate, however, the Sewer Commissioners encouraged the Board of Health to require connections for all lots within the sewer service area so that there will be adequate revenue to operate the sewer system.<sup>40</sup>

Sewer service access pipes (stubs) were provided without consulting the landowners, so assumptions that were made relative to development potential were not always correct. The landowners who had intended to keep existing open land as unsewered and undeveloped have been faced with a situation that was forced upon them and they had no opportunity for input into the decision. This has increased the value of these lots that now have sewer service stubs. The property is then taxed more, and owners are required to pay the increased taxes. These owners, some of whom had intended to simply hold onto the open lot, are now forced to sell the land to developers due to the higher taxes. There should be an alternative to keep these lots reasonably valued if a commitment is documented to keep it as open space.

With the installation of the sewer system, small "grandfathered" lots may now be developed in these sewer areas. This infill development may create other environmental problems, such as increasing the amount of development and impervious area, thus increasing runoff and the potential of flooding and pollution. For example, flooding complaints increased in the Bunker Hill Parkway/Trenton Lane area following construction on "grandfathered" lots. When old plans of the area were found during relocation of the Town offices in 2014, the site where a new home was built and the rear yards that had been filled in were found to be marked as 'drainage areas' to function to hold runoff. There is also increased use of fertilizers and pesticides when development occurs, which degrades water quality. The high density of development and its related heavy traffic in the sewer southern section of town will reduce the

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<sup>39</sup> Tata & Howard, Inc., "Open Space Plan – Water Supply, T&H No. 1360," December 6, 2001

<sup>40</sup> Elise Wellington, Secretary, 2009 West Boylston Open Space and Recreation Plan Update



availability of open space and increase the potential for pollution and contamination of both land and water.<sup>41</sup>

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## SENSITIVE AREAS

The DCR has aggressively acquired land in particularly sensitive areas, thus increasing open space, but unfortunately not necessarily allowing some desirable recreational uses (swimming, boating, off-road biking, and overnight camping) of its land. Although active recreational use is not permitted on most of the DCR-owned land in town, there has been a problem of All-terrain vehicles (ATV) using DCR-owned land near Lee Street. Carving trails through this protected land, ATV users have actually ridden down the stream bed, causing erosion and harming fish. This area included sections of Malden Brook, which flows into the Reservoir. ATVs have also been a problem on privately-owned open space, such as Stones Throw Farm (formerly Malden Brook Farm).

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## DOG FECES

The Parks Commission and the Mass Central Rail Trail have documented problems with users leaving their dogs' feces on their properties. Feces is easily visible on the fields, the trails and on the adjacent DCR-owned land, even though owners are required to keep animals on leash, to clean up after them, and to stay on the Town-owned Mass Central Rail Trail property (this is the reason DCR no longer allows dogs on the watershed property). This problem is even worse at fenced athletic areas in town. The installation of fencing around Goodale Park athletic fields in 2016 has triggered the use by dog owners to let their pets go off-leash. The problem is that these owners are not picking up the animals' feces and children are unexpectedly playing/landing in it. Dogs are required to be leashed and owners are required by Town Bylaws to pick up their dogs' feces, but some dog walkers do not abide by these rules.<sup>42</sup> More aggressive enforcement of these regulations is needed by town police and the zoning enforcement officers.

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## EROSION AND FLOODING

There are only a few areas where erosion and flooding impact areas within the Town of West Boylston. This includes the areas adjacent to Gates Brook parallel to Worcester Street in the southern end of town, and flooding at the flatlands along Route 12 just south of the Sterling Town Line.

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## POLLUTANT-IMPACTED AREAS

The Shell Tank Farm on Shrewsbury Street is currently in the remediation process due to a release of thousands of gallons of petroleum into the ground in the late 1970's. A ground water treatment system has been in place and the below ground storage tanks have been removed. The cleanup is nearing completion, with the remaining items being monitoring of test wells for low level contamination. The small

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<sup>41</sup> Carolyn Padden, Chair, West Boylston Conservation Commission in 2009

<sup>42</sup> Mike Peckar, West Boylston Implementation Committee 2016



concentration of petroleum that remains is being treated through phytoremediation. This involves planting fast growing hybrid poplar trees that draw up the pollutants with the ground water and retain the pollutants in the wood. This was the first time that phytoremediation was being used to clean up a hazardous waste site in central Massachusetts.<sup>43</sup> This area was proposed to be developed into commercial uses and a portion of the property was discussed used for Little League fields for the town at a Planning Board meeting when the Site Plan Review approval was discussed in 2016.

**Map 4: Soils & Geologic Features** also shows the locations of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Tier-Classified Sites (21E) and Activity and Use Limitation Sites. 21E sites are those locations where the Mass DEP has been notified of or discovered a “reportable” release of oil or hazardous material to the environment. Tier Classified sites are required to have a certain level of monitoring and clean up oversight. The MassDEP Tier Classified Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites data layer is a statewide point dataset containing the approximate location of oil and/or hazardous material disposal sites that have been (1) reported and (2) Tier Classified under M.G.L. Chapter 21E and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) is one type of acceptable response at some 21 Sites that allows certain uses compatible with certain levels of cleanup. West Boylston has one Tier 2 Classified 21 E Site and two (2) such AUL sites.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

The DCR property is gated to prevent vehicular access that could damage their water resources, but there are multiple gates that have been constructed allowing Universal Access. Most of these are along Route 140 and Route 12. They lead to rough trails that require a sturdy vehicle to access. DCR staff recently renovated a Universal Access Fishing Platform at the Quinapoxet River, just downstream of where the water is transferred from the Quabbin Reservoir, with an improved accessible pathway from River Road. The Worcester Regional Transit Authority provides a bus into West Boylston that has a bicycle rack, though the bus route terminates at WalMart, south of the center of town. Requests have been made to extend the route to Oakdale, where people could disembark right at the Mass Central Rail Trail and head either west to Holden or North to Sterling.

A large amount of the total protected open space in West Boylston abuts the Wachusett reservoir. However, additional open space parcels are distributed throughout Town. As noted in section 4F, Goodale Park is the Town’s most significant park and recreation facility. The town is actively working to fund work to improve Goodale Park to improve the open space and recreation opportunities it already provides. In addition to funding future improvements at Goodale Park, the Town of West Boylston could look to plan for and build smaller playgrounds and fields in that currently are not located in close proximity to an existing park. Working in such a manner would ensure that open space and recreation opportunities are located equitably throughout Town.

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<sup>43</sup> Shell Oil, Shrewsbury Street West Boylston, Site Remediation Plan, 2001.



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## LANDFILLS, SEDIMENTATION, DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

There are no active landfills located in West Boylston, and The Department of Public Works does not report any specific sedimentation issues that impact the Town. There is a capped landfill located on the west side of Temple Street, just north of the Hartwell Street/Boylston Town Line area. This landfill was capped many years ago and is monitored regularly.

The rolling hills in town limit the areas of erosion and sedimentation. Gates Brook near the Worcester City Line from Danielian Drive to Worcester Street is an area where the flat topography encourages sedimentation. The brook used to be regularly dredged until the 1990s and clearing it again would reduce the flooding in this area of town. There are also multiple damaged culverts along this stretch of brook in need of repair. The Waushacum Brook area along both sides of Route 12 just south of the Sterling Town Line is an area that floods when there is too much sediment in the culverts. The sediment is also allowing the growth of invasive Phragmites plants to take over where Cattails have been prevalent. There is also sedimentation in a couple of the ponds located on DCR-owned property that have significant use limitations in place: these include Edwards Pond on the south side of Malden Street; and Carrols' Pond which is west of the intersection of Franklin and Prospect Streets. Salt is mainly used for snow and ice removal and DPW sweeps every street annually in the spring to minimize sedimentation issues.



## 5. CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

### 5A. OVERVIEW

Public recreation and open space provide a focus for community life and promote a unique and identifiable community character. Open space can also be an oasis for quiet reflection and can greatly enhance the connection to the natural world. Open space also has economic benefits by protecting and enhancing property values of nearby land, and attracting businesses, new residents, and public and private investment. Research on this topic suggests that the proximity to recreation and open space is the most important factor in choosing where to locate a small business, while the quality of life ranks as the third most important factor in choosing the location of a large business. Additionally, conservation land provides natural rainwater storage and corridors for wildlife. Even small pockets of green space may serve an important function for migratory birds and butterflies. Open space reduces runoff and diminishes the frequency and severity of flooding. Wooded open space helps to cool the air and improves air quality.

This plan aims to comprehensively discuss and consider the issues and goals of organizations within West Boylston related to the protection, acquisition and enhancement of open space and recreation facilities. The definition of “Protected” within this OSRP is intended to refer to parcels of land that have some limitations from the development of structures on the property through public, non-profit, or private mechanisms. This means the properties are managed primarily for preservation or recreation purposes. These include DCR properties owned in fee or with deeded restriction for water supply protection; properties owned by the Greater Worcester Land Trust or Worcester County; and properties under Chapter 61 that require notice to the town before any development occurs.

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### COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

On April 4, 2007, the citizens of West Boylston adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which provides state matching funds for money collected by the town. Town Meeting approved an article, and a ballot ratification was passed to collect a property tax surcharge of two percent (2%), with exemptions for the first \$100,000, low-income, low or moderate income elderly, and reductions for properties with abatements or exemptions. Shortly after the adoption of the CPA, the Town Administrator established the Community Preservation Committee whose duties are to plan, gather and present recommendations at town meetings to allocate and spend the surcharge funds. The law stipulates that at least 10 percent of the funds must be spent on each of three purposes: open space, historic preservation and affordable housing. The remaining 70 percent (70%) can be spent on parks, recreation, or any of the three previously noted purposes. The adoption of this act by the town has provided concrete benefits to the recreation and open space needs of the town. All town committees and citizen organizations that have an interest in open space or recreation must work together to assure that spending proposals brought to town meeting are publicly approved. According to the Community



Preservation Coalition, the projects funded through the CPA related to Open Space and Recreation are shown in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 15: Community Preservation Fund Projects related to Open Space and Recreation**

Project Name	Description	Amount	Approval Date
Goodale Park Design Services	Architectural and Engineering Services	\$25,000.00	10/20/2008
Preservation of Goodale Park	Renovate tennis and basketball courts	\$ 618,000.00	5/17/2010
Lee Street Land Purchase	Purchase Land on Lee Street	\$ 70,000.00	10/18/2010
Goodale Park Master Plan	A grant for the creation a Master Plan for Goodale Park and the surrounding town owned land.	\$ 50,000.00	10/21/2013
Woodland Park Fencing/Safety Netting	A grant for the purchase of fencing and safety netting at the high school baseball field, girls' softball field and Woodland Park.	\$ 26,740.00	5/19/2014
Baseball Field Fencing	A grant for fencing at the high school baseball field and Little League "A".	\$ 29, 654.00	10/19/2015
Goodale Park Expansion	A grant for a practice field at Goodale Park at old Town Pool area.	\$ 52,817.00	5/16/2016
Goodale Park Well	A grant for an artesian irrigation well for Goodale Park fields	\$ 17,500.00	5/16/2016
Malden Hill South	Purchase 12.5 Acres on Goodale St.	\$ 165,000.00	10/17/2016
Source: <a href="http://communitypreservation.org/projects/new">http://communitypreservation.org/projects/new</a>			

The acquisition of land is slowed by the need to do "due diligence" investigations and survey work before the proposal can go before Town Meeting for approval. These preparations cost a few thousand dollars. A process is needed to ensure that there are funds to complete this work in a thorough and swift manner so property owners are not negatively impacted by the long timeframe for the Town to buy the property.

In 2009, the Wachusett Working Landscapes Partnership provided communities in this region geographic information and assistance to manage the growth. The Wachusett Greenprint Map identifies resources that the town wanted to preserve, as well as places that are suitable for development. The map indicates developed areas, roads, recreational trails and major water bodies. Portions of the maps in red or orange indicate important natural resources that are not permanently protected and which have absolute (red) or partial (orange) development constraints. These areas with partial constraints often are the most important to protect from future development pressures. White areas show lands that lack these development constraints and which may be more suitable for development. The map is included as an attachment to this report and can also be found online.<sup>44</sup> In

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44 <http://www.commonwaters.org/images/stories/pdfs/WestBoylston.pdf>



addition, an inventory of the municipally-owned conservation and recreational properties is included in *Map 9: Open Space Inventory Map*.

## 5B. PRIVATE PARCELS

There are many private landowners in West Boylston who support the protection of open spaces and the development of additional recreational facilities. The OSRP can be used as a vehicle to educate these philanthropists that there are options available to them. These include sales, donations, deeded development restrictions, cooperative agreements, and Chapter 61 Land restrictions.

The OSIC and Commission encourage landowners to contact the OSIC to discuss placing a portion of their land into a permanently-deeded restricted use. This will likely provide a tax reduction, reduce future real estate taxes, provide an open space or recreational use for the town on the portion of the property, prohibit building development on the property, and can generally be worded as desired by the landowner for special considerations. The OSIC is tasked with preparing pamphlets and flyers to educate interested landowners.

The OSIC has reviewed properties and received suggestions from town boards and the public to consider specific properties for protection or for future fields or active recreation development. The properties that are currently under the Chapter 61 programs are of primary importance and keeping them in an open condition is a priority of the Committee. Exhibit 16: Private Properties of Interest lists potential properties for acquisition or recreation potential. The recommended use is based upon its protection, acquisition, or the implementation of development restrictions. The desired uses for these lands include retaining them as undeveloped open spaces, walking trails, bicycle pathways/widening, a dog park and disc golf.



**Exhibit 16: 2016 Open Space and Recreation Private Properties of Interest**

#	Property	Desired	Future Use	Actions 2009-2016
1	137 Shrewsbury St.	Acquisition/ Cooperation	Baseball Fields	Inquiry in November, Parks Commission Discussions
2	7.5 Acres 264 Prospect St.	Acquisition	Prot. Town Well Prot. Open Space	2011 GWLT contact, no interest then, 2016 ZBA Denied Spec. Permit
3	14.5 Acres 18 Malden St. to Pool	Ch. 61 or Acq.	Prot. Woodland & Playing Field	Owner contacted PB in 2008, No reply to follow-ups.
4	5 Acres of 60 Acres Sterling St.	Acquisition	Playing Fields, Dog Park	No Contact
5	11 Acres, Hillside Drive	Acquisition	Prot. Open Space	2014 Right of First Refusal Requested, but rejected
6	DCR - 180 Beaman St.	Cooperation	Playing Fields/Gym Use, Dog Park	No formal contact from Selectmen
7	4.3 Acres 19 Crescent St.	Muni. Use	Senior Ctr/Dog Park	No Contact
8	30.4 Acres 55 Campground Rd	Acquisition	Prot. Open Space	No Contact
9	43.8 Acres 60 Fairbanks St.	Acquisition	Prot. Open Space	2015 OSIC contact, In Chapter 61, No Interest to change
10	19 Acres 135 Pierce St.	Acquisition	Prot. Woodland	2015 AHT contact, legal issues
11	6 of 7.3 Acres 153 Crescent St.	Acquisition	Prot. Agriculture	No Contact, School Farm
12	20 Acres, 241 Laurel St.	Acquisition	Prot. Woodland	No Contact
13	14.5 Acres, 71 Laurel St.	Acq/Ch. 61A	Prot. Agriculture	Not Interested in 2014
14	8 Acres, 98 Prospect St.	Ch. 61A	Prot. Agriculture	No Contact

Sometimes the landowner can leverage tax savings and other funding to allow a donation of a portion of the property to the Town, as was done in 2016 for property off Maple Street. Any acquisition would need to be approved at Town Meeting, though cooperation with DCR has allowed properties to be protected as open space without costing the town anything. The intended funding sources for the areas near Town water supplies include grants and CPA monies designated for open space protection, as was done for the Kent property on Lee Street in 2010. Therefore, an estimate of the costs of each parcel is not included.

The properties listed in the preceding table are those suggested by and to the OSIC as having value to the town. Since the recent passing of George Bernardin (a long-time philanthropist who spent countless hours assisting the town with legal and open space-related issues) the town lacks experience in approaching landowners to discuss financial savings and local benefits of permanently limiting development on their properties. The OSIC needs to establish a protocol to contact land owners to discuss selling or donating land to the town, and advertise/market this opportunity. The DCR owns most of the open space lands in West Boylston, however there is still a significant amount of privately-owned lands that gain tax benefits through "Chapter Laws" within the state. Private lands that are within the State's special taxation programs (Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B) are actively managed by their owners, but only have limited or temporary protection. Private owners can manage their land for forestry,



agriculture, and/or recreation purposes and receive a benefit of reduced property tax under Chapter 61. Chapter 61 is for forested lands, Chapter 61A for agricultural and horticultural lands, and Chapter 61B is for recreational lands. Chapter lands are considered as having limited protection. While these lands provide significant open space in communities while in the program, once the property is sold or the owner chooses not to participate in the special taxation program, there is no longer a commitment to open space management. If the property is put up for sale, the community has the first right to purchase the property or assign its right to a non-profit. The Town should inventory and prioritize what limited Chapter land there is and other open space for acquisition or other protection measures. In addition, the Town should insure that notice is given immediately to conservation and Recreation Commissions if a Notice of Sale of a Chapter property is delivered to the Select Board. A communication system to allow for rapid response should be developed. Working with local non-profits, may help make acquisitions possible, especially with limited municipal staff time and funds. Chapter Properties are shown on Exhibit 16 below.

Stone's Throw Farm (formerly Malden Brook Farm) is one of the only large, privately-owned lots of land in town. It is located along Prospect Street and Lee Street and contained about 200 acres of land, but some has been sold due to financial difficulties. In the year 2000, Malden Brook Farm was recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture as a "Century Massachusetts Family Farm" since it had been under the same family ownership for over 100 years. Its barn was built with wood from houses that were torn down when the DCR needed room to make the Reservoir. Today, Stone's Throw Farm continues to harvest and sell produce to local establishments. The farm is currently under Chapter 61A, which is a state law that allows for reduced local property taxes on agriculture and horticulture lands in order to preserve the state's ever-depleting farmland. In exchange for these benefits, the town is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner if the land is ever to be sold, and an option to purchase the property should it be sold for any purpose other than to continue to serve as a farm.

Near Stones Throw Farm on Prospect Street is an even larger privately-owned tract of land that is undeveloped and provides spectacular views of the Reservoir. Wachusett Country Club's 18-hole golf course provides much open space at a high elevation. It is presently under Chapter 61B. This land classification program is designed to encourage preservation of the state's open space and promote recreational land uses. It offers reduced property taxes to property owners willing to make a long-term commitment to preserving land in an undeveloped condition or for use for outdoor activities. In exchange, the town is given the right to recover some of the tax benefits afforded the owner and an option to purchase the property should the land be sold or used for any purpose other than to maintain it as open space or for recreational use. Exhibit 16 shows the current Chapter Lands in West Boylston.



**Exhibit 16: 2016 Chapter Lands within the Town of West Boylston**

Chapter	Location	No. Of Acres
<b>CHAPTER 61 – FORESTRY</b>		
61	Keyes Street	14.80
61	Phelps Street	11.88
61	Malden Street	11.93
61	Fairbanks Street	14.50
61	Fairbanks Street	43.83
61	Raymond S Huntington	1.49
61	Raymond S Huntington	1.85
61	Raymond S Huntington	52.64
61	Raymond S Huntington	14.42
61	Laurel Street	2.80
61	Laurel Street	20.00
61	Lancaster Street	11.60
61	Hosmer Street	15.10
<b>Total Chapter 61</b>		<b>216.84</b>

Chapter	Location	No. Of Acres
<b>CHAPTER 61A – AGRICULTURAL</b>		
61A	Fairbanks Street	19.08
61A	Fairbanks Street	33.00
61A	Lancaster Street	7.20
61A	Prospect Street	27.33
61A	Lee Street	24.49
61A	Prospect Street	4.33
61A	Lee Street	4.40
61A	Prospect Street	17.00
61A	Prospect Street	71.85
61A	Lancaster Street	1.12
61A	Lancaster Street	17.08
61A	Lancaster Street	15.00
61A	Lancaster Street	5.00
61A	Lancaster Street	27.00
61A	Lancaster Street	16.00
61A	Prospect Street	26.09
<b>Total Chapter 61A</b>		<b>315.97</b>
<b>CHAPTER 61B – RECREATIONAL</b>		
61B	Prospect Street	44.70
61B	Prospect Street	134.64
61B	Laurel Street	16.00
61B	Shrewsbury Street	4.29
61B	Shrewsbury Street	35.78
<b>Total Chapter 61B</b>		<b>235.41</b>
<b>Total Chapter Lands</b>		<b>768.22</b>



DCR has purchased Watershed Preservation Restrictions on a few parcels within West Boylston. A Watershed Preservation Restriction is a deeded sale of the development rights on a parcel of property. The DCR typically pays approximately 80% of the full purchase property value for these rights. This method allows the current owner to retain ownership, but protects the open space by restricting development on the property. Typically, the limitations are that buildings or roadways cannot be constructed on the property and restrictions on other potentially pollution-generating activities are also included. The list of parcels that DCR has purchased CRs is included in the exhibit below.

**Exhibit 17: DCR Watershed Preservation Restrictions**

Location	Area (acres)
Laurel Street	13.6
Phelps Place	16.8
Prospect Street	24.4
Prospect Street	27.9
Malden Brook Farms, Malden and Lee Street	37.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>119.8</b>

The only remaining agricultural land in West Boylston under the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Preservation Restriction (APR) program is at Stones Throw Farm on Prospect Street. Other opportunities to protect open spaces and maintain a rural character in town are through local Zoning and General Bylaws. The Planning Board enacted a Residential Cluster Development bylaw, which allows developers to present an open space (Cluster) plan as well as a conventional plan of development for all residential projects of more than five (5) acres, and permit reduced lot areas if significant open space is permanently protected. In addition, the Conservation Commission has attempted to establish a local wetlands protection bylaw that would provide stronger protection than the state wetland regulations in order to protect isolated wetlands, vernal pools and provide protective buffer zones. Town meeting voted down their proposal in the spring of 2016, but they planned to revise it and resubmit.

Recently a landowner on Shrewsbury Street approached the town to coordinate use of the property as two regulation-sized Little League fields and a 90' diamond high school baseball field. The Parks Commission is investigating this opportunity and is hopeful that something good will come of it for both parties.

## 5C. PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PARCELS

### DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Much of the land that is protected within the Town of West Boylston is owned by the Department Of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) due to a very active acquisition program resulting from legislation enacted along with the Watershed Protection Act in 1992. This required approximately \$8 million be budgeted for acquisition of impacted parcels to offset development limitations to property owners.



From 1992-2002, DCR purchased 1,244 acres of land in West Boylston, and since 2008 they acquired eight (8) properties, totaling 184.5 acres (see Exhibit 18 below).<sup>45</sup>

**Exhibit 18: DCR Acquisitions in West Boylston Since 2008**

Name	Acq FY	Acres	Interest	Location
Germain	2008	14.2	Fee	Fairbanks Street
Anthony	2010	3.5	Fee	off Temple Street
Mazzoleni/Smith	2012	22.5	Fee	Lancaster Street
Chapman	2013	2.3	Fee	North Main Street
Pusateri	2015	30.8	Fee	Lancaster Street
CLT Park (Shell Oil)	2015	62.5	Fee	off Shrewsbury Street
Kenneway	2016	36.5	Fee	Fairbanks Street
Weisel	2016	12.2	Fee	off Maple/Shrewsbury Streets
<b>Total</b>		<b>184.5</b>		

The DCR-owned property is protected in a manner similar to "Article 97" lands, which means it is difficult to change the ownership or use of DCR land. A petition must be submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, who must approve the change in use or ownership. The DCR Commissioners must then submit a request to the State legislature and obtain a two-thirds majority vote to formally approve the change.

Although the DCR does not pay taxes on the land that it owns, it is required under Chapter 59, S.5G, of Massachusetts General Laws to make Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) to the town. The DCR's protected open space land is valued as if it is developable property, though much is considered rear land with some prime lots. That figure is then multiplied by the highest tax rate (the commercial tax rate) to determine the PILOT amount. West Boylston now receives an average of \$170/acre (including water areas) from the DCR for permanently protected open space, or \$240/acre of 'land'. The justification for this low number is that the majority of this land is wetland and backland. Since the town has the same tax rate for both commercial and residential property, the town has not received as much in PILOT payments as it could if it had adopted a tiered tax rate. The PILOT payment to West Boylston was \$670,855.00 in FY2016. This amount reflects the Department of Revenue's policy that land under water has no value.

The DCR developed a Public Access Plan for its lands and updated it again in 2011. The Plan maintains the policy of "limited public access" on DCR lands in West Boylston. Passive recreational uses, such as hiking, picnicking, shore fishing, and cross country skiing, are allowed in all areas of West Boylston, except the restricted access area (approximately 10 acres) within 100 feet of the Quabbin Aqueduct

<sup>45</sup> Jim French, Land Acquisitions Director, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Division of Water Supply Protection, West Boylston, 2016



discharge point on the Quinapoxet River. Animals, such as dogs and horses, however, are not allowed access on DCR land, which some residents resent. Direct contact with the Reservoir, including boating, is prohibited. Swimming in the Reservoir or its tributaries is not allowed. Snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles are not permitted to use DCR lands. The Public Access Plan allowed increased public access along a small portion of the town's western border with Holden where hunting is on DCR land. Mountain biking is not allowed on DCR land in West Boylston. In this area noted as Tributary Headwaters Zone (which is located outside of West Boylston, mainly in Holden and Sterling beyond I-190), canoeing is only allowed on the Quinapoxet River upstream of the River Road dam above the Quabbin Aqueduct.

Today, DCR employs rangers to help enforce its regulations. These rangers have authority to issue fines for a violation of DCR policies. Today, many residents feel that the town should negotiate with the DCR for reasonable and minimally-polluting use of their lands such as athletic fields. If DCR were to totally prohibit public access to its lands, as Worcester has done on its watershed lands in Holden, West Boylston would be severely impacted. At public hearings on the original DCR Public Access Plan and Updates the town did not offer any input into the Plan.

In the past, the Parks Commission maintained a lease with the DCR to use DCR property located in the Oakdale section of town. This land consisted of the property that contained a men's softball field and the land used for practice fields on the opposite side of Thomas Street. Although the lease had expired in 1992, the Parks Commission continued to maintain these properties and schedule activities there until 2005. At that time, the DCR was pressured by the EPA to limit all activity within 400 feet of the Reservoir, and since no official contact from the Parks Commission had occurred for years, use of this property is no longer allowed.

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## TOWN-OWNED OPEN SPACE

Municipal lands under active use (schools, town halls, highway department facilities, police/fire facilities, etc.) are not generally considered permanently protected. A public disposition process however, theoretically insures some level of protection. They cannot be sold without due process. The currently-existing 'open spaces owned by the town' includes the Mass Central Rail Trail, the abandoned section of River Road parallel to the Mass Central Rail Trail, the recently-acquired Malden Hill South, the Mixer Property on Prescott, and the open land along Sterling Street (the site where the Town's Police Station is under construction). Since initially submitting this OSRP, Town Meeting in May 2017 approved siting the Senior Center at the recently acquired Mixer Property reference above. Please note town-owned conservation and recreation properties are protected under Article 97.

There is very little municipally-owned open space (about 1.5%) and there is significant competition to use the Town-owned land for municipal service buildings, a senior center, and athletic fields. No forum/committee is established to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of development proposals for Town-owned land. It has been a first come-first served process. Protection of the existing municipally-owned open spaces is a high priority of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.



Recently, the 2016 Town Meeting unanimously approved the purchase of 12.51 acres adjacent to the last remaining farm in West Boylston. Located south of the intersection of Goodale and Lee Streets, the wooded hilltop on the West Boylston and Holden line provides opportunities for passive recreation, including camping, hiking, snowshoeing and dog walking, according to the GWLT. The property is adjacent to 100-plus acres protected as working farmland, has pasture views to the south, and forms a corridor with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation lands to the north.<sup>46</sup>

Most of the property that is owned by the town is specifically managed by the Parks Commission. The schools own the land that is under the buildings, an area for future expansion of the high school, and some of the parking necessary for those buildings. There are parcels of Publicly owned land under the West Boylston Municipal Lighting Plant and the West Boylston Housing Authority, but these do not contain “open spaces or recreational” opportunities. One large tract of open space owned by the town is the town’s former landfill, which has been closed and properly capped. Located on the southern part of Route 140, a solar array has been constructed.

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#### HOUSE OF CORRECTIONS AND MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT

In addition to DCR, the House of Correction owns about 210 acres or a little over two (2) percent of the land in town. The combination of these two State Agencies’ ownership results in about forty-two percent (42%) of the town. The House of Correction land along Shrewsbury Street is a large tract. The town and the West Boylston Municipal Lighting Plant (WBMLP) obtained approximately 70 acres of this land for municipal use. The WBMLP has transferred control of approximately 36 acres of this land to the Selectmen. The WBMLP had considered relocating to this site, but decided to remain at Crescent and Prospect Streets. The area was then developed as a solar array to generate power for the town. In 2016, the OSIC began investigating options to use a portion of this property as a fenced-in dog park facility. In 2008 the Sheriff announced he was in negotiations to allow the Town to use Jail property for recreational purposes, but no further public information is available to track the status.

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#### FARMLAND

West Boylston contains Chapter 61A farmland, some of which is in the state Department of Agriculture’s farmland program for state/DCR-owned lands. Working in conjunction with the DCR, farmers have been allowed to bid on farming some of these lands that are now owned by the DCR. For example, in 1997 the DCR purchased a 21-acre hay field adjacent to Wachusett Country Club on Prospect Street. This field on Prospect Street had been maintained by Malden Brook Farm as a hay field for years. Like the Smith Farm, it is an example of cooperation between an operating farm, the DCR, and the Massachusetts

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.telegram.com/news/20161019/west-boylston-town-meeting-votes-to-protect-12-acres-next-to-last-working-farm>



Department of Agriculture. In 1999 the DCR purchased the Giobellina Farm on Fairbanks Street and about 12 acres of this farm are still in the DCR-Massachusetts Department of Agriculture program.

A complete list of all open space parcels is provided in the [Appendix C](#). The table includes town-owned conservation and recreation properties as well as Conservation Restrictions with the following column headers:

- Location
- Ownership
- Size
- Management Agency
- Current Use
- Condition
- Recreation potential, type of grant (if any) used to purchase or renovate the property
- Public access, zoning, and degree of protection.



**Exhibit 19: Open Spaces by Ownership Type**

Owner	Level of Protection	Acres	Notes
<b>State</b>			
DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	2,967.25	Does not include land under water (672.05 acres).
Department of Fish and Game		4.39	Poutwater Pond WMA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts		0.02	Unknown
Worcester County		241.40	Worcester County Jail & House of Correction
<b>Total State</b>		<b>3,213.07</b>	
<b>Municipal</b>			
Town of West Boylston	Perpetuity	67.16	Includes Kent CR, Town Common x3, Town Wells x4, Wachusett Reservoir x2, Water District Land x2
Town of West Boylston	Limited	85.67	Includes the following sites; Goodale Park, Major Edwards School, Mixer Bldg Fields, Mt Vernon Cemetery, T-Ball Field, Town Gravel Bank, West Boylston High School, Woodland Park
Town of West Boylston	None	115.55	
<b>Total Municipal</b>		<b>268.38</b>	
Greater Worcester Land Trust	Perpetuity	1.29	
<b>Private</b>			
Under Conservation Restriction	Perpetuity	19.65	Angell Brook CR, Hillside Village CR
Under Agricultural Preservation Restriction	Perpetuity	79.65	Malden Brook Farms APR
Watershed Preservation Restrictions	Perpetuity	121.54	Malden Brook Farms/Minnich WPR, Whiting WPR, Goodale WPR
Cemetery	Limited	15.27	Oakdale and St. Luke Cemetery
Wachusett Country Club	None	181.154864	
Woodhaven Campground	None	52.65	
Worcester Country Club	None	40.07	
Chapter 61 (Forestry)	Limited	216.84	Acre amounts provided by the Town of West Boylston and NOT based on GIS calculations
Chapter 61A (Agricultural/Horticultural)	Limited	315.97	
Chapter 61B (Recreational Property)	Limited	235.41	
<b>Total Chapter Lands</b>		<b>768.22</b>	
<b>Total Private</b>		<b>1,279.49</b>	
<b>Total Acres Protected in Perpetuity</b>		<b>3,502.36</b>	
<b>Total Acres with Limited Protection</b>		<b>869.15</b>	
<b>Total Acres with No Permanent Protection</b>		<b>389.42</b>	
<b>Total Acres of all Open Space Types</b>		<b>4,760.94</b>	
Notes: Ownership Types based on MassGIS Protected and Recreational Open Space data layer. (09/2016)			



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## GREATER WORCESTER LAND TRUST

In March 2000, the West Boylston Land Trust was formed to save open space from development and to protect natural resources. It was granted 501c 3 status by the Internal Revenue Service, so that gifts of land or conservation restrictions to the Trust are tax deductible.

The Trust received its first donation of land in West Boylston, a 1.07-acre parcel of woods and an intermittent stream located southwest of 117 Goodale Street, in 2001. The parcel was named Pine Glen and has been used for educational purposes. In 2009 the Greater Worcester Land Trust and the West Boylston Land Trust merged their conservation holdings and membership, and the West Boylston Land Trust dissolved. In 2012, the Greater Worcester Land Trust installed signage at Pine Glen and continues to provide stewardship of that property.

A 5.4-acre lot adjacent to the Town Well on Lee Street was acquired by the town through the coordination provided by the GWLT in 2010. The GWLT holds a conservation restriction on the property to allow public access, but limits activities that could negatively impact the town well.

In the spring of 2016 the Town accepted about 13 acres in the rear portion of 263 Maple Street, which was owned by GWLT for some months to bridge the gap between when a willing donator could transfer and the Town accepted the property.

GWLT again assisted the Town with a gap acquisition and coordination of a 12.5-acre acquisition of land at 353 Goodale Street that abuts the Holden Town line, and is assisting in protecting an adjacent 13 acres of land also owned by Dennis Minnich. October 2016 Town Meeting voted to acquire the property and reimburse GWLT for their efforts.

## 5D. PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND USAGE

The West Boylston Parks Commission (“the Commission”) is made up of five (5) members whose mission is to manage all of the parks facilities in the town of West Boylston. The Commission was created on March 27, 1893, under Article 15, when the town voted to accept MGL Chapter 45, Section 2 which allows a town to elect a Board of Parks Commissioners. The board members became appointed versus elected in 1995 and in 1988 the members increased to five (5) members from three (3). Each member serves for a term of three (3) years. The mission of the Commission is to lay out and improve public parks and make rules for their use and government. Subject to appropriation, the Commission has the power to conduct park programs and recreation program activities at places other than such public parks. The West Boylston Department of Public Works (DPW) performs the majority of maintenance and construction activities for the parks facilities. In 2006, the Board of Selectmen created the Parks and Recreation Facility Review Committee to assist the Commission with the assessment and planning of parks facilities. In 2010, the Commission hired a part-time Recreation Director to coordinate recreation programs for town residents.



One unique challenge for the Commission is that, unlike most other towns whose school departments control and maintain outdoor facilities for their students and sports teams, the parks facilities provide the only space for West Boylston schools to conduct their outdoor practices, games, recess activities and gym classes. This requires that the Commission work closely with the School Department to ensure that the parks facilities meet the needs of the West Boylston school students and teams in addition to the traditional resident and organized recreational users. Many of the improvements to the parks facilities have been through cooperative efforts with the Boy Scouts and the Eagle Scout Projects. Among these have been the following:

- Recent improvements to the benches in the East Common around the gazebo;
- Installation of picnic tables in the Summer House;
- Handicapped fishing platform and access path along the Quinapoxet River;
- Access stairway and erosion protection along Mass Central Rail Trail to the Quinapoxet River;
- Nature trail beside and behind Major Edward Elementary School;
- Painting the snack shack and refurbishing the bleachers at the all-purpose field;
- Clean up and placement of an informational kiosk at the Old Stone Church.

A major source of funds to maintain, improve and layout the parks facilities is the West Boylston Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The CPC has been an important funding source for several projects including the Goodale Basketball/Tennis Court project, Goodale/Woodland Park fence improvements, Goodale practice field construction, and a Goodale Park Master Plan. (see Exhibit 13)



**Pride Park Playground.** Photo Credit CMRPC.

The following information regarding the Town of West Boylston's parks and recreational facilities has been compiled from information supplied by the Commission. This information is current as of December 2016, and includes reviews of existing parks facility use request permit forms and on-site inspections of each facility as weather and conditions permitted.



In 2016 the Parks and Recreation Facility Review Committee developed a long-term master plan concept for Goodale Park. The Parks Commission feels that the Goodale Park Master Plan implementation, including phasing, costs, and prioritization of facilities be based on current priorities and realistic financing. It is a guide to be used for decision-making, and should be taken as one of many planning tools that are available to the town to manage parks and recreation facilities. Open space and natural contouring should continue to be a priority throughout any developments at Goodale Park.

Many of the parks and recreation facilities are aging and are in need of major repair and/or complete renovation. The Commission continues to review all the current facilities in West Boylston to determine what improvements and additional facilities will be necessary in the future. The Commission believes that demands for available field space should justify requests for additional fields. Although, at times, parks may appear underutilized, improved management has occurred and there still are high demands that require additional field space.

The following sections outline the current parks and recreation facilities and their respective uses, which are also shown in the exhibit on the following page.



Exhibit 20: Park and Recreation Facilities

Site Name	Location	Playground	Track	Baseball/ Softball	Tennis	Basketball	Soccer	Football	XC Skiing	Fishing	Boating	Walking Trails	Other
Goodale Park	42 Crescent Street		X	X X	X	X	X	X					Performance stage
Woodland Park	Prospect Street				X	X	X						
Mixer Park	Prescott Street			X			X		X			X	
Pride Park	Crescent Street	X											
Fire Roads at Wachusett Reservoir	multiple								X	X		X	
Old Stone Church	99 Beaman Street								X	X		X	Historic Site
Mass Central Rail Trail	Parking provided on Thomas St.								X	X		X	
Three Lily Ponds	Off Sterling Street									X			
Beaman Memorial Library	8 Newton Street												
Mount Vernon Cemetery	Church Street								X			X	Historic
	187 Prospect Street												Golf, wedding location, scenic, and dining
St. Luke's Cemetery	Lancaster St.												
												X	Biking
Bigelow Tavern	65 Worcester Street												Historical Society, Museum and Library
High Plains Cemetery	39 High Street												Historic
Town Commons	77 Worcester St												
Roads Around Thomas Basin										X		X	Biking
Quinapoxet River										X		X	Kayaking
Stillwater River										X			



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## PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

### *Pool*

The former pool was opened in the summer of 1953 and was closed due to safety concerns in 2005. It consisted of a 25 meter, 6-lane main pool, and a ten-meter intermediate pool. The pool and ancillary structures were demolished in 2013 and the area was re-graded for additional field space (see “Fields” below). The Commission is working with other boards and groups within town to explore the possibility of building a new pool in West Boylston at some future date.

### *Playing Fields*

- **Goodale Park Game Field: Soccer, Football, Track, School Recess:** The Game (a.k.a. all-purpose) Field is a 120-yard field, across from Major Edwards School and the main use is for football and soccer games but also provides an area for school recess and other community events. The field is encompassed by a 5-lane asphalt track and also houses a discus pad and long jump pit. There is lighting and an underground, timed watering system. The current track is not adequate to host high school level meets as it does not meet the minimum competition standards of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA). The Commission is looking into options for bringing the track and grandstand area into compliance with local building codes, ADA regulations, and MIAA standards for competition.
- **Goodale Park Townsend Field: Youth baseball, softball and soccer:** Townsend field (a.k.a. Goodale A), which is located in Goodale Park at the northeast corner of the intersection of Goodale and Crescent Streets; and Goodale B field, which is located between Goodale A and the game field, are adjacent non-regulation sized Little League baseball diamonds and fields used by the schools and recreational soccer, baseball and softball groups. It has an underground timed watering system without lights. The Commission will evaluate options for future renovation of this space.
- **Goodale Park Girls Softball Field:** The Girls Softball field, which is located across Crescent Street from Goodale A field and adjacent to Pride Park, is a softball diamond and field with a perimeter fence. It is used by middle/high school, youth and women's softball, and youth soccer. It has an underground timed watering system without lights.
- **Goodale Park High School Baseball Field:** The High School Baseball field is a non-regulation sized baseball field south of the High School and is used for age 13+ baseball games for the school and recreational groups. It has an underground timed watering system without lights. In 2015-16, a new fence was installed in the center and right field area and along the first base line which fully encloses the field. The high school football team uses the space beyond the outfield fence for practices. The Commission will evaluate options for future renovation of this space.

The Commission has recently completed construction of an additional practice field in the area of the former pool complex above the High School baseball field. It was approved at May 2016 town meeting, and is intended to be used primarily for football practices but will also provide additional space for other



games, practices and recreation programs throughout the year. The Parks Commission is also exploring development of another full-sized practice/game field on town-owned land.

- **Woodland Field: soccer, recreation, baseball:** Woodland field is located south of Woodland Street at Shrine Avenue. The field is a full-sized soccer field and is used by school and recreational soccer groups and youth baseball. It has an underground timed watering system without lights. The field is inadequately drained and will require some renovation to improve its playability following inclement weather. The Commission will evaluate options for future renovation of this space.
- **Mixer Park Field: Youth softball, baseball and soccer:** Mixer field is a youth softball-sized diamond with large outfield area located off Prescott Street and is used by youth baseball, softball and youth soccer. It has no lights and no underground timed watering system. The field is undersized for soccer and inadequately drained and will require some renovation to improve its playability following inclement weather. The Commission will evaluate options for future renovation of this space.

### ***Basketball Courts***

- **Goodale Park Courts:** The courts were reconstructed in 2011. There are two (2) full size courts. Lights are available for the courts. The Commission will evaluate options for future renovation of this space.
- **Woodland Park Courts:** There is one undersized court in poor condition and not adequate for competition. The Commission will evaluate options for future renovation of this space.



**Basketball Courts at Goodale Park. Photo Credit CMRPC.**



## Tennis Courts

- **Goodale Park:** The courts were reconstructed in 2011. There are three (3) full courts with lights.
- **Woodland Park:** There are two full courts without lights in poor condition and have limitations competition.

## Trails

- **Mass Central Rail Trail:** The Mass Central Rail Trail is a section of the Wachusett Greenways trail system that runs from Holden to Sterling, through West Boylston. Currently, a 1.5-mile section of the trail has been completed from the Holden Town Line, to the intersection of Beaman and Thomas Streets. There are plans to extend the Mass Central Rail Trail another mile to Sterling along Pleasant Street. The OSIC hopes to partner with Wachusett Greenways and the DCR to extend the Rail Trail east from Thomas Street to Pleasant Street and to Bean Road, Sterling.
- **Walking trails:** Every day townspeople and visitors utilize the sidewalks and streets surrounding the schools and the Thomas Basin, and the Central Street, Newton Street areas. These areas provide exercise loops of varying lengths and difficulty.

## Playgrounds

Pride Park is a playground located between the Major Edwards Elementary school and the Girls Softball field. It is intended for use by children under the age of 12 and their families and it also provides recess space during the school day for the students at Major Edwards Elementary School.

## Commons

- **Center Common** is at the Town Center and contains the current flagpole and veteran's memorial monuments.
- **West Common** is located west of Route 12/140 at the Town Center and has an underground watering system.
- **East Common** is located at the Town Center off Worcester St., east of Routes 12/140. It has a bandstand/gazebo and memorial benches.

## Seasonal Facilities

- **Snack Shacks:** There are three snack shacks located in the Goodale Park area which are used during the summer months. One snack shack is located at Townsend Field (Goodale A) and is operated by the Little League. The second one is located at the girls' softball field. The third snack shack is located at the game field and track area and is operated during High School football soccer games, and youth soccer and youth football events.
- **Summer House:** Located on the western edge of the Goodale basketball and tennis courts, the Summer House is a covered picnic area with several picnic tables overlooking Goodale Park and is used during the warmer months. The house was constructed over 50 years ago and the roof was re-shingled in 2013.
- **Outdoor Concert Stage:** Located at Goodale Park at the southwest corner of the game field, the concert stage is elevated above the field level and it has a concrete floor with metal staging. The venue is used during the summer months for concerts and other events.



- **Outdoor Hockey Rinks:** Located on the East and West common areas the two temporary outdoor rinks are constructed by the DPW and filled with water to provide recreational skating areas during the winter months.

### **Facility Use**

Coordinating the usage of the fields and other parks facilities is challenging because there are often too many requests for too few facilities. An estimated 1,250 games and practices are conducted on parks facilities by approximately 1,000 permitted users annually not including recreation programs. The parks facility use process is managed by the Commission using a field use request form requiring approval from the Commission and sign-offs from the Chief of Police and DPW Director. A schedule of regular and one-time users of the parks and recreational facilities is kept by the Commission and is posted seasonally on the town website. This is done to help coordinate field usage and to make facility use and availability public for the benefit of the residents of West Boylston, in-town recreational groups, and outside permitted users. The following is a summary of the normal annual parks facility usage by the school and recreational groups in town.

### **West Boylston Public Schools**

The West Boylston Middle/High School and Major Edwards Elementary School are major users of the facilities at Goodale Park, Woodland Park and Pride Park. They are given priority usage by the Commission since the School Department has no outdoor sports and recreational facilities of their own. Their use is mainly during the school day for gym classes and recess and after school for sports practices and games. The use by the schools usually ends around 5:00-6:00pm which allows other in-town recreational users to conduct regular practices and games. During the 180-day school year the parks facilities adjacent to both schools are used during school hours for recess time and gym classes for the student population.

During the summer, Junior Varsity and Varsity football as well as girl's Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Soccer use the following fields: Goodale A/B, Goodale Game field, Woodland field. There are approximately 125 players, 300 games and practices per season. During the spring, junior varsity and varsity Softball, junior varsity and varsity baseball, and boys' and girls' varsity Tennis utilize the following fields: Goodale A/B field, Girls' Softball field, HS Baseball field, and Goodale Tennis courts. There are approximately 125 players, and 300 games and practices per season.

### **Youth Soccer**

Youth Soccer season runs from August through October for boys and girls aged 5-18, and is overseen by the West Boylston Youth Soccer Association (WBYSA). Youth Soccer uses the parks facilities mainly in the fall. Youth Soccer also uses the park facilities less frequently in the spring and summer for occasional soccer clinics, practices and events.

During the summer and fall Goodale Fields A/B, and the Goodale Game field are used by the girls' softball. Mixer field, and Woodland field are used for soccer. There are 200 players, 200 games and



practices per season. During the spring, Woodland field is used by about 40 players with 25 practices per season.

### Youth Baseball

Youth Baseball season lasts from April through July for boys aged 4-12 and is overseen by the West Boylston Little League (WBLL). Youth Baseball uses the parks facilities mainly in the spring and early summer. Youth Baseball also uses the park facilities less frequently in the late summer and fall for occasional baseball clinics, practices and events. The use of these fields is as follows:

- SPRING: Goodale A/B field, Mixter field, Woodland field; 150 players, 250 practices and games per season
- SUMMER/FALL: Goodale A/B field; 40 players, 25 practices per season

### Women's Adult and Girls Youth Softball

Youth and Adult Softball seasons run from April through August for girls aged 5-12 and adult women. Youth softball is overseen by West Boylston Youth Softball (WBYSB) and adult softball by West Boylston Woman's Softball (WBWS). Youth Softball uses the parks facilities in the spring and early summer. Women's Softball uses the park facilities Wednesday evenings from June through August for games only. Use is as follows:

- SPRING/SUMMER: Goodale A/B field, Girls' Softball field, Mixter field; 150 players, 150 games and practices per season

### AAU baseball, Sr. Babe Ruth

AAU Baseball and Senior Babe Ruth Baseball seasons run from April through July for boys aged 12-18. AAU Baseball is run by the Central Mass Spartans club and Senior Babe Ruth Baseball by West Boylston Senior Babe Ruth Baseball (WBSBR). Use of the parks facilities by these groups is mainly for baseball games on the High School baseball field. Use is as follows:

- SPRING/SUMMER: HS Baseball field; 60 players, 25 games per season

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## PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

The Parks Commission offers recreation programs including summer basketball, tennis, golf, youth soccer, an Easter Egg Hunt, days of play, half-day programs, and more. A fee is charged to support the programs. Prior to the loss of the town pool, the Commission ran a popular Summer Recreation Program over the course of several weeks during the summer. Activities offered included tennis, arts and crafts, swimming and field sports. Facilities used were the tennis courts, basketball courts, fields adjacent to the High School and indoor high school facilities. The Commission is considering options for rebuilding the town pool so that a full Summer Recreation Program may be offered again in the future.

The Parks Commission established a part-time paid position for a Recreation Program Director in 2013. The programs were well-received by Townspeople and the program grew steadily. Recently the Director resigned and the Parks Commission has been asked to fill the position so that these and other programs might continue. This position could provide many different benefits to the community and Commission.



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## PASSIVE RECREATION/OTHER USES

The greatest resources for exercise in town are the sidewalks and wide shoulders of the roadways where there are walkers/joggers/cyclists enjoying access year-round. Walkers and joggers utilize the Goodale Park game complex which includes a 440-yard track. At certain times of the year the track area is lit so that walkers/joggers of all ages are able to use the track at night. The Mass Central Rail Trail is used by many runners, walkers, cyclists and cross-country skiers and is open year-round. The West Boylston section of the trail allows dog-walking and there are occasional events hosted by the Wachusett Greenways organization as well as other user groups. There are extensive hiking/cross country skiing trails throughout the DCR-owned properties in town. These are used by many residents as well as bringing visitors into town.

Other events take place on the Parks Facilities throughout town in all the Parks Facilities throughout all seasons of the year. Groups such as the West Boylston Arts Foundation (WBAF), PTA, Boy/Girl Scouts, It's a Celebration Committee, West Best, West Boylston Council on Aging (COA), and the Beaman Oak Club among others have hosted regular events in the parks. Events conducted on the facilities include concerts, festivals, weddings, ceremonies, graduations, parades, skating, and many non-profit charitable events. Many residents and visitors also make use of the parks in town on a daily basis. The Parks Facilities are a valuable resource for the residents and visitors of the town and they remain some of the key features that enhance the quality of life for those who live, work and play in the town of West Boylston.

## 5E. PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITY HANDICAPPED ACCESS EVALUATION

An ADA evaluation was conducted as part of this Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Parks Commission. The work was completed by the Building Inspector. Forms are included in [Appendix G](#). The Handicapped Access Survey has been completed by in coordination with the Town Administrator's Office and the Building Inspector, as noted above; with the assistance of the Parks Department for all facilities under their control. In addition, residents with disabilities assisted with the inventory by reviewing all forms as produced by the Building Inspector, and visited the facilities to confirm conditions. The Conservation Commission has no recreational facilities and at this time runs no programs that are subject to this regulation. Both the Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission meet at the Town Offices, located at 127 Hartwell Street, which is handicap accessible.



## 6. COMMUNITY VISION

### 6A. COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

The West Boylston OSIC believes that a balanced approach to open space and recreation is needed to provide safe opportunities for all types of recreation, to provide a safe and adequate water supply, to enhance the Town character, and to support opportunities for agriculture and wildlife to flourish in a fiscally-responsible manner. Preservation of open space and recreation facilities benefit the citizens by providing opportunities for passive and active recreation which keeps citizens vibrant, active and engaged in the community. Open space also combats air pollution, attenuates noise, prevents erosion, and provides protection from storm damage and flooding. Furthermore, one of the most effective ways to help protect human health and safety is through protection of open space.

Strategically-located open space protects surface and ground water resources by allowing naturally-occurring systems to provide water quality treatment and enhanced recharge to the water supply, which is significantly less expensive than constructing and operating a local water treatment plant. Open space also provides a significant buffer of protection in the event of an accidental or intentional release of a contaminant that could get into the town water supplies.

The Town's character is closely associated with the amount, location, and condition of the open space within its boundaries. It provides the backdrop of our historic villages and residential clusters that are threatened by suburban style sprawl. Open spaces and athletic competitions within our community are the things that visitors remember and want to return to and share with others, which provides opportunities to build small businesses to cater to these visitors.

The benefit of agricultural activity in town is associated with the rural characteristics that are desirable locations to live, but are valued for their scenic beauty and for their economic potential. The rising demand for locally-grown food provides significant opportunities to provide for West Boylston as well as the Worcester markets. Fields, forests and their wildlife habitats are becoming fragmented across the state. Diversity and variety of wildlife habitat are the strong points of the current environment of West Boylston. Wildlife habitat includes upland forested areas, many different wetland types, early successional brushy fields, and active agricultural fields. All these provide high quality habitats for wildlife, which in turn benefit West Boylston through our enjoyment of them, and in providing opportunities for financial gain from others who similarly would like to enjoy them.

### 6B. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) requested professional assistance to prepare the OSRP Update. Authorized and executed by the Board of Selectmen, a contract with CMRPC was established and work began. In the spring/summer of 2016, the West Boylston OSIC developed and administered a survey to assess the needs and concerns of citizens regarding these issues. The survey was adapted from successful surveys used by other communities in their open space and recreation planning processes, and tailored specifically to West Boylston. The survey was distributed in hard copy



to multiple locations and was available electronically on the Town's website. The survey summary is presented in [Appendix D](#).

The Committee worked closely with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) on the development, distribution and collection of residential surveys, facilitated a community forum in the summer of 2016, reviewed and commented on chapter drafts, and synthesized the wealth of information in the context of their collective experience and developed a shared set of goals, objectives, and action steps. The Committee publicized and organized a Public Forum at the West Boylston Town Hall in the summer of 2016 to discuss the draft survey results and to obtain additional feedback from audience members. A second Public Forum was held at the Town Hall to review the final draft of the OSRP on February 28, 2017, and the comments/suggestions made during this stage were considered and incorporated where appropriate.

## 6C. STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

West Boylston has a wealth of open space surrounding the Wachusett Reservoir, but it is owned and managed by the DCR. Many recreational uses are restricted by the DCR. Most of the town's unrestricted recreational areas are in constant demand, currently overused, and with the projected population growth, the burden on these areas will increase. The Town requires a plan that addresses the needs for increased recreational space, as well as recreational areas and activities that are accessible to the elderly and disabled. Cost-efficient recreational opportunities should be available to town residents of all ages and capabilities. This Plan sets goals to improve opportunities for recreation for all ages and abilities; and to preserve the aesthetics of the Town's environment and West Boylston's small town character, while also preserving the purity of the Town's water supply.

Although the DCR has acquired forty percent (40%) of the land in West Boylston and some people resent the loss of property taxes this has meant for the town, most of West Boylston's residents seem to appreciate having this open space. They would also like increased access rights to the DCR's vast land holdings and increased annual Payment In-lieu-of Taxes (PILOT) payments. The goals for this update are to protect the drinking water supplies, to improve coordination among town officials and the community, to preserve existing open spaces and recreational facilities, to provide new and improved recreational spaces, to protect additional open spaces, to promote expanded agriculture, and to protect wildlife habitat.



## 7. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

The Town of West Boylston has abundant natural open spaces where walking and hiking is allowed, but these are mostly accessed by automobile. Improved sidewalks and pathways were desired. The roadway network is utilized by multiple bicycle rider groups and provides some reasonably good opportunities for road bicycling. The comments received in the survey indicated that the greatest demand from town residents is for swimming facilities, as well as increased facilities and activities for the elderly and the very young. Needs identified for teens and residents under the age of 25 are limited due to the nature of survey responses received.

### 7A. REGIONAL RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

The regional needs assessment compiled by the Division of Conservation Services (DCS) in 2006 was reviewed for regional needs. Analysis at the regional level is required to consider when applying for grants under the Land and Water Conservation Fund and state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) programs. When asked, what new facilities would most benefit them, residents of the Central Region showed the highest interest in facilities for walking (16.4%), swimming (17.0%), hiking (14.4%, the strongest interest in the state), road biking (12.1%), and playground activity (10.2%).<sup>47</sup> These data from the Central Region indicate similarities to those presented by local residents in the areas of swimming, safe walking and play grounds. However, local residents did not necessarily indicate the need for more hiking areas. The miles of trails at the Wachusett Reservoir and along the Mass Central Rail Trail provide exceptional walking and hiking opportunities, though walking access to these would be greatly appreciated.

The preferences noted in the Massachusetts Outdoors 2006 report for Central Region residents regarding new funding initiatives showed strongest support for maintaining existing facilities (93.9%), followed by the acquisition of new recreation areas (81.1%), and support of additional park staff (78.8%) ranked high as well. The maintenance and acquisition preferences agree with feedback from local residents as well.

We also reviewed the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), completed in 2012 by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Submitted to the National Park Service Land & Water Conservation Fund. The four (4) main goals are:

1. Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation.
2. Increase the availability of water-based recreation.
3. Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits.

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<sup>47</sup> Massachusetts Department of Conservation Services, Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).



4. Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation.

Similarly, this Plan seeks to invest in recreation and conservation areas that are closer to home and to create recreation areas that are suitable for a more racially, economically, and age diverse population, while also increasing the ability of all types of trails for recreation. Residents of West Boylston would also like water-based recreation, since, this is strictly prohibited at the Wachusett Reservoir.

## 7B. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

The Town of West Boylston has abundant natural open spaces where walking and hiking is allowed, but they typically need to drive to access these areas. The roadway network provides reasonably good opportunities in some locations, while dangerous conditions exist along some main access routes for road bicycling. The comments received at the Public Forums and in the survey indicated that the greatest demand is for swimming facilities, a community/recreation center, bicycle trails/access, as well as increased facilities and activities for the elderly and the very young.

The Public Forum on March 21, 2017 provided comments and feedback clearly stating that sidewalks and walking paths were in greatest demand. Many of the noted locations will become part of the 2017 Complete Street Prioritization Plan and be implemented through that process, which is partially funded by MassDOT. The noted priorities for sidewalk improvements are to provide safe pedestrian access to town schools and recreation areas, retail sites, and connections to low income and elderly residential communities.

The comments and discussions of the Goodale Park Master Plan (GPMP) raised some concerns that need to be evaluated by the Commission before changes in this area proceed, including:

1. Do the deeds for the properties making up Goodale Park limit future use of some areas to only natural park uses for some period of time?
2. Can the facilities be rearranged to fit into the slope on the land to save the extensive earth moving costs?
3. Can alternative renovations of the existing facilities be accomplished to meet the minimum needs of the community.
4. Can the facilities be scaled back to meet the minimum needs in West Boylston and save on costs?
5. Can one or more of the facilities proposed for Goodale Park be located on other land in town to provide space for existing facility renovation? (i.e. locate the swimming facility at Mixer land sooner than 10 years, or investigate locating Little League baseball fields on private land offered by a landowner on Shrewsbury Street in town at a Planning Board meeting in the fall of 2016.)
6. Incorporate some athletic field development/upgrades to other town projects, specifically the Senior Center, where a community center could be incorporated.



West Boylston residents enjoy open space and recreation resources. As previously mentioned, CMRPC and the OSIC implemented a survey to better understand the needs of residents related to open space and recreation. The full survey summary is included in [Appendix D](#). Questions 8 through 12 of the 2016 survey gauged resident sentiment with regard to the recreational opportunities. Survey respondents noted their top five (5) recreational needs in West Boylston are: swimming pool, a community recreation center/building, bike trails/paths, local neighborhood parks, and a large park with many facilities. These are based on the total number of votes that each element received, on a scale of 1 to 5, where One (1) means most needed and Five (5) means fifth most needed. The request for a swimming pool was by far the most needed facility with a total of 57 “votes” and 61% of those “votes” were for the swimming pool as the “most needed” facility.



**Track at Goodale Park. Photo Credit CMRPC.**

The majorities of respondents (58%) were very satisfied or satisfied with the recreation spaces and facilities in West Boylston for individuals under age 18 to play and recreate in. Less respondents (42%) were very satisfied or satisfied with the recreation spaces and facilities in West Boylston for residents over the age of 18 to play and recreate in. Of the respondents, 53% were very satisfied or satisfied with the conditions of these facilities. There was a majority of respondents (59%) who felt neutral about the availability of spaces for adult sport programs.

While West Boylston has an abundance of recreational resources, there were a few hidden gems that many residents had not heard about, such as the many bicycle routes on the roads around the Wachusett Reservoir, and hiking/cross country skiing trails at the Reservoir.

A total of 70% of individuals agree that access to West Boylston’s open space by walking or biking is important (20%), very important (28.6%), or incredibly important (21.4%). Many steps can be taken to



create more walkable or bike friendly routes around town. Formalizing and mapping trails, bike routes, paths, and safe sidewalks is one planned step in encouraging more walkability within West Boylston. Survey results also highlighted the desire for recreation facilities for seniors and to provide safe walking opportunities for seniors and youngsters. Implementation of a comprehensive Complete Streets policy that prioritizes the work needed to connect and repair the existing sidewalks, as well as construct new sidewalks is considered important.

As of December 2016, there were 567 registered dogs in West Boylston. The town could greatly benefit from a dog park that would essentially provide a place for the members of the West Boylston community to meet while their dogs play, and promote community involvement as a potential Boy Scout or Girl Scout merit badge project. In the 2016 OSRP survey, residents expressed interest in a dog park in town. This would take pressure off of the West Boylston section of the Mass Central Rail Trail, which is currently where many residents walk their dogs. DCR prohibits dogs from their properties and pet owners are using the Rail Trail and recently fenced-in areas of the baseball fields, softball field, and tennis courts to allow their dogs to run. Unfortunately, these owners are not picking up the feces, which children are contacting and other users are forced to address. The OSIC identified three potential locations for a dog park: a 3.5-acre DCR property on the south side of Goodale Street almost across from Phelps Place, a property located at 19 Crescent Street, or the north side of Tivnan Drive. The OSIC formed a dog park subcommittee, and have since been approved by the West Boylston Board of Selectmen to contact the Stanton Foundation for dog park grant information and funding.

Next steps on this project will be to review the proposed guidelines, prepare the initial proposal, and apply for a design grant from the Stanton Foundation to present to the Board of Selectmen for consideration to move forward with the project.

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#### ADDITIONAL IDEAS RAISED DURING PLAN PREPARATION

The following ideas were identified through conversations with local residents, committees and officials:

- A Visitors Center in town, possibly in cooperation with DCR at their 180 Beaman Street office, or part of the Historic Society building on Worcester Street.
- Improvements to the trailhead parking at the Mass Central Rail Trail and the addition of interpretive trails along the Rail Trail to old historic sites and extension of the trail to Sterling.
- Participation in the Complete Streets Program to ensure improved bicycle/pedestrian access along Thomas Street, Temple Street, Crescent Street, and Route 12 at the railroad underpass.
- Identification of the process to more expeditiously utilize Community Preservation Act funds to complete 'due diligence' in preparation for Town Meeting action to purchase development restrictions or fee title of properties.

Exhibit 21 is a chart of recreation facilities available to West Boylston residents and the typical populations needed to establish reasonable demand for the services.



**Exhibit 21: Recreation Needs and Related Facilities**

Activity/ Facility	Variations	No. Of Units Per Population	Location	Facility
<b>Badminton</b>		1 per 5000	N/A	
<b>Basketball</b>	Youth	1 per 5,000		
	High School		High School	1 indoor gym
	Youth League		Goodale park, Elementary school, Hillside Gym (Boylston)	2 outdoor courts, 2 indoor gyms
<b>Handball Racquetball</b>		1 per 20,000	N/A	
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Indoor	1 per 100,000 depends on climate	Assabet HS Co-op, Marlborough, Worcester, Auburn	New England Sports Ctr (5 rinks), Navin Arena (1 rink), Buffone Arena (1 rink), Horgan Arena (1 rink)
	Outdoor		Common (west)	1 small rink
<b>Tennis</b>		1 court per 2,000	Goodale Park, Woodland Park	3 competition courts, 2 practice courts
<b>Volleyball</b>		1 per 50,00	N/A	
<b>Baseball</b>	Official	2 per 5000	Goodale park	1 diamond
	Little League	Lighted 1 per 30,000	Goodale park, Mixer field	2 diamonds 1 diamond
<b>Field Hockey</b>		1 per 20,000	Tahanto HS Co-op	
<b>Football</b>		1 per 10,000	Goodale park	1 HS game field, 1 practice field
<b>Soccer</b>		1 per 5,000	Goodale park, Woodland park, Mixer	1 HS game field, 1 large practice/game field, 1 small practice/game field
<b>Golf-driving Range</b>		1 per 10,000	Wachusett CC, Cyprian Keyes GC	2 driving ranges
<b>¼ Mile Running Track</b>		1 per 20,000	Goodale park	
<b>Softball</b>		1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	Goodale park	1 softball, 2 shared baseball diamonds
<b>Multiple Recreation Courts</b>	basketball, volleyball, tennis	1 per 10,000	Goodale park, Woodland park	3 basketball, 5 tennis courts
<b>Trails</b>		1 system per region	Oakdale	Mass Central Rail trail
<b>Archery Range</b>		1 per 50,000	N/A	
<b>Combination Skeet &amp; Trap Field</b>		2 per 5,000	N/A	
<b>Golf</b>	9-hole par 3	No data	Cyprian Keyes GC	9-hole par 3 course
	18-hole standard		Wachusett CC	18-hole par 72 course
			Cyprian Keyes GC	18-hole par 72 course
	9-standard		Worcester CC	18-hole par 72 course
<b>Swimming Pools</b>		1 per 20,000	Clinton	DCR-managed summer pool
			Holden	Town summer pool
			Worcester YMCA	Private year-round pool
<b>Beach Areas</b>		15 min. travel time	Sterling	Town summer beach
		30 min. travel time	Worcester - Quinsigamond	DCR-managed summer beach



## 8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In developing the goals and objectives of this Plan, the Committee has reviewed the following:

- Previous Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRPs) prepared for the Town of West Boylston;
- The OSRP research data and maps included in this plan;
- The 2016 Survey Results and the Public Forum comments;
- The 2005 West Boylston Master Plan;
- Other related plans previously produced; and
- OSRPs from other communities

As described in preceding sections, the Town of West Boylston's needs identified in this Plan can be characterized into the following categories:

### Goal I: Protect and Preserve Open Space Parcels

#### Objectives

- A. Preserve and maintain existing town-owned open space, especially in the densely-developed southern area of town.
- B. Support efforts for non-municipal (private and state) landowners to retain open space or share use of their property and protect open space.
- C. Acquire and/or protect additional town-owned open space.
- D. Educate town officials and citizens about opportunities and benefits of open space.
- E. Encourage use of open space for agriculture, where appropriate and realistic.
- F. Conduct sound management of open space land.

### Goal II: Maintain and Enhance the Town's Recreation Facilities

#### Objectives

- A. Expand/increase the available recreation facilities in town including areas for swimming and picnicking;
- B. Preserve, maintain and improve existing town-owned passive and active recreational facilities;
- C. Upgrade existing recreational facilities to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements;
- D. Expand amount of gym and indoor recreational space; and
- E. Increase parking and provide sanitary facilities at high usage recreation sites.



### **Goal III: Protect and Enhance Natural Resources**

#### **Objectives**

- A. Protect town water supply.
- B. Protect streams and ponds in town; and
- C. Protect special wildlife and botanical areas in town

### **Goal IV: Plan and Develop Greenways and Walkable Connections in the Town with Consideration to Appropriate Regional Connections**

#### **Objectives**

- A. Implement the Complete Streets Program.
- B. Increase mapped paths, trails, bike and pedestrian routes.
- D. Launch efforts with neighboring towns to develop greenway connections.
- E. Provide safe pedestrian access to open spaces and recreation areas.
- F. Incorporate historic preservation into planning efforts.

### **Goal V: Conduct Sound Management of Open Space and Recreation Facilities**

#### **Objectives**

- A. Coordinate town efforts to maintain, improve, and expand recreation facilities in town.
- B. Communicate with DCR and House of Corrections regarding opportunities on their properties and increasing revenue.
- C. Educate town officials and citizens about opportunities and benefits of open space.
- D. Implement and enforce land use regulations professionally and consistently.
- E. Utilize available Community Preservation funds equitably and responsibly.
- F. Ensure access, usage, and fair compensation of state and quasi-state property in town.



## 9. SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

The following is an Action Plan that will guide the Town's activities and priorities for the next seven (7) years. For each goal, there are several actions that were identified to accomplish the goal. Each action has a responsible entity identified, resources, and priority and timing. The first table list 13 actions that are geographically located on Map 10: Action Plan Map. Appendix F provides the Town with a listing of some grants and resources that may be useful in implementing these actions.

Action ID	Property	Action Description
1	Goodale Park	Improve substandard track/baseball facilities & evaluate swimming facility/location.
2	137 Shrewsbury Street	Discuss town baseball fields opportunity
3	264 Prospect Street	Acquire 7.3 acres adjacent to Town Well
4	Town-wide	Hire a Director of Recreation Programs
5	Town-wide	Improve elder/universal access to fields
6	19 Tivnan Drive	Investigate fenced dog park
7	277 Sterling Street	Acquire 5 acres for athletic fields
8	Crescent, Goodale, Newton Streets	Improve sidewalks and bicycle access near Town schools, Apportion Chapter 90 money annually
9	Route 140	Implement Complete Streets Policy
10	120 Prescott Street	Insure playing field construction is included in Senior Center Development
11	Large Lots	Encourage landowner donations/deed restrictions to limit development
12	19 Crescent Street	Acquire for Municipal Use/Senior Center/Community Center
13	18 Malden Street	Protected open space with buffer from future school development



## Exhibit 22: Seven Year Action Plan

### Abbreviations

- BOS: Board of Selectmen
  - CPC: Community Preservation Committee
- ConCom: Conservation Commission
  - DPW: Department of Public Works
- OSIC: Open Space Implementation Committee
  - GWLT: Greater Worcester Land Trust

Goals	Action	Responsible Entities	Resources	Priority/ Timing
<b>Goal I: Protect, Preserve and Expand Open Space Parcels</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Preserve and maintain existing town-owned open space, especially in the densely-developed southern area of town.</li> <li>B. Support efforts for non-municipal (private and state) landowners to retain open space or share use of their property and protect open space.</li> <li>C. Acquire and/or protect additional town-owned open space.</li> <li>D. Educate town officials and citizens about opportunities and benefits of open space.</li> <li>E. Encourage use of open space for agriculture, where appropriate and realistic.</li> <li>F. Conduct sound management of open space land.</li> </ul>				
A	Provide adequate maintenance of the town's open spaces, streams, and special habitats.	Parks Commission and DPW	Time & resources	Year 1-7
C	Maintain a prioritized inventory of available land for town acquisition for open space and/or recreation.	The Parks Commission, Community Preservation Committee, OSIC	Time & resources	Year 1
A	Coordinate with the GWLT to acquire desirable parcels and/or development rights so they remain as open space and to provide linkages to other facilities.	Parks Commission, Town Administrator, OSIC, CPC, ConCom	Time & resources	Year 1
B	Partner with DCR and state legislature to ensure local access to DCR-owned parcels for passive recreation and, where suitable, for active recreation.	OSIC, Town Administrator, town residents and officials	Time & resources	Year 1
C	Acquire desirable parcels or create development restrictions to keep parcels in undeveloped condition.	GWLT, DCR, and WPRs	Time & resources, CPA	Year 1
C	Establish a protocol to contact land owners to discuss selling or donating land to the town, and advertise/market this opportunity.	OSIC, GWLT	Time & resources	Year 1
A	Protect areas of open spaces in town to the maximum extent and provide innovative programs to allow private land owners to preserve open space.	OSIC, Parks Commission, Parks Facilities Committee	Time & resources	Year 1
A	Encourage assistance from community organizations to maintain and enhance Town facilities, such as Scouting organizations and the Garden Clubs.	Parks Commission, Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 1
A	Preserve small town character through development controls and maintenance of minimum area requirements in zoning to keep undeveloped areas within developed sections of town open.	Planning Board, BOS	Time & resources	Year 1
C	Establish a long-range plan to ensure the preservation and encourage additional lands under Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B and contact land-owners who could potentially benefit from the Chapter 61 Program, and assist them in filing for the benefits of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B.	OSIC, Board of Assessors, Agricultural Commission, The Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 1
A, C	Commit to preserve and expand the current amount of town-owned open space land.	BOS	Time & resources	Year 1
D	Educate town officials, citizens and students about tax benefits, availability and location of open space through use of the Town website, create brochures, and other educational materials and include in Town reports and electric bills.	OSIC, WBLT DPW, Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 1



Goals	Action	Responsible Entities	Resources	Priority/ Timing
C	Establish a mechanism to minimize tax valuation similar to those within the Chapter Lands program for lots where the owner commits and documents a deed restriction noting the limitation that the land will not be developed and will remain as open space.	BOS, OSIC, Board of Assessors	Time & resources	Year 1
C	Compile and distribute flyers to educate and encourage private landowners to donate all or portions of their property to the town or GWLT.	OSIC, GWLT	Time & resources	Year 1-5
E	Implement cooperative college internship programs to increase usage and/or yields of products for sale for private lands or DCR lands.	Agricultural Commission	Time & resources	Year 1-7
E	Review and update "Right to Farm" bylaw, if needed.	Agricultural Commission	Time & resources	Year 1
E	Coordinate with USDA, DCR, and area college resources to encourage utilization of land for agricultural uses.	Agricultural Commission	Time & resources	Year 1
F	Include all applicable boards and commissions in discussions regarding open space land use decisions.	PB, BOS, CC, Town Administrator, OSIC	Time & resources	Year 1
A, C, F	Review and update policy for Right of First Refusal action (ROFR).	BOS, Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 1
F	Draft and implement a plan to control invasive species on open spaces that involves citizens and groups/interns/students, with town promotion and education.	OSIC, local citizens	Time	Year 1-3
<b>Goal II: Maintain, enhance and Expand the Town's Recreation Facilities</b> A. Expand/increase the available recreation facilities in town including areas for swimming and picnicking; B. Preserve, maintain and improve existing town-owned passive and active recreational facilities; C. Upgrade existing recreational facilities to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; D. Expand amount of gym and indoor recreational space; and E. Increase parking and provide sanitary facilities at high usage recreation sites.				
B	Provide additional fields to supplement high use fields including the planned practice football field.	Parks Commission	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
A	Compose an inventory of available open spaces for consideration of town recreation facilities and develop GIS Layer as well as spreadsheet with locations of all recreational facilities. Develop maps, pamphlets, and informational packets about town-owned open space and recreational facilities, and develop an outreach campaign for distribution to the public.	Parks Commission, OSIC, CMRPC, DPW	Time & resources, DLTA	Year 1
A	Coordinate with landowners willing to allow town use of their property for recreation facilities, i.e. baseball fields off Shrewsbury Street.	Parks Commission, OSIC. Selectmen	Time & resources	Year 1
A, D	Increase opportunities for recreation on town-owned land, especially for very young children (youth) and the elderly/seniors (Including Woodland Park and in the north end of town).	The Parks Commission	MA Self-Help Funding	Year 1
A	Investigate alternatives for swimming opportunities for town residents and Increase outreach regarding free open and public spaces in the interim, such as the pool in Clinton. Secure funding to create a new or expanded town pool facility.	The Parks Commission	State and Federal Funding, Private Partnership	Year 1-4
B	Establish and publish a protocol for maintenance and operations of all Town parks and establish adequate funding for maintenance needs.	Parks Commission, DPW, BOS	Time & resources	Year 1
B	Edit Town Zoning Bylaws to expand the existing residential screening bylaw to require a Buffer Zone (protected vegetated setback) that provides a visual and auditory screening between athletic fields and abutting residential land.	Planning Board	Time & resources	Year 1
B	Renovate the All-Purpose field and running track in Goodale Park to have track facilities where high school meets can be held.	Parks Commission, BOS	State and Federal Funding	Year 2



Goals	Action	Responsible Entities	Resources	Priority/ Timing
B	Develop and implement rules/regulations and fees for use of Park facilities and revise every five years.	Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 1
B	Enforce violations where dumping of trash and yard wastes occur, particularly near streams and wetlands.	Police Department, ConComm	Time & resources	Year 1
B	Assess interest in formation of community gardens and look for an appropriate site, such as former farmland or DCR land.	Parks Commission, Agricultural Commission	Time	Year 3
A	Establish a list of possible picnic areas, and develop them. Possibly in the old Pine Grove.	OSIC, Parks Commission	Time	Year 2-3
C	Review the needs at all town recreation facilities for compliance with ADA and prepare an implementation plan. Investigate funding opportunities and upgrade existing recreational facilities to meet ADA requirements.	Parks Commission and DPW	Time, State and Federal Funding	Year 1-3
D	Compile a list of available indoor recreation facilities and approach owners for use of their facilities and investigate the possibility of constructing an indoor gym and recreation facility on land currently owned by the town. (Possibly as part of Senior Center development).	Parks Commission and BOS	Time & resources	Year 1
C	Continue to provide sanitary facilities at high usage recreation sites. (Goodale Park, Woodland Park, Pride Park, Mixter Field and Mass Central Rail Trail).	BOS, Town Administrator	Time & Local funding	Year 1
E	Provide safe and adequate number of parking spaces for athletic events and recreational facilities.	Parks Commission and DPW	State and Federal Funding	Year 3
A	Communicate with DCR and House of Corrections regarding opportunities on their properties. Continue to negotiate with the House of Corrections to gain the needed recreational facilities for town residents.	BOS, Town Administrator, Residents	Time	Year 1-3
A	Improve and expand Active recreational facilities at the Mixter property, Prescott St.	Parks Commission	Time	Year 1-3
B	Assess the benefits of utilizing the Parks Facilities Committee to advise and monitor long range planning projects for the recreation facilities in town.	Parks Commission BOS, Town Administrator	Time	Year 1
B	Renovate the Soccer field at Woodland Park.	Parks Commission and BOS	CPA and Federal Funding	Year 2
C	Review facilities for use by seniors and youth increase opportunities for passive recreation, especially when any parks/open space project is being planned.	Parks Commission, OSIC	Time	Year 1
B, C	Assess and implement opportunities to increase the usage by the disabled and senior citizens of walking trails and sidewalks. Improve public notice of the handicapped fishing platform along River Road to the Quinapoxet River recently improved by DCR.	Parks Commission, DPW	Time	Year 2
B, C	Ensure utilization of a portion of the Mixter property (off Prescott Street) as a site to provide additional passive recreational facilities for elders, improved playing fields, and a playground for grandchildren to enjoy, since the Senior Center is anticipated to be located here.	Parks Commission, BOS, OSIC	State and Federal Funding	Year 1
B, C	Evaluate and prioritize renovations to the All-Purpose Field and track, baseball fields, and softball field based on community needs and financial constraints.	Parks Commission	CPA, Local State and Federal Funding	Year 4
D	Support a Visitors Center in town, possibly in cooperation with DCR at their 180 Beaman Street office, or include it as part of the Historic Society building on Worcester Street.	Town Administrator	Local State and Federal Funding	Year 5
A, B	Ensure that the Goodale Park Master Plan implementation, including phasing, costs, and prioritization of facilities is based on current priorities and realistic financing, and is a guide to be used for decision-making.	Parks Commission and OSIC	Time	Year 1-7



Goals	Action	Responsible Entities	Resources	Priority/ Timing
<u>Goal III: Protect and Enhance Natural Resources</u> A. Protect town water supply; B. Protect streams and ponds in town; and C. Protect special wildlife and botanical areas in town.				
C	Support actions that protect important habitat for rare species, such as BioMap2 habitat.	OSIC, ConComm	Time	Year 1-3
B	Support efforts to protect and enhance water amenities. Cooperate with DCR to repair and protect natural environments.	ConComm, BOS, OSIC, DPW	Time	Year 1-3
A, B, C	Protect environmentally-sensitive areas through Zoning controls, restrictions on development or acquisition of development rights, and leverage DCR acquisitions where appropriate.	OSIC, BOS, Planning Board	Time	Year 1-3
A, B, C	Coordinate work with town departments and state agencies to protect existing and potential water sources and significant natural features in town.	Water District, ConComm, BOS	Time	Year 1-3
A, B	As required by the MS4 permit, implement storm water protection measures to reduce contaminant discharges to tributaries including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate street cleaning and basin maintenance;</li> <li>• Conduct stormwater education and publicize alternatives to polluting land use practices, such as excessive fertilizer uses and hazardous material usage/dumping, including poisonous cleaners, paints, etc.</li> <li>• Publicize residential household hazardous waste disposal opportunities.</li> <li>• Implement a program to reduce phosphorus.</li> </ul>	DPW, Water District, Wachusett Earth Day Recycling Center	DPW Budget Funding	Year 1-7
B	Review new development and redevelopment projects to assess MEMA Flood Hazard Zones. Ensure stormwater bylaw compliance of no increase in runoff flows, which causes stream bank erosion and stresses local streams.	Planning Board	Time	Year 1
B	Protect privately owned wetlands by encouraging certification of vernal pools, utilizing students and volunteers such as Scouts.	ConComm, Schools	Time	Year 1
C	Support programs that protect and educate townspeople about biodiversity.	School Department	Time	Year 1
A	Coordinate land protection and future land purchases to assure an adequate supply of water, with a focus on the Town's existing wellhead areas and potential new sources.	Water District, OSIC	Time	Year 1
A	Evaluate options and implement practices to remove high levels of manganese in the water.	Water District	Time	Year 1
A, B, C	Continue enforcement of zoning bylaws designed to protect the environment, such as Aquifer Protection Zoning, minimum lot sizing, and Residential Cluster Development.	Town Administrator, Building Inspector	Time	Year 1
A	Collaborate with the water district to implement their capital improvement plan through assistance with purchasing properties to protect source water.		Time	Year 1
B	Preserve fisheries in the Wachusett Reservoir and its tributaries.		Time	Year 1
C	Acquire open land and development rights and/or restrict development with conservation easements in sensitive areas	The Town and the GWLT	Time & resources	Year 1
B	Assess and expand wildlife greenway corridors along streams or wetlands.	ConComm, OSIC	Time & resources	Year 2
A, B	Establish a dog park on town-owned land, possibly in partnership with DCR, to take pressure off the heavy use by dog walkers of the Mass Central Rail Trail on very sensitive watershed lands	OSIC, BOS, DCR	Time & resources	Year 1
A, B	Evaluate existing laws and update as needed, to educate and enforce rules for walking dogs on the Mass Central Rail Trail and throughout town.	OSIC, DPW, Wachusett Greenways, Building Inspector	Time & resources	Year 1-3



Goals	Action	Responsible Entities	Resources	Priority/ Timing
<u>Goal IV: Plan and Develop Greenways and Walkable Connections in the Town with Consideration to Appropriate Regional Connections</u>				
A. Implement the Complete Streets Program. B. Increase mapped paths, trails, bike and pedestrian routes. C. Launch efforts with neighboring towns to develop greenway connections. D. Provide safe pedestrian access to open spaces and recreation areas. E. Incorporate historic preservation into planning efforts.				
A, D	Integrate Complete Streets principles in all town and regional projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide new accesses to/between town-owned open space and recreation facilities including development and improvement of sidewalks and walking trails to facilitate pedestrian traffic.</li> <li>• Update Sidewalk Plan following significant improvements completed in 2016 and develop formal protocol/policy for maintenance and expansions.</li> <li>• Maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure to prioritize projects to eliminate gaps and substandard conditions in the sidewalk and bikeway network.</li> <li>• Allow for wider shoulders that would accommodate bike lanes, with particular attention to Route 140 throughout town.</li> <li>• Evaluate east-west access routes to bus lines and retail services for low-income and aging populations.</li> </ul> Specific locations include: Thomas Street, Temple Street, Crescent Street, and Route 12 at the railroad underpass.	Transportation Committee, DPW, Planning Board, BOS, Town Administrator	Chapter 90, Safe Routes to School, Complete Streets	Year 1-5
B, D	Prioritize repair, maintenance, and expansion of existing pedestrian and bike infrastructure. Partner with Wachusett Greenways and the DCR to extend the Mass Central Rail Trail east from Thomas Street to Pleasant Street and then to Prescott St, and tie into Bean Road, Sterling.	Wachusett Greenways, DCR, OSIC, DPW	Time & resources	Year 1
B, D	Develop North-South and East- West trail links for walkways and wildlife corridors, and develop links to trails and wildlife corridors in abutting towns.	Town-wide Planning Committee, OSIC	Time & resources	Year 2
B, C	Continue to acquire easements and corridor parcels (by purchase or by gift) to link open space parcels via natural corridors for hiking and wildlife routes.	GWLT	CPA funds and Gifts	
B, C	Support Wachusett Greenways' efforts to maintain and expand its trail networks, and cooperate with Wachusett Greenways to improve the trailhead parking at the Mass Central Rail Trail. Support the addition of interpretive trails along the Rail Trail to old historic sites and extension of the trail to Sterling.	The Town Administrator, DPW	Time & resources	Year 2
C	Ensure active representation to the Wachusett Greenways.	OSIC	Time & resources	Year 2
E	Coordinate open space preservation activities with historical preservation. Support the historic interpretive trail development along Mass Central Rail Trail and the Springdale Mill Celebrations.	OSIC, Historic Preservation, Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 2
E	Investigate the use of grants from DCR's Heritage Landscape Inventory Program to preserve historic and treasured landscapes and leverage grants and expand historic sites along the Mass Central Rail Trail.	OSIC, Historic Preservation, Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 2



Goals	Action	Responsible Entities	Resources	Priority/ Timing
C	Support efforts by Wachusett Greenways to develop historic interpretive side trails along the Mass Central Rail Trail.	OSIC, Historic Preservation, Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 2
<b>Goal V: Conduct Sound Management of Open Space and Recreation Facilities</b> A. Coordinate town efforts to maintain, improve, and expand recreation facilities in town. B. Communicate with DCR and House of Corrections regarding opportunities on their properties and increasing revenue. C. Educate town officials and citizens about opportunities and benefits of open space. D. Implement and enforce land use regulations professionally and consistently. E. Utilize available Community Preservation funds equitably and responsibly. F. Provide access, usage, and fair compensation of state and quasi-state property in town.				
A	Improve coordination among local boards and officials and include all applicable boards and commissions in discussions regarding open space and recreation land use decisions.	Town Administrator, BOS, PB, ConComm, OSIC, Parks Commission, Parks Facilities Committee	Time & resources	Year 1-7
C	Educate local officials and boards dealing with issues regarding land use, open space, and recreation, and the impacts of these on the town's tax base.	Town Administrator, BOS, PB, ConComm, OSIC	Time & resources	Year 1-7
A	Establish and enforce attendance and training on policies for appointed positions.	Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 1-7
A	Publish meeting minutes and agendas promptly on website.	BOS	Time & resources	Year 2
B, F	Obtain compensation from the House of Corrections for community services used.	BOS, Police Chief	Time & resources	Year 2
B, F	Increase payment-in-lieu-of-taxes from the DCR Water Supply Protection.	BOS, Assessors	Time & resources	Year 2
B, E	Review and submit comments on draft DCR Program Plans when they are being updated. Document and publicize town needs and wishes regarding future uses of DCR and former county-owned land to ensure that parts remain open and accessible for recreational use. Incorporate comments and input on DCR Land Management and Public Access Plans.	BOS, Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 2
C	Encourage reduced tax assessments for properties with deeded development restrictions.	Town Administrator, OSIC, CPC, Assessors	Time & resources	Year 2
A	Provide coordination of opportunities among parks, open space, water supply, and other town agencies for grants and other programs available to protect town resources.	Town Administrator, OSIC, CPC, Parks Commission	Time & resources	Year 2
D	Implement and enforce land use regulations professionally and consistently.	Parks Commission, Building Inspector, Planning Board, ConComm, ZBA	Time & resources	Year 2
A	Communicate with DPW and Water District managers so existing town resources are not overextended.	Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 2
A	Communicate with town departments to provide clear information to reviewing boards during review of development proposals.	Town Administrator, Planning Board, ConCom	Time & resources	Year 2
A	Ensure public input is encouraged and enabled whenever a use change is proposed for any open space owned by the Town.	Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 2
A	Coordinate activities of town parks and recreation agents, including the Open Space Implementation Committee, Parks Commission and Parks Facilities Committee; and ensure protocols such as a parks usage schedule on Parks' website, and pesticide application notification are documented.	Town Administrator	Time & resources	Year 1
E	Identify the process to more expeditiously utilize Community Preservation Act funds to complete 'due diligence' work before requesting purchase of lands or development restrictions on lands at Town Meeting.	Town Administrator, OSIC	Time & resources	Year 1



## 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN AND PLAN APPROVAL

Multiple draft versions of this update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan were distributed to the Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Conservation Commission, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). [Section 2B. Planning Process and Public Participation](#) discusses the public participation process that was followed to gain municipal and public input. [Appendix E](#) contains comments obtained from the June 2, 2016 and the March 21, 2017 community forums.

Requests for comments on this update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan were distributed to the Board of Health, Water District, Department of Public Works, Building Inspector, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Task Force, Parks Facilities Committee, West Boylston Historical Committee, Greater Worcester Land Trust, and Wachusett Greenways.

The Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Update was made available for review on the Town's web site for 30 days.

The public hearing notice and the minutes noting all comments received are included in [Appendix E](#). This Plan was reviewed during another public hearing with the Board of Selectmen and received their vote of support on June 21, 2017.

The following required letters of support are attached:

- West Boylston Board of Selectmen
- West Boylston Planning Board
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)





**OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
*Town of West Boylston*  
**140 WORCESTER STREET**  
**WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583**

July 21, 2017

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Open Space & Recreation Plan Update for the Town of West Boylston

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee, I am pleased to submit for your review and approval, the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of West Boylston, which was prepared by the West Boylston Implementation Committee and the Parks Commission with technical assistance from the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission.

The Committee held many public meetings to encourage input from other town boards, committees and residents and are extremely proud of our final product.

Should you have any question, or need any additional information, please feel free to contact the Committee through the Office of the Town Administrator at 774.261.4012.

With regards,

TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON

Vincent Vignaly  
Chairman





**Board of Selectmen**  
*Town of West Boylston*  
**140 WORCESTER STREET**  
**WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583**

JOHN W. HADLEY, Chairman  
CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, Vice Chairman  
BARUR R. RAJESHKUMAR, Clerk  
PATRICK J. CROWLEY, Selectman  
SIOBHAN M. BOHNSON, Selectman

Phone: (774) 261-4010

email: [selectboard@westboylston-ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@westboylston-ma.gov)

July 19, 2017

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Open Space & Recreation Plan Update for the Town of West Boylston

Dear Ms. Cryan,


On behalf of the West Boylston Board of Selectmen, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the update of the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, as prepared by our Open Space Implementation Committee.

The Open Space Implementation Committee has done a commendable job on the update. They held public meetings and encouraged input from other town boards and committees. The Committee also held a public hearing during which they welcomed comments from town residents. We feel the end result is an updated plan which will be a resource for the town for many years.

We thank you for considering our update and for your continued support of our open space and recreation efforts.

With regards,

TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON

  
JOHN W. HADLEY  
Chairman

CC: Members of the Open Space Committee





## THE PLANNING BOARD OF WEST BOYLSTON

140 WORCESTER STREET  
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583

June 28, 2017

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environment  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update for the Town of West Boylston

Dear Ms. Cryan:

It is hereby certified that the Planning Board voted to support the update of the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan that was dated June, 2017, and prepared by our Open Space Implementation Committee, with the assistance of CMRPC.

The Planning Board appreciates the efforts of this committee and all its members to pull together a wide array of issues and provide guidance for the town to implement a feasible open space protection and parks and recreation system.

There is extensive background information included that can be used for other town plans currently being worked on. This document will guide the town well for the next seven years.

The community surveys and two Public Forums provided adequate opportunities for the Board members and all townspeople to provide input and feedback to create a plan for which the town can be proud to implement.

Thank you for your consideration of our updated plan and we ask for your support to implement the action items contained herein.

Very truly,

Cheryl Carlson,  
West Boylston Planning Board, Vice Chair





Janet A. Pierce	Executive Director
Chris J. Ryan	Community Development
Mary Ellen Blunt	Transportation
Trish Settles	Municipal Collaboration
Dianna Provencio	Business Manager
Denny Drewry	Commission Chair

January 9, 2017

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St., Ste. 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Cryan;

RE: Town of West Boylston 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) is writing this letter in support of the Town of West Boylston and its recently completed 2017 Open Space & Recreation Plan. The Town, its Open Space Implementation Committee, its Parks Commission, and other participating volunteers are to be commended for their hard work putting this Plan together.

The authors have done a very thorough job and the final document appears compliant with the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. West Boylston has recognized the need to balance new development with the need to protect open space and the desire to maintain a healthy community with a rural and historic character. The town's leaders have participated in the CMRPC's Central Thirteen Prioritization Project and have noted there, as they have in this plan, that well managed open spaces are a key part of the Town's unique character and as such deserve preservation, and resources to sustain them.

Given the juxtaposition of the Wachusett Reservoir and the Worcester County Correctional Facility, the town is faced with many unique challenges. West Boylston's Open Space and Recreation Plan provides the Town with the specific guidance and action steps needed to accomplish its goals and objectives. Maybe most importantly, West Boylston plans to improve coordination among local boards and officials and include all applicable boards and commissions in discussions regarding open space and recreation land use decisions. The Town of West Boylston will be well served by having a State-approved, up-to-date Plan in order to plan for its recreation facilities and programs, as well as to preserve and protect its valuable open spaces and natural resources.

Please consider this letter to be a demonstration of CMRPC's support for the Plan and the process used to develop it. We find West Boylston's Plan to be fully consistent with CMRPC's Regional Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as the conservation priorities outlined in our 2020 Growth Strategy for Central Massachusetts and its 2004 Update.

Sincerely,

Trish Settles, AICP  
Manager of Municipal Collaboration and Regional Services



## APPENDIX A: NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM (NHESP) SPECIES FACT SHEETS

Fact Sheets for the following species are included in this appendix.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Turtle            | ( <i>Glyptemys insculpta</i> )      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Whip-poor-will | ( <i>Caprimulgus vociferous</i> )   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle             | ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwarf Mistletoe        | ( <i>Arceuthobium pusillum</i> )    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Houghton's Flatsedge   | ( <i>Cyperus houghtonii</i> )       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dwarf Bulrush          | ( <i>Lipocarpa micrantha</i> )      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adder's-tongue Fern    | ( <i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i> )    |





**Natural Heritage  
& Endangered Species  
Program**

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)

*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Wood Turtle  
*Glyptemys insculpta***

State Status: **Special Concern**

Federal Status: **None**

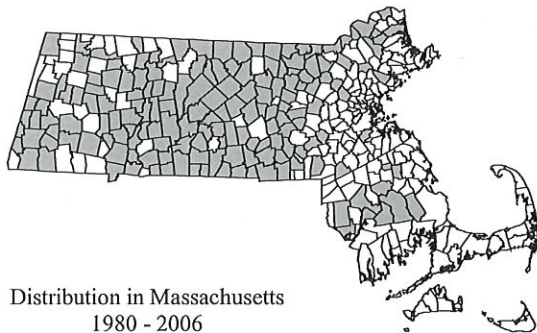
**DESCRIPTION:** The Wood Turtle is a medium-sized turtle (14-20 cm; 5.5-8 in) that can be recognized by its sculpted shell and orange coloration on the legs and neck. The carapace (upper shell) is rough and each scale (scute) rises upwards in an irregularly shaped pyramid of grooves and ridges. The carapace is tan, grayish-brown or brown, has a mid-line ridge (keel) and often has a pattern of black or yellow lines on the larger scutes. The plastron (lower shell) is yellow with oblong dark patches on the outer, posterior corner of each scute. The head is black, but may be speckled with faint yellow spots. The legs, neck, and chin can have orange to reddish coloration. Males have a concave plastron, thick tail, long front claws, and a wider and more robust head than females. Hatchlings have a dull-colored shell that is broad and low and a tail that is almost as long as their carapace, and they lack orange coloration on the neck and legs.



Photo by Mike Jones

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** The habitat of the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) and the Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) may overlap that of the Wood Turtle, but neither has the Wood Turtle's pyramidal shell segments. Unlike the Wood Turtle, the Box and Blanding's turtles have hinged plastrons into which they can withdraw or partially withdraw if threatened. The Northern Diamond-backed Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) has a shell similar to that of the Wood Turtle. However, its skin is grey and it lives only near brackish water, which the Wood Turtle avoids.

**RANGE:** The Wood Turtle can be found throughout New England, north to Nova Scotia, west to eastern Minnesota, and south to northern Virginia. The Wood Turtle appears to be widespread in Massachusetts. However, it should be kept in mind that little is known about the status of local populations associated with the majority of these sightings. Most of the towns have fewer than 5 known occurrences.



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1980 - 2006

Based on records in  
Natural Heritage Database

*A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan*

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; [www.mass.gov/dfw](http://www.mass.gov/dfw)

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for 'endangered wildlife conservation' on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)



**HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS:** The preferred habitat of the Wood Turtle is riparian areas. Slower moving mid-sized streams are favored, with sandy bottoms and heavily vegetated stream banks. The stream bottom and muddy banks provide hibernating sites for overwintering, and open areas with sand or gravel substrate near the streams edge are used for nesting. Wood Turtles spend most of the spring and summer in mixed or deciduous forests, fields, hay fields, and riparian wetlands, including wet meadows, bogs, and beaver ponds. Then they return to the streams in late summer or early fall to their favored overwintering location.

**LIFE CYCLE & BEHAVIOR:** The Wood Turtle typically spends the winter in flowing rivers and perennial streams. Full-time submersion in the water begins in November, once freezing occurs regularly overnight, and continues until temperatures begin to increase in spring. It may hibernate alone or in large groups in community burrows in muddy banks, stream bottoms, deep pools, instream woody debris, and abandoned muskrat burrows. The Wood Turtle may make underwater movements in the stream during the winter; however, extended periods of activity and emergence from the water do not occur until mid-March or early April.

In spring, Wood Turtles are active during the day and are usually encountered within a few hundred meters from the stream banks. They have relatively linear home ranges that can be a half mile in length in Massachusetts (M. Jones, unpubl data). They will use emergent logs or grassy, sandy, and muddy banks to soak up the spring sun. During the summer months they feed in early successional fields, hayfields, and forests.

Wood Turtles are opportunistic omnivores; their diet consists of both plant and animal matter that is consumed on land and in the water. The Wood Turtle occasionally exhibits an unusual feeding behavior referred to as “stomping.” In its search for food, this species will stomp on the ground alternating its front feet, creating vibrations in the ground resembling rainfall. Earthworms respond, rising to the ground’s surface to keep from drowning. Instead of rain, the earthworm is met by the Wood Turtle, and is promptly devoured.

Although the peaks in mating activity occur in the spring and fall, Wood Turtles are known to mate opportunistically throughout their activity period. Males have been observed exhibiting aggressive behavior such as chasing, biting, and butting both during the mating season and at other times. A courtship ritual “dance” typically takes place at the edge of a stream or brook for several hours prior to mating. The dance involves the male and female approaching each other slowly with necks extended and their heads up. Before they actually touch noses, they lower their heads, and swing them from side to side. Copulation usually takes place in the water. Courting adults may produce a very subdued whistle that is rarely heard by observers. A female may mate with multiple individuals over the course of the active season.

In Massachusetts, most nesting occurs over a four-week period, primarily in June. Nesting sites may be a limited resource for Wood Turtles. Females are known to travel long distances in search of appropriate nesting habitat (average straight line distance of 244 m/800 ft). Once they have arrived at a suitable nesting area, there may be multiple nesting attempts or false nests that occur over the course of several days, prior to laying eggs. They abort attempts when disturbed (e.g., by human activities) early in the process or they hit a large rock while digging. Female Wood Turtles lay one clutch a year and often congregate in a good nesting area. Clutch size in Massachusetts averages 7 eggs (Jones, 2004, pers. comm.). Hatchling emergence occurs from August through September. The life span of the adult Wood Turtle is easily 46 years and may reach as much as 100 years.

**THREATS:** Hatchling and juvenile survival is very low and the time to sexual maturity is long. These characteristics are compensated by adults living a long time and reproducing for many years. Adult survivorship must be very high to sustain a viable population. These characteristics make Wood Turtles vulnerable to human disturbances. Population declines of Wood Turtles have likely been caused by hay-mowing operations, development of wooded stream banks, roadway casualties, incidental collection of specimens for pets, unnaturally inflated rates of predation in suburban and urban areas, forestry and agricultural activities, and pollution of streams.

### ***A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan***

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for ‘endangered wildlife conservation’ on your state income tax form, as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.

[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)



**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** Using a turtle habitat model developed by UMass and NHESP records, Wood Turtle habitat needs to be assessed and prioritized for protection based on the extent, quality, and juxtaposition of habitats and their predicted ability to support self-sustaining populations of Wood Turtles. Other considerations should include the size and lack of fragmentation of both riverine and upland habitats and proximity and connectivity to other relatively unfragmented habitats, especially within existing protected open space. This information will be used to direct land acquisition and to target areas for Conservation Restrictions (CRs), Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs), and Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) projects.

Mowing and nest site creation guidelines developed by NHESP should be followed on properties managed for Wood Turtles. These practices will be most practical on state-owned conservation lands. However, these materials are also available to town land managers and private landowners.

Alternative wildlife corridor structures should be considered at strategic sites on existing roads. In particular, appropriate wildlife corridor structures should be considered for bridge and culvert upgrades and road-widening projects within or near Wood Turtle habitat. Efforts should be made to inform local regulatory agencies of key locations where these measures would be most effective for Wood Turtle conservation.

Educational materials are being developed and distributed to the public in reference to the detrimental effects of keeping our native Wood Turtles as pets (an illegal activity that reduces reproduction in the population), releasing pet store turtles (which could spread disease), leaving cats and dogs outdoors unattended (particularly during the nesting season), mowing of fields and shrubby areas, feeding suburban wildlife (which increases the number of natural predators on turtles), and driving ATVs in nesting areas from June-October. People should be encouraged, when safe to do so, to help Wood Turtles cross roads (always in the direction the animal was heading); however, turtles should never be transported to “better” locations. They will naturally want to return to their original location and likely need to traverse roads to do so.

Increased law enforcement is needed to protect our wild turtles, particularly during the nesting season when poaching is most frequent and ATV use is common and most damaging.

Forestry Conservation Management Practices should be applied on state and private lands to avoid direct turtle mortality. Seasonal timber harvesting restrictions apply to Wood Turtle habitat and to upland habitat that occurs up to 600 ft (183 m) beyond the stream edge. Motorized vehicle access to timber harvesting sites in Wood Turtle habitat is restricted to times when the Wood Turtle is overwintering. Bridges should be laid down across streams prior to any motorized equipment crossing the stream in order to maintain the structural integrity of overwintering sites.

Finally, a statewide monitoring program is needed to track long-term population trends in Wood Turtles.

#### ACTIVE PERIOD

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

#### REFERENCES:

- Compton, B. 2006. Personal Communication. University of Massachusetts, Dept of Natural Resources Conservation, Amherst, MA
- DeGraaf, R.M., and D.D. Rudis. 1983. *Amphibians and Reptiles of New England*. Amherst, Massachusetts: The University of Massachusetts.
- Ernst, C.H., J.E. Lovich, and R.W. Barbour. 1994. *Turtles of the United States and Canada*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London.
- Jones, M. 2006. Personal Communication. University of Massachusetts, Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation, Amherst, MA.
- Kaufmann, J.H. 1986. Stomping for earthworms by Wood Turtles, *Clemmys insculpta*: A newly discovered foraging technique. *Copeia* 1986(4), pp.1001-1004.

Updated 2015

#### **A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan**

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[www.mass.gov/nhesp](http://www.mass.gov/nhesp)





## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581  
tel: (508) 389-6360, fax: (508) 389-7891  
www.nhesp.org

**Description:** Eastern Whip-poor-wills are nocturnal birds of dry, open woodlands and clearings. They are seldom seen, though they are quick to announce their presence with their distinctive call on calm, moonlit nights from spring into mid-summer. The call is unmistakable: a rapidly whistled three-note phrase, “Whip-poor-will,” with an emphasis on the first and third notes. At close range, a brief introductory “cluck” can be heard in the call. Calling is most intense during crepuscular hours and during moonlit nights.

Whip-poor-wills measure 22-26cm in length, and weigh between 43 and 64g. Their body shape is distinct, with a relatively small body always held horizontally when perched, and a large, flat head with large, dark eyes and a very small bill. The bill is bordered by long bristles for capturing food items in flight, and opens to create a very large gape. The legs and feet are very small and seldom seen, always tucked against the body while perching or in flight. In flight, Whip-poor-wills are slow and silent, appearing moth-like, often hovering and flying erratically in pursuit of flying insects.

The sexes are nearly identical in plumage: cryptically colored to match the streaked browns and grays of the forest floor. These color patterns blend perfectly into the sun-dappled oak leaf litter where they nest, or the thick branches that they perch on during the day. This camouflage is so effective that most birds are not detected until they are flushed by an approaching observer, that is, within just a few feet of the bird. In flight, a broad band of white on the outer tip of the tail can be seen on the male, and both sexes have a bright white patch on the throat, accented by a black border on the male and a buffy border on the female.

**Similar Species in Massachusetts:** There are two other members of the Nightjar family that occur in Massachusetts: Chuck-will’s-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) and Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*). Both of these birds have a superficially similar appearance and can occur in similar habitat to Whip-poor-will. Chuck-will’s-widow is best separated by call (see below), but also by its noticeably larger size, heavier body structure, and overall buffier, less-contrasting plumage. Chuck-will’s-widows are seldom encountered in Massachusetts (although their range is

## Eastern Whip-poor-will

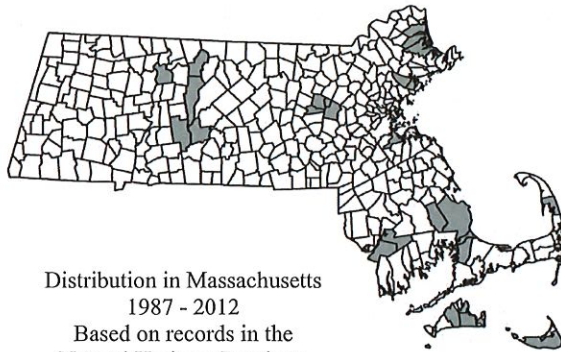
*Caprimulgus vociferus*

State Status: **Species of Special Concern**

Federal Status: none



Photo: John Winze



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1987 - 2012  
Based on records in the  
Natural Heritage Database

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for ‘endangered wildlife conservation’ on your state income tax form as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.



spreading northward), occurring only every few years, mostly in coastal situations.

Common Nighthawks may be mistaken for Whip-poor-wills when perched, but can be separated by their longer wings (folded wings are as long as the tail in a perched nighthawk), solid black primaries interrupted by a white wingbar, and an overall more grayish plumage. The Common Nighthawk in flight is unmistakable: a high-flying, angular bird with a notched tail and distinct white wingbars. The call of the Common Nighthawk – a nasal “peent” – is entirely unlike any call of the Eastern Whip-poor-will. Common Nighthawks are extremely rare breeders in Massachusetts and common autumn migrants.

Chuck-will’s-widow is the only other bird whose call could be mistaken for Eastern Whip-poor-will in Massachusetts. However, the species are easily separated when remembering that both birds are named after the phonetics of their calls: the Eastern Whip-poor-will saying its name with a rising last note, and Chuck-will’s-widow saying its name with a noticeably quiet first note and falling double last notes. The Whip-poor-will call is also faster and higher pitched than the Chuck-will’s-widow.

Mimic thrushes (Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, and Brown Thrasher) have been known to render spot-on versions of the Whip-poor-will call. In the case of Northern Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher, the mimicked call will often be heard within a sequence of chatter and other mimicked sounds. The mimicked call from the catbird may be a stand-alone call, but it will almost always be rendered during daylight hours.

**Range:** The Whip-poor-will’s breeding range covers several distinct regions in North and Central America. Across this greater range, and separated by distinct morphological and behavioral differences, the Whip-poor-will has been divided into two groups: the Eastern Group (*vociferus* group) and the Western Group (*arizonae* group). The Eastern Group, representing a single subspecies (*C. v. vociferus*), ranges from east-central Saskatchewan to southern Ontario and Quebec, central New Brunswick and central Nova Scotia, and from eastern Oklahoma to Georgia. Populations are discontinuous within the range of this Eastern Group. The Western Group’s breeding range is much more limited, extending from the southwestern United States discontinuously through the mountains of Mexico and into southern Guatemala and southwestern Honduras.

**Habitat in Massachusetts:** Habitat needs for Whip-poor-will are complex and our understanding of their specific requirements is still evolving. In general, Whip-poor-wills seek dry, open woodlands with little understory adjacent to meadows and shrublands. The open woodlands are used for nesting and the adjacent meadows and shrublands are used for foraging.

Whip-poor-will distribution in Massachusetts appears to be closely correlated with fire-adapted landscapes such as Pine Barrens and Oak Glade communities. Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, fire was a regular event in many areas of Massachusetts, either intentionally set by Native Americans and early farmers, or wildfires from lightning strikes. Regular fire on a landscape typically results in the patchwork of open woodlands, sparse meadows, and shrublands needed by Whip-poor-wills. Today, all of the remaining strongholds for Whip-poor-will in Massachusetts occur in Pine Barrens that are actively managed with prescribed fire. Conversely, many historic records of Whip-poor-will in Massachusetts occur on landscapes that once supported fire-adapted natural communities and therefore likely saw regular fire, but fire has since been removed from these systems and the habitats have succeeded to denser, more generalized vegetation such as white pine stands.

The primary situations currently supporting Whip-poor-wills in Massachusetts are:

- **Pine Barrens:** fire-adapted habitats represented by warm-season grasses, scrub oak, and an open canopy of emergent pitch pine. Barrens support the vast majority of the state’s Whip-poor-wills, and are represented by sites such as Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area in Montague.
- **Oak Glades:** fire-adapted open woodlands that usually occur on ridges and dry slopes. Oak Glades support small pockets of Whip-poor-wills across the state and are represented by sites such as the Blue Hills Reservation in Canton, Mt. Tom in Holyoke, and the rocky balds of Cape Ann.
- **Power Line Corridors:** corridors through open forests sometimes support robust Whip-poor-will populations, especially in dry situations where regular maintenance results in a vegetative structure resembling an often-burned landscape. The rocky, fire-prone corridors through Salem and Peabody are a good example.
- **Abandoned Gravel Operations:** gravel extraction takes place in areas of glacial outwash, the foundation of most Pine Barrens. The act of exposing the base substrate and then letting it regenerate on its own often leads to the establishment of good barrens-type habitat capable of supporting Whip-poor-wills.

Please allow the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program to continue to conserve the biodiversity of Massachusetts with a contribution for ‘endangered wildlife conservation’ on your state income tax form as these donations comprise a significant portion of our operating budget.



- **Logging Operations:** depending on landscape context, logging can create the diverse, open landscape that is sought by Whip-poor-wills, especially if the harvest is done in a way that resembles the effects of wildfire.

**Life Cycle/Behavior:** Whip-poor-wills have been recorded arriving in Massachusetts from their wintering grounds as early as mid-April, with pairs formed soon after and two eggs laid directly on the forest floor by mid-May. Whip-poor-will pairs are thought to be monogamous, at least through a single breeding season, and both members of the pair share the three weeks of incubation duties, followed by three weeks of brooding and feeding flightless chicks at the nest site. Chicks are able to feed themselves once they leave the nest, but parents have been observed feeding fledglings, and it is thought that family units associate with each other until their autumn migration, which in Massachusetts can be as late as the end of September. Very little is known about Whip-poor-will migration, or about the Whip-poor-will's life history on their wintering grounds (along the Gulf of Mexico south to Central America).

The primary diet of Whip-poor-wills is large moths and night-flying beetles. Whip-poor-wills hunt in the crepuscular hours and through the night when adequate moonlight allows, often perching on an exposed branch at a clearing's edge and sallying forth in winged pursuit. Nest initiation typically occurs so that chicks hatch around a full moon, apparently to allow parents to maximize their hunting opportunities. Chicks are fed regurgitated insects. Their diagnostic "*Whip-poor-will*" call is sung only by the male and issued both to attract a mate and to define their territory. Calling, like hunting, is usually most intense during the crepuscular hours, but will continue with intensity through the night when the moon's disk is at least half illuminated.

**Historical Threats:** There has been a dramatic retraction in distribution and abundance of Whip-poor-wills across the state beginning in the 1960s. A combination of factors has likely contributed to this decrease, primary among them habitat loss both from development and from habitat succession. Population loss from development is clearly illustrated in the greater Boston area, where Whip-poor-wills were described as common into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but are now absent, and the greater Springfield area where they were described as common into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century but are now absent. More recent retractions correlate with development trends over the past several decades. Many areas that have lost Whip-poor-wills since the 1970s are also areas of the state that have experienced the greatest conversion of forest to development during that time. Plymouth and Bristol Counties, the Lower Cape, and the Upton-Grafton areas have experienced some of the greatest development pressure in recent

decades while also experiencing the greatest retractions in Whip-poor-will presence.

Population retractions in areas *not* lost to development often appear to be the result of habitat succession. While many of these areas are still in a natural state, a closer look shows that often these sites are declining Pine Barrens or upland oak forest with evidence of historical fire. Fire suppression, first widely incorporated in Massachusetts in the 1930s, has caused a shift in these fire-adapted communities toward the more generalist species structure that we see today. This succession away from fire-adapted natural communities may play the largest role in current population declines.

Declines in large moths, predation by domestic and feral cats, and road mortality are other factors that have been suggested as contributing to declining Whip-poor-will populations in the Northeast, but the relative importance of each of these is largely unknown. The importance of predation by native predators as a factor limiting reproductive success and adult survival is also poorly understood. Likewise, the extent to which limiting factors during non-breeding periods (migration and winter) affect Whip-poor-wills that breed in Massachusetts is unknown.

**Population Status in Massachusetts:** Whip-poor-wills have historically bred across the entirety of Massachusetts, but beginning in the 1970s, they largely disappeared from the southern Connecticut River Valley, Bristol County, Berkshire County, and Plymouth County (with the exception of the greater Myles Standish barrens). They are also absent now from much of upper Cape Cod, with the exception of the Massachusetts Military Reservation–Frances Crane WMA complex, and from interior Essex County and most of Middlesex County.

Currently there are only six sites in Massachusetts that support 20 or more pairs of Whip-poor-wills: the Greater Myles Standish Pine Barrens, the Montague Plains Pine Barrens, the Fort Devens/Bolton Flats WMA complex, the Massachusetts Military Reservation/Frances Crane WMA complex, Correllus State Forest and vicinity, and the eastern half of Nantucket. There are only ten known sites that support 5-10 pairs, and of the remaining 100 or so known current sites in Massachusetts, the majority support just single pairs.

Whip-poor-will was listed as a Species of Special Concern under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act in 2011.



**Management Recommendations:** It is unlikely that Whip-poor-will will be able to reclaim its former distribution across Massachusetts because many former haunts have been rendered uninhabitable due to permanent habitat loss and/or degradation. Instead, conservation should focus on protecting and managing existing Whip-poor-will habitat across the state. Coordinating with land managers, landowners, and foresters to ensure that existing Whip-poor-will habitat remains viable is key in stabilizing the state's population.

Active restoration and management of Whip-poor-will habitat depends upon reintroducing a disturbance regime to the landscape. The exact prescription for management will be unique for each site, but examples of general actions include:

- Introducing prescribed fire to the landscape.
- Conducting logging that mimics the structural effects of wildfire.
- Allowing spent gravel mines to succeed naturally, rather than re-seeding them.
- Siting development as far from Whip-poor-will habitat as possible to conserve habitat and lessen the effects of pets, light/noise pollution, insecticides, roads, etc.

All work, including habitat management, proposed in known Whip-poor-will habitat is subject to review under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and should be planned in close consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

Annual, standardized surveys of calling adults during the breeding season at known sites should be used to track population trends, assess the effectiveness of management, and guide future actions.

Research is sorely needed to characterize and understand basic aspects of Whip-poor-will ecology and demographics, including reproductive success, age-specific survival rates, factors limiting reproductive success and survival, details of nesting and foraging habitat preferences, and responses of habitats and breeding populations to management.

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Updated 2012  
Map Updated 2012

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## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

## Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** The Bald Eagle is one of the most impressive and majestic birds in North America. It is one of eight species in the genus *Haliaeetus*, the "fish" or "sea" eagles, and is the only member of the genus that occurs regularly in North America. This species is one member of the family of Accipiters, all of which are in the order Falconiformes. It is also the largest raptor (bird of prey) in Massachusetts, attaining a wingspan of 2.0 to 2.2 meters (6.5 to 7.0 feet) with a body length of 0.9 meters (3.0 feet), and a weight ranging from 3.6 to 6.6 kilograms (8 to 15 lbs.) at maturity. The sexes are similar in appearance but, as with most raptor species, the females are notably larger than the males.

Adult Bald Eagles are distinctively colored with a white head and tail, brown body, pale yellow eyes, and bright yellow beak and feet. The adult plumage is attained at 4 to 5 years of age. The plumage of immature Bald Eagles may vary considerably. Immatures go through a sequence of plumage types before reaching maturity. These plumages include a uniformly dark phase in the first year, followed by phases with various amounts of white on the belly, back, underwings, tail, and head. The

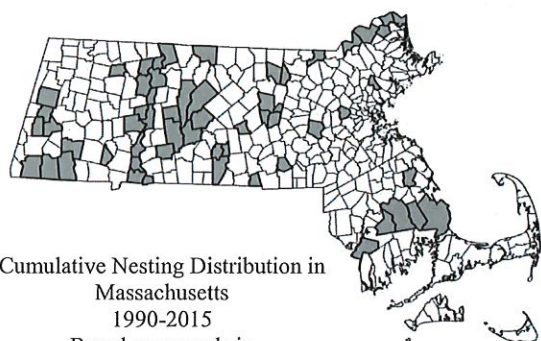


Photo by Bill Byrne, MassWildlife

eye and beak color also change with age, from dark brown and blackish-gray at hatching to bright yellow in adults. In all feathered stages, the tail is rounded and the lower half of the tarsus is unfeathered.

Bald Eagles fly with heavy, deep strokes and soar on flattened wings. In silhouette, the beak, head, and neck are almost as long as the tail.

**SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS:** The large size and distinctive plumage of the Bald Eagle make it very easy to distinguish from all other birds in Massachusetts, with the exception of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). Both grow to approximately the same size, but the white head and tail of the adult Bald Eagle differentiates it from the Golden Eagle. Immature Bald Eagles may be confused with both immature and adult Golden Eagles. The adult Golden Eagle is nearly uniformly dark without the mottling found on the immature Bald Eagle. Golden Eagles at any age may have relatively sharply defined, bright, clean white patches of varying size at the base of the inner primaries and outer secondaries on the wings and a clean white



Cumulative Nesting Distribution in  
Massachusetts  
1990-2015  
Based on records in  
Natural Heritage Database

*A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan*

### Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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area at the base of the tail. All immature Bald Eagles have whitish axillaries and, depending on age, can have extensive, “dirty” white mottling virtually anywhere on the head, body, wing linings, and tail. The Golden Eagle’s legs are feathered to its toes; the legs of the Bald Eagle are unfeathered.

The Turkey Vulture is similar to an immature Bald Eagle in size and general coloration. At a distance, a distinction can be made by looking at the birds as they soar. Turkey Vultures hold their wings somewhat upright, forming a shallow “V” when soaring and rock from side to side as they ride thermal air currents. Bald Eagles hold their wings straight out from their body while soaring, with only the tips of the primary feathers curved slightly upward. Eagles do not rock from side to side as they soar, but rather make broad, sweeping circles as updrafts lift them skyward. At close range, the Turkey Vulture’s small, featherless head (which is red in adults and gray in juveniles) makes identification quite simple.

**RANGE:** Bald Eagles occur from Alaska and Canada south throughout the United States to Florida and Baja California. In the lower 48 states, they occur sporadically over a wide area with notable seasonal concentrations in Florida, the Chesapeake Bay area, the Mississippi Valley and Pacific Northwest. In Massachusetts, occurrences are possible statewide, especially during migration in March–April and September–October; however, wanderers can appear virtually anywhere at any time. In Massachusetts, Bald Eagles use the Quabbin Reservoir, the Connecticut River, the Merrimack River, and the Assawompsett Pond complex throughout the year as both nesting and wintering habitat. Bald Eagles also overwinter along the coast of Cape Cod, Buzzard’s Bay and the islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. Historically, the Bald Eagle bred throughout most of North America prior to its widespread, well-publicized population decline during the early to mid-1900s. However, during the past several decades, the Bald Eagle has recolonized much of its historic range and continues to repopulate areas where suitable habitat still exists.

**HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS:** Bald Eagles usually inhabit coastal areas, estuaries, and larger inland waters. This species requires a great amount of shoreline habitat containing stands of forest for nesting and trees projecting above the forest canopy for perching, an

adequate supply of moderate-sized to large fish, an unimpeded view, and reasonable freedom from human disturbance. Wintering eagles require suitable roost trees for night roosting. Some such roosts may be 20 km or more from feeding areas, occurring in favorable thermal environments where roost trees are protected from the wind by topography or other trees. The use of these protected sites helps minimize the energy stress encountered by wintering birds. The absence of a suitable night roost could limit the use of otherwise suitable habitat.

**LIFE CYCLE/BEHAVIOR:** Courtship occurs in mid-to late winter and is a spectacular sight consisting of aerial loops, cartwheels, dives, and ending with the prospective mating pair locking their talons together and diving straight downward for hundreds of feet while spinning head over heels. Bald Eagles may live up to 30 years, but mortality is relatively high in the immature age classes. They mate for life, but if one member of a pair dies or is killed, the other will actively court another mate. Sexual maturity is reached at four to six years of age, but the birds may be considerably older before they breed for the first time.

The breeding season for Bald Eagles in Massachusetts begins with courtship during late fall or early winter. After courtship, the mated pair builds a large nest during December–February. The nest is constructed with large sticks and lined with sprigs of pine, grasses, and other soft materials. The male eagle collects the nest material and delivers it to his mate, who is responsible for most of the actual nest construction. Once the nesting site is chosen, the mated pair will usually return every year to the same site and add to the existing structure. The nests are located in hardwoods or conifers from 9 to 37 meters (30 to 120 feet) above the ground and may measure up to 3.6 meters (12 feet) high and 2.6 meters (8.5 feet) wide, with a weight of hundreds of pounds. Trees selected for nesting (and sometimes for roosting and perching) tend to be relatively large and, preferably, taller than their surroundings. Ideally, the nest lies below the top of the crown in a live tree, where the young are sheltered from the elements but the parent birds are still afforded adequate aerial access (generally, from the direction of the nearest water).

The female Bald Eagle lays one to three (two average) dull white eggs several days apart, usually during a period between early March and early April. The eggs

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are incubated (mostly by the female) for approximately 35 days until hatching. The eggs do not hatch at the same time, giving the first hatchling a significant advantage over its siblings. Competition for food is intense, and if the adult eagles are not able to provide enough for all of their young, the older chick will take advantage of its greater strength and size to seize most of the food provided by the parents, causing its younger siblings to starve. This behavior increases the probability that at least one chick will survive. Young eaglets grow rapidly and may eat up to two pounds of fish per day. Ten weeks after hatching, they begin to make short flights from the nest, spending much time with the parent birds observing the adults as they catch and find food. By late fall the adults will no longer care for their young, and the fledgling eaglets begin life on their own. The entire breeding cycle, from nest construction to fledging of young, lasts 6–8 months. Most Bald Eagles appear to nest within 200 miles of where they hatched.

When available, fish (both marine and freshwater) is the Bald Eagle's preferred food. Fish may be captured by swooping from a perch or by coursing low over the water and dropping straight down when a fish is spotted. An eagle may plunge into the water to capture fish and may also steal fish from an osprey by harassing it until it drops its catch. Prey too large to carry may be dragged to shore. Birds, especially waterfowl, are sometimes taken by bursting into a large flock and pursuing a straggler until it tires and can be captured. Bald Eagles also take crippled waterfowl and seabirds, small mammals and carrion, particularly dead fish. In winter, eagles of all ages may gather in large numbers at areas with open water where fish or waterfowl are abundant. This "social grouping" is believed to facilitate locating and acquiring food and may possibly aid in establishing or maintaining pair bonds.

**HISTORICAL THREATS:** The history of the Bald Eagle is one of human contradictions. On one hand, the Bald Eagle's noble image has been portrayed on public documents, coin, currency, etc. as our nation's symbol since 1782, making it one of the most well-known creatures on earth. On the other hand, its environment has been reduced and degraded, and the bird itself was treated as vermin throughout North America for the better part of a century. As a result of deliberate killing by people (who incorrectly believed that eagles kill livestock or significantly threaten salmon fisheries), combined with substantial habitat loss (conversion of

forest to development and agriculture), the Bald Eagle decreased in numbers in much of its range for many years. From 1917 to 1952, at least 128,000 Bald Eagles were believed to have been killed in Alaska where there was a bounty on the species. In the 20th century, the introduction of man-made chemicals and pollutants to the environment was implicated in death, increased susceptibility to death, and diminished reproductive success of Bald Eagles. DDT and its metabolites, as well as other organochlorines, are well-documented causes of eggshell thinning, breakage, and toxicity. The Bald Eagle was listed federally as an Endangered Species in 1967.

A decline in human persecution and reductions in use of DDT and other toxins are credited with recent recoveries of Bald Eagle populations during the past quarter-century. The federal status of the species was upgraded to Threatened in 1995, and the species was removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in August 2007. However, Bald Eagle populations remain imperiled in a number of states, as prior habitat loss, prior and current habitat degradation, and ongoing disturbance from growing human populations continue to limit population viability.

#### **POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS:**

Breeding Bald Eagles were extirpated from Massachusetts during the early 1900s. However, from 1982 to 1988, forty-one young Bald Eagles from Michigan and Canada were relocated to Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. Following this restoration effort, Bald Eagles were confirmed to breed successfully in the state by 1989. Eagle numbers have increased slowly but steadily since that time. During 2015, an all-time high of at least 51 pairs of Bald Eagles maintained breeding territories in Massachusetts: Quabbin Reservoir (7), Connecticut River (11), Merrimack River (3), Assawonpsett Pond Complex (2), Westfield River (2), Deerfield River (2), North Watuppa Pond (1), Wachusett Reservoir (1), Quaboag Pond (1), Swift River (1), Westfield River (1), Housatonic River (1), Onota Lake (1), Lake Shirley (1), Pine Hill Reservoir (1), Webster Lake (1), Foss Reservoir (1), Halfway Pond (1), Powwow River (1), Lake Buel (1), Tully Lake (1), Blackstone River (1), Big Pond (1), Suntaug Lake (1), Chicopee River (1), Housatonic River (1), Charles River (1), Westport River (1), Quinebaug River (1), Round Pond (1), Neponset River (1), and Mashpee Pond (1). Although we no longer conduct a winter survey, during

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the 2008 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, 72 Bald Eagles were counted in Massachusetts: Quabbin Reservoir (36), Merrimack River (8), Connecticut River (9), Wachusett Reservoir (5), Lake Assawompsett (4), and other sites (10). Population abundance in Massachusetts is limited mainly by amount of potential breeding habitat (i.e., number of large water bodies surrounded by mature forest and having shallow waters and abundant fish). Population viability is limited mainly by the species' rarity and the possibility of catastrophic events (e.g., storms, disease).

#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Protection and enhancement of potentially suitable wetland and forest habitats, and maintenance of known breeding, roosting, and wintering areas will be critical to long-term conservation of Bald Eagles in Massachusetts. To achieve these objectives, landowners should first work to limit development near shorelines of large water bodies, as loss of nesting habitat is a primary threat to Bald Eagles in the state. Prevention, identification, and remediation of environmental contamination (e.g., lead, mercury, PCBs, and other toxic depositions) are also key to maintaining adequate foraging habitat and maximizing long-term reproductive success and survival of Bald Eagles. Landowners who wish to harvest timber near potential eagle habitat should consult the Massachusetts Forestry Conservation Management Practices (CMPs) for Bald Eagle; these practices, which are published by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, provide guidance for protecting (or even enhancing) nesting and foraging habitat during forestry projects. Increased public education about the potentially detrimental effects of human disturbance on reproductive success of Bald Eagles is another measure that can be taken.

Direct mortality does not appear to be a leading threat to long-term conservation of Bald Eagles in Massachusetts. However, every effort should be made to prevent avoidable deaths. Fishermen should be diligent in proper disposal of fishing line and equipment; eagles are known to accidentally ingest hooks, and at least one eaglet has been killed in Massachusetts after becoming tangled in fishing line. Bald Eagles are still taken by shooting on occasion; hence, education and strict law enforcement are additional measures that can be taken to improve survival.

Population monitoring at both the state and regional level will be an important tool to help determine population status, growth potential, and possible conservation setbacks. With continued sound management and increased public awareness, the future of the Bald Eagle should continue to be one of conservation's greatest success stories.

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*Updated 2016*

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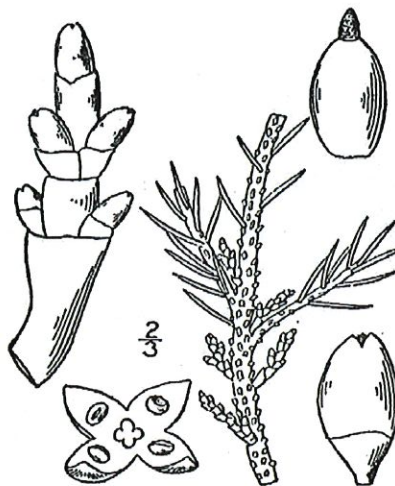
## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581  
tel: (508) 389-6360, fax: (508) 389-7891  
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**Description:** A member of the Christmas Mistletoe family (Viscaceae), dwarf mistletoe is a very small fleshy shrub, usually no more than 2 cm (0.8 in.) tall that parasitizes conifer trees. Its generic name reflects this parasitic habit, coming from the Greek words for juniper (*arkeuthos*) and life (*bios*). This simple or sparingly branched plant has greenish to chestnut-colored, or even purplish, stems that are circular when fresh and four-angled when dry. The opposite leaves are reduced to thin, connate, obtuse (blunt-tipped) scales with a width of only 1 mm (0.04 in.). Dwarf mistletoe spreads beneath the bark of its host by means of a haustoria, an organ used to obtain nutrients from the host. The formation of globose clumps of swollen, infected branches--or "witches' brooms"--saps the trees' strength, and, eventually, a tree covered with them may weaken and die. Dwarf mistletoe is a dioecious plant (a plant with unisexual flowers in which the individual plants are either male or female). Mistletoes reproduce by means of seeds expelled from explosive fruits. The sticky seeds cling to needles, eventually sliding down the needles to germinate on twigs. During the first year, the parasite penetrates the wood with a root-like structure and develops food and water transport systems. An aerial fruiting structure arises in the early spring of the second year. The structure is green and about as long as the spruce needles. Male and female plants are located on separate branches or on separate trees. During the third year, pollen and flowers are produced. Male (pollen-producing) structures, which survive only a short time, are large and orange-yellow. Pollen is spread to the tiny flowers by wind, insects, and birds. Each flower then bears one barrel-shaped fruit. The fruit, which matures in the fall, is a hard seed covered with a sticky substance. The seed is shot out of the coat for a distance of up to 30 feet. The fruiting structure then withers and falls off, leaving only the cup-shaped base. Seeds may also be carried on the feathers of birds and the fur of mammals. Dwarf mistletoe will only germinate on live host branches.

## Dwarf Mistletoe

*Arceuthobium pusillum* Peck  
State Status: Special Concern  
Federal Status: None



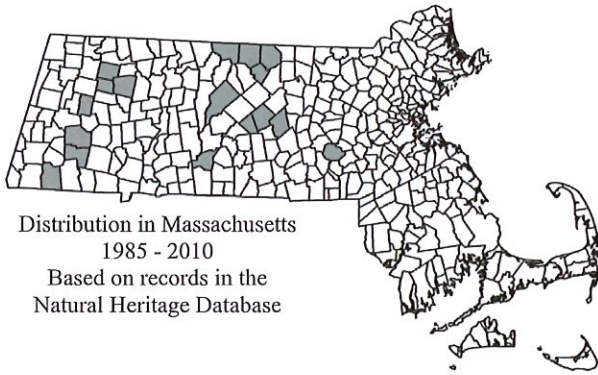
Top: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 1: 638.

Bottom: Black Spruce shoot with Eastern Dwarf Mistletoe. Photo by and courtesy of Thomas J. Rawinski.

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**Range:** Dwarf mistletoe, one of the most widespread of the New World species of *Arceuthobium*, is found throughout most of the range of its hosts. The documented range of dwarf mistletoe extends from Newfoundland and Quebec to Minnesota and Saskatchewan and south to northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan.



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1985 - 2010  
Based on records in the  
Natural Heritage Database

**Habitat In Massachusetts:** In Massachusetts, dwarf mistletoe occurs in peatlands varying from kettlehole peat bogs to spruce-fir-birch headwater swamps, generally on the branches of black spruce (*Picea mariana*). Elsewhere in its range, this plant occasionally occurs on red spruce (*Picea rubens*), white spruce (*Picea glauca*) and tamarack (*Larix laricina*). Throughout its range, it favors wetland communities dominated by conifer trees and influenced by acidic water. Specific habitats in Massachusetts include acidic conifer swamps, bog forests, and headwater swamps, including a headwater seepage swamp with both acidic and calciphilic plants. In addition to black spruce, associated species include larch (*Larix laricina*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), bog laurel (*Kalmia polifolia*) and Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*).

**Population Status in Massachusetts:** Dwarf mistletoe is currently listed as a "Species of Special Concern" in Massachusetts. All listed species are protected from killing, collecting, possessing, or sale and from activities

that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. There are 20 current stations (1985-2010) and 11 historical stations (unverified since 1978). The distribution of dwarf mistletoe is determined by the presence of its hosts, frequently spruces, which themselves are limited in distribution in Massachusetts. Due to its inconspicuous size, it is likely that some occurrences have as yet gone undiscovered. Dwarf mistletoe is also considered rare in Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

**Management Recommendations:** Various species of *Arceuthobium* are the only flowering plants that produce the phenomenon known as "witch's broom." Also caused by other parasites, such as fungi and mites, this deformity can eventually kill the affected branches and, later, the entire tree. While dwarf mistletoe is considered to be a serious threat by foresters--particularly in eastern Canada and the Lake states--it is not a problem in Massachusetts, where its rarity has resulted in its being placed on the state's rare species list. The vast majority of "witch's brooms" seen in Massachusetts are caused by other parasites.

The distribution of dwarf mistletoe is limited by that of its host species--in Massachusetts, primarily black spruce. Hence, in order to preserve a local population, it may become necessary to ensure that its host persists in the immediate vicinity. All active management of rare plant populations (including invasive species removal) is subject to review under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and should be planned in close consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

**For more information see:**

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1994  
updated 2010

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

## Houghton's Flatsedge *Cyperus houghtonii*

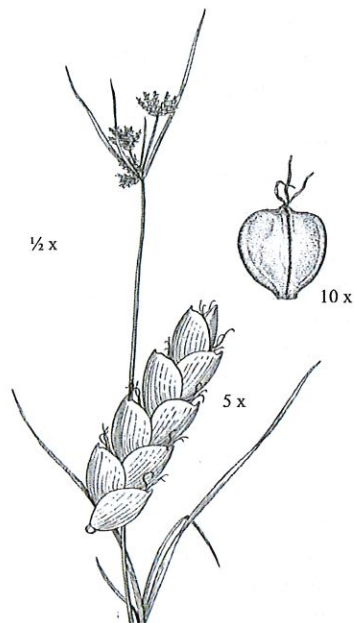
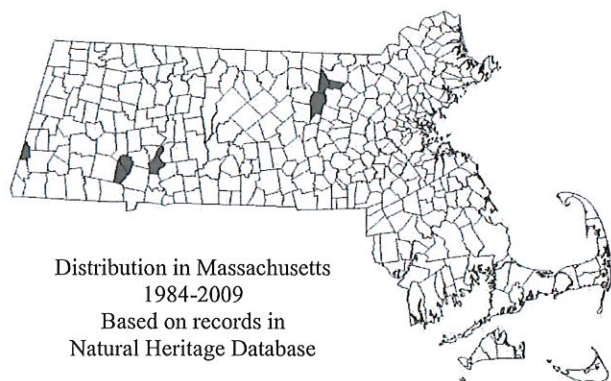
Torr.

State Status: **Endangered**

Federal Status: **None**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Houghton's Flatsedge is a perennial plant of dry, often sandy, soil. A member of the Sedge family (Cyperaceae), it has triangular stems and is 2-6 dm (8 in.-2 ft.) tall. Its inflorescences are borne at the top of the stems. Each inflorescence branches from a central point, so that the inflorescence resembles the spokes of an umbrella. Accordingly, some members of this genus are called "umbrella-sedges."

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Identification of species in the genus *Cyperus* can be difficult, and a technical manual should be consulted. Like all members of the genus *Cyperus*, Houghton's Flatsedge has elongate clusters of small, inconspicuous flowers and subtending scales, called "spikelets". In this genus, the flowers and associated scales are arranged in two vertical rows along the inflorescence stem axis, giving the flowering stems a flattened appearance ("distichously" arranged). In Houghton's Flatsedge, each spikelet is ascending and is 5- to 15-flowered. The scales are rotund, 2-2.5 mm (0.08-0.1 in.) long, many-nerved, and tipped with a very short, sharp, slender point. The achenes (one-seeded fruits) are trigonous (three sided) with concave faces. They are 1.5-2 mm (0.06-0.08 in.) long.



Holmgren, N.H., et al. 1998. *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*. New York Botanical Garden.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** Twenty species of flatsedge have been documented from Massachusetts. Many have inflorescences which do not closely resemble umbrella spokes because the spikelets diverge from many points along a central axis, rather than all from one central point. The flatsedge most likely to be confused with Houghton's Flatsedge in upland, dry, sandy habitats is the Sand Flatsedge (*Cyperus lupulinus*). The Sand Flatsedge differs from Houghton's Flatsedge in that the longest bract beneath the inflorescence is horizontal to reflexed, compared to ascending in Houghton's Flatsedge. In addition, the achene sides are markedly concave in Houghton's Flatsedge, and not or only slightly so in Sand Flatsedge. Dune Flatsedge (*Cyperus grayi*) is another dry-land flatsedge that could be

*A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan*

## Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

1 Rabbit Hill Rd., Westborough, MA; tel: 508-389-6300; fax: 508-389-7890; [www.mass.gov/dfw](http://www.mass.gov/dfw)

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confused with Houghton's Flatsedge, although as its name suggests, its habitats are typically coastal; Houghton's Flatsedge is found along the coast only atypically. Like the Sand Flatsedge, the Dune Flatsedge does not have the markedly concave achene sides of Houghton's Flatsedge.

**HABITAT:** Unlike most flatsedges, which prefer shores of ponds and rivers and moist ground, Houghton's Flatsedge prefers dry soil conditions. In the northern portion of its range, it is commonly found growing with Jack Pine (*Pinus banksiana*). Habitats in Massachusetts include dry, open, rocky summits; the exposed fine sand of a large esker with heavily eroded sand gullies; and a broad, gently sloping sandplain. Associated herbaceous species include Horsetweed (*Conyza canadensis* var. *canadensis*), Sand-sedge (*Bulbostylis capillaris*), Dune Flatsedge (*Cyperus grayi*), Blue Curls (*Trichostema dichotomum*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). Associated woody species are Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), and Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*).

**RANGE:** The documented range of Houghton's Flatsedge extends from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and southern Quebec to Minnesota and northwestern Indiana. Isolated, disjunct populations occur in northern Virginia and eastern West Virginia.

**POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS:** Houghton's Flatsedge is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as Endangered. All listed species are protected from killing, collecting, possessing, or sale and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors.

**MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:** As for many rare species, exact needs for management of Houghton's Flatsedge are not known. The following comments are based primarily on observations of populations in Massachusetts. Several of Massachusetts' populations occur on circumneutral rocky summits and rock outcrops. These open communities are dominated by grasses, sedges, and herbaceous plants. Grazing and fire may contribute to keeping these areas open. Suppression of natural disturbance regimes, which could be followed by succession, is likely the greatest threat to this species in Massachusetts.

#### MATURE FRUIT PRESENT:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Updated 2015

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*Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife*

**Dwarf Bulrush**  
*Lipocarpus micrantha*  
(Vahl.) G. Tucker

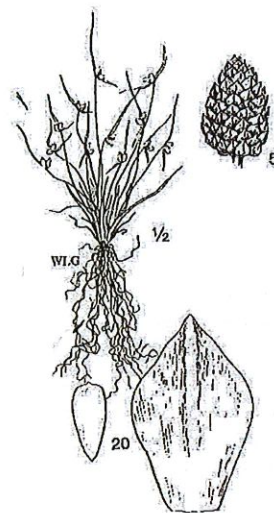
State Status: **Threatened**

Federal Status: **None**

**DESCRIPTION:** Dwarf Bulrush (*Lipocarpus micrantha*) is a tiny, wiry annual sedge (family Cyperaceae), which inhabits sandy to peaty shores of low-nutrient ponds and lakes.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:** Reaching just 2 to 20 cm (<0.1–8 in.) in height, this tiny bulrush grows in small tufts, and has very slender stems, leaves, and bracts. The leaves are up to 10 cm (4 in.) in length, and just 0.5 mm wide. The terminal bract appears to be a continuation of the stem, and the inflorescence appears lateral. The stem bears 1 to 3 egg-shaped spikelets, each with numerous spirally-arranged, overlapping scales. The scales are 1 to 2 mm long, and narrowly rounded with a small awn (sharp tip). The flowers, which develop beneath the scales, have both female and male parts, and no bristles. The fruit, an achene, is cylindric, iridescent brown, and 0.5 to 0.7 mm long.

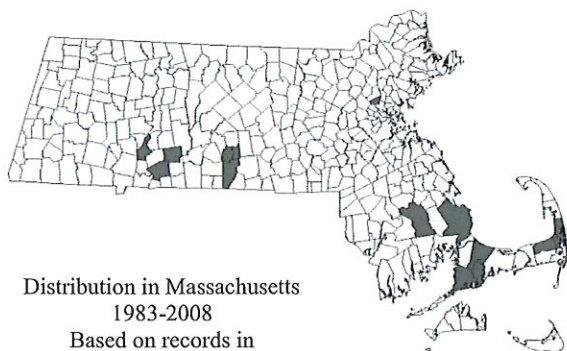
**SIMILAR SPECIES:** When examined at maturity, Dwarf Bulrush is not likely to be confused with other bulrushes in Massachusetts, due to its dwarf size and slender foliage.



Holmgren, N.H. 1998. *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*. NY Botanical Garden.

**HABITAT:** Dwarf Bulrush inhabits sandy to peaty, gently sloping shores of acidic, low-nutrient freshwater ponds with dramatic water-level fluctuation. This annual sedge germinates in a band of shore exposed following late season water-level recession. In Massachusetts, it is found along the shores of coastal plain ponds, and of ponds outside of the coastal plain that have similar hydrology, and water chemistry.

Associated species include several species of flatsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), Autumn Fimbry (*Fimbristylis autumnalis*), Canadian St. John's-wort (*Hypericum canadense*), Golden Hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola aurea*), and several species of spike-sedge (*Eleocharis* spp.).



Distribution in Massachusetts  
1983-2008  
Based on records in  
Natural Heritage Database

*A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan*

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

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**THREATS:** Threats to Dwarf Bulrush include any activities that change the natural hydrology, water quality, or soil integrity of its habitat. Examples include water table drawdown from local wells, eutrophication resulting from nutrient inputs from septic systems and lawns, and trampling and soil disturbance due to recreational use of pondshores (i.e., hiking, sunbathing, swimming, fishing, boat-launching, and raking or digging).

**RANGE:** The range of Dwarf Bulrush is broad, encompassing nearly all of the eastern and midwestern states, Quebec and Ontario, and a portion of the west. It is rare or extirpated throughout most of New England.

**POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS:** Dwarf Bulrush is listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act as Threatened. All listed species are legally protected from killing, collection, possession, or sale, and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. Dwarf Bulrush is currently known from Barnstable, Hampden, Middlesex, Plymouth, and Worcester Counties, and is historically known from Dukes, Essex, Hampshire, and Norfolk Counties.

#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Preservation of Dwarf Bulrush requires protection of the natural hydrology, water quality, and soil integrity of its habitat. Like other pondshore plant species that inhabit late-season exposed shores, it requires pronounced water-level fluctuations, and acidic, nutrient-poor water and substrate, free from major soil disturbance.

Dwarf Bulrush populations should be monitored regularly to identify possible threats. This species is best surveyed when mature fruit are present, mid-August to late September, depending on when water levels recede.

Protection of Dwarf Bulrush may require exclusion of new wells and septic systems, prohibitions on fertilizer use, and restrictions on recreational use of the pondshores. Recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and boat-launching should be diverted from plant population locations by providing alternative locations for these activities.

Also, habitat should be monitored for exotic plant species invasions. The nature of coastal plain ponds makes them generally inhospitable to many exotic plants, but they can become established at sites that have major soil disturbance or heavy nutrient inputs. Exotic species that could establish along the shoreline of coastal plain ponds include Common Reed (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*), Gray Willow (*Salix cinerea*), and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

All active management of rare plant populations (including invasive species removal) is subject to review under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and should be planned in close consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program.

#### Fruiting time in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Updated 2015

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## Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581  
tel: (508) 389-6360, fax: (508) 389-7891  
www.nhESP.org

**Description:** Adder's-tongue is a small terrestrial fern, up to 30 cm (12 in) high, consisting of a single fleshy green stalk (stipe) bearing a simple leaf and a fertile spike. The stipe arises from fleshy, cod-like rhizomes and roots. About midway up the stipe is the pale green leaf, approximately 15 cm (6 in), narrowly oval to oblong. In var. *pseudopodium* (false foot), the widespread form, the blade gradually tapers for about 1/3 to 2/3 of its length to a narrow, 1-2 cm base that continues to run down the lower stipe. There is a finely indented network of interconnecting veins. The stipe extends well beyond the leaf blade and is terminated by a short, pale green, narrow fertile spike from 1-4 cm long and up to 5 mm wide, which consists of 2 tightly packed rows of rounded sporangia (spore cases) on the margins of the spike axis. There can be a large variation in the size, shape, and position of the blade, as well as of the fertile spike; occurrences of two fronds (leaves) per rootstalk have been observed. The plant appears anytime after early June.

**Similar Species:** No other fern looks like the Adder's-tongue. Its closest relatives, the Grape Ferns (*Botrychium*) have dissected or lobed leaves. Several orchids and lilies may have similarly shaped fleshy basal leaves, such that non-flowering or juvenile individuals may at first glance be mistaken for Adder's-tongue Fern. However, all have parallel-veined leaves.

**Habitat in Massachusetts:** Boggy meadows, acidic fens (sphagnum areas with seeping groundwater), borders of marshes, wet fields, and moist woodland clearings provide suitable open and sunny habitat for Adder's-tongue Fern. Vegetation in these habitats is varied, composed predominantly of common grasses, bulrushes (*Scirpus*), sedges (*Carex*), and broadleaved herbs including Ragged, Small Purple Fringed, and White Fringed Orchis (*Platanthera lacera*, *P. psycodes*, and *P. blephariglottis*), and Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*). No common associate or indicator species particularly point to the presence of Adder's-tongue Fern.

## Adder's Tongue Fern

*Ophioglossum pusillum* Raf.

State Status: Threatened

Federal Status: None

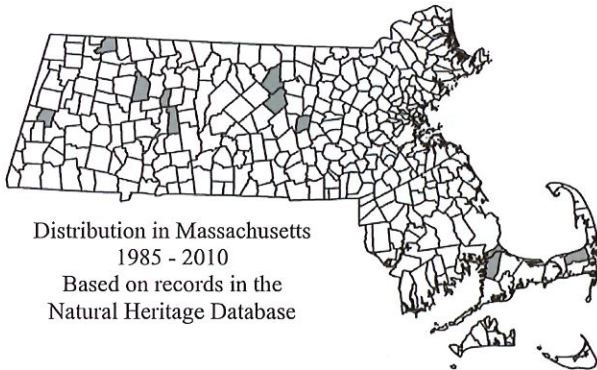


Northern Adder's tongue: Photo: B. Legler, USDA Forest Service. Drawing: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions. 3 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Vol. 1: 2.

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**Range:** Adder's-tongue Fern (var. pseudopodium) is a very widespread, primarily northern fern occurring across North America from Prince Edward Island and southern Quebec to Washington; south to Virginia and west to Indiana, Nebraska, Arizona and Mexico.



**Population Status:** Adder's-tongue Fern is listed as Threatened under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. All listed species are protected from killing, collecting, possessing, or sale and from activities that would destroy habitat and thus directly or indirectly cause mortality or disrupt critical behaviors. It was once a widespread species in Massachusetts during the century of extensive agricultural clearing. Records prior to 1978 are from over 90 locations! At present there are only 8 known occurrences. This elusive and easily overlooked species makes it difficult to determine whether individual populations are in decline or stable. Possibly, undiscovered populations may still exist in Massachusetts, but the increasing rarity of appropriate open habitat appears to be a major factor in its decline in this state as well as most of its range. It is listed as rare in 20 states, including most of New England (except Vermont) and several provinces of Canada. NatureServe ranks it as G5-Secure globally because of the widespread distribution.

**Management Recommendations:** Adder's-tongue Fern appears to need the increased light from canopy opening or forest clearing. Reports from most of the current sites mention threats from succession. Invasive species are impinging on several of the populations; removal of invasive plants would leave space and less shade for the fern.

Several of the sites are mowed fields, recommendations in those cases are for singly yearly mowings to take place in the spring to allow the plant to grow and produce spores. All active management of rare plant populations (including invasive species removal) is subject to review under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and should be planned in close consultation with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

**For More Information See:**

NatureServe. 2010. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: December 13, 2010 ).

USDA, NRCS. 2010. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 13 December 2010). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

1990  
Updated 2010

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# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## MACRIS

## MACRIS Search Results

## WEST BOYLSTON

Inv. No.	Property Name		Street	Year
<b>BUILDINGS</b>				
WBY.57	Old Stone Church	Building	Beaman St	1891
WBY.56	West Boylston First Congregational Church	Building	26 Central St	1902
WBY.104	Goodael, Col. - Dinsmore, Silas House	Building	34 Central St	c 1850
WBY.105	Sawyer, W. O. House	Building	40 Central St	c 1865
WBY.106	Sawyer, W. O. Carriage House	Building	44 Central St	r 1855
WBY.107	Sawyer, William H. Carriage and Harness Shop	Building	46 Central St	r 1855
WBY.108	Hines, Alona House	Building	52 Central St	c 1860
WBY.109	Merrill, Charles S. Hosue	Building	53 Central St	c 1915
WBY.110	Warner, Clifton C. House	Building	55 Central St	c 1925
WBY.111	Warner, Clifton C. House	Building	57 Central St	c 1925
WBY.112	Hurd, Hubbard G. House	Building	58 Central St	c 1902
WBY.113		Building	62 Central St	c 1902
WBY.114	Thomas, Robert B. House	Building	89 Central St	r 1820
WBY.115	Snow, N. House	Building	91-93 Central St	c 1860
WBY.116	Anderson, John Emerson House	Building	101 Central St	r 1880
WBY.117	Smith, John House	Building	103 Central St	r 1835
WBY.118	Morse, Charles Barn	Building	104 Central St	r 1850
WBY.119	Newton, S. D. House	Building	107 Central St	c 1821
WBY.120	Pierce, Henry House	Building	111 Central St	r 1875
WBY.121		Building	112 Central St	c 1927
WBY.122	Boynton House	Building	116 Central St	c 1860
WBY.123	Harrington, B. House	Building	119 Central St	r 1860
WBY.61	Holbrook Memorial Chapel	Building	Church St	1891
WBY.167	Mount Vernon Cemetery Maintenance Building	Building	Church St	1971
WBY.16	Reed, John House	Building	6 Church St	c 1831
WBY.62	West Boylston First Baptist Church	Building	12 Church St	1902
WBY.124	Old Stone Church Parsonage	Building	18 Church St	1890
WBY.63	Smith, B. House	Building	20 Church St	r 1835
WBY.64	Lovell, Amos Jr. House	Building	24 Church St	r 1835
WBY.125	Brigham, Edmund F. House	Building	36 Church St	c 1790
WBY.126	Municipal Lighting Department Building	Building	2 Crescent St	1936
WBY.127	Adams, David H. House	Building	19 Crescent St	r 1875
WBY.128	Stiles, W. House	Building	26 Crescent St	r 1855
WBY.129	Saint Anthony's Roman Catholic Church Rectory	Building	29 Crescent St	c 1880
WBY.87		Building	14 Fairbanks St	1928
WBY.51	Fairbank, William House	Building	98 Fairbanks St	c 1780
WBY.52	Fairbank, Seth House	Building	130 Fairbanks St	c 1777
WBY.88	Taylor, A. - Goodnowe, H. H. House	Building	147 Fairbanks St	c 1850
WBY.41	Goodale Street School	Building	40 Goodale St	1903
WBY.59		Building	152 Goodale St	r 1820
WBY.35	Bigelow, Stephen - Bigelow, Joseph House	Building	193 Goodale St	1799
WBY.98	Morton, Harrison E. House	Building	6 Green St	r 1885
WBY.154		Building	10 Green St	r 1850



## MACRIS Search Results

## WEST BOYLSTON

Inv. No.	Property Name		Street	Year
WBY.155		Building	12 High St	r 1850
WBY.156		Building	16 High St	r 1850
WBY.139	Crocker, Ansel F. House	Building	23 High St	r 1875
WBY.40	Hosmer, Capt. Daniel House	Building	51 Hosmer St	1775
WBY.68	Girard, Tony House	Building	16 Lancaster St	c 1920
WBY.47	Morse, Joel House	Building	19 Lancaster St	1804
WBY.69	Harthan, Capt. - Bond, Louis House	Building	56 Lancaster St	c 1850
WBY.48	Winn, Jacob House	Building	77 Lancaster St	r 1755
WBY.70		Building	109 Lancaster St	c 1910
WBY.71	Carima House	Building	218 Lancaster St	c 1922
WBY.49	Moore, Israel - Paine, Ebenezer House	Building	243 Lancaster St	c 1755
WBY.50	Wilder, Josiah House	Building	330 Lancaster St	c 1730
WBY.148	Oakdale Methodist Church Parsonage	Building	6 Laurel St	1890
WBY.149	Morrow, William House	Building	10 Laurel St	r 1850
WBY.157		Building	12 Laurel St	r 1980
WBY.158		Building	20 Laurel St	r 1850
WBY.150	West Boylston District #7 Schoolhouse	Building	32 Laurel St	c 1852
WBY.151	White, J. D. House	Building	38 Laurel St	r 1860
WBY.152		Building	62 Laurel St	c 1870
WBY.153	Pratt, J. R. House	Building	68 Laurel St	r 1860
WBY.39	May, Ezra House	Building	109 Laurel St	c 1797
WBY.38	Allen, Daniel House	Building	136 Laurel St	c 1790
WBY.36	Mason, Samuel House	Building	194 Laurel St	1761
WBY.60	Goodale House	Building	66 Malden St	r 1840
WBY.18	Hine, E. - Hall, J. D. House	Building	9 Maple St	r 1865
WBY.72		Building	20 Maple St	c 1910
WBY.21	Holt, Jonas House	Building	86 Maple St	1780
WBY.7	South Schoolhouse	Building	149 Maple St	1787
WBY.6	Child, David House	Building	178 Maple St	r 1740
WBY.5	Child, Zachariah House	Building	224 Maple St	1801
WBY.4	Pierce - Knight House	Building	262 Maple St	c 1750
WBY.99	Boyd, Andrew House	Building	8 May St	r 1885
WBY.159		Building	10 May St	r 1880
WBY.100	Newton, W. House	Building	14 May St	r 1855
WBY.101	Anderson, John House	Building	18 May St	r 1845
WBY.102	Chamberlain, Joshua House	Building	20 May St	c 1890
WBY.103	Chamberlain, Joshua House	Building	24 May St	r 1850
WBY.34	West Boylston Odd Fellows Temple	Building	7 Newton St	r 1885
WBY.58	Beaman Memorial Public Library	Building	8 Newton St	1912
WBY.33	Jenks, Dr. Nicholas House	Building	14 Newton St	1810
WBY.89	Russell, Samuel S. House	Building	11 North Main St	r 1875
WBY.90	Whitaker, Joseph House	Building	14 North Main St	r 1840
WBY.91	Oakdale Methodist Church	Building	15 North Main St	1859
WBY.97	Oakdale District Schoolhouse	Building	15A North Main St	c 1858
WBY.92	Bradford, Pelham House	Building	16 North Main St	c 1850
WBY.93	Pine Hill Overnight Cabin	Building	16 North Main St	
WBY.94	Harrisville District Schoolhouse #5	Building	18 North Main St	1858
WBY.95	Smith, G. J. House	Building	22 North Main St	r 1855
WBY.96	Whittemore, W. House	Building	23 North Main St	r 1850
WBY.160		Building	24 North Main St	r 1850
WBY.147	Bosworth, Arthur L. House	Building	33 North Main St	r 1880
WBY.146	George, Rev. Nathan D. House	Building	41 North Main St	r 1865
WBY.145	Conant, Hiram House	Building	43 North Main St	r 1865
WBY.144	Brown, John W. House	Building	45 North Main St	r 1865
WBY.161		Building	47 North Main St	r 1875



## MACRIS Search Results

## WEST BOYLSTON

Inv. No.	Property Name		Street	Year
WBY.162		Building	59 North Main St	r 1920
WBY.163		Building	64 North Main St	r 1880
WBY.42	Thomas, William House	Building	67 North Main St	r 1800
WBY.164	Reed, C. H. House	Building	68 North Main St	r 1880
WBY.8	Pierce, Levi House	Building	95 Pierce St	c 1790
WBY.67	Wood House	Building	1 Prescott St	c 1920
WBY.66	Earle, Dr. W. House	Building	21 Prescott St	c 1890
WBY.43	Fairbank, Baruch House	Building	63 Prescott St	c 1805
WBY.44	Fairbank, Lemuel House	Building	78 Prescott St	c 1790
WBY.45	Hemingway House	Building	223 Prescott St	c 1829
WBY.31	Sawyer Hall	Building	1 Prospect St	r 1855
WBY.30	Reed, George Warren House	Building	9 Prospect St	c 1905
WBY.32	Morse, Charles House	Building	12 Prospect St	c 1835
WBY.29	Glazier, Oliver Carpentry Shop	Building	13 Prospect St	1796
WBY.28	Glazier, Oliver House	Building	15 Prospect St	1796
WBY.25	Murdock, Dea. Artemas C. House	Building	42 Prospect St	1801
WBY.26	Murdock, David C. Cabinet Shop	Building	46 Prospect St	1868
WBY.27	Goodell, Norman H. House	Building	47 Prospect St	c 1846
WBY.24	Muzzy, Cephas House	Building	98 Prospect St	1837
WBY.23	Keyes, Thomas Granary and Cider Mill	Building	152 Prospect St	1812
WBY.22	Keyes, Thomas - Keyes, Benjamin House	Building	158 Prospect St	1784
WBY.12	Merrifield, Asaph House	Building	405 Prospect St	1785
WBY.11	Child, John House	Building	535 Prospect St	c 1752
WBY.10	Willington, Ebenezer House	Building	559 Prospect St	c 1780
WBY.9	Davis, Barnabas House	Building	575B Prospect St	c 1775
WBY.55	Burns, William J. House	Building	43 Scarlett St	1895
WBY.3	Hinds, Benjamin House	Building	23 Shrewsbury St	c 1746
WBY.2	Hatherly, Thomas House	Building	75 Shrewsbury St	r 1775
WBY.1	Cobb, Salem House	Building	111 Shrewsbury St	1815
WBY.166		Building	225 Shrewsbury St	c 1900
WBY.73	Prescott, Eunice Holt House	Building	68 Sterling St	r 1855
WBY.74	Luce, Newman B. House	Building	95 Sterling St	c 1870
WBY.46	Prouty, Joshua House	Building	109 Sterling St	c 1810
WBY.19	Bigelow, Abel House	Building	8 Temple St	1779
WBY.75	Bacon, Raymond House	Building	12 Temple St	c 1925
WBY.76	Lowe, John - Coffin, James A. House	Building	24 Temple St	c 1905
WBY.77	Rosebrook, William - Pulsifer, Walter House	Building	27 Temple St	c 1903
WBY.78	Wilcox, Leon - Orciani, Primo House	Building	31 Temple St	c 1920
WBY.79	Brinck, Roy House	Building	33 Temple St	c 1903
WBY.80	Ricci House	Building	36 Temple St	r 1925
WBY.81	Orciani House	Building	42 Temple St	c 1925
WBY.20	Bigelow, Dea. Amariah - Temple, John House	Building	63 Temple St	1765
WBY.82		Building	70 Temple St	1927
WBY.83		Building	71 Temple St	1928
WBY.84	Carlisle, Charles House	Building	80 Temple St	r 1925
WBY.85	Lindblad, Arvid W. House	Building	113 Temple St	c 1935
WBY.37	Whitney, William House	Building	18 Tobin Ln	1730
WBY.142	Lord, Joseph M. House	Building	14 Washacum St	r 1865
WBY.143	Staples, William H. House	Building	16 Washacum St	r 1880
WBY.140	Sheldon, Augustus V. House	Building	34 Washacum St	r 1880
WBY.141	Ryan, Michael S. House	Building	17 Waushacum St	r 1880
WBY.65	Walker, E. House	Building	2 West Boylston St	r 1855
WBY.86	Wood, Ashley H. House	Building	4 Wood St	c 1890
WBY.130	Snow House	Building	8 Worcester St	r 1895
WBY.131	Holmes, William T. House	Building	12 Worcester St	c 1905



## MACRIS Search Results

## WEST BOYLSTON

Inv. No.	Property Name		Street	Year
WBY.53	Glazier, Jotham House	Building	24 Worcester St	1850
WBY.132	Davis, E. House	Building	43 Worcester St	r 1855
WBY.15	Maynard, Calvin - White General Store	Building	60 Worcester St	r 1795
WBY.14	Bigelow Tavern - Temple Tavern Distillery	Building	64 Worcester St	r 1775
WBY.13	Bigelow Tavern - Temple Tavern - Spofford Inn	Building	65 Worcester St	c 1760
WBY.133	Smith, Dr. George S. House	Building	95 Worcester St	r 1825
WBY.54	Scarlett, Andrew J. House	Building	111 Worcester St	1905
WBY.134	Pierce, Ezra B. House	Building	114 Worcester St	c 1840
WBY.135	Goodell, Norman H. House	Building	120 Worcester St	c 1880
WBY.136	Brigham, Edmund F. House	Building	128 Worcester St	r 1835
WBY.137	Brigham, Edmund Davis House	Building	139 Worcester St	r 1885
WBY.17	Center Schoolhouse - Brigham's Spa	Building	140 Worcester St	c 1790
WBY.138	Scarlet, Andrew J. House	Building	148 Worcester St	c 1890

## BURIAL GROUND

WBY.801	Mount Vernon Cemetery	Burial Ground	Church St	1757
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## OBJECTS

WBY.912	Mount Vernon Cemetery Flag Pole	Objects	Church St	1984
WBY.913	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Walker - Herman Monument	Objects	Church St	1898
WBY.914	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Scarlett Monument	Objects	Church St	1935
WBY.915	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Tyson Monument	Objects	Church St	1922
WBY.916	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Prescott Obelisk	Objects	Church St	1884
WBY.917	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Harris Monument	Objects	Church St	1892
WBY.918	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Veterans Memorial Boulder	Objects	Church St	1966
WBY.919	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Whitcomb, Lorenz Boulder	Objects	Church St	2002
WBY.920	Mount Vernon Cemetery - White, William Monument	Objects	Church St	1933
WBY.921	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Goodale, Leon A. Monument	Objects	Church St	1941
WBY.922	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Cross, Rev. J. Monument	Objects	Church St	1906
WBY.923	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Reed Monument	Objects	Church St	1915
WBY.924	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Edwards Boulder	Objects	Church St	1931
WBY.925	Mount Vernon Cemetery - G.A.R. Civil War Monument	Objects	Church St	1895
WBY.926	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Hennessey Monument	Objects	Church St	1922
WBY.927	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Bullard, Samuel Monument	Objects	Church St	1916
WBY.928	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Bullard, Abbie N. Monument	Objects	Church St	1876
WBY.929	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Warren Monument	Objects	Church St	r 1850
WBY.930	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Warren, E. L. Monument	Objects	Church St	1895
WBY.931	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Holbrook, Eli W. Monument	Objects	Church St	1888
WBY.932	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Worcester, S. Monument	Objects	Church St	1824
WBY.933	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Nash, Rev. W. Monument	Objects	Church St	1829
WBY.934	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Anderson, J. E. Monument	Objects	Church St	1896
WBY.935	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Tilton, Aaron Obelisk	Objects	Church St	1876
WBY.936	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Murdock, Lt. Albert Marker	Objects	Church St	1865
WBY.937	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Newton, Betsey B. Marker	Objects	Church St	1892
WBY.938	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Reed, Maj. Joseph Marker	Objects	Church St	1867
WBY.939	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Beaman Monument	Objects	Church St	r 1850
WBY.940	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Walker Children's Marker	Objects	Church St	r 1850
WBY.941	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Surabian, Lt. Simon Marker	Objects	Church St	1945
WBY.942	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Bigelow, Capt. J. Marker	Objects	Church St	1800



## MACRIS Search Results

## WEST BOYLSTON

Inv. No.	Property Name		Street	Year
WBY.943	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Davis, Abigail B. Marker	Objects	Church St	1807
WBY.944	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Davis, Abigail B. Marker	Objects	Church St	1810
WBY.945	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Flagg, Samuel L. Marker	Objects	Church St	1828
WBY.946	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Glazier, Lydia Marker	Objects	Church St	1798
WBY.947	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Goodale, Aaron Marker	Objects	Church St	1817
WBY.948	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Goodale, Elizabeth Marker	Objects	Church St	1799
WBY.949	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Goodale, Sarah Marker	Objects	Church St	1810
WBY.950	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Holt, Anna Marker	Objects	Church St	1808
WBY.951	Mount Vernon Cemetery - White, Sally M. Marker	Objects	Church St	1798
WBY.952	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Beaman, Dinah Marker	Objects	Church St	1774
WBY.953	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Beaman, Ephraim Marker	Objects	Church St	1790
WBY.954	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Beaman, Maj. Ezra Marker	Objects	Church St	1811
WBY.955	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Beaman, Jabez Marker	Objects	Church St	1757
WBY.956	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Beaman, Jonathan Marker	Objects	Church St	1771
WBY.957	Mount Vernon Cemetery - Johnson, Zoath Marker	Objects	Church St	1765

## AREAS

WBY.A	Oakdale Village Historic District	Area
WBY.B	West Boylston Center	Area
WBY.C	Quabbin Aqueduct	Area
WBY.D	Southeast West Boylston	Area
WBY.E	Bigelow Tavern Historic District	Area
WBY.F	Water Supply of Metropolitan Boston	Area
WBY.G	Quabbin Aqueduct Outlet Works	Area
WBY.H	Mount Vernon Cemetery	Area

## STRUCTURES

WBY.902	Beaman Street Arch	Structures	Beaman St	1903
WBY.908	Holbrook Memorial Chapel Stone Walls	Structures	Church St	1891
WBY.909	Mount Vernon Cemetery Exterior Boundary Stone Wall	Structures	Church St	1935
WBY.910	Beaman Cemetery Stone Wall	Structures	Church St	c 1790
WBY.911	Mount Vernon Cemetery Fence	Structures	Church St	2002
WBY.901	Hartwell Street Railroad Bridge	Structures	Hartwell St	1908
WBY.905	Quinepoxet River Circular Control Dam	Structures	River St	1905
WBY.903	Quinepoxit River Bridge	Structures	Thomas St	1903
WBY.907	Quabbin Aqueduct Outlet Chamber (Shaft #1)	Structures	Thomas St	1932
WBY.900	Wachusett Reservoir - Thomas Basin Bridge	Structures	Wachusett Reservoir	1904
WBY.906	Wachusett Reservoir	Structures	Wachusett Reservoir	1897



Appendix C: Parcels with Open Space or Recreation Significance

Location Parcel ID	Location Street Address	Size (acres)	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Type of Public Grant Accepted if any	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Chapter Lands - Limited Protection											
108/5	Keyes Street	14.80	Beardsley, Andrew & Erin	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Passive	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
147/2	Phelps Street	11.88	Fletcher, Karin & Andrew	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
136/5	Malden Street	11.93	Haarman, Carl	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
115/2	Fairbanks Street	14.50	Italiano, Joan & William Jr	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
115/10	Fairbanks Street	43.83	Italiano, Joan & William Jr	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
120/14	Raymond S Huntington	1.49	Mercurio, David P	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
120/13	Raymond S Huntington	1.85	Mercurio, David P	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
106/1	Raymond S Huntington	52.64	Mercurio, David P	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
106/6	Raymond S Huntington	14.42	Mercurio, David P	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	Unknown	Limited - Chapter 61
119/43	Laurel Street	2.80	Monkiewicz, Ingrid Johanson	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61
119/44	Laurel Street	20.00	Monkiewicz, Ingrid Johanson	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61
130/4	Lancaster Street	11.60	Pusateri, Vincent	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61
107/15/1	Hosmer Street	15.10	51 Realty Trust	Private	Forestry	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61
115/7/1	Fairbanks Street	19.08	Giobellina, Angela	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SR	Limited - Chapter 61A
115/7	Fairbanks Street	33.00	Giobellina, Joseph A Jr	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SR	Limited - Chapter 61A
126/27	Lancaster Street	7.20	Mercurio, Daniel	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A
164/39	Prospect Street	27.33	Minnich Dennis	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61A
156/6	Lee Street	24.49	Minnich Dennis	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61A
164/8	Prospect Street	4.33	Minnich Dennis	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61A
157/1	Lee Street	4.40	Minnich Dennis	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61A
164/11	Prospect Street	17.00	Minnich Dennis	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61A
164/12	Prospect Street	71.85	Minnich Dennis	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61A
127/15	Lancaster Street	1.12	Perla, Frank	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A
114/1	Lancaster Street	17.08	Perla, Frank	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A
127/26	Lancaster Street	15.00	Philbin, Philip J	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A
126/28	Lancaster Street	5.00	Pusateri, Vincent	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A
131/80	Lancaster Street	27.00	Rotti, Albert J	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A



Location Parcel ID	Location Street Address	Size (acres)	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Type of Public Grant Accepted if any	Zoning	Degree of Protection
131/82	Lancaster Street	16.00	Rotti, Albert J	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	GR	Limited - Chapter 61A
148/19	Prospect Street	26.09	Soheiliarshadi, Mahmoud	Private	Agriculture	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SR	Limited - Chapter 61A
154/5	Prospect Street	44.70	Country Club Realty Trust	Private	Recreational	Excellent	Golf Course	Fee/By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61B
154/8	Prospect Street	134.64	Country Club Realty Trust	Private	Recreational	Excellent	Golf Course	Fee/By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61B
119/49	Laurel Street	16.00	Goodale, Norman	Private	Recreational	Unknown	Unknown	By landowner	none	SRA	Limited - Chapter 61B
179/1	Shrewsbury Street	4.29	Worcester Country Club	Private	Recreational	Excellent	Golf Course	Fee/By landowner	none	SR	Limited - Chapter 61B
179/2	Shrewsbury Street	35.78	Worcester Country Club	Private	Recreational	Excellent	Golf Course	Fee/By landowner	none	SR	Limited - Chapter 61B
For-Profit											
1268	Wachusett Country Club	45.3825	COUNTRY CLUB R T	Private	Recreation	Private	Golf Course	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
1260	Wachusett Country Club	135.772	COUNTRY CLUB R T	Private	Recreation	Private	Golf Course	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2647	Woodhaven Campground	30.2403	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2653	Woodhaven Campground	1.78268	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2645	Woodhaven Campground	10.9264	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2650	Woodhaven Campground	4.20312	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2649	Woodhaven Campground	1.76503	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2652	Woodhaven Campground	0.87725	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2654	Woodhaven Campground	0.14845	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None
2651	Woodhaven Campground	2.70604	WOODHAVEN CAMPGROUND	Private	Recreation	Private	Camping	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	None



Location Parcel ID	Location Street Address	Size (acres)	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Type of Public Grant Accepted if any	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Conservation Restrictions and Watershed Restrictions											
2782	Angell Brook CR	10.9909	Angell Brook Development Corporation	Private	Conservation	Private	CR	Full Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
152	Goodale WPR	15.136	GOODALE NORMAN H	Private	Water Supply	Private	WPR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
2774	Hillside Village CR	8.65665	KEYSTONE DEVELOPMENT CORP AND HILLSIDE VILLAGE CONDO TRUST	Private	Conservation	Private	CR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
1252	Unknown	24.7834	Malden Brook Farm LLC	Private	Water Supply	Private	WPR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
2776	Malden Brook Farms APR	79.6516	Malden Brook Farms LLC	Private	Agriculture	Private	APR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
1263	Malden Brook Farms WPR	26.9749	Malden Brook Farms LLC	Private	Water Supply	Private	WPR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
2778	Malden Brook Farms/Tashjian WPR	32.521	Malden Brook Farms LLC	Private	Water Supply	Private	WPR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
2777	Malden Brook Farms/Tashjian WPR	5.35611	Malden Brook Farms LLC	Private	Water Supply	Private	WPR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
1289	Whiting WPR	16.7703	WHITING	Private	Water Supply	Private	WPR	No Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Perpetuity
Cemetery											
637	St Luke Cemetery	2.62538	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	Private	Historical/Cultural	Private Non-	Cemetery	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Limited
1312	Oakdale Cemetery	12.6424	Oakdale Cemetery Association	Limited	Historical/Cultural	Cemetery Association	Cemetery	Public Access	Unknown	Unknown	Limited



Location Parcel ID	Location Street Address	Site (acres)	Management Agency	Ownership	Degree of Protection	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Type of Public Grant Accepted if any	Zoning
Greater Worcester Land Trust											
2783	Pine Glen	1.288294	Public	Greater Worcester Land Trust	Perpetuity	Recreation and Conservation	Undeveloped	Passive Recreation (trails, walking)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Single Residence
Municipal											
1285	Goodale Park	22.179004	Public	Town of West Boylston Parks and Recreation Department	Limited	Recreation	Good	Active and Passive Recreation(fields, walking, etc.)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1282	Major Edwards School (Pride Park)	8.169811	Public	Town of West Boylston School Department	Limited	Recreation/School	Good	Active Recreation (playgrounds and fields)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
555	Mixer Bldg Fields	13.757518	Public	Town of West Boylston	Limited	Historical/Cultural	Good	Active Recreation (playgrounds and fields)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1238	Mt Vernon Cemetery	16.590164	Public	Town of West Boylston Cemetary Department	Limited	Recreation	Good	Passive Recreation (walking)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR and Aquifer Overlay District (AQ)
1283	T-Ball Field	1.76132	Public	Town of West Boylston Parks and Recreation Department	Limited	Unknown	Good	Active Recreation (playgrounds and fields)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Unknown
1316	Town Gravel Bank	7.611639	Public	Town of West Boylston Department of Public Works	Limited	Recreation and brush dump	Good	Passive Recreation (walking)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1284	West Boylston High School	9.831373	Public	Town of West Boylston School Department	Limited	Recreation	Good	Active Recreation (playgrounds and fields)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1286	Woodland Park	5.766261	Public	Town of West Boylston Parks and Recreation Department	Limited	Recreation	Good	Active and Passive Recreation (fields, walking, etc.)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
Other Government											
1226	Kent CR	5.467189	Public	Town of West Boylston Conservation Commission	Perpetuity	Conservation	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking, all uses permitted under CR)	Full Public Access	CP/State	SR AQ
1255	Town Common (east)	0.594092	Public	Town of West Boylston Department of Public Works	Perpetuity	Historical/Cultural (community gathering)	Good	Passive Recreation (community gathering, gazebo)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1254	Town Common (center)	0.918564	Public	Town of West Boylston Department of Public Works	Perpetuity	Historical/Cultural	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1237	Town Common (west)	1.427562	Public	Town of West Boylston Department of Public Works	Perpetuity	Historical/Cultural (community gathering, skating)	Good	Passive Recreation (walking)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR
1270	Town Wells	2.65554	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Full Public Access	No EEA Involvement	SR AQ
1257	Town Wells	1.80711	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	ALA/State 32101	Unknown
1256	Town Wells	1.644128	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	ALA/State 32102	Unknown
1258	Town Wells	28.595287	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Unknown
1311	Wachusett Reservoir	0.30063	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Unknown
1309	Wachusett Reservoir	13.214224	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Unknown
1261	Water District Land	2.631496	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Unknown
1262	Water District Land	8.631763	Public	Town of West Boylston Water District	Perpetuity	Water Supply	N/A	Passive Recreation (walking)	Limited Public Access	No EEA Involvement	Unknown



Unknown	5 Paul X Tivnan Dr, West Boylston, MA 01583	241.4	Public	Worcester County Jail & House of Correction	Unknown	Public Safety/Recreation	Unknown	Limited	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
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Department of Conservation and Recreation											
2769	Unknown	3.715318	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Perpetuity	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1221	Unknown	3.061902	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Perpetuity	N/A	Limited		Unknown	Unknown
2784	Former Weisel/Maple St Realty Trust Property	12.762532	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Perpetuity	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1315	Wachusett Reservoir	1.211247	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Perpetuity	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1244	DCR Lands	7.810339	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1245	DCR Lands	43.075081	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown



Location Parcel ID	Location Street Address	Size (acres)	Management Agency	Ownership	Degree of Protection	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Type of Public Grant Accepted if any	Zoning
1247	DCR Lands	78.430853	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1251	DCR Lands	27.165633	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1263	DCR Lands	89.808443	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1265	DCR Lands	115.220209	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1268	DCR Lands	21.430886	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1303	DCR Lands	484.017388	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1306	DCR Lands	111.323955	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1307	DCR Lands	399.472055	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1309	DCR Lands	194.621661	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1311	DCR Lands	292.363064	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1322	DCR Lands	4.61832	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1329	DCR Lands	143.604469	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1332	DCR Lands	29.20284	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1335	DCR Lands	132.746494	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1336	DCR Lands	19.822945	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1346	DCR Lands	25.350833	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1353	DCR Lands	30.615852	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1354	DCR Lands	66.634304	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1355	DCR Lands	110.850689	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown



Location Parcel ID	Location Street Address	Size (acres)	Management Agency	Ownership	Degree of Protection	Current Use	Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Type of Public Grant Accepted if any	Zoning
1367	DCR Lands	31.275453	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1374	DCR Lands	53.388426	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1377	DCR Lands	41.27233	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1378	DCR Lands	18.546246	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1379	DCR Lands	129.57279	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1381	DCR Lands	52.545463	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1392	DCR Lands	42.903811	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1397	DCR Lands	63.122931	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1399	DCR Lands	7.370295	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1400	DCR Lands	1.564718	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1401	DCR Lands	33.249741	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1403	DCR Lands	32.75231	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1404	DCR Lands	11.95966	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1407	DCR Lands	0.000043	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1342		429.211815	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown
1370		242.839355	Public	DCR - Division of Water Supply Protection	Perpetuity	Water Supply Protection	N/A	Limited	Limited Public Access	Unknown	Unknown



## APPENDIX D: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN SUMMARY OF 2016 SURVEY RESULTS

### QUESTION 1:

How would you describe the Town of West Boylston? (Check all that apply.)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
A rural or farming town	24.8%	40
A bedroom community	46.6%	75
A suburb of Worcester	71.4%	115
A suburb of Boston	3.1%	5
A town in transition	23.0%	37
An arts community	3.1%	5
A tourist destination	2.5%	4
Historic	43.5%	70
Ambitious	6.2%	10
Futuristic	0.6%	1
Technologically innovative	0.0%	0
Vibrant	9.3%	15
Sustainable	10.6%	17
Crowded	6.8%	11
<b>answered question</b>		<b>161</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>

### QUESTION 2:

Is the Town adequately served by current Open Space?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.4%	69
No	56.6%	90
<b>answered question</b>		<b>159</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>5</b>



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**QUESTION 3:**

Is there adequate Town-owned Open Space?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	47.1%	73
No	52.9%	82
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>155</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>9</b>

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**QUESTION 4:**

Is the Town adequately served by current recreational facilities?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	42.4%	67
No	57.6%	91
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>158</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>6</b>

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**QUESTION 5:**

If you live in West Boylston, check all the reasons you chose to live here		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Accessibility to highways	58.4%	94
Wachusett Reservoir and its surrounding open spaces	60.2%	97
Recreational opportunities	19.9%	32
Church life	7.5%	12
Community life	31.7%	51
Friends/family live here	40.4%	65
Job opportunities	5.6%	9
Library resources	28.6%	46
Low crime/vandalism	56.5%	91
Schools	39.8%	64
Small town character	78.9%	127
Air quality	31.7%	51
Water quality	44.1%	71
Rail trail	36.0%	58
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>161</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>3</b>



QUESTION 6:

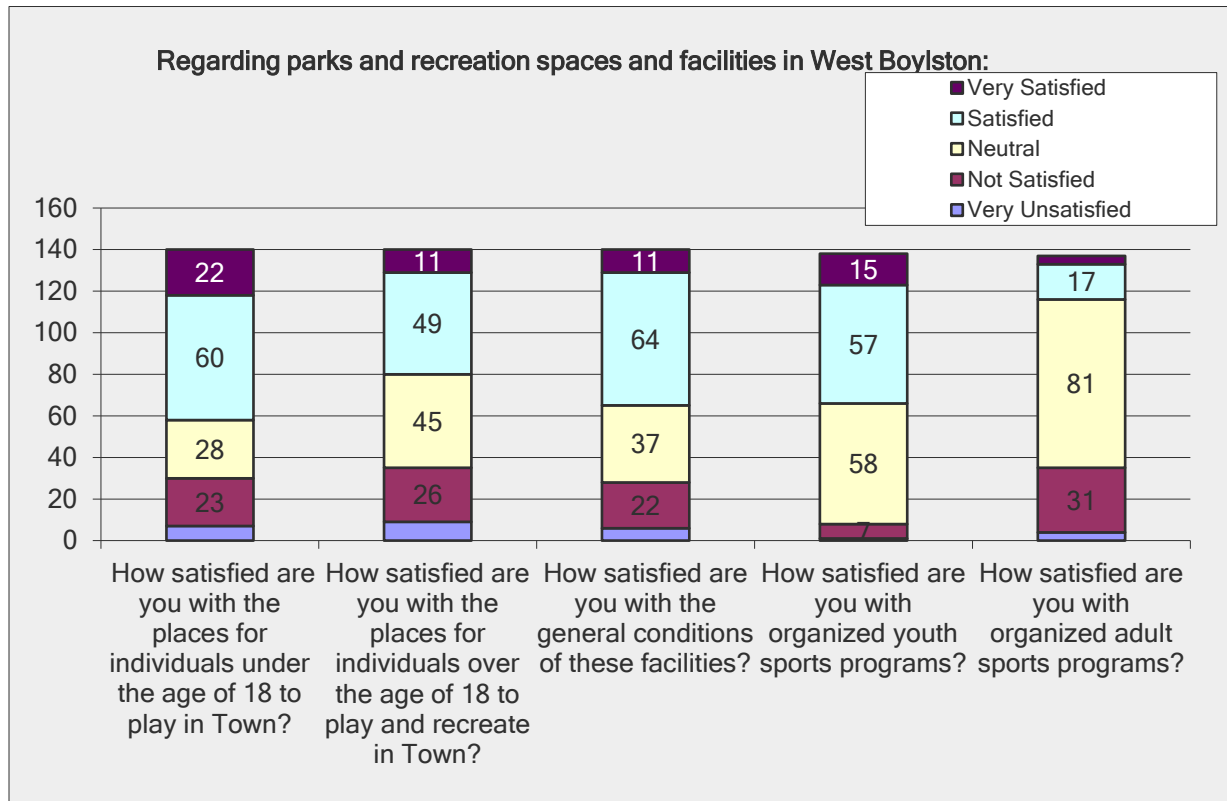
Please rate the importance or need to preserve open space and natural areas in West Boylston.							
Answer Options	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Some-what Important	Not Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Importance/Need	91	40	7	8	1	1.56	147
<i>answered question</i>							<b>147</b>
<i>skipped question</i>							<b>17</b>

QUESTION 7:

How important is it to you to preserve and maintain the following in West Boylston? (Check one box per row.)						
Answer Options	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Some-what Important	Not Important	Response Count
Buildings of historical or architectural interest	78	56	9	7	4	154
Places of historical value	77	58	7	6	2	150
Farmlands	76	50	19	6	3	154
Open spaces to meet our water and conservation needs	95	40	8	6	3	152
Open spaces to meet our recreational needs	92	44	9	7	3	155
Open spaces to meet our aesthetic, scenic, or passive recreation needs (forests, trails, etc.)	96	41	7	8	0	152
<i>answered question</i>						<b>155</b>
<i>skipped question</i>						<b>9</b>



QUESTION 8:

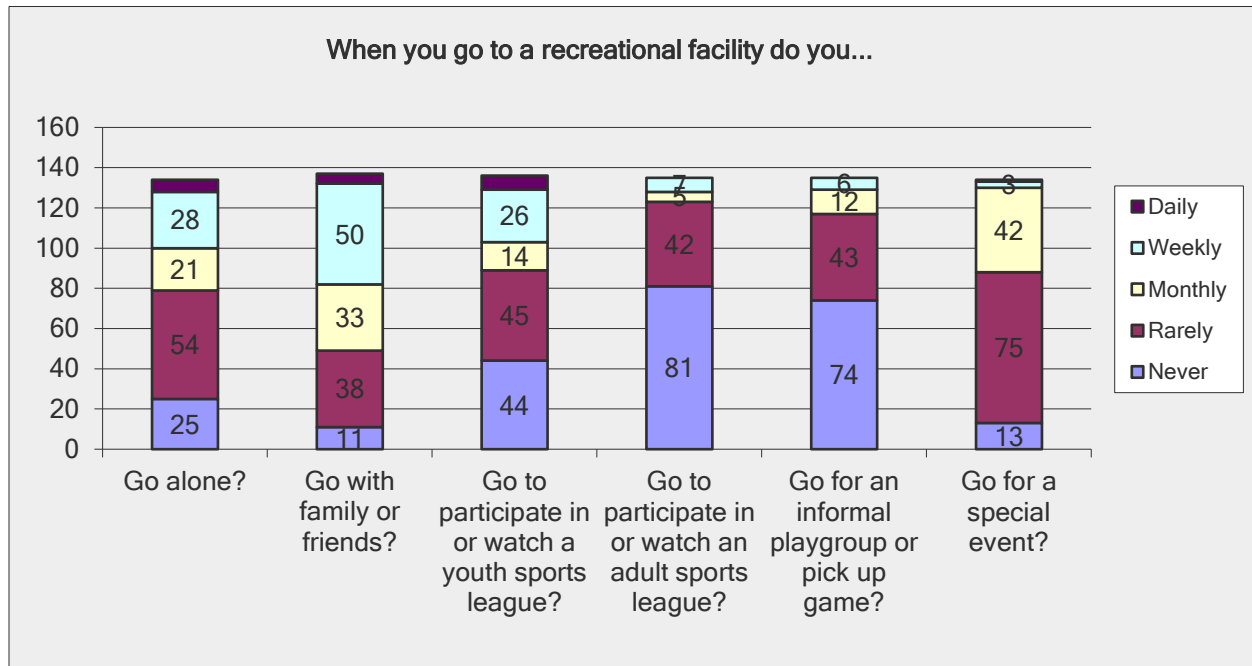


Question 8 Table:

Regarding parks and recreation spaces and facilities in West Boylston:						
Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Not Satisfied	Very Unsatisfied	Response Count
How satisfied are you with the places for individuals under the age of 18 to play in Town?	22	60	28	23	7	140
How satisfied are you with the places for individuals over the age of 18 to play and recreate in Town?	11	49	45	26	9	140
How satisfied are you with the general conditions of these facilities?	11	64	37	22	6	140
How satisfied are you with organized youth sports programs?	15	57	58	7	1	138
How satisfied are you with organized adult sports programs?	4	17	81	31	4	137
<b>answered question</b>						<b>140</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>24</b>



QUESTION 9:



Question 9 Table:

When you go to a recreational facility do you...						
Answer Options	Dail y	Weekly	Monthl y	Rarely	Never	Response Count
Go alone?	6	28	21	54	25	134
Go with family or friends?	5	50	33	38	11	137
Go to participate in or watch a youth sports league?	7	26	14	45	44	136
Go to participate in or watch an adult sports league?	0	7	5	42	81	135
Go for an informal playgroup or pickup game?	0	6	12	43	74	135
Go for a special event?	1	3	42	75	13	134
<b>answered question</b>						<b>138</b>
<b>skipped question</b>						<b>26</b>



**QUESTION 10:****What type of activities do you or members of your household participate in? (check all that apply)**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
School sponsored activities/team sports	37.5%	51
Parks and recreation sponsored activities	37.5%	51
Community /league activities (little league baseball, youth soccer leagues)	28.7%	39
Private/formal recreation (dance, karate, etc.)	28.7%	39
Informal (skateboarding, running, cycling, etc.)	55.1%	75
Passive recreation (appreciating nature, photography, bird watching, picnicking, reading/relaxing, etc.)	86.8%	118
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>136</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>28</b>

**QUESTION 11:****Rank the five most needed recreational facilities, in order of importance. (1 as most important or needed), (Check only 5, only one per column.)**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Most needed</b>	<b>Second most needed</b>	<b>Third most needed</b>	<b>Fourth most needed</b>	<b>Fifth most needed</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Softball fields	3	2	6	4	1	16
Baseball fields	0	7	5	5	2	19
Basketball courts	1	3	2	2	2	10
Tennis courts	0	0	0	5	4	9
Volley ball courts	0	1	2	1	4	8
Soccer fields	6	3	4	6	5	24
Lacrosse or field hockey fields	0	1	1	0	1	3
Rugby fields	0	0	0	0	1	1
Football fields	3	2	5	2	1	13
Ice skating rink	0	0	2	2	4	8
Swimming pool	35	9	4	4	5	57
Golf course	3	3	0	1	1	8
Disc golf/Frisbee golf	0	0	3	0	4	7
Large park with many facilities	9	13	4	5	7	38
Local or neighborhood parks	7	10	6	10	5	38
Outdoor amphitheater or performance space	3	2	4	10	8	27



Rank the five most needed recreational facilities, in order of importance. (1 as most important or needed), (Check only 5, only one per column.)						
Answer Options	Most needed	Second most needed	Third most needed	Fourth most needed	Fifth most needed	Response Count
Public access to water bodies for swimming	5	12	5	6	8	36
Public access to water bodies for boating	3	5	6	4	5	23
Public access to water bodies for fishing	0	2	2	5	2	11
Spray or splash park	5	5	6	7	3	26
Community gardens	5	5	10	4	5	29
Community recreation center/building	5	7	16	6	8	42
Children's play areas	7	5	7	5	6	30
Family picnic areas	0	0	5	4	7	16
Dog park	7	5	2	10	6	30
Hiking and cross country skiing trails	7	13	4	6	5	35
Bike trails/paths	8	10	12	6	5	41
Conservation areas	11	6	7	8	3	35
Snowmobile trails	0	0	0	0	1	1
All-terrain vehicle trails	0	2	0	1	2	5
Skateboard park	0	0	1	1	4	6
Horseshoes	0	1	2	2	0	5
Pickle ball	1	0	0	0	2	3
Bocce	2	1	0	0	4	7
<b><i>answered question</i></b>						<b>141</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>						<b>23</b>

QUESTION 12:



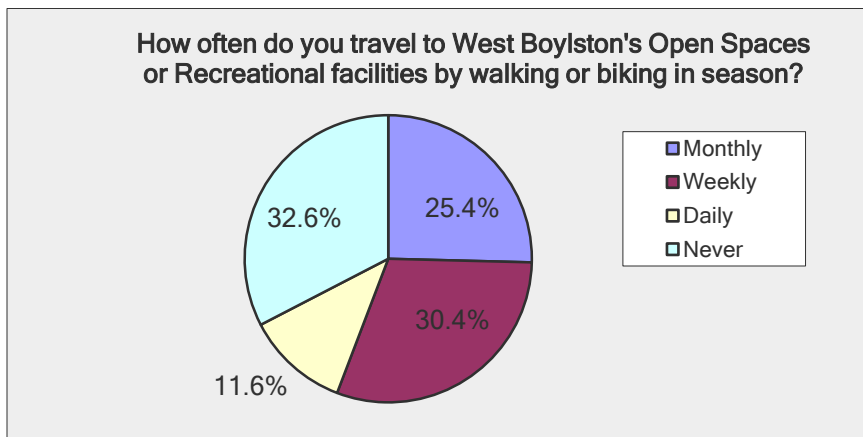
How often do you use the following public recreation or open space areas in West Boylston in season? (Check one box per row.)										
Answer Options	Almost daily	Weekly	Weekly + Daily	Monthly	6-10 times per	1-5 times per year	I know about it,	I don't know	Rating Average	Response Count
Pride Park/Children's play areas	6	12	18	20	11	23	48	5	4.58	125
Beaman Memorial Library	6	35	41	26	25	18	15	2	3.53	127
Rail trail	9	31	40	33	19	15	23	2	3.58	132
Bicycle routes	3	13	16	17	7	10	35	37	5.14	122
Woodland recreational area	7	17	24	15	7	17	47	12	4.63	122
Mixer Rec. fields	3	7	10	4	5	11	76	10	5.43	116
Goodale Park	6	22	28	16	13	29	34	3	4.23	123
Goodale Tennis and Basketball Courts	2	9	11	8	6	13	79	4	5.25	121
Goodale Track	3	9	12	7	18	27	54	5	4.94	123
Hiking/cross country skiing trails at the Wachusett Reservoir	5	16	21	11	20	18	37	22	4.78	129
Town sidewalks	23	16	39	11	11	18	30	12	4.02	121
Ice skating rink	1	2	3	3	5	11	78	16	5.77	116
Cemetery	3	9	12	13	8	22	63	9	5.06	127
Fishing	4	4	8	3	8	12	76	13	5.50	120
Old Stone Church	1	6	7	9	17	51	35	5	4.90	124
Reservoir	10	15	25	14	22	31	27	5	4.21	124
Pocket Park - Pine Glen	1	1	2	0	0	1	28	87	6.65	118
River Road walking/bike	2	8	10	5	7	10	49	40	5.66	121
answered question										139
skipped question										25



**QUESTION 13:**

**How often do you travel to West Boylston's Open Spaces or Recreational facilities by walking or biking in season?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Monthly	25.4%	35
Weekly	30.4%	42
Daily	11.6%	16
Never	32.6%	45
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>138</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>26</b>

**QUESTION 14:**

**How important is it to be able to access West Boylston's Open and Recreational Spaces by walking or biking?**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Incredibly Important	21.4%	30
Very Important	28.6%	40
Important	20.0%	28
Somewhat Important	20.7%	29
Not Important At All	9.3%	13
<b><i>answered question</i></b>		<b>140</b>
<b><i>skipped question</i></b>		<b>24</b>



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**QUESTION 15:**

**How do you currently get information about open spaces, recreational opportunities and events in West Boylston? (Check all that apply)**

<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Parks and Recreation Department list serve	21.0%	29
School list serve	15.9%	22
Information from community groups or leagues	22.5%	31
Internet search	20.3%	28
Directly from the Town of West Boylston Website	55.1%	76
Family, friends, Word of mouth	63.0%	87
Flyers and signs around town	33.3%	46
Local newspapers	37.7%	52
Facebook	34.1%	47
Twitter	2.9%	4
Teachers and coaches	10.1%	14
Police and fire officials	1.4%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>138</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>26</b>

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**QUESTION 16:**

Additional comments/concerns

Full list of public comments/concerns:

- Facebook - through West Boylston Neighbors Connect
- How "safe" is our town water, considering that our Water Department is adding Ortho Polyphosphate to our drinking water on a regular basis? Has anyone provided honest studies on its impact on the health on a W.B. resident?
- Parking is important...so I can easily attend grandchildren's games.
- By reading minutes of boards and committees which should be current on the town website and not posted i.e. 6 months after the meetings. One should not have to go to Town Hall to read meeting minutes for current information that may be time-sensitive. For example: there is no posting of minutes for the informational meeting held by the Parks Facilities Committee on September 8, 2015 to which the Police Dept., Fire Department, Council on Aging, athletic community among other groups (not the public, townspeople) were formally invited. It is important to know what these groups' comments were on the approved plan for Goodale Park and therefore should be made public via the minutes of the PFC in a timely manner.
- Children are older now so do not use town amenities as previously. We have plenty of open space for all.



## Public comments/concerns (continued)

- Why are bike trails off of Rail Trail closing? Why can't citizens utilize the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed more for recreation and to enjoy its unspoiled beauty? The DOC doesn't seem to want us there.
- The town of West Boylston should make a wholehearted attempt to preserve as much open space as possible (natural and historic) through ownership, in order to protect land from increasing development pressures and ensure that it remains for future generations, wildlife conservation, and the many services and aesthetics that it provides. Please do not give in to the short-sighted appeal of developing opening spaces for more houses, commercial buildings, or unnecessary "recreational facilities" (golf courses, sports field, etc.). Instead, we need to think about the long-term sustainability and character of West Boylston for both the sake of its residents and the surrounding communities. We have no time to lose!
- Town pool would be great, replanting the old pine grove behind the town pool the ice storm took out would be great.
- I am thrilled that this survey is out to ask people who live here and use the area the most of what our needs are. We love our town and all the effort you are making to continue to improve on what is already such a wonderful place to live.
- The track needs significant repair and upgrades. The school cannot use it to host home track meets and the surface is degrading and can lead to injuries for our school children and community members who use it.
- We really need snowmobile and atv trails. We should get together with the DCR to give out a special permit for recreational vehicles. Use the permit money to maintain the trails. We should also be able to use non-motorized boats in the reservoir ie: kayaks, row boats, and small sailboats
- "no reference/questions for senior citizens.
- Most needed in this town is sidewalks. It is ridiculous that children and adults need to drive to athletic fields, the rail trail, recreational facilities to take part in outdoor activities. We should be able to walk on our streets safely, e.g. Prospect St and Woodland St., without fearing for our lives. We do not need to improve any more sports fields until we spend some money to allow citizens of all ages to walk on our streets safely.
- West Boylston Public Access TV - Channel 191 with Shows such as Senior Moment, Nature Shows, and rebroadcast of West Boylston shows regarding concerts, library programs, and senior recreational activities. The library and senior center offer a great number of programs, produce their own informational bulletins for Channel 191, as well as their own newsletters, and are a major source of recreational activities for people of all ages. The Historical Society also has a number of programs and submits info. for Channel 191 bulletins. The new town message board also helps keep residents informed about opportunities. The Dept. of Conservation and Recreation also has informational flyers posted at reservoir kiosks and periodically has informational programs submitted for broadcast on West Boylston's Public Access Channel 191.
- Need to advertise opportunities more.



Public comments/concerns (continued)

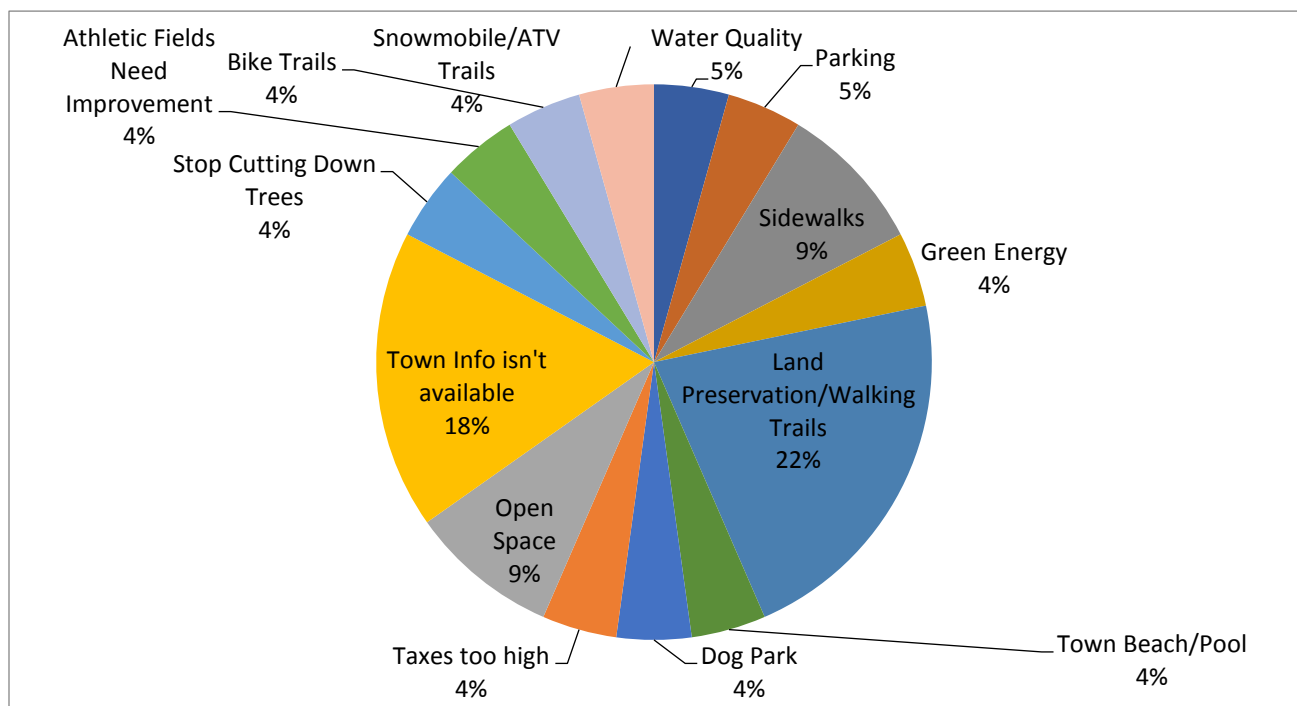
- Stop cutting down the trees.
- I feel information about the town is available but scattered in various places which makes it difficult to keep track of. The town website isn't great and I feel the parks and recreation information which is often very helpful and important, isn't put out for public knowledge until last minute. If the parks and rec program had more funding maybe the programs offered such as the summer program days of play would actually be available for working parents vs the current hours 8:30 -3 which are absolutely inconvenient and not an option for many working parents in town.
- With all the backhoes, tractors, trucks, etc. it would be nice to be able to walk your West Boylston only licensed dog through the conservation lands. It would be nice to have a town beach, again for WB residents and their guests. It would be nice that walking trails be maintained through conservation areas. My kids no longer are in the schools, but sports fields maintenance and more open fields are needed. As a side note...the schools need an upgrade in productivity and the state needs to contribute more \$. No more taxes, we are way to high now for the limited resources availed us.
- The abandoned farm near Applewood road should be preserved. It has milkweed for monarch butterflies, plus is a home for endangered New England cottontails.
- At this point we should be more interested in establishing more solar panel or wind farms to become energy self-sufficient. After that happens, then we can discuss recreation and open spaces.
- We need sidewalks desperate. Worcester St. Maple St. Route 12

QUESTION 17:

Please rank the following objectives 1 through 5 for Town funding, with 1 being "most support" and 5 being "no support"							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	Rating Ave- rage	Res- ponse Count
Increase athletic field facilities.	18	18	30	20	27	3.18	113
Increase Town-owned open space throughout Town.	31	29	29	12	15	2.58	116
Increase open space to protect Town water supplies.	39	24	31	8	18	2.52	120
Improve conditions of the sidewalks in Town.	38	29	24	24	7	2.45	122
Improve/create safe bike lanes on existing roads.	24	27	23	19	19	2.84	112



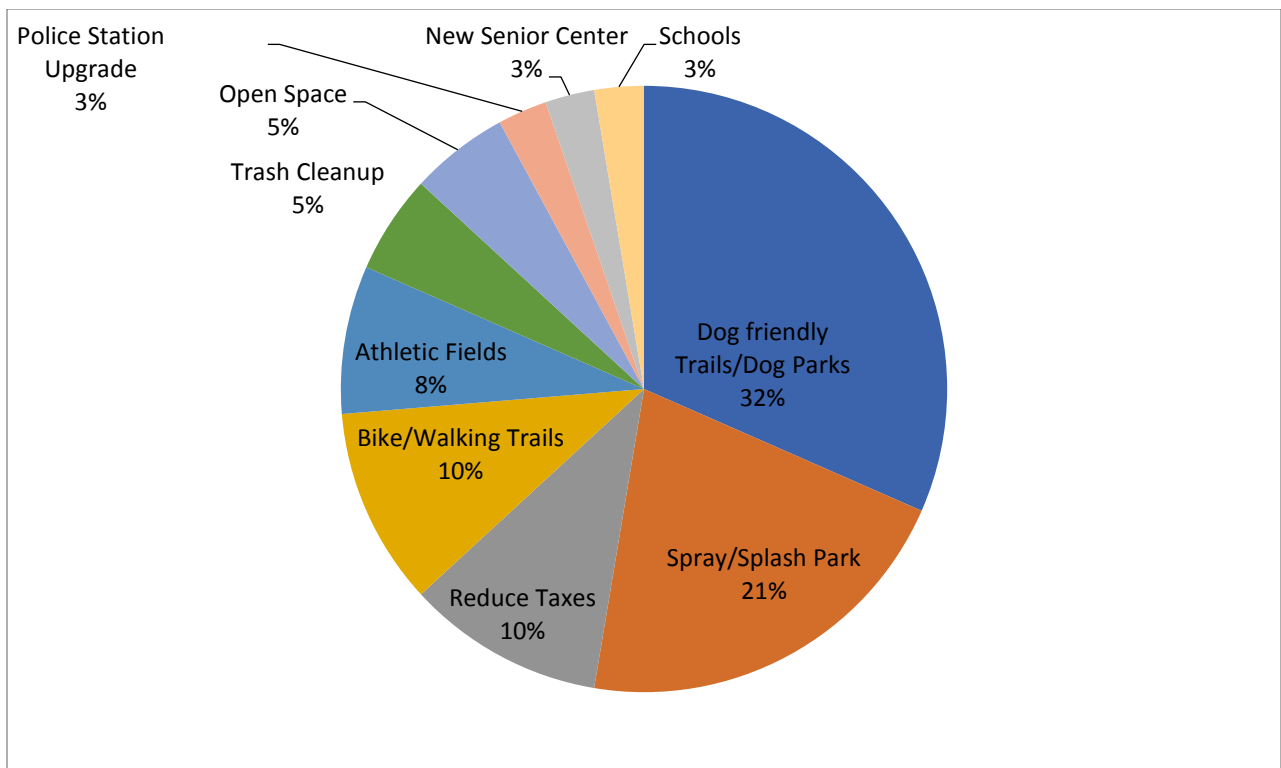
Provide access for summer swimming facilities in Town.	52	22	16	11	21	2.40	122
Increase children's play equipment (swings, climbing)	16	27	26	18	23	3.05	110
Increase general maintenance of existing grounds, buildings, and landscape.	34	33	34	16	9	2.47	126
<b>answered question</b>							<b>137</b>
<b>skipped question</b>							<b>27</b>



#### QUESTION 18:

If none of the above (See question 17), what should the Town's objective be? i.e spray park, dog park, or reduce taxes.





#### QUESTION 19:

Contact Information (not included)

#### QUESTION 20:

##### What is your age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 10 years old	0.0%	0
11 to 18 years old	0.0%	0
19 to 25 years old	0.8%	1
26 to 35 years old	5.9%	7
36 to 45 years old	26.1%	31
46 to 55 years old	16.8%	20
56 to 65 years old	26.1%	31
over 65 years old	24.4%	29
<b>answered question</b>		<b>119</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>45</b>



## APPENDIX E: SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY FORUM

Included here are the announcements and notes from the community wide public events held on June 2, 2016 and March 17, 2017.

*You are invited to West Boylston's:*

# 2016 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Public Forum



**Thursday, June 2, 2016**

**7:00 pm**

**Town Hall  
First Floor Meeting Room  
140 Worcester Street  
West Boylston**



Join Us to Listen and Give Suggestions for the Open Space and Recreation Plan:

- \* Hear Preliminary Town Survey Results \*
- \* Review draft Goals and Objectives \*
- \* Brainstorm About New Ideas \*
- \* Provide Feedback \*

Sponsored by the West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee.  
For more information, please contact: [osic@westboylston-ma.gov](mailto:osic@westboylston-ma.gov)



## West Boylston Open Space and Recreation Plan

### Public Comments/Meeting Notes

June 2, 2016

Forum goal: Discuss action plan and prioritize action steps going forward with public comments

DCR owned land (Apx. 35% of WB) leads to no town authority for WB city/residents over that land. The OSRP Committee sees that once a space goes from being open space into developed space, there's no going back – so DCR owned land is a plus and a minus. DCR also doesn't pay taxes, but makes a payment in lieu of taxes to the Town (\$666,000)

WB Town residents are allowed to use the rail trail and DCR trails that surround the Wachusett Reservoir.

- Vinny: If the DCR land changed to development or residential development...
  - o Then for every \$1 that comes in in taxes; it costs the town \$1.13
  - o For commercial districts: For every \$1; it costs the town 50 cents
  - o For green space: For every \$1; town only spends 29-30 cents

### Recent Parks Commission Accomplishments

- Parks commission has been reviewing WB's 2009 OSRP and updating it for revisions to enter the 2016 WB OSRP
  - o Noting changes such as: baseball field where the High School plays is no longer regulation size; community pool is now gone; adding netting and fencing at various sport fields (inc. Little League) in order to prevent the balls from rolling all around; added fence at HS (White fence @ HS donated by Abby Kelly Charter School)
  - o Noted: after the community pool was demolished, it was turned into a small practice field for the football team and it has been approved to expand that effort
  - o Submitted a request for 1 new well to be able to water the fields more frequently
  - o Recently upgraded the sound system at the concessions stand at the Football Field (now able to hear the announcements at the concession stand in addition to music, etc.) (Town funded) New system is wireless.
  - o At the May town meeting there was a request for fertilizer for the fields (in progress at addressing the request)
- Parks representative expressed a desire to include research into improving the conditions of the current fields and facilities (inc. HS Baseball; HS Track; Little League field; HS Football field) He claimed: **"We're about 1 field shy"**



### OSRP Implementation Committee

- Mission Statement: **From Vinny**
- Tries to be a point contact for people coordinating and addressing community needs
  - o Works with the DCR, GWLT, Parks Wachusett Greenways, etc.

### General public comments

- An Ice Storm knocked out pine trees in a trail
- WB has hosted some mud runs and the **residents expressed a desire for more outlets for passive and active recreation spaces**
- Basketball and tennis courts 2012 addition (w/ CPC funding) (A recent law change, which helped make more funds for similar projects)
- Someone noted that **a new field was requested** at a recent town meeting

### Feedback from Preliminary Survey Results

- Pool as a #1 need shocked one resident – he expressed feeling “Baffled”
  - o Resident said: Hours that the pool had in the past were not conducive to the people who worked, had kids in school, etc.
  - o He asked if the Parks Commission has estimated what the pool would cost. Who would run it? Manage it? Control the safety and regulations of it? (*The Parks Commission hasn’t yet looked into this...*)
    - In 2009 OSRP, the Pool hadn’t been demolished yet
    - Currently: Town (overall) has expressed a strong feeling of getting a pool back, finding funds, location, etc.
    - Having a public pool is in Phase IV of West Boylston’s Master Plan (and a Splash Park)
  - o Another resident was concerned primarily about liability issues regarding having a public pool. Discussed whether having a private agency hired to run it would be the best, cheaper option (esp. for the residents who have already expressed a desire NOT to raise taxes) – WB Parks Commission will have to “Talk with Legal” about this.
  - o Resident comment: “Even though people say it’s their #1 need... do they realize how much it would have to cost to build, maintain, lifeguards, etc. **Might the desire go down** (after they learn about the cost)?”
- Comment from Parks guy: People liked having the pool when it was open and it was a money maker for the town
  - o But this time, it worth considering partnering with a private operator to reduce the risk of having to raise taxes
  - o Note: In the past, the pool’s management was run by the Parks division
    - With a new pool, Parks would only manage it if the pool was on a public park



- Resident comment on Playgrounds (with reference to a summer playground/youth rec program that happened in her hometown that involved arts and crafts, playing kickball; etc. and it was run at **no cost** to town residents
  - o Similar to Recreation Worcester – the program allowed kids to be dropped off in the early morning, and they would do activities together until the evening
    - West Boylston had a program that did this!!
    - “We were the biggest babysitter” said a Parks Commission member, who lived in the area when WB was doing the program
    - It was all built around West Boylston’s old swimming pool
- Resident requests to have the survey out at MANY more places; one resident claimed that there was an “unfortunately small percentage of the town responded”
  - o **Neither of the residents had seen the survey before this meeting**
  - o **Action step –**
    - **Need to submit survey copies to the school system (get on their listserv if possible)**
    - **Get the survey out at the local election (TODAY/TUESDAY)**
    - **Submit flyers online**
- In 2009, there was an idea to put a playground surrounding the new police station

### **General Resident Concerns**

- Overall use of Goodale Park
  - o Prefer the idea of placing the senior center overlooking the park (On the end of Newton Street, over by the High School)
    - However, the Council on Aging Folks have already decided where the new senior center will be placed
  - o Resident claims that if the senior center was placed by Goodale Park, then it would
    - A) Have a basement for restrooms
    - B) Have a snack shack
    - C) Access to a recreation room
    - D) Upstairs area for the elders to look over the young people playing at the Park
    - E) Have a view of the Wachusett Reservoir
- Sewage and water availability intended to protect the Reservoir; but concerned that he is seeing properties bulldozed; Bob’s Hotdogs is gone which is being reverted into a town facility
  - o Stating that these properties that are being damaged should be very thoughtfully turned into something new (Suggestions included: a school; recreation facility; shared city usage)
- DCR land swap
  - o There are expressed needs for a large multipurpose space for active recreation needs



- With a lot of town being owned by the DCR, the only possible way to get fully control over a current DCR land would be through a land swap (trading them for a parcel that's on their "watch-list")
  - Wachusett Greenways works on partnerships with the DCR
    - Resident cautioned the WB Representatives to be cautious of "shaking [the DCR] up" in order to be able to maintain their land
      - Resident gave example of mountain bikers who were recklessly biking on DCR land and the DCR locked down
    - Generally the DCR has been increasing access to residents to DCR land, but they recently decreased it
- Resident concern about parking at Goodale Park: "Do we have enough parking at Goodale?"
  - Suggestion to examine potential of mixed-use to get the most out of the area; potential to make enough room for a ball park
  - Vinny suggested that examining mixed-use at parks could allow WB to integrate all the uses of it
- Resident suggestion to consider: adult women's softball; adult sports; and putting a senior playground at the senior center (wherever it ends up!)
- Resident concerned that the survey results were targeted by "our" contacts/those involved in building and distributing it
- Resident stated that there's currently an ad hoc dog park at a baseball field at the High School where people just let their dogs run around
- Resident reignites pool conversation, emphasizing the consideration to lease land to a private company that would run a community pool for the town with the goal to NOT cost the town too much money
- Resident noted that the Chief of Police is selling a plot of land (bordering Holden) which was claimed to be purchased by CPA funds;
  - Noted that the Chief would like to see the land preserved
  - It might be purchased by the GWLT with restricted use for residents
  - Potential for parks and trails
- Resident noted: Dog parks are important for relieving pressure on the rail trail – adding a dog park would "help clean up the mess" (of overcrowding?)



**Public Forum/Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2017**

**West Boylston Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)**

**Town Hall, 140 Worcester St., West Boylston, MA**

Members Present: Brenda Bowman, Ray DeSanti, Gary Flynn, John Hadley, Mike Peckar, Vin Vignaly, Barbara Wyatt

Others Present: Dan Daniska/Rob Raymond-CMRPC, Robert Dunne/Jim Pedone-WB Parks Commission, Justin Howard, Kristen Payson-Banner Editor, Chris Rucho, Barbara Bernardin, Elise Wellington, Lawrence Salate, Marc Frieden, Jean Costello, Dave Femia, Barur Rajeshkumar

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vignaly at 6:02 pm. On a motion by Mr. Peckar, seconded by Ms. Wyatt, the minutes of the 2/28/17 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP):**

Mr. Vignaly welcomed everyone present and those watching via cable tv. He noted that comments can be submitted through the town's website until 3/18/17 and there is a phone line to call in comments tonight. The Parks Commission and Open Space Implementation Committee are interested in feedback on the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan Update (OSRP) being presented tonight. Because it is very closely related to this plan, and also focuses on pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (CSPP) is being presented and feedback from the public is desired. The outline of the powerpoint slides is included at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Hadley, Selectman on the OSIC, began the presentation covering the overview and general makeup of the OSRP; Mr. Pedone, chairman of the Parks Commission, reviewed the current status and future goals for the Parks facilities; Mr. Peckar, OSIC member, covered the current extent of open space in West Boylston and presented the goals for open space improvements; and Mr. Daniska, CMRPC planner, reviewed the State Complete Streets Program process and the work CMRPC has completed to document the current conditions in town and to compile locations where improvements can be implemented. The Complete Streets Program involves prioritization of the needs in town and then those may be submitted to the State MassDOT for construction funding up to \$400,000 per year.

The following comments were noted:

1. Ms. Wyatt asked about possible bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Route 12 at the railroad crossing. Mr. Dansika had viewed this area and since there are hard stone abutments owned by the railway, the feasible options will be limited to pavement marking and signs. This will be included in the CSPP.
2. Ms. Costello complemented the OSRP, and asked about the 2016 survey response rate. There were about 160 surveys returned in 2016 (similar to the number returned in 2013). She asked how to



preserve the limited (1.7% of town) town-owned undeveloped open space. The OSRP encourages private property protection through the Chapter 61 land protection and donations from property owners.

3. Ms. Wellington – The Goodale Park Master Plan is not available to the public, so she could not properly evaluate the OSRP without knowing the intended facilities and significant costs. The plan and summary of costs will be added, with a link to the full document in the OSRP. She noted that the population data indicates that school-aged children has decreased from 2000-2015 and should be noted and assessed in the OSRP.
4. Ms. Wellington noted that the previously-included action item to improve vegetative plantings within recreation areas to provide buffering for neighbors has been removed. It will be included in the updated draft. Mr. Pedone noted that the town has trees stored at the Mixer property, but it was questioned how many remain viable after the drought last year. Mr. Hadley noted that during Selectmen discussions of tree planting they consider the need to water and maintain these.
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6. Ms. Wyatt noted that the Goodale Park Master Plan concept layout appears to make the area a "Sports Complex" instead of the traditional "Park".
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8. Ms Bowman asked about short-term needs to correct the ponding water at the corner of Crescent and Goodale Street, as well as widening the bicycle lanes along Crescent Street from the center of town.
9. Ms. Wyatt noted that Exhibit 18 on p. 55 needs to be updated to reflect the current private properties in town that could be acquired.
10. Ms. Costello asked that the table inserted into Map 10 should be updated and included in the narrative to describe prioritized lands.
11. Mr. DeSanti asked that the CSPP prominently include the bicycle improvements needed along Route 140 in town, especially near the Boylston Town Line and through the center of town. He was concerned with the narrow section as noted earlier on Route 12 under the railroad crossing.

The people in attendance were encouraged to mark up the Sidewalk Map and Bicycle Map that CMRPC brought to the meeting for the CSPP work.

Upon a motion by Mr. Peckar, and seconded by Mr. DeSanti, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly



3/21/17 Public Forum Powerpoint Slide Info

Public Forum  
Open Space & Recreation Plan  
Complete Streets Prioritization  
West Boylston  
March 21, 2017

Open Space Implementation Committee  
&  
Parks Commission &  
Transportation Committee  
With Assistance From CMRPC

Open Space & Recreation Plan Purpose

- Promote Open Space And Recreation Goals  
Required For State Grants
- Assess Open Space Conditions And Needs
- Assess Parks Facilities Conditions And Needs
- Assess Wildlife And Natural Resource Needs
- Compile Ideas For Next 7 Years
- Guide Efficient Capital Spending Requests

Meeting Purpose

- Present Work Completed To Date
- Listen To Public's Thoughts And Suggestions
- Incorporate Suggestions In Final Plan

Plan Content

- Plan Summary
- Statement Of Purpose
- Planning Process And Public Participation
- Community, Regional, And Historical Context
- Population And Growth Patterns
- Environmental Inventory
- Geology, Soils, Topography, And Landscape Character
- Water Resources, Vegetation, Fish And Wildlife
- Scenic Resources, Unique Environments, And Environmental Challenges
- Private And Public Parcels Of Interest
- Recreational Facilities And Usage
- Recreational Facility Handicapped Access Evaluation
- Community Vision
- Analysis Of Local And Regional Needs
- Goals And Objectives
- 7-Year Action Plan

Parks Commission  
Jim Pedone, Chairman



- 7 Fields
- 2 Basketball Court Sites
- 2 Tennis Facilities
- 1 Playground

#### Parks Facilities Usage

- Used For School Recess/Gym Classes
- After-School Programs
- Town Sports Programs
- Softball, Football, Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Tennis, Etc.
- Scheduling Of >1,000 Users
- Coordination Of >1,250 Games/Practices

#### Recreation Programs

- Part-Time Director Position Is Needed

#### Parks Improvements

- New Practice Field At Old Pool Location
- Fencing Around High School Baseball And Little League Fields
- New Problem With Off-Leash Dog Usage/Feces
- New Watering System At Goodale Park

#### Goodale Park Future

- Parks Commission Considering Needs & Costs

#### Parks Action Items

- Evaluate Options For Goodale Park Improvements
- Fill Recreation Director Position
- Evaluate Options For Swimming/Water Feature
- Evaluate Track Improvements To Allow School Use
- Ensure Fields Are In Mixer Development Proposals
- Coordinate With Private Land Owners For Facilities' Use
- Improve Handicapped Access
- Improve Elder Access & Sidewalk Connections

#### How Much Open Space Is There?

Mike Peckar, Open Space Implementation Committee

- A Lot – But
- Dcr Owns 40% Of The Town
- Town Owns Only 2.5% Including Building Sites
- Town Open Space - Only 1.7% (Parks, Rail Trail, Cemeteries, Etc.)

#### Municipal Lands Map 9a Image

#### Survey Results June 2016

- Top Reasons They Moved To West Boylston
- Town Character, Open Spaces, Accessible Commute
- 88% - Important To Protect Open Space & Nature



#### Most Used Town Facilities

Library, Rail Trail, Goodale Park, & Sidewalks

#### Highest Participation

Passive Recreation-Walking/Hiking, Informal Use, School/Parks Sponsored Programs

#### More Survey Results June 2016

##### Most Needed Facilities

Pool, Recreation Center, Bike Trails, Dog Park

##### Most Important To Fund

Swimming Facility, Open Space @ Town Wells, Sidewalks

#### Evaluate Dog Park Opportunities

##### Potential 2-Acre Sites

Dcr - Goodale Street

Tivnan Drive

90% Funding Reimbursement From Grant

##### Needs Community Support

“Town Of West Boylston Dog Park Interest”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/155217284971511/>

#### Dog Park Schematic Image

#### Open Space Action Items

Acquire High Priority Parcels

Encourage Chapter 61 Programs

Improve Walking/Sidewalk Access

Improve Bicycle Access And Safety

Investigate Fenced Dog Park

Improve Universal Access On Public Land

Support Rail Trail Along Pleasant Street To Sterling

#### Complete Streets Prioritization

Dan Daniska & Rob Raymond, Central Mass Regional Planning Commission

Policy Was Endorsed By Selectmen In May 2016

This Prioritization Work Is Funded By Massdot

Opportunity For \$400,000 In State Funding, Annually; Once Prioritization Plan Is Complete

#### Complete Streets Program

Eligible Projects Can Include:

Traffic And Intersection Improvements

Bicycle Facilities And Roadway Lane Improvements

Pedestrian Facilities, Sidewalk Improvements

Transit Facilities For Bus Stop Shelters Or Railroad Crossing Improvements

And Many More...

#### Complete Streets Goals

Holistic Review Of Needs, Safety, & Gaps



Context-Sensitive, Not One Size Fits All

Improve Access Between Homes, Schools, Work, Recreation, And Retail Destinations

Develop A Connected, Integrated Network To Serve All Users – Autos, Bikes, Pedestrians

#### Complete Streets Action Items

Develop/Improve Sidewalks Within 1 Mile Of Schools

Remove Gaps In Sidewalk Routes

Update Sidewalk Plan To Facilitate Pedestrian Traffic

Create Bicycle Lanes To Improve Safety

Near Town Schools

Along Route 140

Along Route 110

Along Route 12

#### Complete Streets Action Items (Cont.)

Evaluate East-West Access Routes To Bus And Retail Areas For Low Income And Elderly

Expand Shoulders For Pedestrian And Bicycle Safety

Beaman Street

Crescent Street

Temple Street

Thomas Street

Worcester Street

#### Field Data Collection Results/Draft Plan Framework

Fill In Gaps In The Networks

Repair Sidewalks That Are Substandard

Improve Access/Safety To Commercial Areas

#### Sidewalk Plan Image

#### Comments From The Public?

Comments Previously Submitted

Call-In Number 774-261-4006

Previously-Left Messages



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Respectfully submitted, Vincent Vignaly

**3/21/17 Public Forum PowerPoint Slide Info**

**PUBLIC FORUM  
OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN  
COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION  
WEST BOYLSTON  
MARCH 21, 2017**

**OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
&  
PARKS COMMISSION &  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
WITH ASSISTANCE FROM CMRPC**

**OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN PURPOSE  
PROMOTE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS  
REQUIRED FOR STATE GRANTS  
ASSESS OPEN SPACE CONDITIONS AND NEEDS  
ASSESS PARKS FACILITIES CONDITIONS AND NEEDS  
ASSESS WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCE NEEDS  
COMPILE IDEAS FOR NEXT 7 YEARS  
GUIDE EFFICIENT CAPITAL SPENDING REQUESTS**



**MEETING PURPOSE**

**PRESENT WORK COMPLETED TO DATE**  
**LISTEN TO PUBLIC'S THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS**  
**INCORPORATE SUGGESTIONS IN FINAL PLAN**

**PLAN CONTENT**

Plan Summary  
**Statement of Purpose**  
Planning Process and Public Participation  
Community, Regional, and Historical Context  
Population and Growth Patterns  
Environmental Inventory  
Geology, Soils, Topography, and Landscape Character  
Water Resources, Vegetation, Fish and Wildlife  
Scenic Resources, Unique Environments, and Environmental Challenges  
Private and Public Parcels of Interest  
Recreational Facilities and Usage  
Recreational Facility Handicapped Access Evaluation  
**Community Vision**  
**Analysis of Local and Regional Needs**  
**Goals and Objectives**  
**7-Year Action Plan**

**PARKS COMMISSION**

**Jim Pedone, Chairman**

**7 FIELDS**  
**2 BASKETBALL COURT SITES**  
**2 TENNIS FACILITIES**  
**1 PLAYGROUND**

**PARKS FACILITIES USAGE**

**USED FOR SCHOOL RECESS/GYM CLASSES**  
**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**  
**TOWN SPORTS PROGRAMS**  
**SOFTBALL, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, SOCCER, TENNIS, etc.**  
**SCHEDULING OF >1,000 USERS**  
**COORDINATION OF >1,250 GAMES/PRACTICES**

**RECREATION PROGRAMS**

**PART-TIME DIRECTOR POSITION IS NEEDED**

**PARKS IMPROVEMENTS**

**NEW PRACTICE FIELD AT OLD POOL LOCATION**  
**FENCING AROUND HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL AND LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS**  
**NEW PROBLEM WITH OFF-LEASH DOG USAGE/FECES**  
**NEW WATERING SYSTEM AT GOODALE PARK**

**GOODALE PARK FUTURE**

**PARKS COMMISSION CONSIDERING NEEDS & COSTS**

**PARKS ACTION ITEMS**

**EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR GOODALE PARK IMPROVEMENTS**  
**FILL RECREATION DIRECTOR POSITION**  
**EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR SWIMMING/WATER FEATURE**  
**EVALUATE TRACK IMPROVEMENTS TO ALLOW SCHOOL USE**  
**ENSURE FIELDS are in MIXTER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**  
**COORDINATE WITH PRIVATE LAND OWNERS FOR FACILITIES' USE**  
**IMPROVE HANDICAPPED ACCESS**  
**IMPROVE ELDER ACCESS & SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS**



**HOW MUCH OPEN SPACE IS THERE?**

**Mike Peckar, Open Space Implementation Committee**

**A LOT – BUT**

**DCR OWNS 40% OF THE TOWN**

**TOWN OWNS ONLY 2.5% INCLUDING BUILDING SITES**

**TOWN OPEN SPACE - ONLY 1.7% (PARKS, RAIL TRAIL, CEMETERIES, etc.)**

**MUNICIPAL LANDS MAP 9A IMAGE**

**SURVEY RESULTS JUNE 2016**

**TOP REASONS THEY MOVED TO WEST BOYLSTON**

**TOWN CHARACTER, OPEN SPACES, ACCESSIBLE COMMUTE**

**88% - IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE & NATURE**

**MOST USED TOWN FACILITIES**

**LIBRARY, RAIL TRAIL, GOODALE PARK, & SIDEWALKS**

**HIGHEST PARTICIPATION**

**PASSIVE RECREATION-WALKING/HIKING, INFORMAL USE, SCHOOL/PARKS**

**SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

**MORE SURVEY RESULTS JUNE 2016**

**MOST NEEDED FACILITIES**

**POOL, RECREATION CENTER, BIKE TRAILS, DOG PARK**

**MOST IMPORTANT TO FUND**

**SWIMMING FACILITY, OPEN SPACE @ TOWN WELLS, SIDEWALKS**

**EVALUATE DOG PARK OPPORTUNITIES**

**POTENTIAL 2-ACRE SITES**

**DCR - GOODALE STREET**

**TIVNAN DRIVE**

**90% FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT FROM GRANT**

**NEEDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**“TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON DOG PARK INTEREST”**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/155217284971511/>**

**DOG PARK SCHEMATIC IMAGE**

**OPEN SPACE ACTION ITEMS**

**ACQUIRE HIGH PRIORITY PARCELS**

**ENCOURAGE CHAPTER 61 PROGRAMS**

**IMPROVE WALKING/SIDEWALK ACCESS**

**IMPROVE BICYCLE ACCESS AND SAFETY**

**INVESTIGATE FENCED DOG PARK**

**IMPROVE UNIVERSAL ACCESS ON PUBLIC LAND**

**SUPPORT RAIL TRAIL ALONG PLEASANT STREET TO STERLING**

**COMPLETE STREETS PRIORITIZATION**

**Dan Daniska & Rob Raymond, Central Mass Regional Planning Commission**

**POLICY WAS ENDORSED BY SELECTMEN IN MAY 2016**

**THIS PRIORITIZATION WORK IS FUNDED BY MASSDOT**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR \$400,000 IN STATE FUNDING, ANNUALLY; ONCE PRIORITIZATION PLAN IS COMPLETE**

**COMPLETE STREETS PROGRAM**

**ELIGIBLE PROJECTS CAN INCLUDE:**

**TRAFFIC AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**BICYCLE FACILITIES AND ROADWAY LANE IMPROVEMENTS**

**PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES, SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS**



**TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR BUS STOP SHELTERS OR RAILROAD CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS  
AND MANY MORE...**

**COMPLETE STREETS GOALS**

**HOLISTIC REVIEW OF NEEDS, SAFETY, & GAPS  
CONTEXT-SENSITIVE, NOT ONE SIZE FITS ALL  
IMPROVE ACCESS BETWEEN HOMES, SCHOOLS, WORK, RECREATION, AND RETAIL  
DESTINATIONS  
DEVELOP A CONNECTED, INTEGRATED NETWORK TO SERVE ALL USERS – AUTOS, BIKES,  
PEDESTRIANS**

**COMPLETE STREETS ACTION ITEMS**

**DEVELOP/IMPROVE SIDEWALKS WITHIN 1 MILE OF SCHOOLS  
REMOVE GAPS IN SIDEWALK ROUTES  
UPDATE SIDEWALK PLAN TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC  
CREATE BICYCLE LANES TO IMPROVE SAFETY  
NEAR TOWN SCHOOLS  
ALONG ROUTE 140  
ALONG ROUTE 110  
ALONG ROUTE 12**

**COMPLETE STREETS ACTION ITEMS (CONT.)**

**EVALUATE EAST-WEST ACCESS ROUTES TO BUS AND RETAIL AREAS FOR LOW INCOME  
AND ELDERLY  
EXPAND SHOULDERS FOR PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY  
BEAMAN STREET  
CRESCENT STREET  
TEMPLE STREET  
THOMAS STREET  
WORCESTER STREET**

**FIELD DATA COLLECTION RESULTS/DRAFT PLAN FRAMEWORK**

**FILL IN GAPS IN THE NETWORKS  
REPAIR SIDEWALKS THAT ARE SUBSTANDARD  
IMPROVE ACCESS/SAFETY TO COMMERCIAL AREAS**

**SIDEWALK PLAN IMAGE**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC?**

**COMMENTS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED  
CALL-IN NUMBER 774-261-4006  
PREVIOUSLY-LEFT MESSAGES**



## APPENDIX F: FUNDING RESOURCES

Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsoring Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description
Improvements	Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP)	DAR	Average grant size \$13,000	Farmers in commercial agricultural production	For the purchase of materials to implement agricultural conservation practices that improve water quality, conserve water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions or conserve energy.
Non-acquisition programs	Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)	DAR	Grant amounts vary.	Farmers, Land Owners, Municipalities	The APR Program is a voluntary program which offers a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of prime and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. Towards this end, the program offers to pay farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "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.
Non-acquisition programs	Assessment Act (MGL Chapters 61, 61A and 61B)	DCR, DAR, DOR	No public funds available.	Private landowners	These programs work by making 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 highest use. This usually translates into a substantial property tax savings for owners. The program also requires a right-of-first-refusal option to the town when property owners look to sell their land.
Property Acquisition	Conservation Partnership	EOEEA	Average grant size \$75,000.	Non-profits	To assist not-for-profit corporations in acquiring land and interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation.



Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsoring Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description
Non-acquisition programs	Conservation Restrictions (CRs)	DCS	Only technical support available.		Conservation restrictions (CRs) 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.
Property Acquisition	Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program	DEP	Average grant size up to \$290,500.	Public water systems and municipalities	Provides grants to assist public water systems and municipalities in acquiring land to protect the quality of public drinking water supplies.
Property Acquisition	Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund	EOEEA	Average grant size \$424,000	Municipal conservation commissions, park depts. with current OSRP.	This program provides up to 50% reimbursement towards the cost of acquisition, development or renovation of recreation land, including the development of active recreation facilities.
Planning	Farm Viability Enhancement Program	DCR	Grant sizes may vary from \$25,000 up to \$100,000	Massachusetts farmers who raise and sell agricultural products	The Farm Viability Program seeks to improve the economic viability and environmental integrity of participating farms through the development and implementation of farm viability plans.
Property Acquisition	Community Forestry Program	DCR	Up to \$400,000	local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes	A competitive grant program whereby local governments, qualified nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for grants to establish community forests through fee simple acquisition of private forest land from a willing seller. The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forest land from conversion to non-forest uses and to provide community benefits. Some of these benefits include sustainable forest management; clean air, water, wildlife habitat, and other environmental benefits: forest-based educational programs; service



Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsoring Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description
					as models of effective forest stewardship; and recreational benefits secured with public access. <a href="#">Community Forestry Program</a>
Management	Forestry Stewardship Program	DCR	Grant size \$1,230 to \$6,600.	Municipalities and private landowners.	Encourages landowners to practice long-term guardianship through the development of a management plan for their woodlands. <a href="#">New, 2016 – Added eligibility for land owners with a current forestry plan to mitigate the costs of protecting song-bird habitat</a>
Studies and Construction/ Maintenance	SAFETEA-LU Regional Transportation Improvement Program	MHD, CMMPO	No maximum.		Funds are available for transportation related open space improvements. A bike path that connects dense areas of housing with employment or shopping centers would clearly fit the criteria. However, the state and the MPO have been relatively flexible about definitions and projects that are slightly less directly related to transportation may be eligible e.g., an open space parcel adjacent to a road programmed for repairs; the parcel provides a roadway rest area and access to walking trails.
Studies and Construction/ Maintenance	SAFETEA-LU Enhancement Program	MHD, CMMPO	None, but a \$100,000 minimum is requested by MHD.		Money is provided to a variety of transportation “enhancement” projects. Among those eligible are bikeways, walking paths and rail trails. This is a special dedicated fund that amounts to 10% of statewide spending from SAFETEA-LU monies.
Property Acquisition	LAND: Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Program (Formerly Self-Help Program)	EOEEA	Average grant size \$345,000.	Municipal conservation commissions, park depts. with current OSRP.	The LAND program was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor 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 are encouraged. Access by the general public including people with disabilities is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports



Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsoring Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description
					and closing costs. A reimbursement program requiring the applicant to raise, borrow or appropriate the total project cost, and then be reimbursed a portion of that cost by the grant; Programs requires a local investment and therefore only reimburses on a sliding scale to each municipality, from 52% to 70% of the total project cost up to a maximum grant limit.
Improvements	Landowner Incentive Program	DFG	Average grant size \$5,000 to \$50,000	Private landowners, sportsmen's clubs, land trusts, and non-profits.	The purpose of this program is to restore or create wildlife habitats for the benefit of species-at-risk on private lands in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The grants are intended to establish partnerships between the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and private landowners.
Habitat Management	MassWildlife Habitat Grant Program	MassWildlife	\$10,000 and \$50,000	Owners of private or municipal <i>conserved lands</i> in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.	Designed to provide financial assistance to private and municipal landowners of protected lands to support active habitat management while fostering partnerships to encourage landscape scale habitat management and expand public recreation on conserved lands.
Education	Mass Environmental Trust	EOEEA	Average grant size \$5,000 to \$50,000	Schools, municipalities, non-profits.	The Trust's mission is to develop, coordinate, and fund projects that encourage cooperative efforts to raise environmental awareness and enable innovative approaches that can restore, protect, and improve water and water related resources of the Commonwealth.
Property Acquisition	Municipal purchase	Municipality	Dependent on Town Meeting		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



Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsoring Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description
					then once a deal has been negotiated return to town meeting for the actual appropriation.
Property Acquisition and improvements	PARC: Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities	EOEEA	Grant size \$50,000 to \$500,000.	Municipal conservation commissions, park depts. with current OSRP.	Provides grant assistance to cities and towns to acquire parkland, develop new parks, or renovate existing outdoor public recreation facilities (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program). Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park /recreation commission and conservation commission, is eligible to participate in the program. Communities that do not meet the population criteria listed above may still qualify under the "small town," "regional," or "statewide" project provisions of the program. Municipalities must have a current open space and recreation plan to apply, and the land must be open to the general public.
Development and Maintenance	Recreational Trails Program	DCR	Grant size \$2,000-\$50,000 (statewide projects).	Municipalities, government agencies, and non-profits	Provides funding support for a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail development and trail maintenance projects.
Improvements	River and Harbors Grant Program	DCR	Average grant size varies	Federal Cost share, municipalities and non-profits	Grants requiring matching funds for studies, surveys, design & engineering, environmental permitting and construction that addresses problems on coastal & inland waterways, lakes, ponds and great ponds. Grants are awarded in the following categories: 1) Coastal Waterways - for commercial and recreational navigation safety & to improve coastal habitat by improving tidal interchange; 2) Inland Waterways - to improve recreational use, water quality & wildlife habitats; 3) Erosion Control - to protect public facilities and reduce downstream sedimentation; 4) Flood Control - to reduce flood potentials.



Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsoring Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description
Restoration	Riverways Program Grants for River Restoration and Revitalization Priority Projects	DFG	Average grant size \$5,000 to \$50,000.	Public agencies, non-profits including land trusts, watershed organizations for work on priority projects.	Program helps to restore the ecological integrity of rivers and streams throughout MA working in partnership with federal, state, and municipal governments, watershed associations and other organizations. Supports sustainable river restoration projects that restore natural processes, remove ecosystem stressors, increase the resilience of the ecosystem; support riverine habitat, promote passage of fish and wildlife through dam and other barrier removal. Support is also provided for urban stream revitalization projects that improve the interconnection between water quality, aquatic ecology, physical river structure and land use, taking into consideration the social, cultural and economic landscape.
Protection and Management	Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants	DCR	Grant awards range from \$1,000 to \$30,000. All grants must be matched 50-50 by local funds or in-kind contributions	Municipalities and non-profits	The purpose of building local capacity for excellent urban and community forestry at the local and regional level. This grant offering is not a new grant, but a combination of our previous grant opportunities (Mass ReLeaf, Planning and Education, and Heritage Grants).

**CPA** = Community Preservation Act

**CMMPO** = Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

**DAR** = Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)

**DCR** = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

**DCS** = Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services

**DEP** = Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

**DFG** = Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

**DOR** = Massachusetts Department of Revenue

**EOEEA** = Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

**EOTPW** = Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works

**MHD** = Massachusetts Highway Department

**SAFETEA-LU** = Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users



## APPENDIX G: ADA ACCESSIBILITY

This Appendix includes the following:

- ADA Self-Evaluation Inventories for Town-managed open space and recreation facilities.
  - [Woodland Street Park](#)
  - [Goodale Park, Western Park Area](#)
  - [Goodale Park, Eastern Park Area](#)
  - [Bandstand Town Common](#)
  - [Mixer Field](#)
  - [Mass Central Rail Trail](#)
- Letter designating the West Boylston ADA Coordinator
- Letter affirming the West Boylston Grievance Procedures and Public Notification Requirements including Employment procedures.



# FACILITY SELF-ASSESSMENTS

## FACILITY INVENTORY LOCATION: WOODLAND STREET PARK 2016

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities       <b>N/A</b>	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails <b>N/A</b>		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
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: <b>*ballfield</b> <b>*basketball</b> <b>*tennis</b>	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths <b>YES</b>
		Berm cuts onto courts <b>YES</b>
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating <b>YES – BLEACHERS</b>
Boat Docks - <b>N/A</b>	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Fishing Facilities -N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
Programming - N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Fish Cleaning Tables
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
Services and Technical Assistance – N/A	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	Interpretive Programs
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings

**LOCATION: WOODLAND STREET PARK 2016**

PARKING			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces X	
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	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft	X		



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	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	NEEDS TO BE INSTALLED AT CORRECT HEIGHT
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		NEEDS TO BE PAINTED YELLOW
<b>RAMPS N/A</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
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 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**LOCATION: WOODLAND STREET PARK 2016**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			



Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum		X	NOT TO SOCCER FIELD
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	NOT FROM PATH TO BASKETBALL COURT
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		OBSTRUCTED AT THIS MOMENT
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A PATH IS FLAT
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		X	PATH IS SMOOTH AND NOT CLEAR
<b>Entrances N/A</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		TENNIS COURT
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:

**LOCATION: WOODLAND STREET PARK 2016**

<b>STAIRS and DOORS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs OPEN SPACE FROM NE LEVEL TO LOWER LEVEL</b>			
No open risers	X		
Nosings not projecting	X		
Treads no less than 11" wide	X		<b>TREADS IN DISREPAIR</b>
Handrails on both sides	X		
Handrails 34"-38" above tread	X		
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)	X		
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip has a smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"	X		
1½" clearance between wall and handrail	X		<b>OPEN RAIL – NO WALL</b>
<b>Doors N/A</b>			
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 ½" 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



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities N/A	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 N/A		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities N/A	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) N/A	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: 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



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

PARKING			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces – X	
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		X	Nothing marked (old) WRONG
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		X	Nothing providing accessible access, path inaccessible
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	Nothing providing accessible access, path inaccessible
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	Nothing providing accessible access, path inaccessible



Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	SIGN NEEDS TO BE ADDED
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	SIGN WILL COMPLY
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	Not to dugouts
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		X	NEEDS TO BE RE-LEVELED
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	
Curb cut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	
<b>RAMPS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12		X	
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		X	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		X	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		X	NEEDS TO BE ADDED
Handgrip oval or round		X	No rails
Handgrip smooth surface		X	No rails
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"		X	No rails
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail		X	No rails
Non-slip surface	X		
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	X		



**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs		X	
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	Access to dugouts
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane		X	THERE ARE NONE
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"		X	THERE ARE NONE
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
<b>Entrances N/A</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance		X	
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors		N/A	
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)		N/A	
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door		N/A	
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist		N/A	



Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space		N/A	
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible		N/A	
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened		N/A	
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed		N/A	
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum		N/A	
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance		N/A	
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted		N/A	

#### NOTES

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

<b>STAIRS and DOORS- POOL AREA</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs NO POOL AREA ANY MORE</b>			
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 1¼" and 1½"			
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			
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 ½" 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

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules AT POOL</b>  <b>No portable accessibility facility present</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>



5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor			
<b>At least one Sink:</b>			
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)			
<b>At least one Stall:</b>			
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			
<b>Toilet</b>			
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			



<b>Grab Bars</b>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet			
1¼" diameter			
1½" clearance to wall			
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor			
Acid-etched or roughened surface			
42" long			
<i>Fixtures</i>			
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 – THE ABOVE NEEDS LOT OF WORK TO COME INTO COMPLIANCE**

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Floors</b>			
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			
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>			



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			
<b>Telephones N/A</b>			
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			
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES – SEE BELOW N/A</b>			
<b>Switches, Controls and Signs</b>			
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			
<b>Signs- SEE BELOW</b>			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			



Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1¼" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

**NOTES – ALL SWITCHES AND CONTROLS AND SIGNS NEED TO BE REDONE SO AS TO COMPLY**

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area N/A</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			
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: GOODALE PARK/WESTERN PARK AREA 2016**

<b>SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use N/A</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
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 No Access			
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		X	TABLE NEEDS WORK TO COMPLY, OR NEW ONE NEEDS TO BE PURCHASED



For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.		X	SAME AS ABOVE
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground		X	SAME AS ABOVE
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions		X	SAME AS ABOVE
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter		X	SAME AS ABOVE



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities N/A	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 – N/A		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities – N/A	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 – YES
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths – YES
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair – YES
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths- YES
		Berm cuts onto courts
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating – YES – GRANDSTANDS
Boat Docks – N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities – N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming – <b>N/A</b>	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/EASTERN/PRIDE PARK 2016**

<b>PARKING</b>			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		<b>1 space – X</b>	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		<b>X</b>	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.		<b>X</b>	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		<b>X</b>	
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.		<b>X</b>	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		<b>X</b>	<b>SIGN NEEDS TO BE INSTALLED</b>



Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	WILL MEET REGULATIONS
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curb cut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
<b>RAMPS – N/A THERE ARE NONE</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
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 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**LOCATION: GOODALE PARK/EASTERN/PRIDE PARK 2016**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water		X	
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs		X	



Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			N/A
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
<b>Entrances – N/A</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			<b>No Accessible portable bathroom</b> <b>Or</b> <b>Picnicking area</b> <b>Or</b> <b>Spectator area</b>
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

LOCATION: BANDSTAND/TOWN COMMON 2016

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES - THE ITEMS BELOW DO NOT APPLY
Picnic Facilities N/A	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails N/A		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities N/A	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) N/A	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: 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



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES - THE ITEMS BELOW DO NOT APPLY
Programming N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	Interpretive Programs
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings

#### LOCATION: BANDSTAND/TOWN COMMON 2016

PARKING			
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces – X		
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	X		NO REAL ENTRANCE OR PATH TO AUDIENCE AREA
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	SPACE ONE PROVIDED ABOVE
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	IS ON GRADE AT CURB SIDE
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	NEEDS TO BE SET TO CORRECT HEIGHT



Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		ROAD IS AT GRADE TO LAWN
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
<b>RAMPS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12	X		
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	X		NO PATH TO GAZEBO RAMP
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft		X	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface		X	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom		X	NEEDS TO BE ALTERED
Handgrip oval or round		X	NEEDS TO BE ADDED
Handgrip smooth surface	X		N/A
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"		X	NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO RAMP
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			WILL COMPLY WHEN ADDED
Non-slip surface		X	NEEDS GRIT ADDED TO SURFACE
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	X		N/A

FYI – no handrail to any of the benches

#### LOCATION: BANDSTAND/TOWN COMMON 2016

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	PATH NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO THE RAMP
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water		X	
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs		X	
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant		X	PATH NEEDS TO BE ADDED



3 ft wide minimum		X	WILL BE WHEN CONSTRUCTED
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		X	WILL MEET REQUIREMENTS WHEN CONSTRUCTED
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch		X	WILL MEET REQUIREMENTS WHEN CONSTRUCTED
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"		X	THERE ARE NONE
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		X	THERE IS NO CURB
<b>Entrances N/A OPEN SPACE</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> 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



LOCATION: MIXTER FIELD 2016

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities N/A	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 N/A		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities N/A	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) N/A	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis & soccer	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating <b>NONE</b>
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



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

**LOCATION: MIXTER FIELD 2016 X=Previously**

PARKING			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces X	
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		X	THERE IS NO ACCOMMODATION FOR ADA PARKING
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		



Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		X	NEED CUT
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		X	WILL BE WHEN WORK IS COMPLETED
<b>RAMPS N/A</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
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 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall & wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**LOCATION: MIXTER FIELD 2016**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance		X	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		X	NEEDS CURB CUT
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	
No ponding of water	X		
<b>Path of Travel N/A NO PATH</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			



Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>Entrances N/A</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> 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 – **PATH OF TRAVEL SHOULD BE LOOKED AT TO MAKE SITE MORE ACCESSIBLE**



LOCATION: RAIL TRAIL 2016

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES - THE ITEMS BELOW DO NOT APPLY
Picnic Facilities N/A	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		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 N/A	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) N/A	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: 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



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES - THE ITEMS BELOW DO NOT APPLY
Programming N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
		Interpretive Programs
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	

**LOCATION: Rail Trail 2016**

PARKING			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space – X	
26-50		2 spaces	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		X	NO PARKING ON TOWN PROPERTY – COULD BE ADDED



Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	X		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle		X	NO PARKING ON TOWN PROPERTY – COULD BE ADDED
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.		X	NO PARKING ON TOWN PROPERTY – COULD BE ADDED
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		X	NO PARKING ON TOWN PROPERTY – COULD BE ADDED
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		X	NO PARKING ON TOWN PROPERTY – COULD BE ADDED
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		X	ROUGH PAVEMENT AROUND WATER DEPT. BULDING
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curb cut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		NO CURBS FROM ROAD; PATH FROM PARKING FLAT THROUGHOUT
Curb cut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
<b>RAMPS N/A</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
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 1¼" and 2"			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

**LOCATION: Rail Trail 2016**

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed		X	ROUGH PAVEMENT AROUND WATER DEPT. BUILDING
No ponding of water		X	
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		



Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		THERE ARE NONE
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"		X	THERE ARE NONE
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs		X	THERE IS NO CURB
<b>Entrances N/A OPEN SPACE</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> 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** The Rail Trail is a walking path, and distance to the entrance shouldn't be a factor. If the town must have its own handicapped parking, one or two spaces could be added before the Water Department building. The trail itself is flat, wide, and smooth. The three items that may need to be addressed are the broken pavement around the entrance, several washouts along the river side of the path near the one mile marker, and the possibility of adding some kind of guard rail along the steepest slopes.





**Board of Selectmen**  
*Town of West Boylston*  
**140 WORCESTER STREET**  
**WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583**

CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, Chairman  
SIOBHAN M. BOHNSON, Vice Chairman  
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PATRICK J. CROWLEY, Selectman  
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**TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON**  
**EQUAL ACCESS TO PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**GRIEVANCE POLICY**

Maximum opportunity will be made available to received citizen comments, complaints, and to resolve grievances or inquiries.

**STEP 1**

The Town ADA Coordinator will be available to meet with citizens and employees during regular business hours.

When a compliant, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing, through a meeting or telephone call, a record will be created which shall include the name, address, telephone number of the person contacted and the nature of their request or complaint. Anonymous complaints or requests for information will be accepted and a record created with available information.

If the person, making the complaint or request for information is identified, the complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to within ten working days in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient (i.e. verbally, enlarge type, etc.)

Copies of the request or complaint and the response will be forwarded to the Park Commission.

If the grievance is not resolved at this level, it will progress to Step 2.

**STEP 2**

A written grievance will be submitted to the Town Administrator. Assistance in writing the grievance will be available to all individuals. All written grievances will be responded to within ten working days by the Town Administrator in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient.

If the grievance is not resolved at this level, it will progress to Step 3.

**STEP 3**

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, citizens will have the opportunity to meet with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies.





## **Board of Selectmen**

*Town of West Boylston*

**140 WORCESTER STREET  
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583**

CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, Chairman  
SIOBHAN M. BOHNSON, Vice Chairman  
BARUR R. RAJESHKUMAR, Clerk  
PATRICK J. CROWLEY, Selectman  
JOHN W. HADLEY, Selectman

Phone: (774) 261-4010

email: [selectboard@westboylston-ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@westboylston-ma.gov)

## ***Vision Statement***

*It is the Vision of the Town of West Boylston to make West Boylston  
the most ideal place*

*In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to live, work, recreate, worship, and raise a family*

## ***Mission Statement***

*It is the mission of our government in West Boylston to provide all of the citizens with the highest quality of basic services, directed at publicly expressed community needs, at the least possible cost. This includes providing high quality constituent services to the citizens of the community, continually supporting a strong economic base for the community, maintaining small town flavor, and continuing to work in the best long term interests of the community while working as a team. Our goal is to leave this community better than we found it.*

## ***USDA Nondiscrimination Statement***

*In accordance with the Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institute is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider employer and lender.*





POLICY No.: K-4  
DATE ADOPTED: 2-6-08  
DATE UPDATED: 1-6-2016

## **TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN POLICY**

### **Non-Discrimination**

#### **Purpose:**

Our Town prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of:

- Age (40 and above),
- Criminal record (applications only),
- Physical, mental, or psychiatric disability,
- Genetics (results of genetic testing),
- Maternity Leave,
- National origin or ancestry,
- Race or color,
- Religion,
- Sex,
- Sexual orientation, or
- Active military status.

Toward this end, the Town commits itself to take affirmative measures to ensure equal opportunity in the areas of recruitment, hiring, promotion, demotion or transfer, layoff or termination, rates of compensation, in-service or apprenticeship training programs, and all terms and conditions of employment. The town is committed to fostering and encouraging a workplace comprised of individuals of diverse backgrounds, races, genders, abilities, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and ages.

All town employees are encouraged to take diligent, affirmative steps to ensure equal opportunity and respect for diversity, not only in the internal affairs of the Town departments and agencies, but also in their relations with the public, including those persons or organizations doing business with the Town

**Policy:** The policy of the Town is to:



- a. Recruit, hire, and promote in all job classifications without regard to race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or age.
- b. Make decisions about employment so as to encourage the development of a diverse workforce.
- c. Ensure that employment and promotion decisions are made in accordance with the principles of equal opportunity, by imposing only valid, job-related requirements for employment and promotional opportunities.
- d. Ensure that all other personnel actions such as compensation, benefits, transfers, layoff, recall, training, tuition assistance, and social and recreational programs will be administered without regard to race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age.
- e. Prohibit any kind of harassment based on race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or age.

No retaliatory action against those persons who file complaints of discrimination or against individuals who cooperate in such investigations will be tolerated. Violation of this policy will lead to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination from Town Service.

Anyone who feels that he or she has been discriminated against by the Town on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age in employment practices may file a grievance in accordance with the procedures described in the Discrimination Grievance Procedure section.

#### Discrimination Complaint Procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to encourage local resolution of problems concerning employment. It is important to note that complainants are not required to exhaust the Town's procedures prior to filing a state or federal complaint or taking court action.

Anyone who feels that he or she has been discriminated against or harassed on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or age in employment practices should first attempt to resolve the problem by discussing it with their Department Head or, where that may not be feasible, the Town Administrator or a member of the Appointing Authority Board.

Once verbal notification is given and resolution cannot be reached, the complainant will be asked to file a written complaint with the Town Administrator with a copy to the Department Head. Complaints should be in writing and should include information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date and description of the problem. Reasonable accommodations, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities who are unable to submit a written complaint.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the Town Administrator will meet with the petitioner to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Town Administrator will respond to the petitioner in person or in writing. The response will explain the position of the Town and may offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.



All complaints received by the Town Administrator and responses from same, will be kept by the Town for at least three (3) years. Such documents will remain strictly confidential. It should also be known that the record of the complaint will not be part of the personnel file of the complainant but could be placed in the personnel file of any employee who is disciplined as a result of the investigation.

An appeal from the Town Administrator may be taken to the Board of Selectmen, by a notice in writing. The Board of Selectmen will provide the complainant with an opportunity to appeal and will issue a written decision if the matter is not satisfactorily resolved.

Employees who discuss discrimination or harassment complaints with Town supervisors need to understand that supervisors are required by law to stop any unlawful conduct. The Town will preserve confidentially as far as it reasonably can, but not to the extent that the discrimination or harassment continues.

This grievance procedure is meant to be informal, and cannot be legally binding on either part. Any complaint involving existing civil or criminal litigation may not be addressed using this informal procedure.

No retaliatory action will be taken against those persons who file complaints of discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or age, or against individuals who cooperate in such investigations.





**Board of Selectmen**  
*Town of West Boylston*  
**140 WORCESTER STREET**  
**WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583**

CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO, Chairman  
SIOBHAN M. BOHNSON, Vice Chairman  
BARUR R. RAJESHKUMAR, Clerk  
PATRICK J. CROWLEY, Selectman  
JOHN W. HADLEY, Selectman

Phone: (774) 261-4010

email: [selectboard@westboylston.ma.gov](mailto:selectboard@westboylston.ma.gov)

June 21, 2017

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Open Space & Recreation Plan Update for the Town of West Boylston

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the West Boylston Board of Selectmen, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the update of the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, as prepared by our Open Space Implementation Committee.

The Open Space Implementation Committee has done a commendable job on the update. They held public meetings and encouraged input from other town boards and committees. The Committee also held a public hearing during which they welcomed comments from town residents. We feel the end result is an updated plan which will be a resource for the town for many years.

We thank you for considering our update and for your continued support of our open space and recreation efforts.

With regards,

TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON

CHRISTOPHER A. RUCHO  
Chairman

CC: Members of the Open Space Committee





*Town of West Boylston*  
**140 WORCESTER STREET  
WEST BOYLSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01583**

Anita M. Scheipers, Town Administrator  
774.261.4088 Phone & Fax  
[ascheipers@westboylston-ma.gov](mailto:ascheipers@westboylston-ma.gov)

June 7, 2017

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Open Space & Recreation Plan Update for the Town of West Boylston

Dear Ms. Cryan,

Please be advised, that as the Town Administrator of the Town of West Boylston, under the provisions of Chapter 23 of the Acts & Resolves of 1995, I have appointed Bentley Herget, who serves in the role of Building Commissioner, as the ADA Coordinator for the Town of West Boylston.

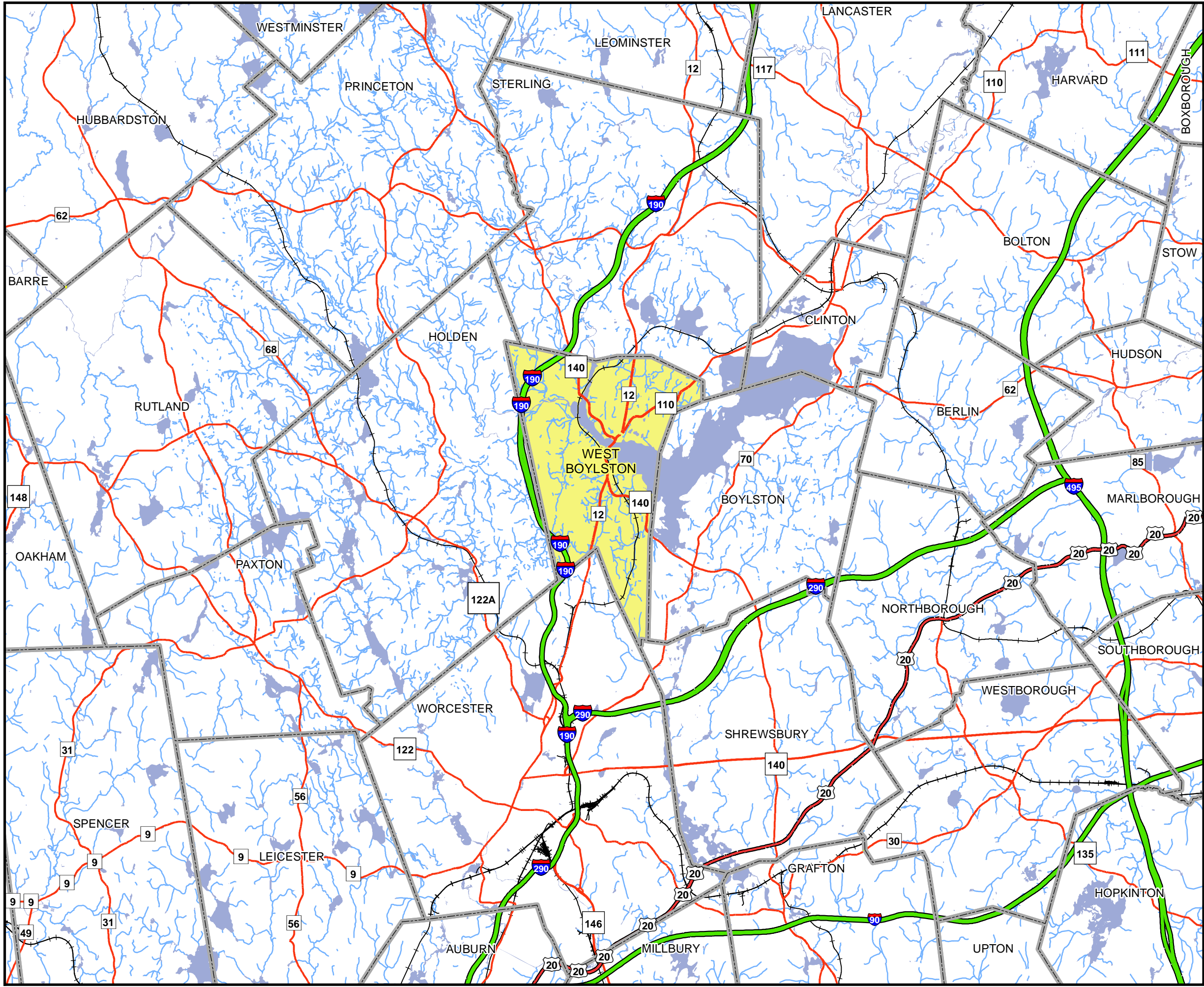
If any additional information is needed, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above number.

With regards,

TOWN OF WEST BOYLSTON

ANITA M. SCHEIPERS  
Town Administrator

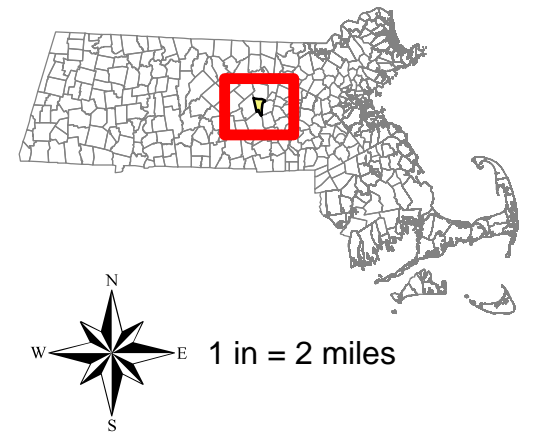




# MAP 1 REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts

- Legend**
- Town Boundary
  - Active Railroad
  - Other Roads
    - Interstate
    - U.S. Route
    - State Route



Source: Data provided by the Town of West Boylston, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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 interpreting positional accuracy.



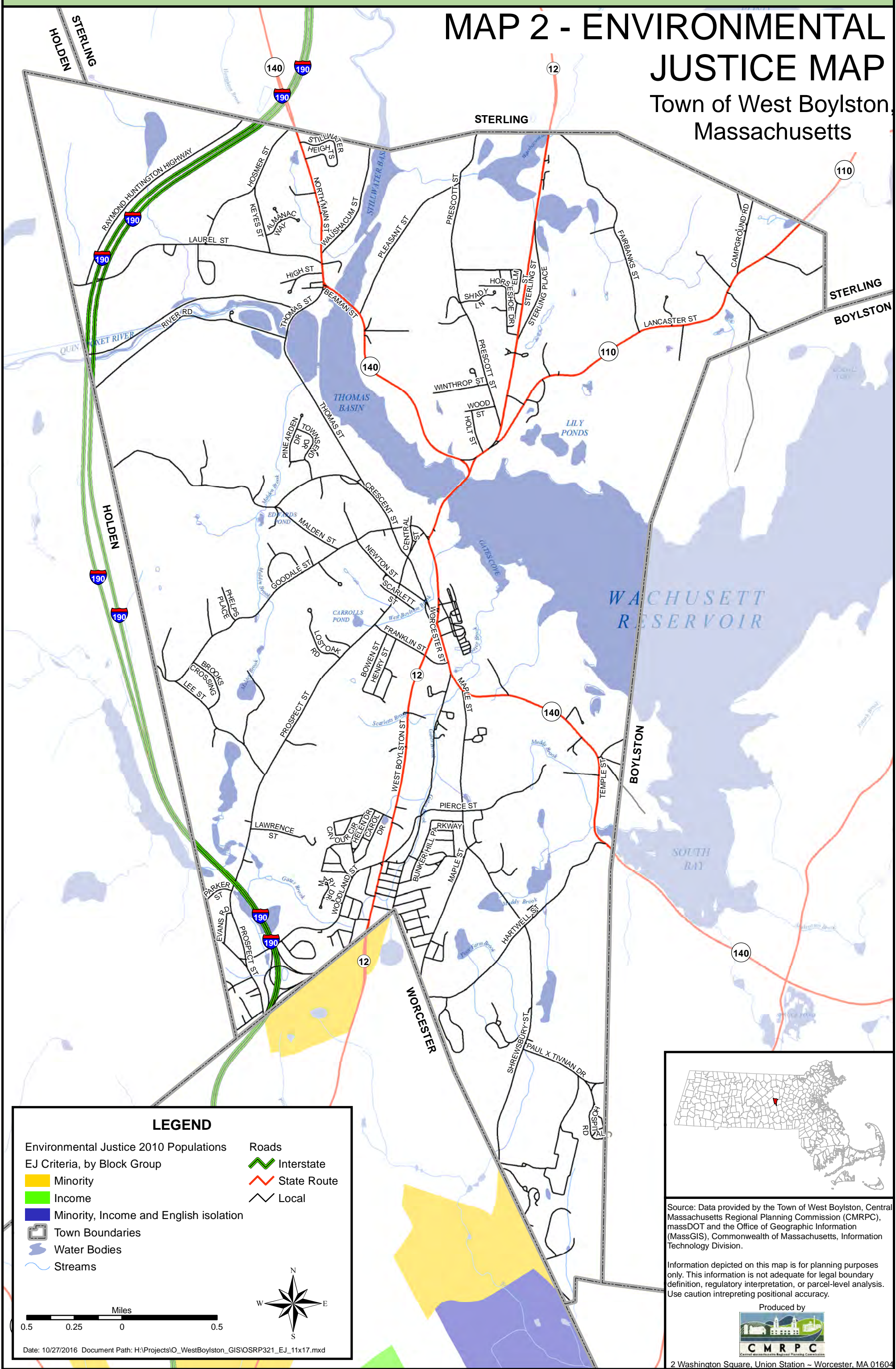
2 Washington Square, Union Station Worcester, MA 01604



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

## MAP 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts

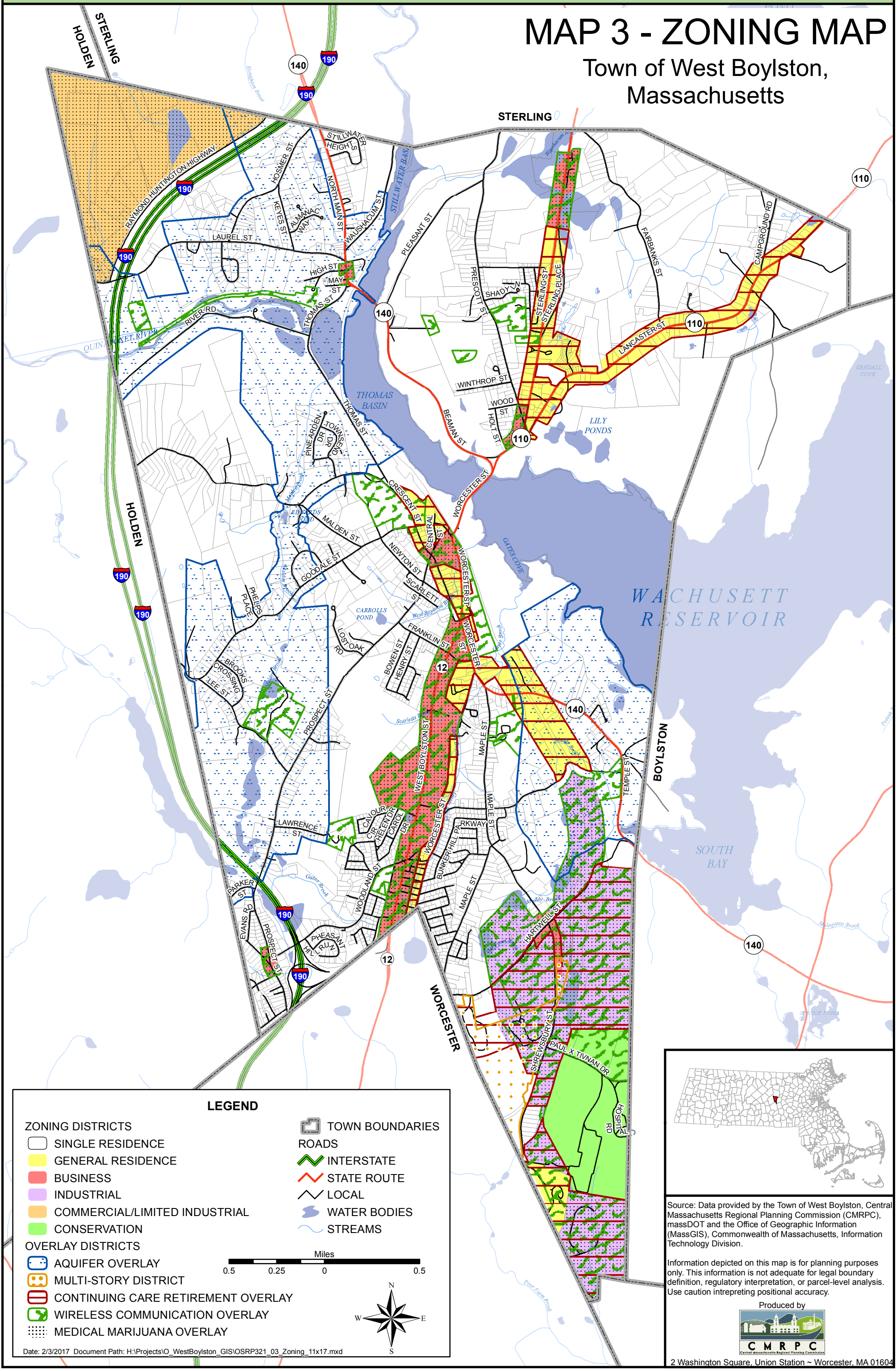




# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

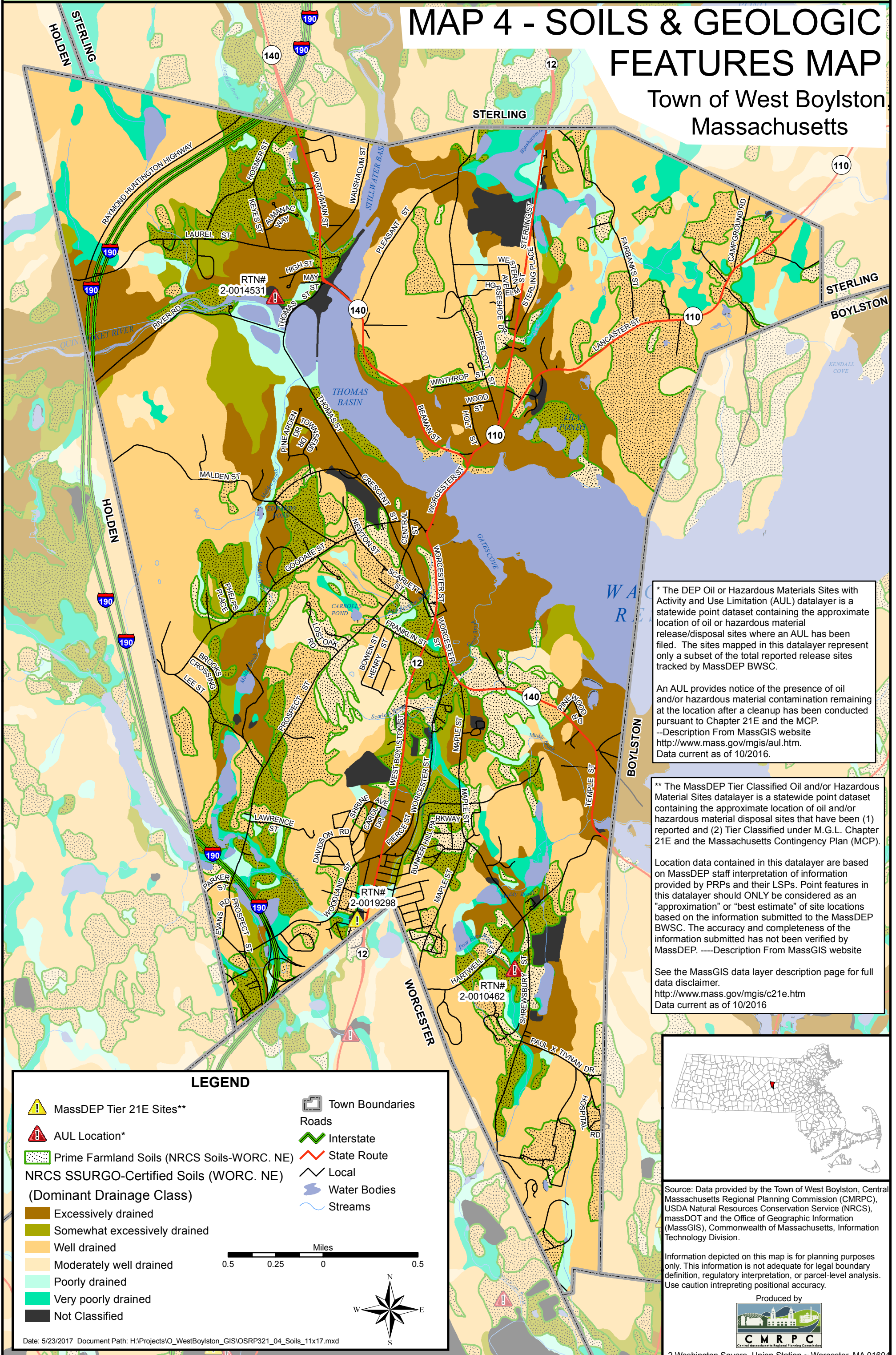
## MAP 3 - ZONING MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts





# Town of West Boylston, Massachusetts



See the MassGIS data layer description page for full data disclaimer.  
<http://www.mass.gov/mgis/c21e.htm>  
 Data current as of 10/2016

A map of the state of Massachusetts with its county boundaries delineated. Franklin County, located in the western part of the state, is highlighted in a solid red color. The rest of the state is shown in white with black outlines for the county borders.

Source: Data provided by the Town of West Boylston, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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Produced by



Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

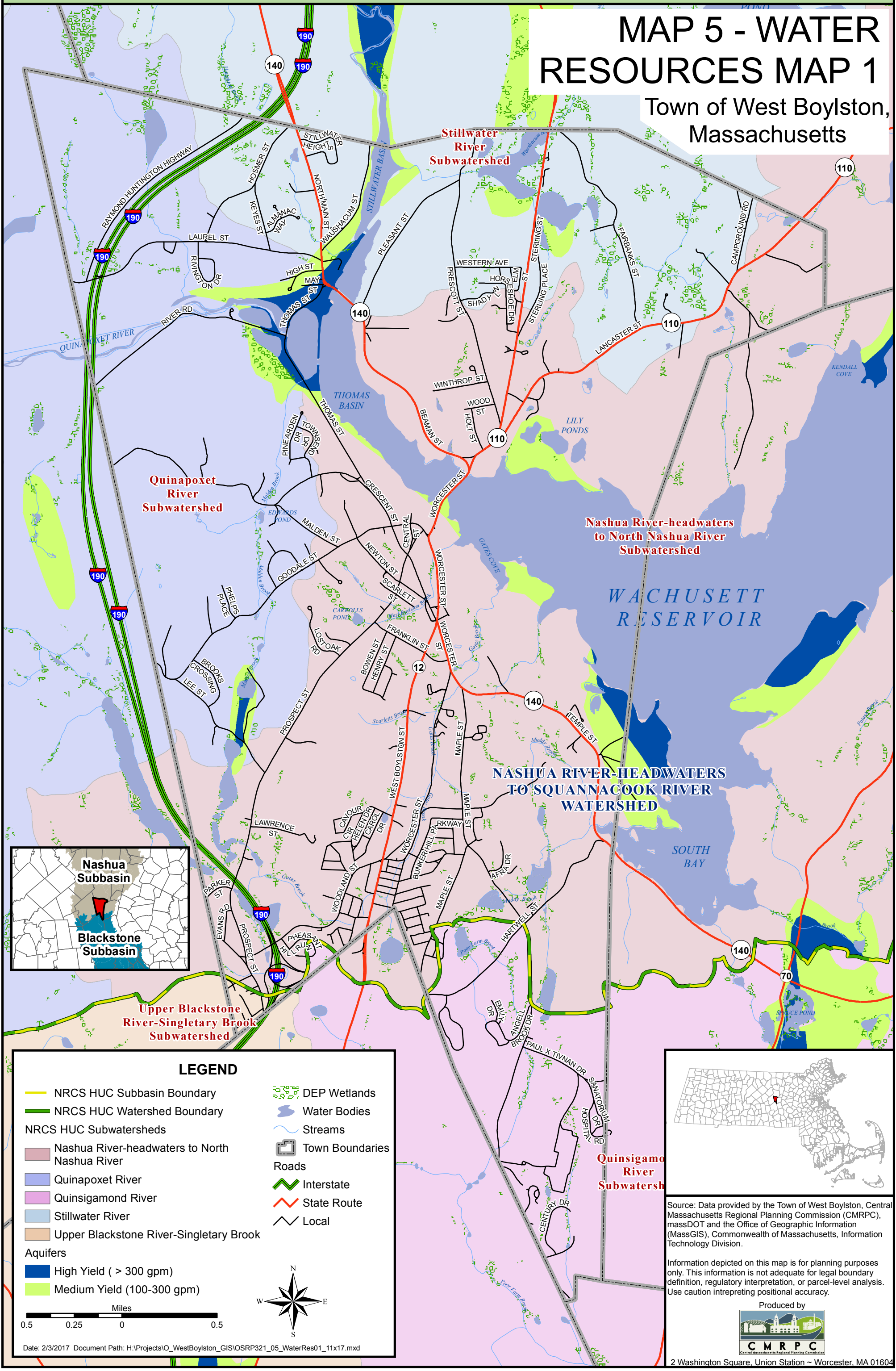
2 Washington Square, Union Station ~ Worcester, MA 01604



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

## MAP 5 - WATER RESOURCES MAP 1

Town of West Boylston, Massachusetts

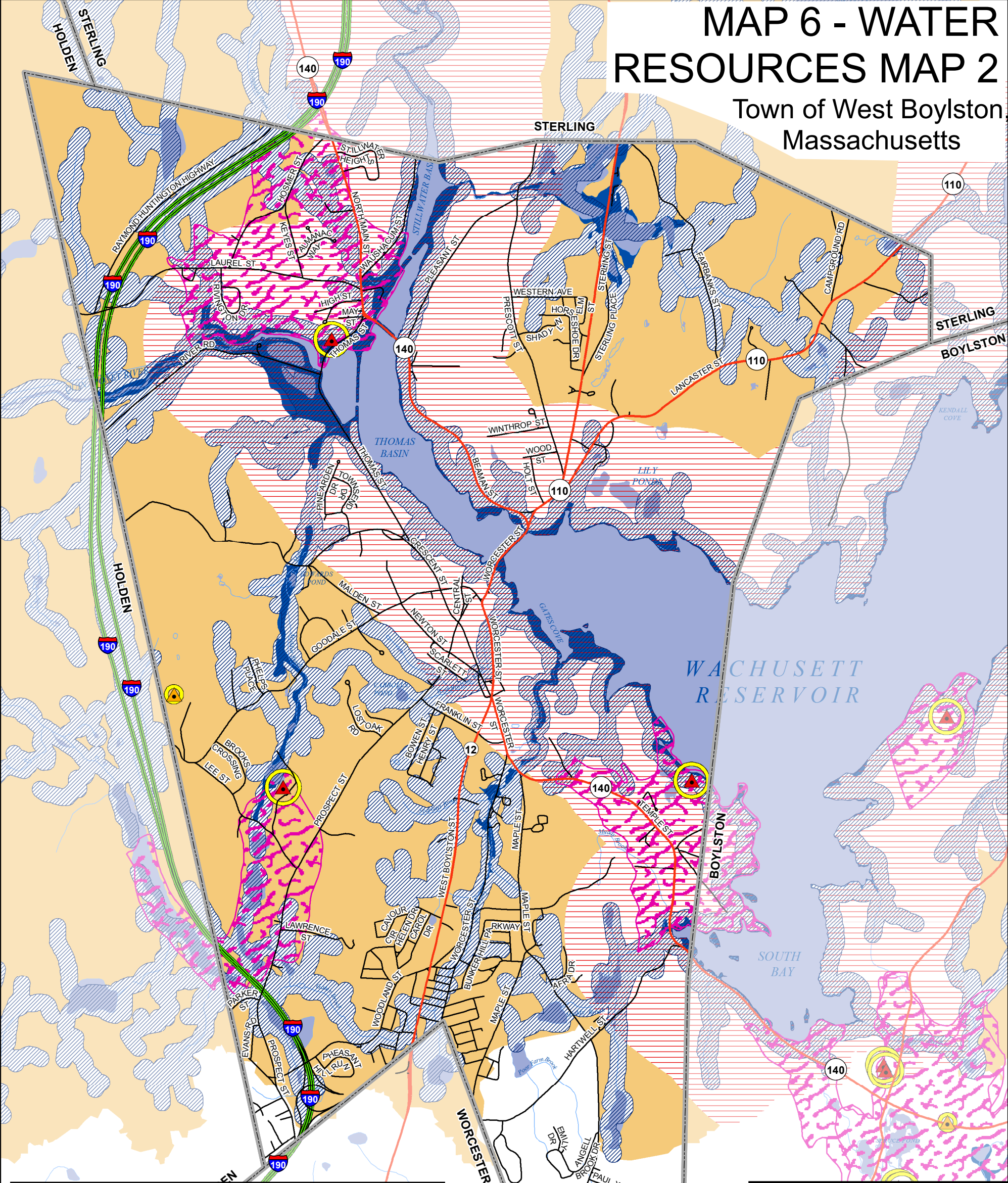




# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

## MAP 6 - WATER RESOURCES MAP 2

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts



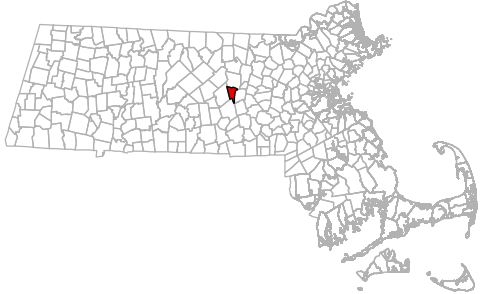
### LEGEND

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Public Water Supplies (*)             | DEP Approved Zone I (*)                                |
| Community Groundwater Well            | Approved Wellhead Protection Areas (Zone II) (*)       |
| Transient Non-Community               | Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (*)                  |
| Surface Water Supply Protection Areas | 100-year Flood Area (FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer) |
| Zone A                                | Town Boundaries  |
| Zone B                                | Roads  |
| Zone C                                | Interstate   |
| Water Bodies                          | State Route  |
| Streams                               | Local  |

\*Data current as of 10/2016



Date: 1/12/2017 Document Path: H:\Projects\IO\_WestBoylston\_GIS\OSRP321\_06\_WaterRes02\_11x17.mxd



Source: Data provided by the Town of West Boylston, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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 interpreting positional accuracy.



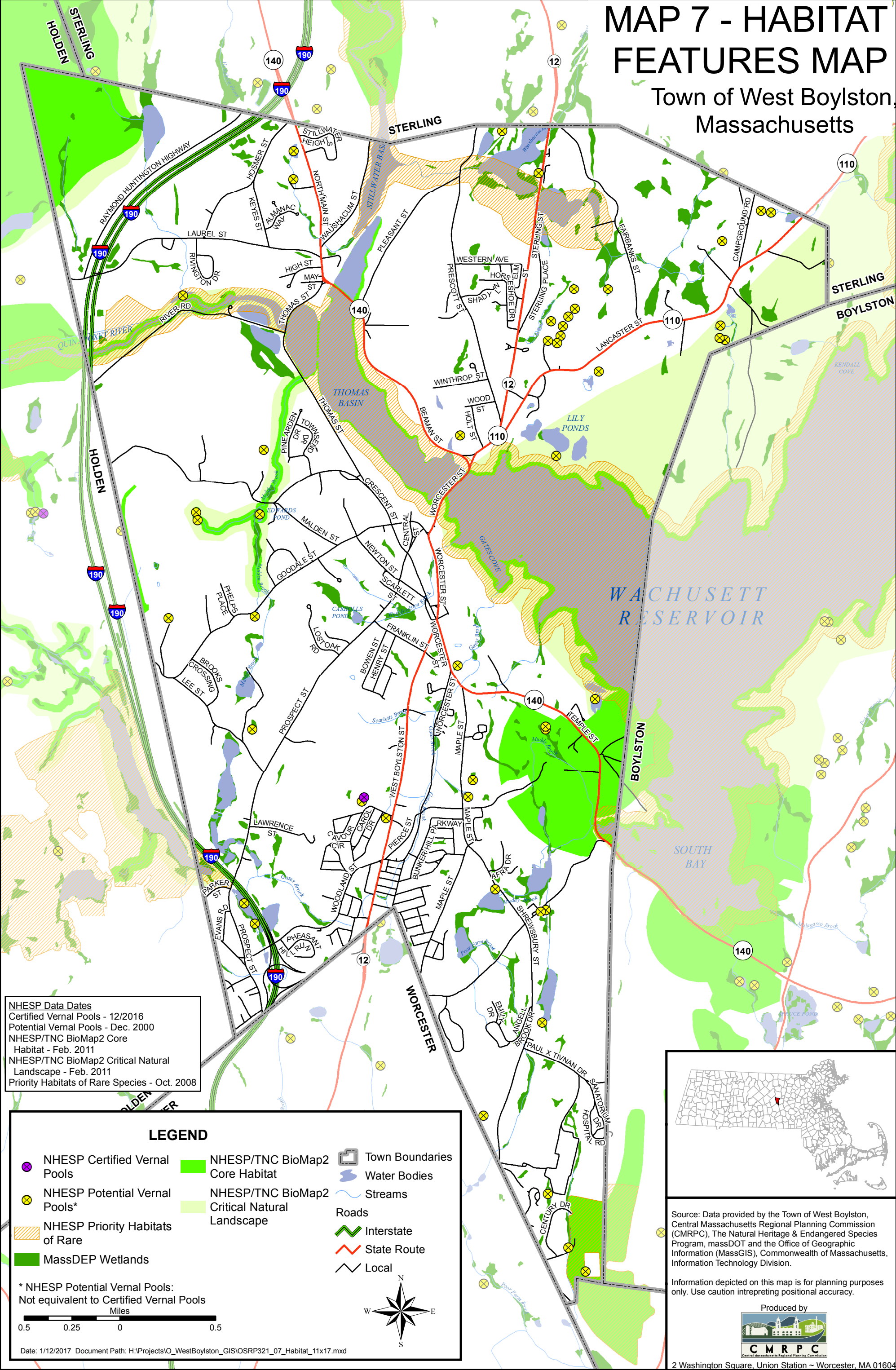
2 Washington Square, Union Station ~ Worcester, MA 01604



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

## MAP 7 - HABITAT FEATURES MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts

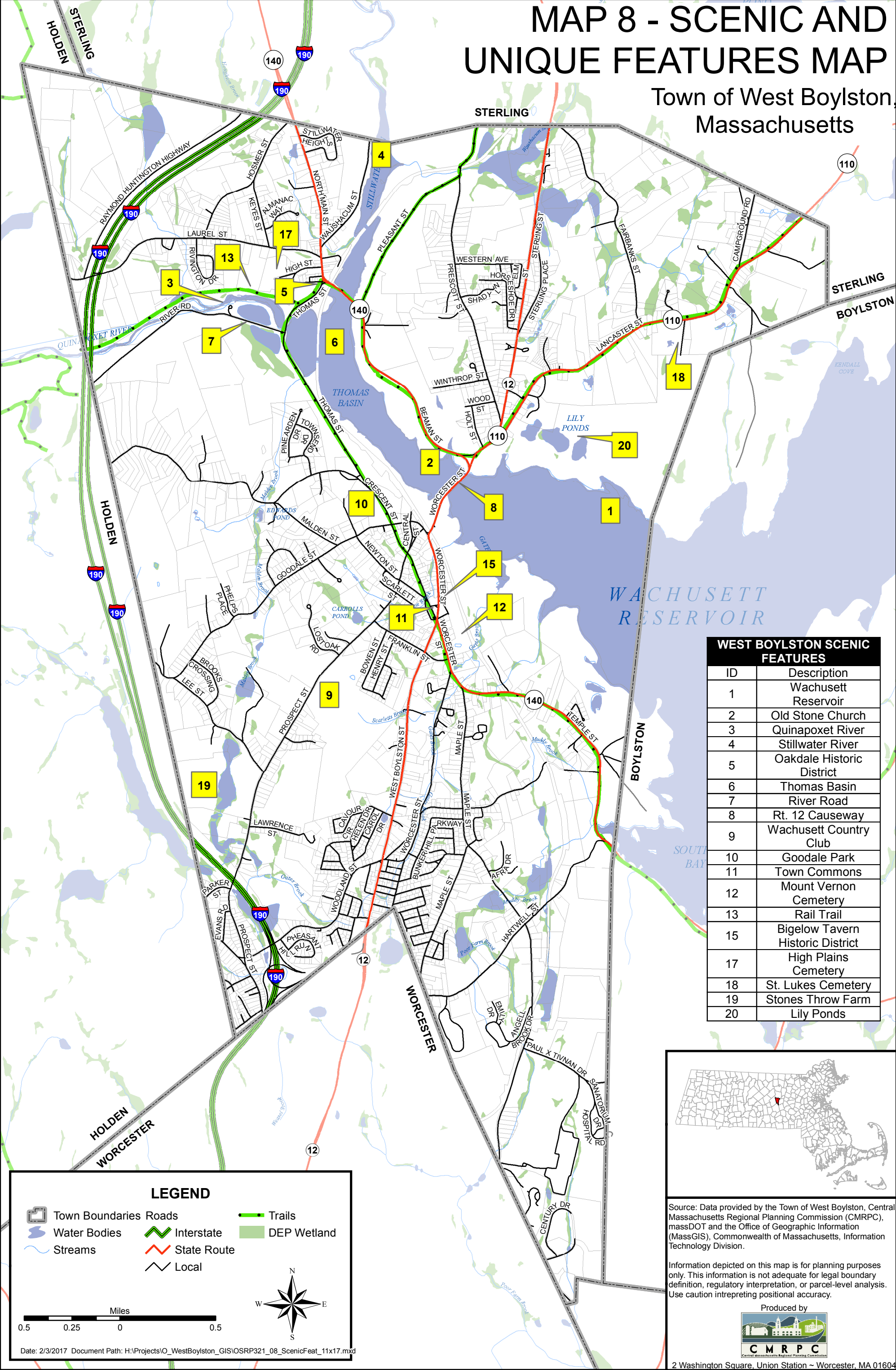




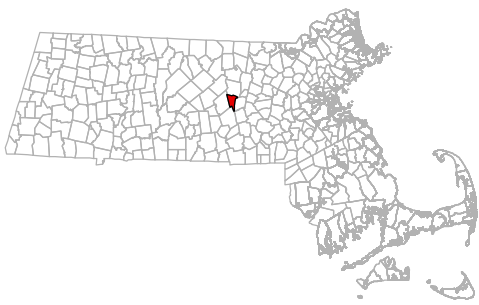
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

MAP 8 - SCENIC AND  
UNIQUE FEATURES MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts



WEST BOYLSTON SCENIC FEATURES	
ID	Description
1	Wachusett Reservoir
2	Old Stone Church
3	Quinapoxet River
4	Stillwater River
5	Oakdale Historic District
6	Thomas Basin
7	River Road
8	Rt. 12 Causeway
9	Wachusett Country Club
10	Goodale Park
11	Town Commons
12	Mount Vernon Cemetery
13	Rail Trail
15	Bigelow Tavern Historic District
17	High Plains Cemetery
18	St. Lukes Cemetery
19	Stones Throw Farm
20	Lily Ponds



Source: Data provided by the Town of West Boylston, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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**LEGEND**

Town Boundaries

Water Bodies

Streams

Roads

Interstate

State Route

Local

Trails

DEP Wetland

N  
W E S

Miles

0.5

0.25

0

0.5

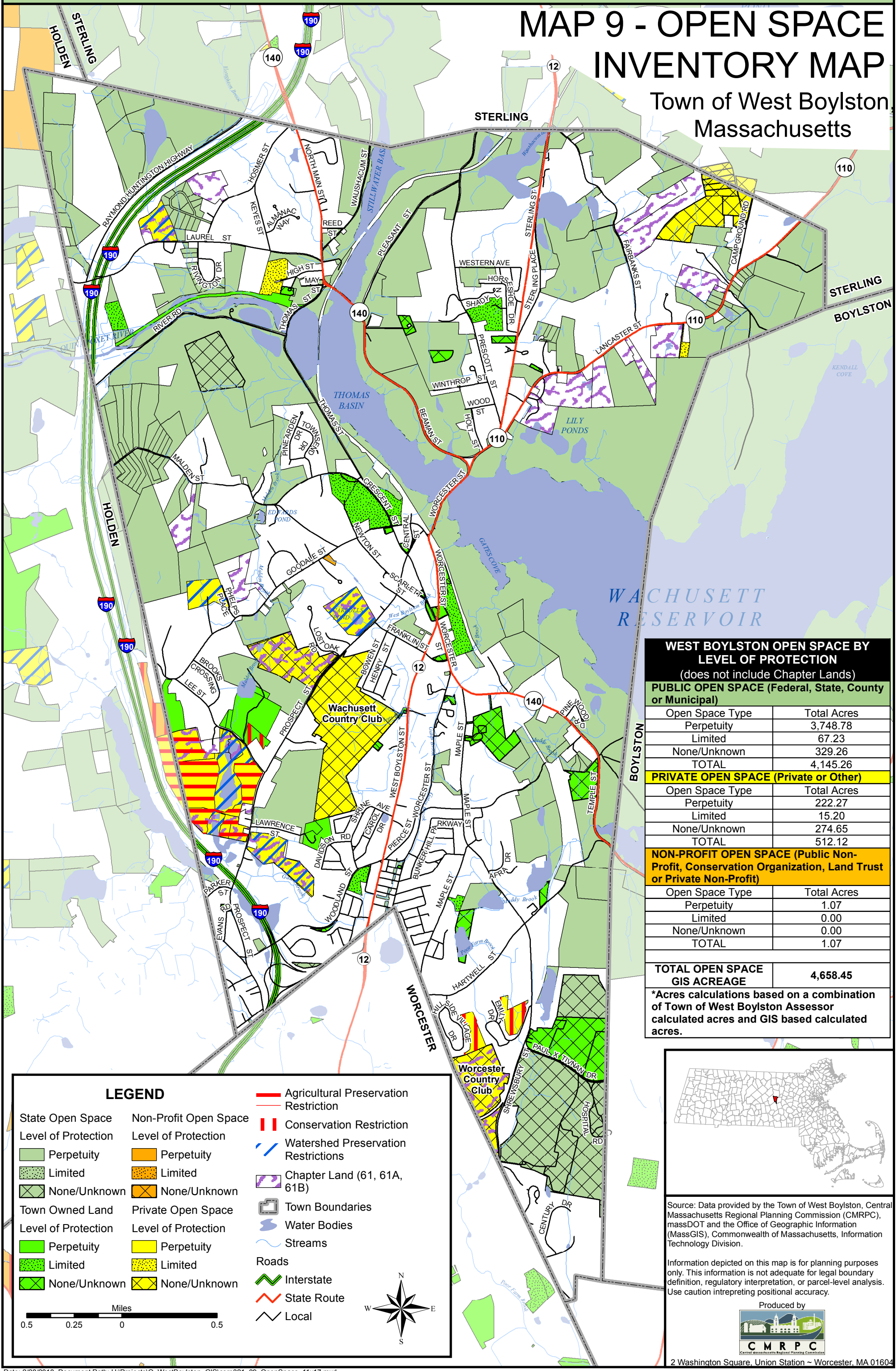
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OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

MAP 9 - OPEN SPACE INVENTORY MAP

Town of West Boylston, Massachusetts



WEST BOYLSTON OPEN SPACE BY LEVEL OF PROTECTION (does not include Chapter Lands)	
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE (Federal, State, County or Municipal)	
Open Space Type	Total Acres
Perpetuity	3,748.78
Limited	67.23
None/Unknown	329.26
TOTAL	4,145.26
PRIVATE OPEN SPACE (Private or Other)	
Open Space Type	Total Acres
Perpetuity	222.27
Limited	15.20
None/Unknown	274.65
TOTAL	512.12
NON-PROFIT OPEN SPACE (Public Non-Profit, Conservation Organization, Land Trust or Private Non-Profit)	
Open Space Type	Total Acres
Perpetuity	1.07
Limited	0.00
None/Unknown	0.00
TOTAL	1.07
TOTAL OPEN SPACE GIS ACREAGE	
	4,658.45
*Acres calculations based on a combination of Town of West Boylston Assessor calculated acres and GIS based calculated acres.	

**LEGEND**

State Open Space

Level of Protection

- Perpetuity
- Limited
- None/Unknown

Town Owned Land

Level of Protection

- Perpetuity
- Limited
- None/Unknown

Non-Profit Open Space

Level of Protection

- Perpetuity
- Limited
- None/Unknown

Private Open Space

Level of Protection

- Perpetuity
- Limited
- None/Unknown

Agricultural Preservation Restriction

Conservation Restriction

Watershed Preservation Restrictions

Chapter Land (61, 61A, 61B)

Town Boundaries

Water Bodies

Streams

Roads

- Interstate
- State Route
- Local

Miles

0.5 0.25 0 0.5

N

W E S

Source: Data provided by the Town of West Boylston, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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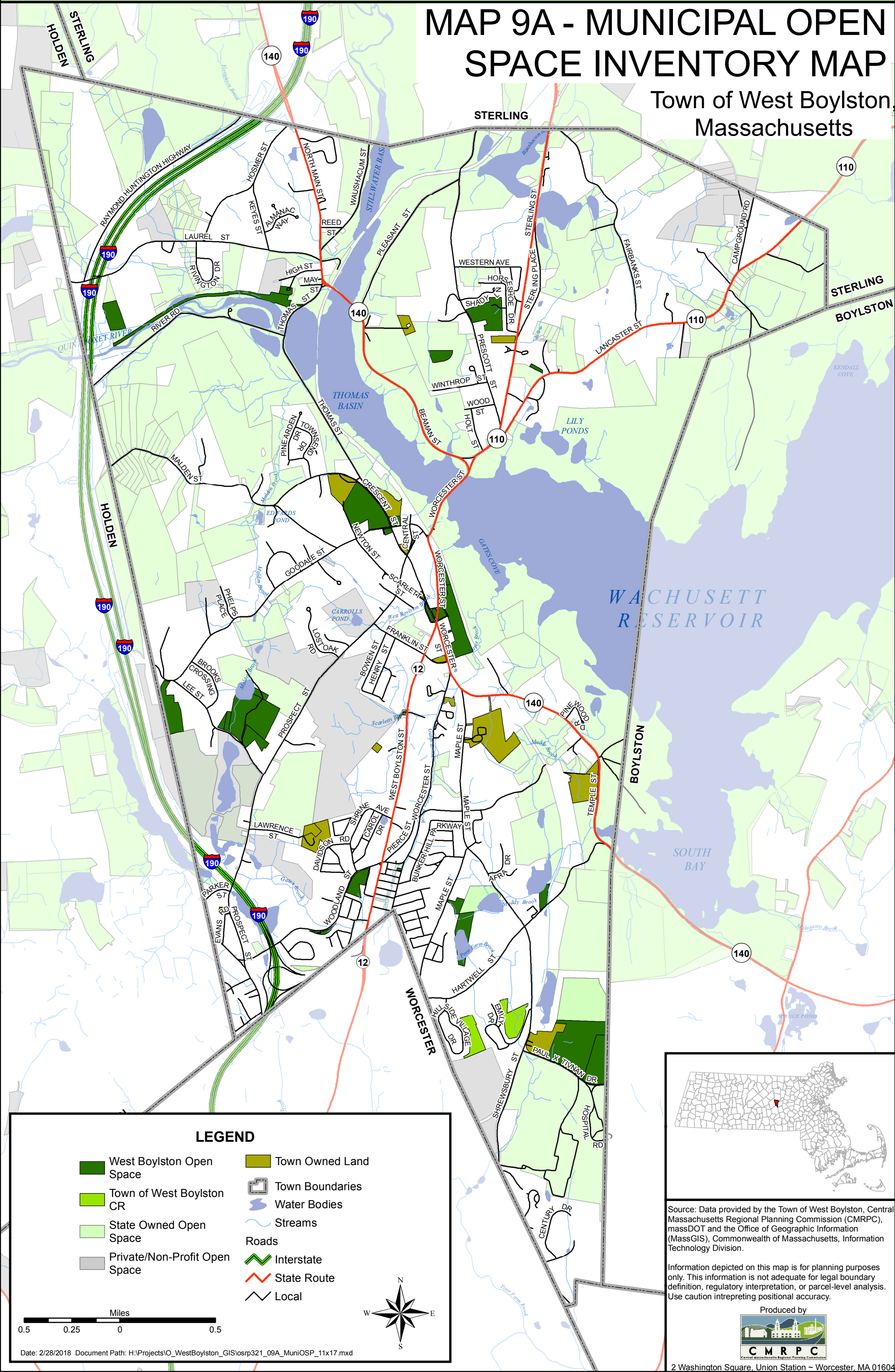
2 Washington Square, Union Station ~ Worcester, MA 01604



# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

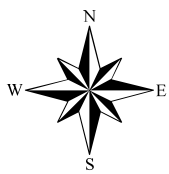
## MAP 9A - MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE INVENTORY MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts



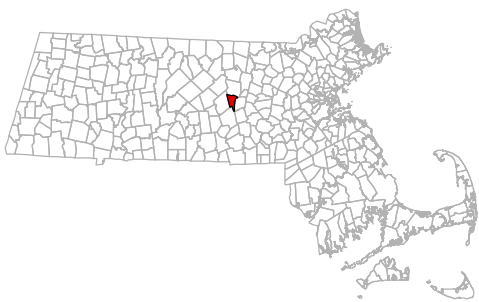
### LEGEND

- |                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| West Boylston Open Space      | Town Owned Land |
| Town of West Boylston CR      | Town Boundaries |
| State Owned Open Space        | Water Bodies    |
| Private/Non-Profit Open Space | Streams         |
|                               | Roads           |
|                               | Interstate      |
|                               | State Route     |
|                               | Local           |



Miles  
0.5 0.25 0 0.5

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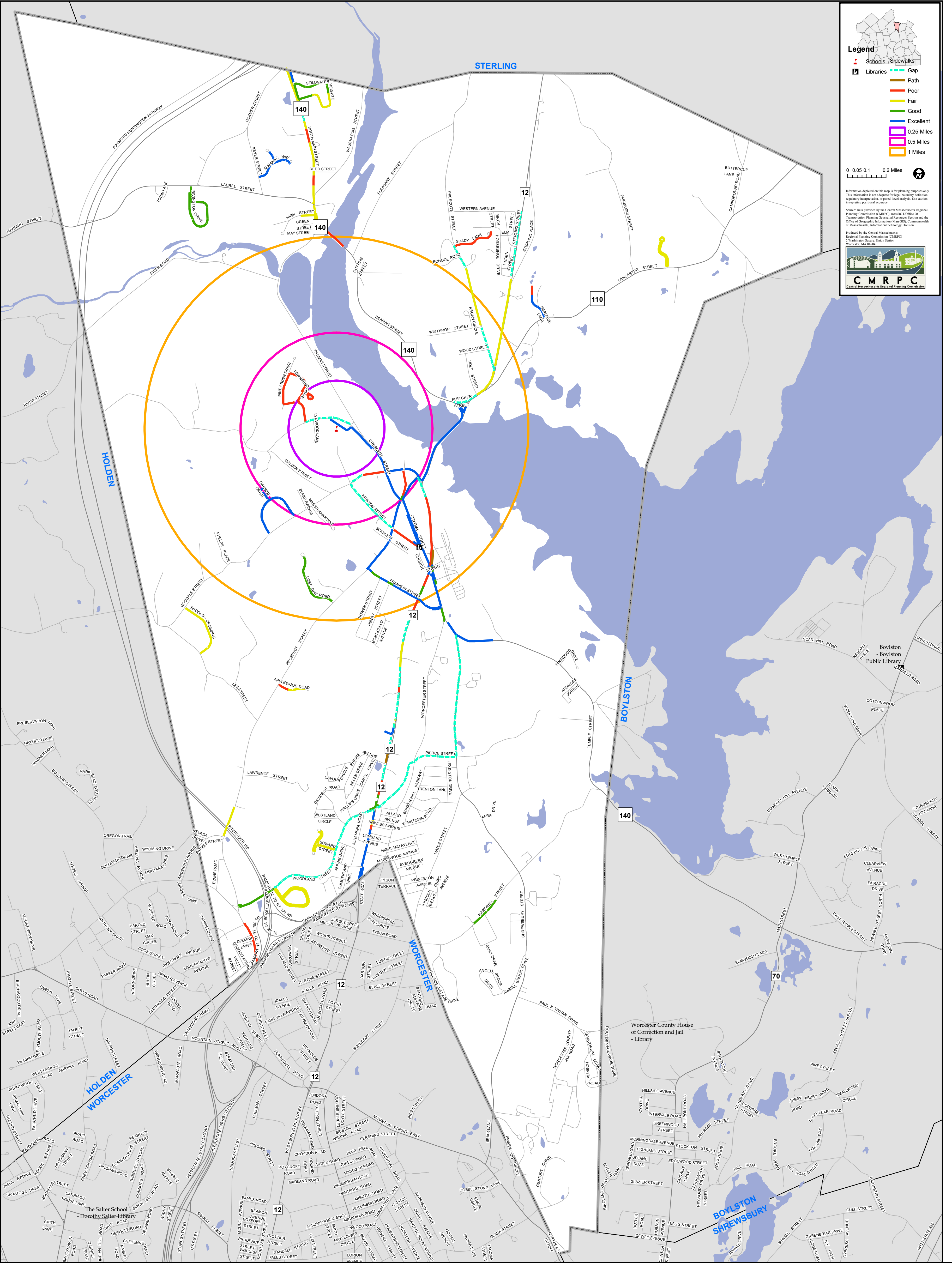
Source: Data provided by the Town of West Boylston, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), massDOT and the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division.

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2 Washington Square, Union Station ~ Worcester, MA 01604





Open Space and Recreation Plan  
West Boylston, Massachusetts  
Map 9B - Complete Streets Map

Date: 7/11/2017



OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

MAP 10 - ACTION  
PLAN MAP

Town of West Boylston,  
Massachusetts

