2017 - 2023
Open Space and Recreation Plan

Town of West Bridgewater



The Town River flowing from the Hockomock Swamp at Skim Milk Bridge

Updated by the
West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Committee

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

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2011

Deval Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
SECRETARY

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

July 19, 2011

PLACE HOLDER

Pasquale Ciaramella
Old Colony Planning Co[illegible]l
70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4097

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Ciaramella:

Thank you for su[illegible]st [illegible]dgew[illegible]'s [illegible]en Spac[illegible]d R[illegible]at[illegible] [illegible]ian to t[illegible] office for review for com[illegible]nce [illegible]h th[illegible] [illegible]pe[illegible] [illegible]nd[illegible] [illegible]n [illegible] Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow West Bridgewater to participate in DCS grant rounds through March 2017.

Congratulations on a great job. Please call me at (617) 626-1171 if you have any questions or concerns about the plan.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cryan

Melissa Cryan
Grants Manager

cc: Christopher Iannitelli, Forestry and Parks Superintendent

Table of Contents

Forward	i
I. Plan Summary	I-1
A. Statement of Purpose	I-1
B. Planning Process and Public Participation	I-1
II. Introduction	II-1
III Community Setting	III-1
A. Regional Context	III-1
B. History	III-3
C .Population Characteristics	III-9
D. Growth and Development	III-15
E. Infrastructure	III-17
IV Environmental Inventory and Analysis	IV-1
A. Geology, Soils and Topography	IV-1
B. Landscape Character	IV-5
C. Water Resources	IV-8
D. Vegetation	IV-17
E. Fisheries and Wildlife	IV-20
F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments	IV-24
G. Environmental Problems	IV-29
V Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	V-1
A. Private Parcels	V-1
1.Lands Under Current Use Taxation	V-1
2.Other Unprotected land	V-5
B. Public and Non-Profit	V-9
1. Land Managed by Conservation Commission	V-9
. 2. Land Managed by Town Parks and Forestry Department	V-19
3.Commonwealth Properties	V-25
C. Partially Protected Lands held for other Purposes	V-28
1. Land Managed by the Water Department	V-28
2. Land Managed by the School Department	V-30
3. Land under the Highway Department	V-31
4. Other Town Owned Parcels	V-35

D. Public and Private Recreation Facilities V-37
1. Public Facilities V-37
2. Private Facilities V-41

VI Community Goals VI-1
A. 1988 Background VI-1
B. Description of the 1999 Process VI-1
C. 1999 Goals Statement VI-2
D. 2009 Goals Statement VI-2

VII Analysis of Needs VII-1
A. Open Space/Resource Protection Needs VII-1 B.
B. Community Needs - Recreation VII-1
C. Management Needs VII-5

VIII Goals and Objectives VIII-1

IX Five Year Action Plan IX-1

X Public Comments X-1

XI References XI-1

Appendices

App. A. ADA Procedures and Findings

App. B. 1996 and 1999 Surveys

List of Figures

		Page
I-1	Locus	I-4
III-1	Bay Circuit Trail optional	III-5
III-2	Total Population by Block Group	III-11
III-3	Per Capita Income I	III-12
III-4	Median Age	III-13
III-5	Land Use	III-16
III-6	Zoning	III-20
IV-1	USGS Topographic Sheet	IV-3
IV-2	Surficial Geology	IV-4
IV-3	Soils Suitable for Septic Systems	IV-6
IV-4	Surface Water	IV-9
IV-5	Aquifer and Well Zones	IV-12
IV-6	Land Use & Flood Zones	IV-14
IV-7	Wetlands	IV-16
IV-8	Natural Communities, Primary Forest and PVPs	IV-18
IV-9	Priority and Estimated Habitats	IV-23
IV-10	BioMap	IV-25
IV-11	Unique Features, Historic Sites, ACECs and Scenic Views	IV-28
V-1	Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	V-44

Foreword

The 2018 West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan builds on the 2010 West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan produced by the members of the 2009 West Bridgewater Open Space Committee chaired by then Forest and Park Superintendent Christopher Iannitelli, assisted by the Old Colony Planning Council and with contributions submitted by some members of the West Bridgewater Town leadership.

This 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan follows the format of the 2010 plan except where new material needed to be accommodated. In addition, it follows the Open Space And Recreation Plan Requirements published by the Division of Conservation Services, DSC Form Rev. 3/08.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the support and input of the community and Town of West Bridgewater Departments who provided valuable insight, advice, and feedback.

Present Plan

This 2018 update builds on the work of the past contributors to the past approved Open Space and Recreation Plans and includes the input from the current members and volunteers of the West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Committee. Unlike many other municipalities, the West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Committee is a Standing Committee within Town of West Bridgewater government. The 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan will not just sit on a shelf after it's approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. It will be used by the standing committee at its monthly meetings and throughout the time period that the 2018 plan is valid. The goals and objectives listed in the plan will be evaluated and updated as the committee performs its work over the next 5 years.

The contributing information was submitted by members and volunteers of the current Open Space and Recreation Committee. The contributions were made by Mary Wynne-Yee, Chairperson, Adam Anderson, Vice Chairperson; John W. DeLano, Secretary; Howard Hayward, Member; Cheryl Cambria, Member; John Ames, Member; Donna Connerty, Member; Janice O'brien, Member; Sarah Anderson, Alternate Member; Matthew Penella, Immediate Past Chairperson; DPW Superintendent Christopher Iannitelli; and past committee members Michael Curtin, Jr. and Megan Beyer. In addition, the committee received the continuing support of Town Administrator David Gagne and the editorial assistance and very thorough review by Assistant Town Administrator Tracy Altrich.

I SUMMARY

The West Bridgewater 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan builds upon the 2010 West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan and previously approved Open Space and Recreation Plans. It does so by updating social and environmental data, inventorying the current and existing open spaces, conservation lands, recreation areas, and protected land parcels. More importantly, it identifies the remaining lands of conservation interest so that the town of West Bridgewater can plan a course of action..

Preserving the rural character of the town remains the emphasis of this plan. With increasing demands for growth coming from neighboring Brockton and Greater Boston generally, West Bridgewater is in a prime location for over-development. Agricultural soil and water have long been important resources to the community. Original settlers came to the land for the excellent farming potential the soils offered. The Town River was host to an early grist mill and later a shovel factory. Today, as West Bridgewater considers bringing sewer lines to the upper Manley Street section of town and with developers willing to construct Sewage Treatment Plants for their housing projects, what was previously considered to be undevelopable land will likely be built upon. The time to set a course of action regarding the preservation and acquisition of open space is now.

The 2018 West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update looks to the future development trends in this small town south of Boston and addresses three main topics.

- •Preserving the rural character of this traditional farming community
- •Protecting the natural resources of this water-rich town
- •Providing quality recreation facilities for residents of all ages

Given these concerns, the purpose of an Open Space Plan is not to restrict development and growth. It is to logically and systematically highlight and preserve the areas in town which should not be built upon due to their value to the community, the ecosystem, and the future needs of the town. The plan therefore complements the town's 2001 Master Plan and the 2004 Community Development Plan by Larry Koff and Associates.

The Master Plan examines a range of town resources, current trends, needs, and opportunities, and outlines an overall strategy to meet housing, economic development, and community facility needs in appropriate areas while preserving town character and key resources. The Community Development Plan built on the Master Plan, further analyzing the town's needs and resources and laying out mapped action programs in the areas of resource protection and open space, housing, economic development and transportation.

Progress on these issues since 1991, most of it since 1999, as summarized by Forest and Park Superintendent Christopher Iannitelli includes:

- Acquisition of a $50,000 master planning grant for War Memorial Park
- Subsequent Restoration of War Memorial Park
- Inclusion of the Park on the National Register of Historic Places
- Redoing the town skating rink

- Building the Friendship Park Playground
- Accepting the gift of the new rail trail from Shaw's Markets
- Developing two additional school playgrounds
- Adopting the Center of Town zoning overlay district to encourage a pedestrian-friendly village setting
- Accepting the Community Preservation Act
- Receiving a $250,000 grant with which to rebuild the Memorial Park dam and fish ladder
- Receiving a $250,000 grant and town funds with which to build a tournament soccer field
- Two successful Earth Day Cleanups
- Recent (2010) completion of the town's first Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR). The 116- acre Anderson Farm in cooperation with the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts, the State, and the Community Preservation Act Committee.
- Acquisition of the Beavertown Woods Property adjacent to existing conservation land on River Street and including 1,400' of trails and boardwalks connecting the present holdings to the riverside War Memorial Park. Done in cooperation with the AmeriCorps Program and the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts
- Establishment of an Active Agricultural Commission

The Forest and Park Superintendent did not date these events, but most are understood to have happened since the 1999 Plan. In all, this updated plan reflects review of past plans, further analysis of the town's natural resources, existing conditions and potential needs and opportunities, and invaluable public input.

Recommendations

The primary recommendations of this Open Space Plan are:

1. To target areas for acquisition or other protection which meet three of five criteria specifying the value of that area to the ecosystem and community

2. To help farmers to keep their farms by using conservation and agricultural easements and other tools to protect such land from development

3. To update the zoning regulations of West Bridgewater in several ways to preserve open space by:

    - Allowing cluster or open space residential development in which the most valuable open space portion of a site remains open in exchange for more intensive use of the rest of site
    - Removing the Hockomock Swamp from the Industrial district.
    - Limiting residential use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizer within Zone 2 Well Recharge areas

- Requiring a percentage of future development to be left open to support open space and enhance the rural quality of West Bridgewater.
- Encouraging development that does not hide rural lands behind commercial strips along Route 106 and Route 28 or behind Form A lots on existing frontage

4. To connect the Bay Circuit Trail through West Bridgewater over more off-road trails rather than having the trail run along busy paved roads.

5. To extend and connect trails to and through adjacent land, e.g., extending the rail trail east of East Street and towards the East Bridgewater/West Bridgewater town line.

6. To increase access to and use of water bodies such as the West Meadow Pond

7. To protect the West Bridgewater State Forest and expand its use

6. To protect open space and wildlife habitat including areas needed for essential connectivity between otherwise fragmented habitats

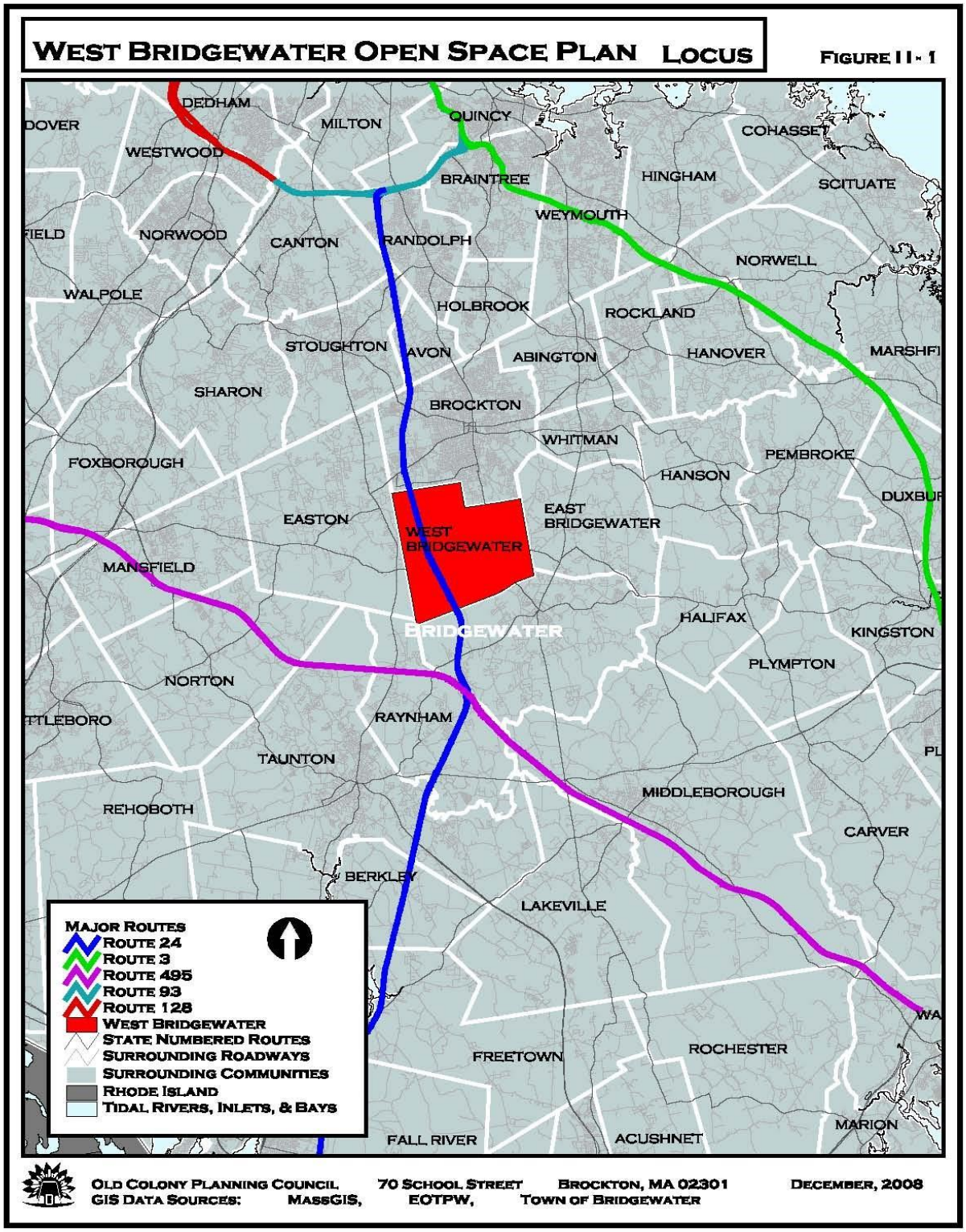
7. In the spirit of # 6, to acquire land between town holdings in the northwest corner of the town and the State Forest in order to create a connected swath of open space and wildlife habitat in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife

8. To create usable trail links between present discontinuous holdings, possibly by incorporating segments of abandoned rail right of way west of North Main Street

9. To remove obstacles to safely walking to school through coordinated trail development

10. To pursue other acquisitions discussed in Chapter V, Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

11. To work to provide new sidewalks on those streets lacking them and to improve existing sidewalks that are currently in disrepair.


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN LOCUS
FIGURE II - 1
DEDHAM
MILTON
QUINCY
COHASSET
DOVER
WESTWOOD
BRAINTREE
HINGHAM
SCITUATE
WEYMOUTH
NORWOOD
CANTON
RANDOLPH
NORWELL
WALPOLE
HOLBROOK
ROCKLAND
STOUGHTON
AVON
ABINGTON
HANOVER
SHARON
BROCKTON
WHITMAN
FOXBOROUGH
PEMBROKE
HANSON
EASTON
EAST BRIDGEWATER
WEST BRIDGEWATER
MANSFIELD
BRIDGEWATER
HALIFAX
KINGSTON
PLYMPTON
NORTON
RAYNHAM
TAUNTON
MIDDLEBOROUGH
REHOBOTH
CARVER
BERKLEY
LAKEVILLE
FREETOWN
ROCHESTER
FALL RIVER
ACUSHNET
MARION
MAJOR ROUTES
ROUTE 24
ROUTE 3
ROUTE 495
ROUTE 93
ROUTE 128
WEST BRIDGEWATER
STATE NUMBERED ROUTES
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
RHODE ISLAND
TIDAL RIVERS, INLETS, & BAYS
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301 DECEMBER, 2008
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

II. Introduction

A. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Open Space Plan is not to restrict development and growth. It is to systematically identify the specific areas which should not be built upon due to their value to the community, the ecosystem, and the future open space and recreation needs of the town. This 2009 Plan is an update of the 1999 Open Space Plan by students of the Conway School of Landscape Design and of the earlier 1988 West Bridgewater Bay Circuit Open Space Plan by the Old Colony Planning Council. It also draws on insights from the 2001 Town Center /Greenbelt Comprehensive Plan by Larry Koff and Associates and their 2004 Community Development Plan. By providing a logical model for future open space preservation activities, this plan is intended to help residents to organize efforts and actions toward preserving the town's remaining rural character and protecting its natural resources.

Pressures to convert the remaining farmland and wild land especially that along the edge of highways such as Route 24, into industrial, commercial, and residential developments continue to challenge communities throughout New England. West Bridgewater residents must answer some hard questions as they watch their long-standing agricultural community evolve with the changing demands of society and market pressures for development.

While some development is inevitable, and in many cases, economically beneficial for the town it should be in the right place and in accord with other values and needs. Therefore, the questions at hand are simply: In the face of future development, what open space should survive to protect natural resources and preserve the rural character of this small town? How much development will be too much; at what point will West Bridgewater lose the essence of its character?

Since 1988, the town has met several of its original open space goals. This document inventories and analyzes the present natural resources of West Bridgewater and includes an inventory of all open space as of 2009. Also, the goals set in the previous Open Space Plans are reviewed to verify their continued relevance to today needs. West Bridgewater's current day goals are listed in Chapter VI, converted to "needs" in Chapter VII, and to "objectives" in Chapter VIII, and programmed for action in Chapter IX, the Seven Year Action Plan.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

Since this updated plan particularly builds on the 1999 plan, the following describes the linked processes for both plans.

Both Plans were initiated by Chris Iannitelli, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry and the West Bridgewater Open Space Committee. Graduate students from the Conway School of Landscape Design researched and compiled data for the 1999 plan and facilitated town forums.

The West Bridgewater Open Space Committee began meeting in February 1999. Members included Mary Adams, Michael Dragonis, Howard Hayward, Walter Healy, Chris lannitelli, Joan Leland, Jack MacDonald, and Lorrie Mardo.

The Committee distributed an open space survey in 1996. One hundred twenty residents responded. An updated survey was distributed through the schools and during public meetings in February, 1999, and fifty residents responded. The survey results are in Appendix B. Two subsequent public meetings gathered public input on February 18, 1999 and March 11, 1999. The Brockton Enterprise published press releases and flyers were distributed town-wide

Twenty residents attended the first meeting. The Conway students described the purpose and background the Open Space plan with maps illustrating West Bridgewater's geology, hydrology, history, development patterns and present day land uses. Participants then met in small groups to discuss these topics, and to highlight areas of concern, opportunities for improvement, future open space goals and their favorite places in the town.

Seventeen residents attended March 11, meeting as well as several town Commissioners and one Selectman. The Conway students assessed aspects of the town and presented drafts of proposed goals, objectives, and actions as well and an action plan map. The following discussion dealt with farm protection, zoning revisions, and the upcoming master plan. The forum was taped for local cable access programming.

The 2009 Update

The present effort began with a 2005 meeting of the revived Open Space Plan committee to explore resources and approaches. The Committee believed that the goals, objectives and values of the 1999.plan remained valid since the town had changed little. The Old Colony Planning Council contracted with the town in 2005 to do a very basic update for $2000 appropriated by the Town Meeting. Then in 2007 the Park and Forestry Department received $2,000 from the Sheehan Family Foundation-supported Taunton River Campaign. More recently OCPC allocated $5,000 from its District Local Technical Assistance Funds from the state's Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting Program.

With very limited funds the project has relied heavily on volunteer efforts of the Committee and Bridgewater State College interns in updating the inventories of protected and unprotected land of conservation and recreation interest. A major contribution was the work of Dr. Paul Cavenaugh applying the Manomet Center for Conservation Science's
"Conservation Mapper" criteria to 107 parcels of land under Chapters 61, 61a, and 61b. He also supplied marked-up assessors' maps to use in field checking selected major parcels under these current use taxation programs. Another significant contribution was the work of the endlessly patient and persistent Alan French of the Bay Circuit Alliance and his associate Rob Johnson (later of The Nature Conservancy) who worked closely with the project to identify, modify and adopt the town's potential Bay Circuit segments

The public participation process consisted of a series of open evening meetings of the broad-based Open Space and Recreation Committee plus guests such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Committee and one of the Selectmen. The meetings were open to the public and one or two interested, informed citizens (including one who had assisted the 1988 effort) participated in the

discussions though they were not formally appointed members. In addition one of the later meetings was advertised and posted as a public participation session to encourage broader involvement. In addition a reporter from the Brockton Enterprise attended some meetings.

At the meetings the committee reviewed progress with current projects and shared information on related topics and concerns. Then staff presented recent work for information and approval and Committee members responded with questions, suggestions, and guidance on needed background information. Staff sought approval of specific findings and recommendations as needed.

After much background data gathering and analysis, examination of the Goals Statement in Chapter VI in the context of present holdings and resources produced the review of remaining needs and opportunities to effect those goals. This was in the form of Chapter VII, the Needs Statement. In addition to earlier discussions, this statement was implicitly approved in the final report accepted by the Open Space Plan Committee.

The combination of Goals and remaining Needs in turn led to linking related Goals with more tangible Objectives as called for in the Open Space Plan Requirements. These recommended Goals and Objectives are discussed in Chapter VIII and were in the final plan approved by the Open Space Plan Committee. The Goals and Objectives then led to the heart of the Plan, the Seven Year Action Program (Chapter IX) in the approved final plan. This lists and schedules many specific actions to implement the plan and indicates the expected participating agencies and funding sources. Since the plan is intended to be implemented, it maps and lists specific parcels where necessary for clarity and makes more general statements where that would be suffice.

The Open Space and Recreation Committee members and their affiliations were:

Chair: Christopher D. Iannitelli	Forestry and Parks Superintendant, Tree Warden
Vice Chair, Julie Amaral	Agricultural Commission, Citizen
Victoria Benea	Citizen
Cheryl Cambria	Community Preservation Committee, Citizen Jack Connelly Citizen
Danielle Correia	Citizen
Howard W. Hayward,	Conservation Commission, Environmental Activist
Hanna Hazlet,	Student Representative
Dick Hopkins	Citizen
Sonia Hoisington	Citizen
Al Martelli	Citizen
Beth Roll Smith	Public Library
John Ames	Citizen
Donna Larson	Selectmen's Office
John Delano	Conservation Officer

In addition long-term environmental activist, John Newall, a resource to the 1988 plan, participated actively in many sessions.

Committee meetings occurred on 5/1/2006; 7/?/,2006; 9/11/2006; 1/8/2007; 4/2/ 2007; 5/7/2007; 6/4/07; 10/6,/2008; and 11/3/2008.

The effectiveness of the Committee is expanded by the Selectmen's recent action forming the Department of Conservation, Preservation and Recreation to include and coordinate the Community Preservation Committee, the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee, and the Town River Fishery Committee as they "partner together, share resources, and implement the Open Space Plan. It is coordinated by Kitty Doherty, founder of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance.

III Community Setting

A. Regional Context

Summary: West Bridgewater is 27 miles south of Boston in Plymouth County. It is an agricultural town striving to retain its rural character. It has 15.48 square miles of land and 0.27 square miles of water. Tremendous natural resources abound which are of regional importance, most notably a portion of the Hockomock Swamp to the southwest, the largest continuous wetland in New England. Pressures to become a suburb of Brockton and Boston are mounting, with West Bridgewater nestled between the highly developed city of Brockton and the larger, more developed, town of Bridgewater.

Location and Physical Features

The town is bordered by Brockton, East Bridgewater, Bridgewater, Raynham, and Easton to the north, east, south, southwest, and west respectively. The town is served by the limited access north–south Route 24, the local north-south Route 28, and the east-west Route 106. It has no commuter rail station (though the Selectmen have requested one), but residents use nearby stations in Brockton and Bridgewater.

West Bridgewater can be categorized as forested lowlands and scattered fields with generous surface water. There is one major pond in the State Forest. Glaciers scoured the region to the north leaving behind till and deep soils well suited for the agriculture which supported a rural economy for hundreds of years. The surrounding forests were important for the lumber mill industry which relied on the hydropower of the region's many rivers especially West Bridgewater's Town River. Today, as farming becomes less cost-effective, and commerce replaces extractive activities and local manufacturing, West Bridgewater is striving to retain its rural character.

Regional Resources

Regional open space in surrounding towns includes Easton's Borderlands State Park, Sharon's Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, the Blue Hills Reservation, many Easton Conservation areas, Ames Nowell State Park in Abington, DW Field Park in Avon and Brockton, Peterson's Swamp in Halifax and Plympton, the Burrage Wildlife Management Area in Hanson and Halifax, and the Hockomock Swamp.

Taunton River Watershed

West Bridgewater is in the Taunton River Basin; all rivers eventually flow to the Taunton River which drains most of Southeasten Massachusetts. The perennial Town River begins at Lake Nippenicket in the Bridgewater portion of the Hockomock Swamp and flows southeasterly through West Bridgewater, joining the Matfield River in Bridgewater to form the Taunton River. It drains most of the town, and its adjacent meadows provide some of West Bridgewater's most handsome and characteristic landscape. The Town River also links West Bridgewater to the Wampanoag Canoe Passage between Boston's South Shore and Narragansett Bay. The River's natural setting

and scenic character, combined with much local and region advocacy, recently led to the River's Federal designation as a Wild and Scenic River.



The Town River leaving the Hockomock Swamp at Forest Street

Hockomock Swamp

The entire Hockomock Swamp, which is the largest swamp in New England totaling 16,900 acres, covers portions of Raynham, Easton, Bridgewater, and West Bridgewater with approximately 1,100 acres in the southwest quadrant of the town. The Swamp is also the largest inland state-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in Massachusetts. Although it is zoned industrial in West Bridgewater, the Hockomock Swamp is an important wetland and is protected against inappropriate development by the increased scrutiny under the Wetlands Protection Act and other reviews required in an ACEC. However it should be zoned for its intended appropriate uses.

The Swamp is home to several endangered species, according to the state's Natural Heritage Program, and serves as critical habitat and vital water resource for wildlife. The swamp reduces flooding by storing water and also partially recharges underlying aquifers thereby contributing to drinking water supplies. Portions of the swamp drain to Bridgewater's Lake Nippenicket and then to the Town River and on through the center of West Bridgewater.

Bay Circuit Trail

The Bay Circuit Trail was conceived in 1929 by Charles W. Eliot III, (then Secretary to the Trustees of Reservations and later Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Design), a disciple of Frederick Law Olmsted. The concept was to have an arc of parks and conservation land linked by continuous trails, waterways, and scenic drives from the North Shore to Duxbury Bay (much as the Emerald Necklace connects neighborhoods and parks within Boston). These holdings would approximate a regional greenbelt around greater Boston and would provide access to the heritage and character of the New England countryside.

The contemporary concept is necessarily more modest, as many opportunities for major holdings are gone. The volunteer implementing body, the Bay Circuit Alliance, stresses creating continuous trails through scenic areas and connecting them, rather than trying to create a wide greenbelt. However the Alliance still encourages and supports open space acquisition and protection of key resources along the Trail, and seeks to integrate the trail with such resources.

Over 50 communities are intersected by the 100-mile Trail, but there are gaps where continuous, designated, year-round trails are still needed, including some in East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater and Pembroke. The adopted and potential West Bridgewater segments are discussed below under Land of Conservation Interest.

Socioeconomic Context

West Bridgewater is a moderate-income agricultural/suburban community. It is striving to maintain its small town size and rural aesthetic, though it is adjacent to the well-developed city of Brockton and is a moderate commute to Boston by the restored MBTA Commuter Rail.

Local traffic is intensified by towns to the east using the two-lane Route 106 to reach the limited-access Route 24. This increases heavy commercial and truck traffic resulting in congestion, increased noise, and unsafe pedestrian movement. A recent corridor study by the Old Colony Planning Council has examined this and recommended improvements.

B. History

West Bridgewater has a rich history as one of the first settlements of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1650's. The natural resources of this area attracted farmers to start a plantation along the Town River. In the late 18th century lumber mills took advantage of the surrounding forests and the hydropower offered by the Town River and West Meadow Brook. Settlement patterns through the years have followed the high ground and avoided the unbuildable land in low, wet areas around the town. As a result, most of the existing vacant land and protected open space is concentrated around ponds, rivers, and wetlands and on abandoned farm land.

The Bridgewaters, including the current West Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, and Bridgewater, were purchased from Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag tribe by Myles

Standish in 1649. The following historical account is an excerpt from a weekly newspaper feature called "Story of an Old Town" in the Bridgewater Independent (April 15, 1948):

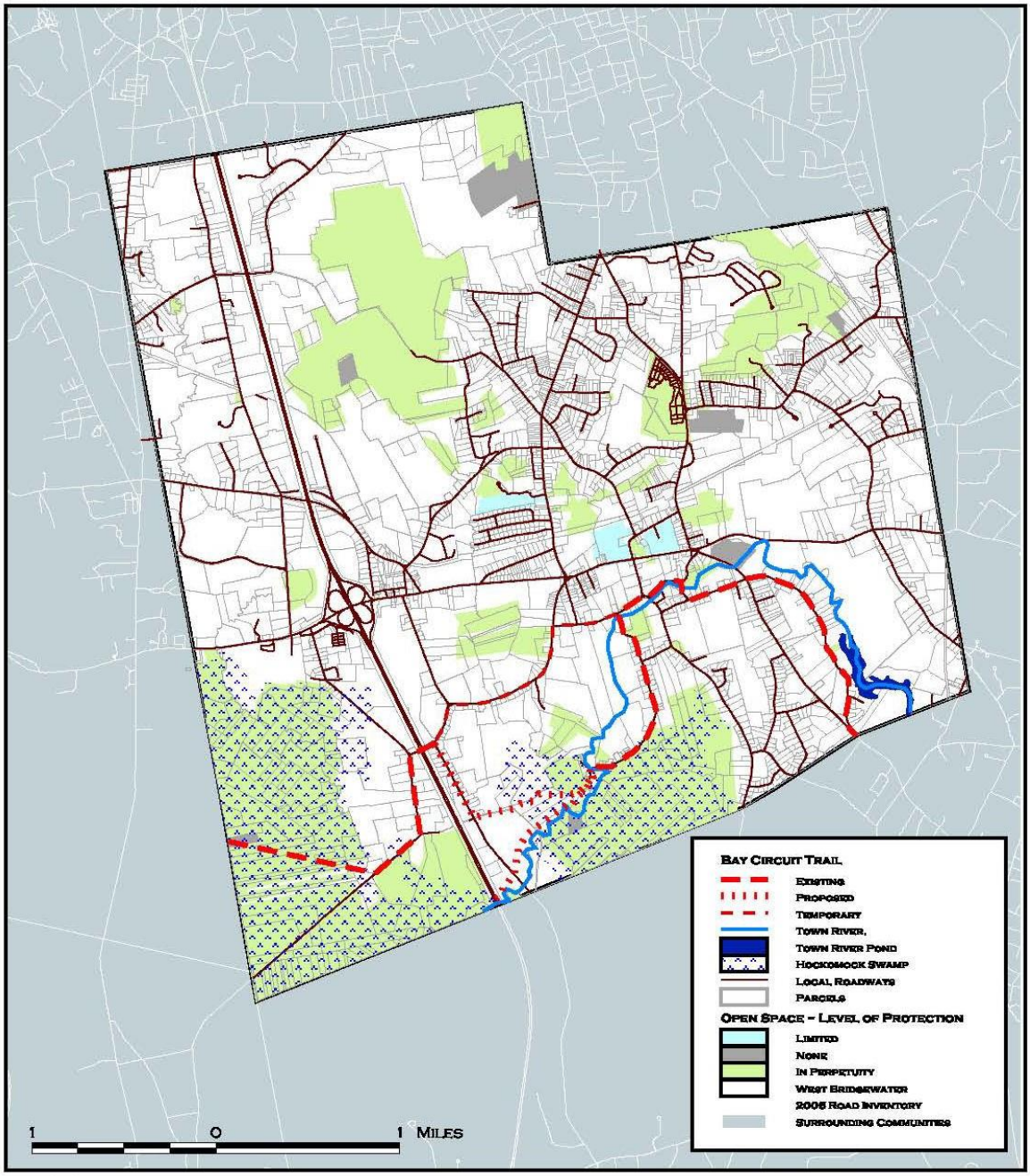
> Chickataubut, the Indian chieftain, had a name to conjure with in these parts long before the landing of the pilgrims. He had been acclaimed as "the greatest sagamore in the country" and his favorite encampment was in the southern part of what was later Old Bridgewater, on the banks of the great river, Titicut (today Town River). His domain extended through these parts almost to Duxbury and from the
> Nippenicket in a straight line to the headwaters of the Charles River.
> What a choice land was this with fertile fields, glorious woodland to warm the hearts of the huntsman, and streams certain to beguile the fishermen too long limited to the offerings from the sea. Yes, and the great cedar swamps like the environs of the Nippenicket, with a rich offering of timber and shelter, too, for man and the beasts of the forest.
>
> Captain Myles Standish, Samuel Nash, and Constant Southworth were appointed to make the purchase which they did as seen by the deed dated 23rd of March, 1649: "Witness these presense that I, Ousamequin (a.k.a. Massasoit), sachem of the country of Poconocket,... sold. .. on behalf of all the townsmen of Duxbury, aforesaid, a tract of land usually called Satucket... that is to say, from the wear at Satucket seven miles due east, and from the said wear seven miles due west, and from the said wear seven miles due north, and from the said wear seven miles due south ...In consideration of the aforesaid bargain and sale, we the said Miles Standish, Samuel Nash and Constant Southworth do bind ourselves to pay unto the said Ousamequin (a.ka. Massasoit) for and in consideration of the said tract of land as foiloweth:
>
> 7 coats, a yard and a 1h in each coat,
> 9 hatchets,
> 8 hoes,
> 20 knives,
> 4 moose skins,
> 10 yards and a i of cotton."

Though the payment for the land did not reflect its value, the settlers understood the worth of farmable soils and water. Later observers have wondered whether the Indians thought that they were selling exclusive ownership of the land, or just the right to use it freely as they themselves did.

In the 18th century, settlement began to spread north toward West Meadow Pond because land near the center of town was already taken by early settlers.

BAY CIRCUIT TRAIL

FIGURE III - 1



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, OCPC, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER,
BAY CIRCUIT ALLIANCE

DECEMBER, 2008

Lumber mills were established in the Bridgewaters during the 19th century to build houses and to supply the Civil War. An early mill on the Town River became the Ames Shovel Factory (later expanded in Easton) and made shovels for the transcontinental railroad and the Union Army. (The ruins of that mill still stand at War Memorial Park on River Street.) The economy of the three Bridgewaters thrived and North Bridgewater (now Brockton) boomed. During this period large farms remained away from the concentrated industrial sites.

The advent of the electric rail trolley cars in the 19th century brought West Bridgewater into "modern times" by giving quick access to surrounding communities and encouraging the widening and straightening of roads.

The 20th century saw many changes. With the movement of much agriculture to the Midwest, farm production had declined by the early 20th century though some dairying for local markets continued through the 1980s. Similarly, small mills were abandoned as manufacturing moved to the south or to highway-oriented locations, and much of the town's historic industry began to give way to commercial and residential development. Historic buildings like the Howard Seminary burned and the character of the town changed further. The natural resources of West Bridgewater began to dictate where development could happen in accord with septic system requirements.

Now most large-scale manufacturing and distribution activities are along the Manley Street corridor close to Route 24 and much commercial growth is along Route 106. As an attractive community near commuter rail service and the highway, West Bridgewater now faces market pressures to seek solutions to sewage disposal needs and develop further suburban housing.

As the regional population grows with out-migration from the Boston and Brockton areas, and suburban growth crowds open spaces, retaining West Bridgewater's rural character becomes more and more a challenge. This challenge was eloquently anticipated just over 100 years ago by a Pokanoket Indian at the "gathering of the clans" during the second Centennial Celebration of the settlement of the Bridgewaters. In response to a toast to Massasoit, he said:

> "Brothers; I have come a long way to visit you. I am glad that our good old father, Massasoit, still lives in your memory. These fields were once the hunting-grounds of the Red Men, but they were sold to the White Men of Bridgewater. The Red Men have been driven toward the great water at the West, and have disappeared like the dew, while the White Men have become like the leaves on the trees and the sands on the seashore. Brothers, our hunting-grounds grow narrow; the chase grows short, and before another Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of Bridgewater our bones will be mingled with the dust." (From Old Paths and Legends of New England, Katherine Abbott, © 1903)

The town's zoning by-laws, written in 1954, reflected existing settlement patterns and laid the groundwork for future development patterns. This zoning has ceased to be an adequate tool for directing development as farms and open land give way to residential and commercial development which is changing the character of the town yet again. Industrial zoning extends into "low value" wetlands though they are the worst place for such uses. Similarly strip commercial zones threaten to hide views of remaining farms. The seemingly unstoppable regional growth is subjecting West Bridgewater to pressure to develop as just another outlying

suburb. In response the town produced the 1988 and 1999 Open Space Plans, the 2001 Master Plan, and the 2004 Community Development Plan, and is now building on those efforts to prepare the 2009 Open Space Plan.

The town's historic sites are listed below and shown on the map of Scenic Resources and Unique Environments (Figure.IV-11) in Chapter IV.

1. The Manley Farm: an archeological site where about 30 small artifacts were found. It is almost identical to the Porter Farm before it was leveled.

2. The Porter Dam: an archeological site which was destroyed by a bulldozer leveling the area.

3. The Mill Pond and Dam off of Crescent Street; a publicly-owned pond and a privately-owned dam of colonial, 18th and 19th century importance discussed in Section V.

4. The Skim Milk Bridge: A stone block and slab bridge at an idyllic spot on the Town River, east of Scotland Street. The bridge reputedly was part of a legendary "Old Trail." An historic structure needing better foot access.

5. Pete Cook's Place II: An archeological site on the edge of Great Cedar Swamp where artifacts were found. Pete Cook's house was off of Maple St., and was a Raynham Stage stop.

6. Keith Parsonage: A salt box on River Street. It is the oldest parsonage in the country, built in 1662 on a portion of the Garden Lots owned by the original proprietor of the Standish Purchase. Given to the Old Bridgewater Historic Society by M/M Howard Anderson.

7. Stockade Hill: Off of Forest Street, it is the site of the first stockade built by settlers for protection during King Phillip's (Metacomet's) War.

8. The Solitude Stone off of Forest Street, in a mini-park along the Town River. It is inscribed with the 1852 words of Rev. Timothy Otis Paine L.L.D., a preacher, poet, and scholar: "All ye, who in future days, Walk by Nuckatesett Stream, Love not him who hummed this lay, Cheerful to the parting beam, But the Beauty that he wooed, in this quiet Solitude."

9. Fish ladders, dams and sluice ways in War Memorial Park off of Arch Street. Originally built in colonial times and rebuilt several time since. An historic complex needing an interpretive center.

10. The Carey Monument: South and Bryant Streets, in memory of John Carey, an original proprietor of the town in 1654. In 1656 he was chosen as constable, the town's first elected office, and was Town Clerk until his death in 1681

11. South Street Cemetery: The oldest inland (non-coastal) cemetery with interments dating to1692 including the Reverend James Keith who died in 1710.

12. The Matfield Street Cemetery where many early settlers are buried including "Center Tree Tome" who owned the land on East Center St. that was the center point of the original grant and purchase from Massasoit. The small white oak is gone but a marker marks to spot.

13. The Quaking Bog in the Pine Hill Cemetery: North Main Street. An historic site but hard to find.

14. The 1801 First Congregational/ Unitarian Church on Howard St. It was organized in 1651 with a small log church followed by two larger structures called townhouses or meeting houses reflecting their multi-purpose religious/civic roles during the theocracy.

15. The 1894 Town Hall built by the Bridgewater Grange

16. The GAR monument in Central Square memorializing the Civil War dead.

17. War Memorial Park River Street. With its extensive vestigial water power works this was the site of the first industrial park, containing several mills including the Ames Shovel works before they moved to Easton. It was also the site of the "Pulpit Rock" where the Rev. James Keith preached his first sermon in 1662 after arriving from Scotland. It has been proposed as an historic district and could use an interpretive center.

18. The Triple Arch Stone Bridge Arch Street upstream of the War Memorial Park, Built in the colonial period in a design similar to one in Bridgewater, England by a unknown artisan, it is a rare dry (un-mortared) stone bridge. See photo in Chapter IV.

19. The Drury Bell: Howard Terrace. Donated by Otis Drury in 1875 for the Howard School High School, it fell to the cellar and cracked when the school burned in 1949. It has been restored and is in a structure on the former school site. An historic artifact and site.

20. The Brick Kiln: Ash Street. An early kiln which supplied bricks for the Keith Parsonage and the Samuel Edson House, and possibly served potters.

21. (211A and 21B) The Howard Mill sites: On Coweeset Brook near the Brockton line and north of West Street. A large dam and early shingle mill site.

22. The Salt Works Cooper site. Old Spring Street. Foundation of the house of Burr the Salt Works Cooper. c. 1750

23. The Forge Site. South Elm and Scotland Streets. The site of an old iron forge.

C. Population Characteristics

West Bridgewater's population increased by 2575, or 63.4%, from 1950 to 2000. Much of this growth took place in the 1950's and 60's with the town reaching 6079 by 1970 and gaining only 555 person or 9.1% by 2000. It was nearly static in 1980s gaining only 30 people but then added 245 people or 3.8% from 1990-2000.

The population's characteristics reflect a middle-aged, middle-income community. The school age population (5-17) declined from 1095 in 2990, to 1048 in 2000. There is little ethnic diversity with the Census' "white alone" category accounting for 96.4% of the population in 2000.

Population Trends

The 2000 Census reported the population of West Bridgewater as 6,634, an increase of 63.4% since 1950, but only an increase of 4.3% since 1980. Though some projections in the 1980's expected a 1995 population of 8,100, such growth has not occurred. According to some 1990 projections, the town would reach 6,647 by 1996, an increase of 4%. The Old Colony Planning Council now projects a 2025 population of 7752, for an increase of 16.8%

The town's slow growth and the modest projections reflect present trends, the continued lack of sewerage, and shortage of land which is suitable for septic systems. With sewerage, residential development would be less constrained, as discussed in Section 4.

Table 3-1 summarizes the town's changing population characteristics, most notably its aging. Pre-school-aged children made up 6.2 % of the population 1990 population and 5.9% of it in 2000. School-aged children 5-17 made up 17% of the population in 1990, while those in the larger 5-19 range were only 15.8%of the total in 2000. Public surveys suggest that there are adequate playgrounds in West Bridgewater to accommodate children's recreation needs.

Young adults (18-24) and adults starting families (25 - 34) combined were 24.7% of the 1990 population while those in the smaller 20-34 range were only 20.4% of the 2000 population. Adults 45-64 were 22.0% of the population in1990 and 24.7% in 2000. Similarly those over 65 were 14.5% of the town in 1990 and grew to 17.8% by 2000.

Surveys indicated that walking, biking, and hiking were the most popular recreational activities and that they are generally more associated with adults of all ages. The aging population suggests that benches and other facilities for passive activities might also be appreciated by this population.

Population Density

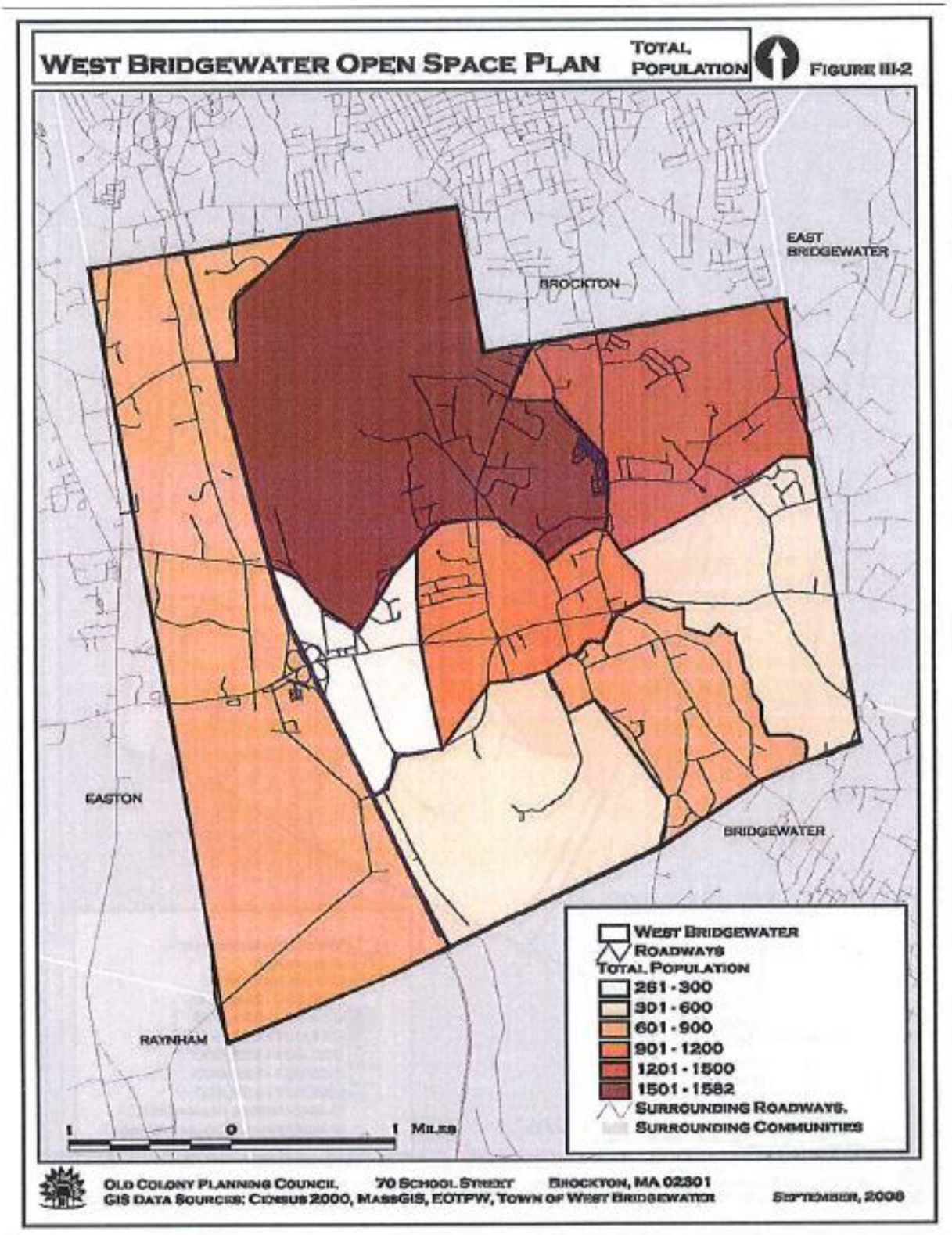
The town's population is most dense in the central neighborhoods bordering the intersection of Routes 28 and 106, and also in the north central part of town south of the State Forest. Town-wide trends are shown below.

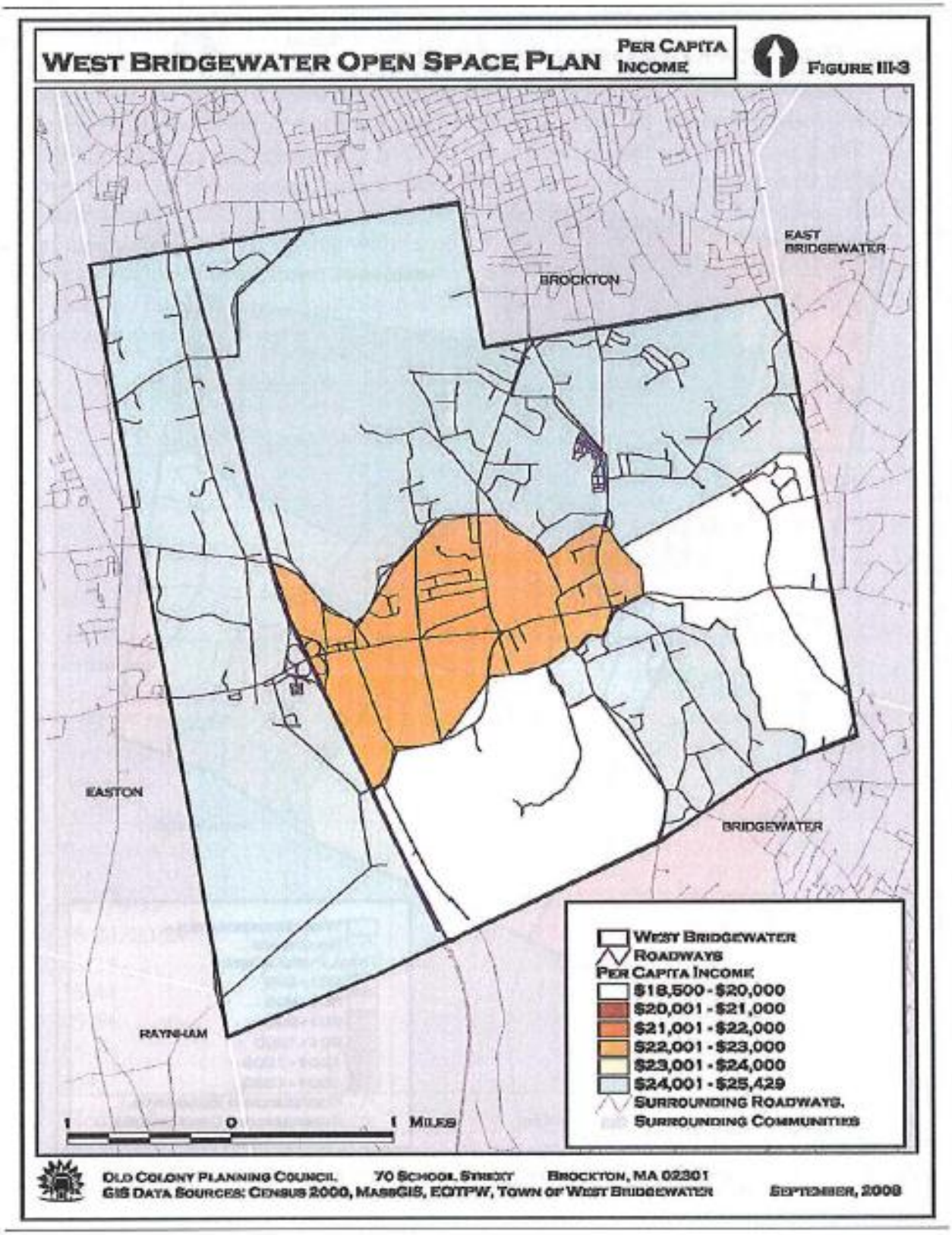
From 1950 to 1970, the total population grew gradually from 4,059 to 6,079. Growth then slowed with the total reaching only 6,359 by 1980, 6,389 by 1990, and a still modest 6,634 by 2000. With the town's area fixed at 15.75 square miles, the overall density, reflecting developed land and undeveloped land, rose from 258 persons/square mile in 1950 to the 421 persons/square mile of 2000. This is still lower than the Year 2000 regional figure of 929 persons /square mile, Whitman's 1,986 persons /square mile or East Bridgewater's 732 persons/square mile. While overall density is increasing, that in newer neighborhoods is dropping with large lot requirements. However, this does not remove the value of open space and recreation areas since the experiences offered on such lands go beyond those available in a private yard. The implications for open space and recreation needs are noted in the Needs section (Chapter VII.)

Table III-1

Population Characteristics for West Bridgewater

Category	1999	2000	% change
Population	6,389	6,634	+3.87%
Gender Male	3130	3244	+3.6%
Female	3259	3390	+4.0%
Ethnicity Caucasian	6309	6395	-1.3%
African American	43	63	+46.5%
Hispanic	33	67	+203.0%
Asian	42	45	+.7.10%
Native Am. Indian/Alaskan	2	17	+850.0%
Age 0-4	396	392	+8.20%
5-17/5-19	1095	1,048	
18-24/20-24	654	304	
25-34	918	780	-15.0%
35-44	1001	1080	+7.9%
45-54	795	978	+23.0%
55-64	604	661	+10.1%
65+	927	1181	+27.4%
Median Age	36	40.1	+11.4%
Households	2302	2444	+6.20%
Median Household Income	$40,613	$55,958	+37.8%
Persons Employed	3,379	3,754	
Persons with disabilities	343	499	+45.5%


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN
TOTAL POPULATION
FIGURE III-2
EAST BRIDGEWATER
BROCKTON
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
RAYNHAM
WEST BRIDGEWATER
ROADWAYS
TOTAL POPULATION
261 - 300
301 - 600
601 - 900
901 - 1200
1201 - 1500
1501 - 1582
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: CENSUS 2000, MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
SEPTEMBER, 2008


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN
PER CAPITA INCOME
FIGURE III-3
EAST BRIDGEWATER
BROCKTON
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
RAYNHAM
WEST BRIDGEWATER
ROADWAYS
PER CAPITA INCOME
$18,500 - $20,000
$20,001 - $21,000
$21,001 - $22,000
$22,001 - $23,000
$23,001 - $24,000
$24,001 - $25,429
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS.
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: CENSUS 2000, MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
SEPTEMBER, 2009

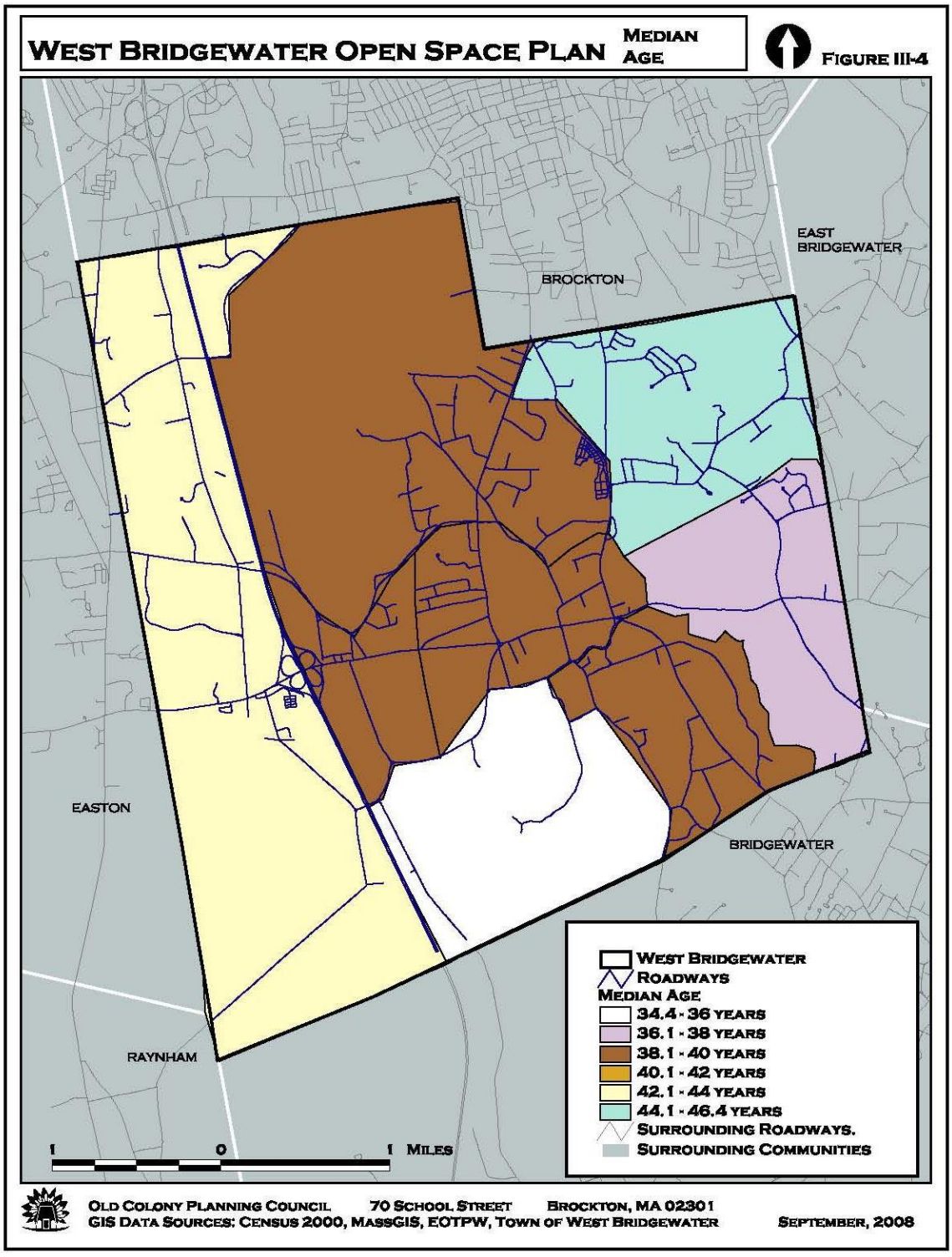

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN
MEDIAN AGE
FIGURE III-4
EAST BRIDGEWATER
BROCKTON
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
RAYNHAM
WEST BRIDGEWATER
ROADWAYS
MEDIAN AGE
34.4 - 36 YEARS
36.1 - 38 YEARS
38.1 - 40 YEARS
40.1 - 42 YEARS
42.1 - 44 YEARS
44.1 - 46.4 YEARS
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS.
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: CENSUS 2000, MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
SEPTEMBER, 2008

Table III-2 Growth and Density Trends

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Persons per square mile	258	321	386	404	405.7	421.2
Population	4,059	5,061	6,079	6,359	6,389	6,634
% Change		24.7	20.1	4.6	.47	3.8

Employment Trends

Slightly over half the 1990 population (52.9%) was employed compared to a slightly smaller 49.96% in 2000. The major industries in town (2000) were Imperia Corporation (millwork), 120 employees; Shawmut Mills (textiles), 100 employees; and Chadwicks of Boston, (clothing), 600 employees.

As of 2000, 589 of the town's 3754 employed residents worked within the town, while those who commuted to jobs within the region mostly went to Brockton, 590; Easton, 146; and Bridgewater, 108. In contrast, 188 people worked in Boston in 1990 and the number is expected to be rising with nearby restored commuter rail service.

Social Patterns

The following maps show the total population per census tract and the per capita incomes and median ages across these tracts. They show that the greatest population concentration is in the north central portion of the town, while the median incomes are lower in the south- central area, and the population is slightly younger in the newer neighborhoods to the south. However the differences are modest with median ages ranging from approximately 35 to approximately 45, and median per capita incomes ranging from over $18,500 to under $25,429. In addition there is a range of ages and incomes in every area. Thus these patterns offer little guidance in locating recreation facilities, though a central location could be most generally accessible. The opportunities offered by a unique site could be at least as important.

Implications of Social Data

The 1990-2000 data show an gradually aging population with fewer children and adults under 34, greater growth in the age groups over 45 including a 27.4% increase in those over 65, and a median age going from 36 to 40.1 by 2000. It is a moderately affluent community with a 2000 (1999) median household income of $55,958, about 10.8% over state figure of $50,502. This gap is growing since in 1990 (1989) West Bridgewater exceeded the state figure by only 9.9%. These trends suggest limited needs for increased facilities for younger people and potentially greater needs for facilities for older people. However there is still a sizable population in all age and interest groups, and the actual needs also reflect the adequacy of present holdings, facilities and programs.

D. Growth and Development

The growth and development of West Bridgewater has been tied very closely to its natural resources. In recent times, residential neighborhoods have sprung up where soils allowed a Title V septic system. Today, West Bridgewater's "greatest resource" may well be its attractiveness and its location near commuter rail. These make it a prime candidate for suburban growth as a bedroom community. This attractiveness may also be the greatest threat to the town's present character. To date, the town has been spared large-scale residential development largely because the soils are not widely suitable for septic systems. However possible local or regional sewering could make far more land developable. This makes it all the more important to reconcile growth and preservation, as is explored in the Master Plan and the Community Development Plan. This is needed in order to then complement or guide the desired development through the actions proposed in this Plan.

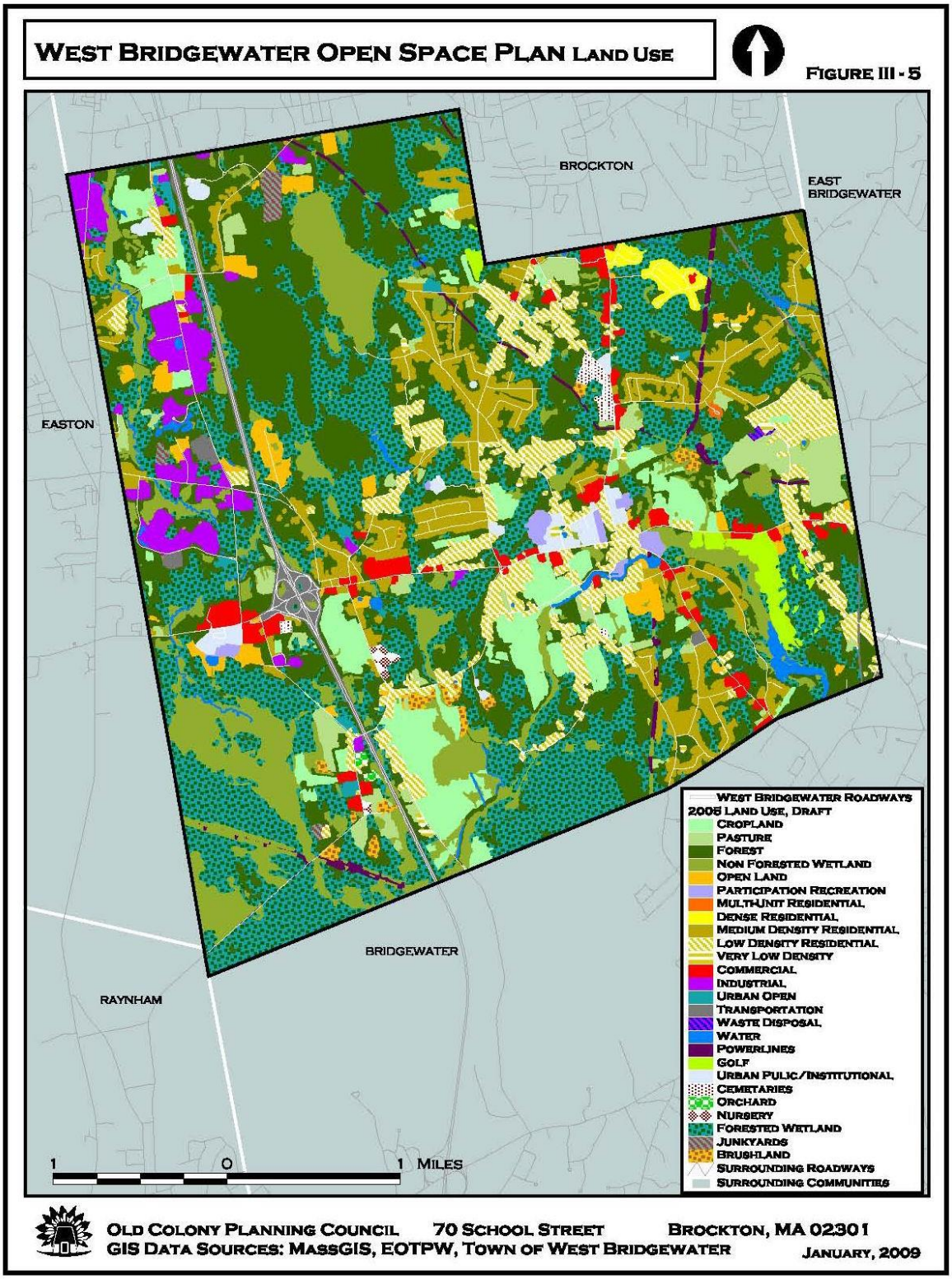
Land Uses Patterns and Trends

The present land use pattern is shown on following the map. These patterns reflect long- term influences and recent changes in land use. From 1971 to 1999 developed land in West Bridgewater rose from 1,813.8 acres in 1971, to 2,188.3 acres in 1985 and on to 2.723.5 acres in 1999, a 50% increase. At the same time areas in agriculture declined from 1777,8 acres to 1528.89. The Changes from 1991 to 1999 follow.

Table III-3
Land Use Trends

	1991	1999
Cropland & Pasture	1744.8	1,508.25
Orchard, nursery, bog	32.6	20.64
Total Agriculture	1777.8	1,528.89
Forest	4632.4	4,567.5
Non-forested wetlands	674.2	674.0
Mining sand and gravel	11.3	11.3
Open Land	353.4	364.9
Recreation	72.1	173.4
Housing	1630.9	1,725.7
Commercial	159.3	180.83
Industrial	214.8	241.75
Total	374.1	422.58
Urban Open	160.8	177.33
Transportation	172.7	193.57
Waste Disposal	22.9	25.27

Source MassGIS


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN LAND USE
FIGURE III - 5
BROCKTON
EAST BRIDGEWATER
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
RAYNHAM
WEST BRIDGEWATER ROADWAYS
2005 LAND USE, DRAFT
CROPLAND
PASTURE
FOREST
NON FORESTED WETLAND
OPEN LAND
PARTICIPATION RECREATION
MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL
DENSE RESIDENTIAL
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
VERY LOW DENSITY
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
URBAN OPEN
TRANSPORTATION
WASTE DISPOSAL
WATER
POWERLINES
GOLF
URBAN PULIC/INSTITUTIONAL
CEMETARIES
ORCHARD
NURSERY
FORESTED WETLAND
JUNKYARDS
BRUSHLAND
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
JANUARY, 2009

These trends have continued with on-going industrial and commercial growth along Rte. 106 and Manly Street next to Rte. 24, and relatively slow low-density housing development.

With rail service in adjacent communities and continued outward movement from Greater Boston, West Bridgewater remains a candidate for becoming a Boston outer suburb constrained largely by limited sewage disposal capacity. This old mill town surrounded by comprises the majority of the housing; there is very little multifamily or rental housing. While the town has not experienced "overnight" suburbanization largely due to the common soil limitations, commercial and industrial development is occurring, particularly on former farmland along the noted Manley Street corridor next to Route 24, and on Route 106.

Visually, the increasing commercial development along Routes 28 and 106 is dominant even though the majority of the town is still residential and agricultural. This results in a loss of rural character because what is rural is hidden behind stores, even more than it is behind Form a house lots on other roads. Other new housing is found on relatively few small largelot subdivisions. Industrial use is limited by the zoning by-law to the highway-served western edge of town.

While commercial development is concentrated on Routes 28 and 106, it is not limited in architectural style, resulting in a varied, cluttered commercial presence. Most of the town's forests and agricultural land are still largely intact, though some of the larger farms have been developed into commercial ventures and recreational facilities such as the River Bend golf course. Some other very visible farmland along Rte. 106 east of the center is actively for sale.

E. Infrastructure

Transportation

West Bridgewater has easy access to Highway 24, a major north-south, four-lane highway running from Fall River in the South to Route 128 in the North. Local Routes 28 and 106 carry most of the shorter distance north-south and east-west traffic respectively through the town. In particular, they provide access to Easton and East Bridgewater on Route 106 and from Bridgewater north to Brockton on Route 28. Route 106 connects neighboring communities to the east to Route 24, resulting in heavy, continuous auto and truck traffic through the town. Though there is no local station, commuter rail service is available in Brockton and Bridgewater 10 minutes from the center of town. The Selectmen have recently asked the MBTA to consider establishing a station, possibly at the previous Westdale station site on the West Bridgewater/East Bridgewater line, just north of Rte. 106.

Sewage Disposal

Except for a treatment system serving public buildings in and around the town center, West Bridgewater's sewage is disposed of entirely through individual septic systems.

All new septic systems and all houses that are sold must meet the Massachusetts Title V Sanitary
Code within two years. Thirty-two percent of a group of septic systems tested in the late 1990s failed, requiring repairs or replacement to meet Title V. This suggests that a significant proportion of the town's septic systems do not meet Title V. The town has investigated a possible connection to the Brockton sewage treatment plant just north of the town, but DEP policies requiring "keeping water local" prelude new discharges to the Brockton plant except from the now fully-served towns of Abington and Whitman. Now a study sponsored by the Old Colony Regional Wastewater committee is exploring regional solutions to waste water management in Brockton, East and West Bridgewater, Easton, Avon, and other Upper Taunton Basin communities to the South and West. The intent of the Upper Taunton Basin Waste Water Evaluation Study is to find ways to use the expanded capacity of the Brockton treatment plant while discharging effluent in areas that recharge ground water thereby lessening destructive impacts on the Matfield River.

There is a concentration of residences in the Zone 2 Well Recharge area surrounding the Cyr Street wells in the northeast comer of town. The septic systems in this region are of particular concern to the quality of the water supply. Even when Title V-compliant septic systems are functioning perfectly, they do little to prevent nitrogen, heavy metals, viri, or pharmaceuticals from entering the ground water and surface water. When these materials reach the water they can pose serious health risks to people and wildlife .This would give the area a high priority for any new service See the discussion of Environmental Concerns in Chapter IV.

Water Supply / Use

West Bridgewater draws most of its water supply from the Cyr Street wells in the northeast corner of town and the rest from the remote Manley Street wells just west of Route 24. The water department owns all the land surrounding the wells and additional acreage which protects some of the recharge area. The department recently acquired the Robery Farm property off West Elm Street for a potential new well, but has no near-term plans to develop it. See the discussion in the Inventory of Lands of Conservation Interest.

During 2006 the system pumped 239,069,005 gallons and bought 1,492, 796 gallons from Easton and consumed an average of .679 Million gallons per day. This was an average of 102 gallons per capita per day compared to the state guideline of 65 gcd
.
The system is well protected by extensive land holdings and the town's Water Resource Protection Zoning, and is well run. Supplies are not expected to constrain near-term future growth.

Long-term Development Patterns

Zoning

West Bridgewater's zoning by-law was written in 1954. Most of this historically agricultural town is zoned residential/agricultural allowing single-family houses on large (30,000 sq. ft.) lots. Business is limited to locations with frontage on Routes 106 and 28, while most industries are in the Industrially-zoned strip along Manley Street, west of Route 24. In addition, uses which are thought to be "higher" than those permitted in the zoning are also allowed. Thus residential development is allowed in the Business Zone, while business is excluded in a residential district. Similarly, the industrial zone can have any "higher" use, however incompatible, but industrial ventures are prohibited from other areas.

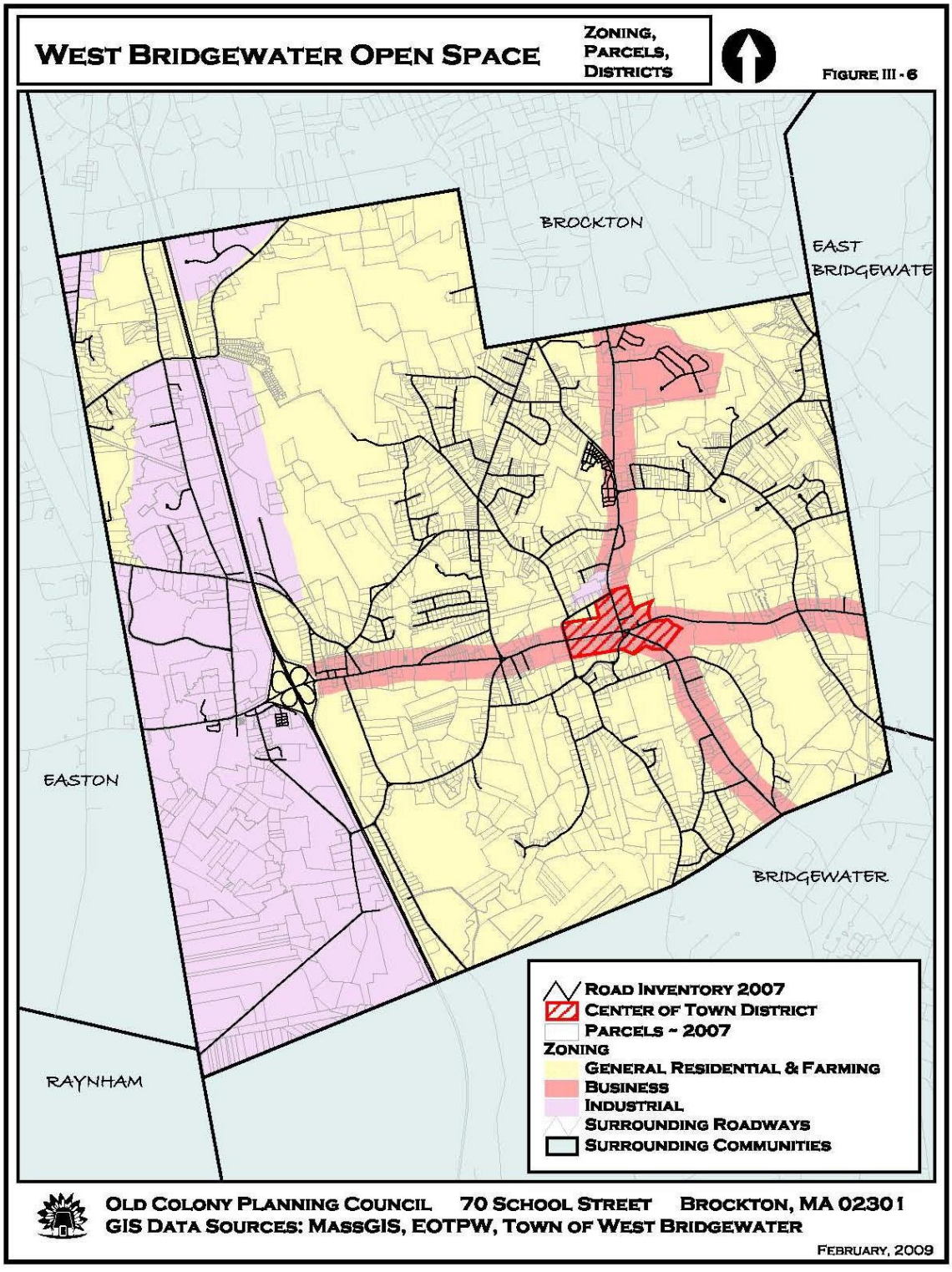
The industrial zone extends into the Hockomock Swamp, a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) though such uses are inappropriate to wetlands. Despite the zoning, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act strictly regulates projects affecting wetlands and would effectively prohibit industrial uses in the Swamp. Zoning is more effective when it reflects realistic expectations and clearly thought-out policies.

Table III- 4

WEST BRIDGEWATER ZONING DISTRICTS AND REGULATIONS: 1999

aN		Min. Lot Size	Single Fam. Allowed	Duplex Allowed	Multi-Fam. Allowed	Cluster Dev.	Planned e	(sq. ft.)	Detatched
									Allowed
GRF	General Res. & Farming	30,000	Y	Y (conversion only)	Y (conversion only)			N	N
B	Business	18,750	Y	Y (conversion only)	Y (conversion only)	N	N		
+I	Industrial	2 Acres	Y	Y (conversion only)	Y (conversion only)	N	N		
WRP	Water Res. Prot. Zone ((overlay)	N/A	Y	Y (conversion only)	Y (conversion only)			N	N

Source: Town of West Bridgewater Zoning By-Laws.


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE
ZONING, PARCELS, DISTRICTS
FIGURE III - 6
BROCKTON
EAST BRIDGEWATE
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
RAYNHAM
ROAD INVENTORY 2007
CENTER OF TOWN DISTRICT
PARCELS ~ 2007
ZONING
GENERAL RESIDENTIAL & FARMING
BUSINESS
INDUSTRIAL
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
FEBRUARY, 2009

Build-out

In 2000 the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs sponsored build out analyses of all Massachusetts communities. These identified all potentially developable land, adjusted it for ownership, regulatory and environmental constrains (but not for soil suitability for septic systems) and calculated the maximum possible residential, industrial and commercial development permissible as-of-right (i.e., without discretionary special permits) on the remaining land. The process then calculated the impacts of such development on population, schools, water demand, needed road constriction, and solid waste disposal.

In West Bridgewater the Build Out results showed the potential for:

Table III - 5

Potential Build Out Population and Impacts

	2000	Build Out
Dwelling Units	2,310	6,710
Residents	6,634	18,814
Water Use	76 MGD	3.14 MGD
Added Roadway		56 miles
Added Solid waste (tons/yr.)		13,276
Added commercial/ Industrial space		19,600,528 Sq. Ft

Source: Mass Executive Office of Environment Affairs

The near tripling of population would have great significance, but is quite unlikely without sewering. Even then, the total buildout across all communities assumes an improbable amount of regional population growth or in-migration.

None-the-less, the exercise shows the need to plan for and shape development in order to achieve a balance between needed growth and the preservation of open space and natural resources. Current zoning does not provide West Bridgewater with sufficient tools to limit and guide development. Under the existing zoning by-laws, residential development can happen anywhere. As farms are sold, houses will most likely quickly replace them. Losing those farms means losing views of agriculture in town and further degrading the rural character of West Bridgewater. Specific recommended zoning amendments from the recent Master Plan and from this effort, and the lands targeted for protection due to their high value to the community and to its ecology are discussed further in Section 9.

IV. Environmental Inventory and Analysis

A. Landforms, Geology, and Soils

Landforms

West Bridgewater is characterized by low flatlands, separated by gentle hills and spotted with scattered wetlands. This reflects the town's position at the low section of its watershed, its soils commonly derived from slowly-permeable glacial till, and the general absence of the drumlins, eskers and other glacial features often found in the region. The highest elevations of 100' above mean sea level and the town's only hills are concentrated in the northeast corner of town; and significant steepness and erosion occurs only along river banks.

During the most recent ice age, the land north of West Bridgewater was scoured by the glaciers, leaving exposed bedrock and defined valleys. In contrast, West Bridgewater largely received glacial outwash and till from those areas. The elevations range from 80 to 100 feet above sea level. Deep soils cover the bedrock and the land is divided by nine brooks and rivers that flow in and out of the town's wetlands.

The higher elevations in communities to the north drain into West Bridgewater, creating streams that are part of the Taunton River Watershed. After the land rises above the flood plains of streams in the western and southern portions of the town, it soon levels off or dips into one of the many wetlands. Erosion from the natural meander of rivers is much more of a factor than erosion from steep slopes, which are virtually absent in West Bridgewater.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock in West Bridgewater consists of non-marine sedimentary rock and is commonly covered with up to 100 feet of glacial till and outwash. The bedrock formation consists of feldspathic sandstone, shale, siltstone, and pebble-to-boulder conglomerate. Outcrops are rare and concentrated in the center and northeast corner of town. The overall lack of bedrock near or on the surface in West Bridgewater poses few constraints to development.

Surficial Geology

The boulders, rocks, and other materials between the soil and bedrock comprise the surficial deposits. West Bridgewater received significant amounts of unsorted till during the last ice age. Large quantities of rocks, sand, silt, and clay were deposited when the glaciers melted, with little or no sorting by running water. These materials buried the bedrock up to 100 feet deep, and 45% of these surficial deposits consist of un-stratified poorly-sorted glacial till: a mixture of silt, sand, clay, and gravel deposited directly by glaciers. Till is typically low in permeability and poorly drained, with seasonally high water tables that can cause septic systems to fail; and an abundance of rocks, stones, and boulders which make construction of playing fields and structures difficult.

Other surficial geology reflects fine lacustrine (glacial lake) deposits. Being very fine, the lacustrine deposits are poorly drained. These deposits are seriously constrain construction of buildings or playing fields. In contrast, approximately 25% of West Bridgewater is covered by fine to coarse sand deposits which were sorted by deposition from moving water. This stratified, well-sorted material may reflect the

site of a glacial river or delta system. These sandy areas are characterized as droughty and well-drained on nearly level terrain. Much of this land has been developed for residential or commercial uses because of its minimal limitations in a town where a severe limitation due to wetness is widespread.

Another 5% of the town is covered by stratified and well-sorted coarser sand and gravel deposits, commonly in areas where a small glacial river deposited outwash. These areas tend to be excessively drained. While seen as buildable, their coarseness makes them ineffective at filtering out salts, nutrients, or other pollutants before waste water reaches the aquifer.

Soils

West Bridgewater's soils are extremely diverse, reflecting the conditions described above. They range from organic, poorly-drained soils and muck to coarse sand and gravel. Much of the land with the soil best suited for house construction has already been built on. Due to West Bridgewater's glacial history, the soil composition tends to be erratic and can vary tremendously over short distances. The resulting differing rates of percolation, water tables, depths, and related constraints can be accurately mapped only on a site-by-site basis because of this great variability.

Characteristically mucky soils are found in several extensive swamps and in low-lying land along streams and drainage ways concentrated in the West Meadow and in the southern portion of town. These soils fall into the Hinkley-Merrimac-Muck Association which tends to be level, deep, and poorly-drained, probably formed in areas of glacial outwash 10,000 years ago. Such mucky soils have severe limitations for intensive use such as housing and are best suited for conservation and recreational uses.

Although compacted, floodplain soils adjacent to rivers tend to have better drainage than the muck in the lowest areas, and fall into the Merrimac-Raynham-Saco Association. Floodplains were traditionally farmed due to their high nutrient content, which was annually replenished by seasonal floods. They vary in slope and are formed in sand and gravel or in silty lacustrine materials.

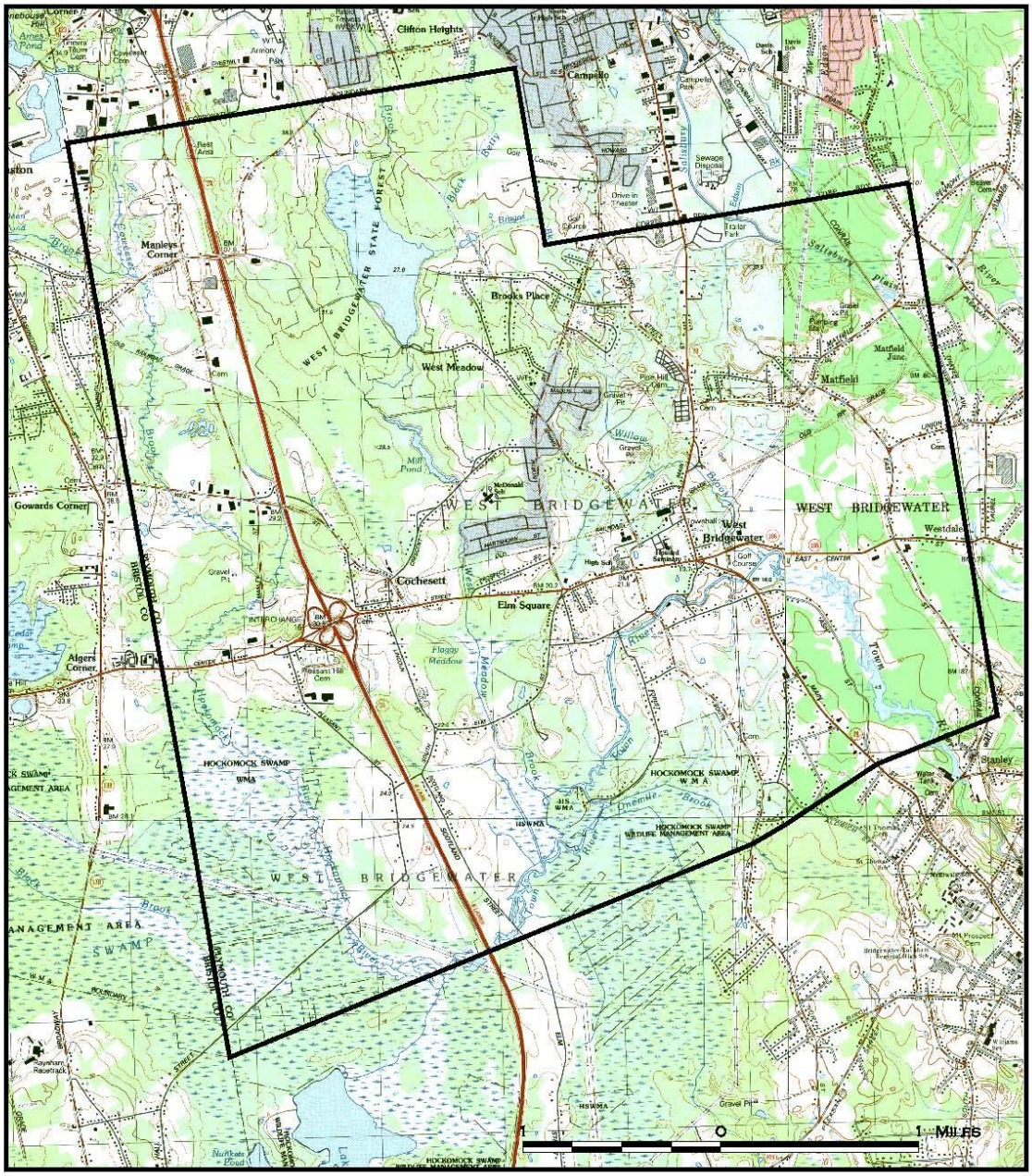
The sandy soils concentrated in the center of town fall into the Scituate-Essex-Merrimac association which is characteristically formed in sand and gravel and well-drained. They are more suitable for development than the soils described above, being typically well-drained, with lower water tables, and fewer glacial, erratic rocks.

Suitability for Septic Systems

Septic limitations due to high water tables, tight soils or hardpan constrain development in much of the town. Only about 20% of West Bridgewater is unconstrained or slightly constrained for septic systems while approximately 5% of the town is moderately constrained for such systems. As noted above, much land has been developed for residential or commercial uses because of its minimal limitations in a town where severe limitations due to wetness are common. In some cases very coarse soils accept water too readily allowing it to move to the ground water with very limited treatment in the soil.

USGS Topographic Map

FIGURE IV - 1



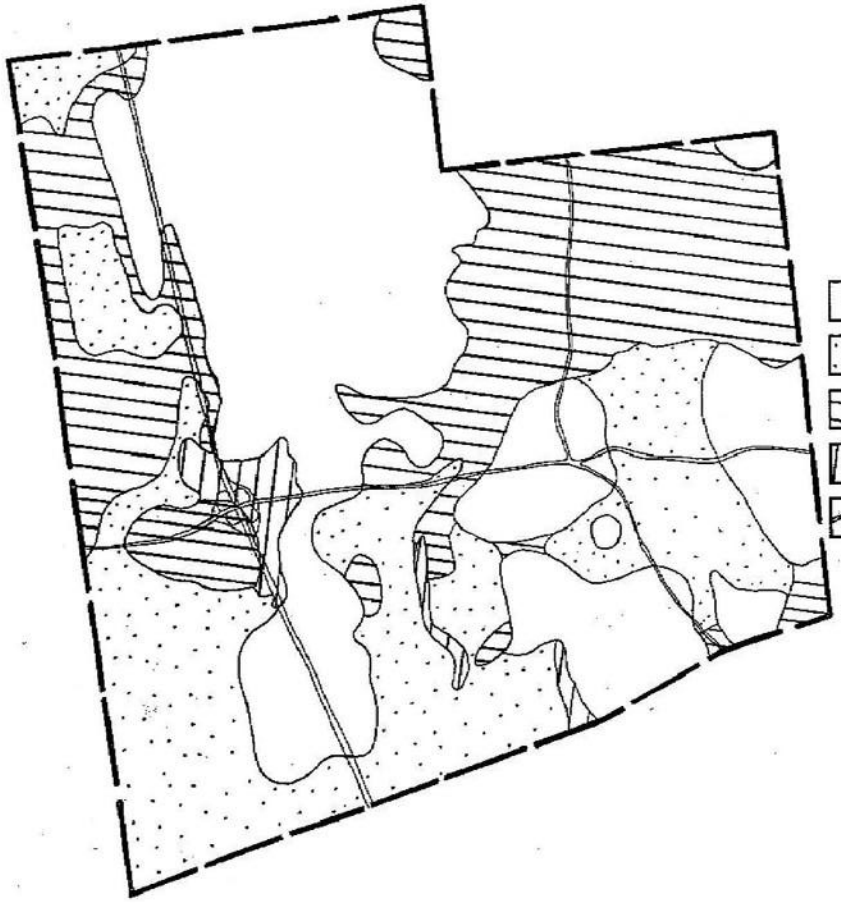
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, US CENSUS BUREAU

AUGUST, 2009

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

FIGURE IV - 2



- Glacial Till Deposits — approximately 40% of surficial geology
- Fine Sand, Silt & Clay Deposits — approximately 35% of surficial geology
- Sand Deposits — approximately 20% of surficial geology
- Course Sand & Gravel Deposits — approximately 5% of surficial geology
- Main Roads

SURFICIAL GEOLOGY

Glacial till is concentrated in a cone shape running through the center of West Bridgewater. Fine sand, silt, and clay deposits are concentrated in the western and southern lowlands and wetlands. Sand deposits are found in patches throughout town. Three areas of course sand and gravel occur along the southern portion of West Bridgewater.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
March 1999
Prepared for
West Bridgewater, MA

N
W E
S

Scale 1 inch = 3000 feet

3000 6000 9000

Conway School of Landscape Design
46 Delabarre Avenue
Conway, MA 01341

Anya Darrow, Heidi Putnam, & Seth Wilkinson

Source: Miscellaneous Geologic Investigations Map: Bedrock Topography & Texture of Unconsolidated Deposits for Taunton River Basin, Southeastern MA.

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

DECEMBER, 2008

Another 45% of the town is severely constrained for septic systems due to either a layer of compact soil (hard pan or fragipan) with very poor permeability or a high water table which is within 3 feet of the surface most of the year or during the winter and spring months. These severely constrained areas often can be used for septic systems, but are likely to require costly engineered solutions such as mounded systems built above ground level.

In contrast, the remaining 30% of West Bridgewater is unable to support septic systems under the Massachusetts Title V Sanitary Code due to wetland conditions. These include freshwater marshes, areas commonly prone to flooding, or those with mucky, anaerobic soil conditions.

As in most of New England, the erratic glacial distribution of soils leaves pockets that are suited for septic systems within areas mapped overall as being unsuitable. Hence, the mapped patterns of soil suitability are at best a general guide to developability and require evaluation of individual sites.

Suitability

Much of West Bridgewater is severely constrained for house construction due to the high water tables and impermeable soils discussed above. The layer of impermeable or slowly permeable soils near the surface holds water at or near ground level, makes excavation difficult and expensive, and threatens basement flooding during wet weather. Most important, these conditions can make on-site sewerage impossible or very expensive.

Should West Bridgewater connect to a local or regional wastewater treatment plant in the future, many previously restricted portions of town would become available for residential and commercial development, thereby threatening existing open space. Given the soil limitations, the State Sanitary Code (Title V) has served as a de facto growth management tool and sewering has been opposed out of concern with growth. Yet, considering the environmental benefits of nitrogen removal and other pollutant controls offered by wastewater treatment plants and not by Title V septic systems, other forms of growth management such as more articulated zoning should be considered.

B. Landscape Character

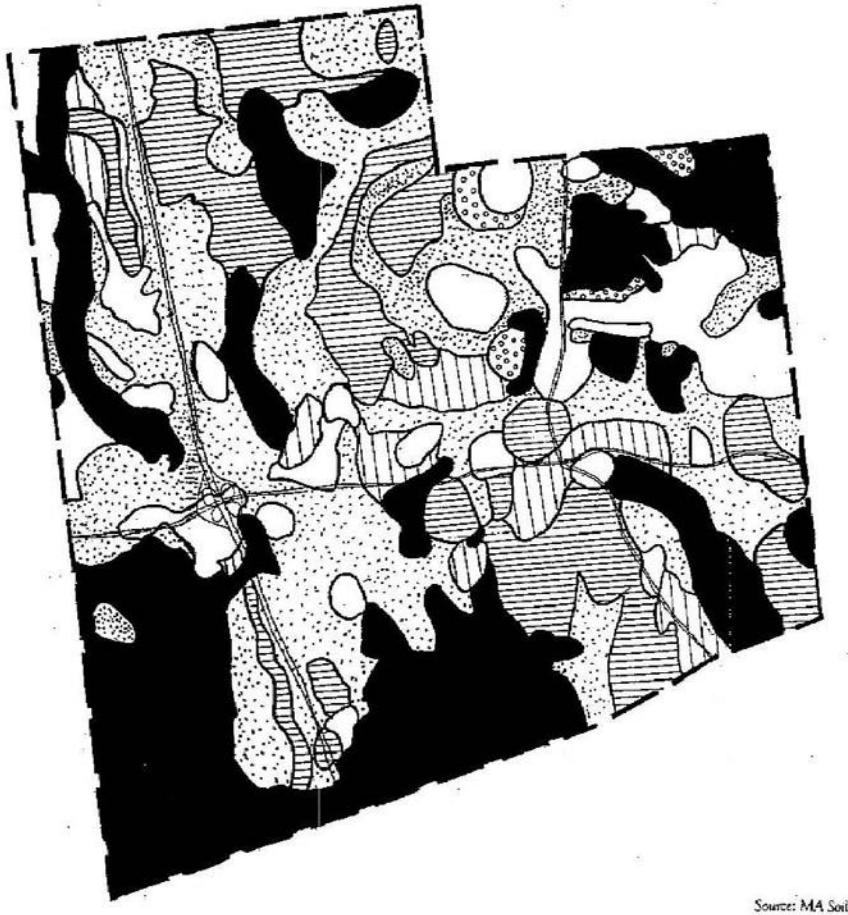
The pattern of wetlands, woodlands, and farm fields is the basis of West Bridgewater's remaining rural character. An abundance of surface water takes the form of three major ponds, three rivers, six brooks, numerous wetlands, and small ponds. West Bridgewater is characterized by numerous wetlands separated by low hills. These increase in overall elevation toward the northeast. A major area of wooded swamp, part of the Hockomock Swamp, is in the southwestern corner of the town. Flat land, gently rolling pastures, and plowed fields bound by dry-laid stone walls are divided by rivers, ponds, and low forested wetlands throughout town. Mill ruins, a rich historical feature in the landscape, are found along the riparian corridors that meander through such places as War Memorial Park and the River Run golf course on the old Hayward farm.

Approximately 15% (1548.8 acres as of 1999) of West Bridgewater is currently farmed. This is a decrease from the 1927 acres of 1971 and the 2073 acres of 1985, but it is still a much large portion of the local landscape than in most OCPC communities. The 1999 agricultural land consisted of 1170.23 acres of cropland, 357.95 acres of pasture, and 20.64 acres of orchards, nurseries and cranberry bogs. These agricultural areas and 674.01 acres of non-forested wetland make up the

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN

SOIL SUITABILITY

FIGURE IV - 3



Very Severely Constrained

Severely Constrained due to high water table in winter/spring

Severely Constrained due to high water table most of the year

Severely Constrained due to slow permeability through soil

Moderately Constrained

Slightly or Unconstrained

Main Roads

Source: MA Soil Survey (1969)

Map 4-2

SOILS SUITABLE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

75% of West Bridgewater lands are highly constrained or severely constrained for septic systems; development is restricted in these areas. Constrained areas prevent installation of septic systems or require expensive, engineered systems built aboveground. Of the most recent septic systems tested, 32% failed indicating that a significant amount of septic systems in town are not functioning properly. Soils not suitable for septic systems have served as an unofficial growth management tool for West Bridgewater.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
March 1999
Prepared for
West Bridgewater, MA

N
W E
S

Scale 1 inch = 3000 feet

3000 6000 9000

Conway School of Landscape Design
46 Delabarre Avenue
Conway, MA 01341

Anya Darrow, Heidi Putnam, & Seth Wilkinson

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

DECEMBER, 2008

the majority of open vistas in town. They and a handful of stream-side water-powered mill ruins are all that remain of the town's history of farming and early industry.

Many of the current agricultural fields, as well as the now-forested abandoned fields, are bound by walls built with stones cleared from the fields. The limited remaining active farming contributes to West Bridgewater's cherished rural character. At the same time, the extensive land under Ch 61, 61a and 61b taxation gives the town an opportunity to preserve some of this land if it comes up for sale and/or a change of use.



Farm and fields just north of West Bridgewater Center next to abandoned NYNH&H RR r.o.w.

As shown on the land use map, (Fig.III-3) residential development is focused in the center and spreads along the two major roads, North and South Main Street .(Route 28) and East and West Center Street (Route106.), and in small subdivisions off of these roads and on North Elm Street. Scattered commercial uses are found along these roads, while larger commercial, distribution, and light-industrial uses are concentrated in the Manly Street corridor west Route 24.

Much of the coveted land along the rivers is still unbuilt. The combination of farming in the rich adjacent floodplain soils, the protection offered by the Massachusetts River Protection Act, and the Wetlands Protection Act has kept significant portions of the riparian corridors free of development, but some is now offered for sale. All but the wettest, most unbuildable farm land in West
Bridgewater is vulnerable to change by residential, commercial, or industrial development given the adaptability of innovative and alterative sewage disposal systems. Only the lands in protective ownership or under conservation restrictions, with severe septic limitations, or within the 100’ to 200’ streamside fringes protected by the Wetlands and River Protection Act are beyond risk.

C. Water Resources

Watersheds, Rivers, and Brooks

West Bridgewater's water resources add aesthetic, recreational, and ecological values along with key water supplies. The West Bridgewater portion of the Taunton River watershed includes 3 major ponds and 9 rivers and brooks draining to the south. These are protected by the Wetlands Protection Act, and by the Massachusetts River Protection Act which creates a 200 foot buffer zone around all perennial streams and along intermittent streams when connected to a delineated wetland. As elsewhere, surface water is threatened by septic systems, road runoff, and agricultural runoff.

Rivers and Streams

West Bridgewater is in the Taunton River watershed; its nine rivers and brooks eventually drain into the Taunton River to the south. The Salisbury Plain River, Town River, Hockomock River, Coweeset Brook, Willow Brook, West Meadow Brook, and One-Mile Brook are seven perennial streams in town. Black Betty Brook and Bragas Brook are both intermittent streams. All perennial streams, brooks, and rivers are protected with a 100 to 200-foot buffer zone by the Massachusetts River Protection Act. Intermittent streams are protected only if connected to a delineated wetland.

The current method of distinguishing perennial and intermittent streams by referring to United States Geological Survey maps is often inaccurate. More careful observation and mapping is needed to better understand the flow of rivers and brooks in West Bridgewater. These streams generally have gently sloping banks and large flood plains, except where they intersect with roads or residential, commercial, or industrial development.

Major Streams

The Town River flows through the center of town. It begins at Lake Nippenicket in the Bridgewater portion of the Hockomock Swamp and flows southeasterly through West Bridgewater. It drains most of the town, and its adjacent meadows provide some of West Bridgewater's most handsome and characteristic landscape. It ultimately converges with the Matfield River in Bridgewater to form the Taunton River. Few problems are known as the river is listed as Category 3 - Insufficient information to assess any uses- in the 2006 Massachusetts DEP Integrated List of Waters.

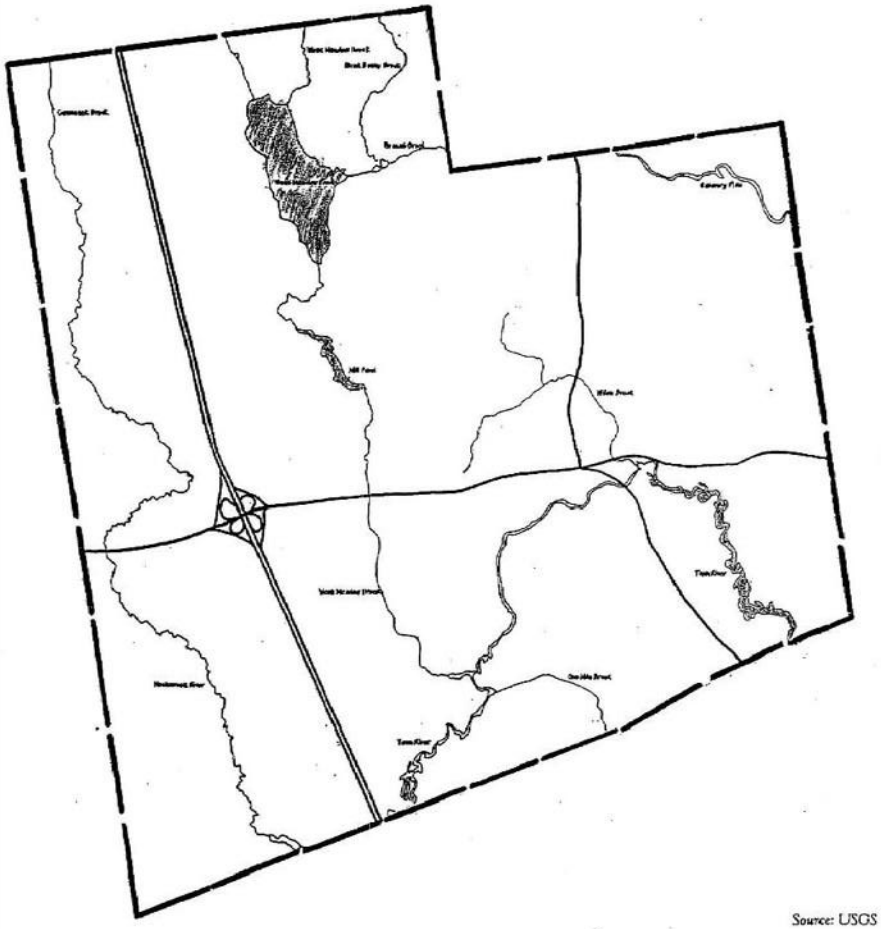
The Coweeset Brook, originating in Easton, runs parallel to the town's western boundary and flows into the Hockomock River. The Hockomock River, West Meadow Brook, Willow Brook, and lesser streams flow south into the Town River at various points. Black Betty Brook and Bragas Brook are both intermittent streams that begin in Brockton and flow through the northern part of town also towards the Town River. In addition the Salisbury Plain River runs through the northern corner of the town going from Brockton to Bridgewater where it joins Beaver Brook to form the Matfield River. Both the Coweeset Brook and the Hockomock River are listed as Category C, Insufficient information, while the other, minor, streams are not mentioned at all in the Integrated List.

The Town River connects West Bridgewater with a link to the Wampanoag Canoe Passage. The Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council has identified this 72- mile inland waterway route used by the native Americans to go from the South shore to Narragansett Bay. The canoe passage begins at the North River in Scituate, goes up Herring Brook in Pembroke, traverses

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN

SURFACE WATER

FIGURE IV - 4



Rivers

Main Roads

SURFACE WATER

Open Space and
Recreation Plan Update
March 1999
Prepared for
West Bridgewater, MA

N
W E
S

Scale 1 inch = 3000 feet

3000 6000 9000

Conway School of Landscape Design
46 Delabarre Avenue
Conway, MA 01341

Anya Darrow, Heidi Putnam, & Seth Wilkinson

Source: USGS

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

DECEMBER, 2008

intervening ponds and portages, and portions of the Matfield and Satucket Rivers, and finally goes down the Taunton River to Mount Hope Bay near Fall River, and on to Narragansett Bay. (Due to the weight of the canoes made from burnt and scrapped-out tree trunks, the Indians made limited portages, preferring to use a series of boats kept along the separate navigable stream segments.)

The flows along the Town River can be quite strong as shown by the Fall of 2005 floods in the Memorial Park area.

Ponds

Of the numerous ponds in West Bridgewater, the three largest are West Meadow Pond in the State Forest, the downstream town-owned Mill Pond, and the elongated Town River Pond. These are all impoundments, with Town River Pond held by the deteriorated Stanley Mill Dam in Bridgewater..

West Meadow Pond lies within the state forest. It is at an elevation of 85 ft., with a maximum depth of 7 ft. and covers approximately 95 acres. It is used for boating, fishing, ice fishing, and skating. The pond is buffered by the state forest and an extensive wetland system, providing filtration from agricultural or road runoff. It is listed as impaired by exotic species but "not by a pollutant" in the DEP's Massachusetts 2006 Integrated list of Waters. Access to the dam and pond-side paths is via a dirt road from the Spring Street Neighborhood to the southwest.

Mill Pond is north of Crescent Street and downstream of West Meadow Pond. Its elevation is 75 ft., its maximum depth is 7- feet, and the pond covers 8 acres. Much of the pond is town-owned, but the former mill building, spillway, and dam area at the base of the pond are privately owned. Access is limited to one location here at the southern tip of the pond, and is difficult, as discussed in the Inventory of Lands of Conservation Interest. The pond is not mentioned in the Integrated List of Waters.

Town River Pond is located in the southeastern section of town on the Bridgewater line. Its elevation is 45 ft. and it covers 18 acres, with the only public access via the town-owned Ash Street (Reynolds Landing) canoe ramp on the western side of the pond. There is informal access and visibility elsewhere, since the River runs along the edge of the private River Run Golf Course and a potential access exists on Route 106 just east of the town center. See the Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest. The pond's proximity to the commercial center of town, to Routes 28 and 106, and to the 18-hole golf course with virtually no intervening buffer area may put it in danger of contamination from road runoff, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. These require appropriate golf course practices and storm water management. However, it is presently not on the Integrated List of Waters.

Water Contamination

Surface water quality can limit the recreational value of even the most scenic ponds and streams. According to the 1978 Old Colony Region Section 208 Regional Wastewater Management Plan, "Towards Clean Water," "surface water quality in West Meadow Brook meets the goals of fishable/swimmable waters. However, it is listed as impaired by exotic species in the Department of Environmental Protection's Massachusetts 2006 Integrated list of Waters. No other water bodies in the town are listed as impaired or requiring development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for restorative purposes. Most local water bodies had insufficient information for uses to be assessed, or were not mentioned at all. This does not ensure that there are no problems, but it suggests that there was little apparent need for assessments.

None-the-less the 208 report found that there may be present or prospective water quality problems in the other streams. These included problems from agricultural runoff in the Hockomock River and the Town River; from failing septic systems and agricultural runoff along the Town River and Coweeset Brook, and from effluent from the Brockton waste water treatment plant in the Salisbury Plain/Matfield River.

Many of these risks continue, though the threat from effluent of the Brockton sewage treatment plant is being alleviated by ongoing plant expansion and upgrading to protect downstream waters, and by state and local programs for cleaning up residual contamination of the river. The plant's effluent has historically caused significant odor problems in the summer months. At the same time the plant is important to the functioning of the Salisbury Plain River/ Matfield River since it provides much of the stream's volume during the late summer, early autumn low-flow period.

Even properly functioning Title V septic systems do not remove nitrogen or heavy metals from the sewage effluent that goes into the ground. Excess nitrogen can cause eutrophication and lower the amount of dissolved oxygen in rivers and ponds, with a detrimental effect on aquatic plants and animals. Malfunctioning septic systems have proved to be a source of surface water contamination in the past. Preventing such problems with a potential large-scale system serving present or prospective problem areas was the purpose of the 2006 Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan in adjacent East Bridgewater, while monitoring a much smaller system was the purpose of West Bridgewater's recent Performance Evaluation Review of its small system which serves key facilities near the Center.

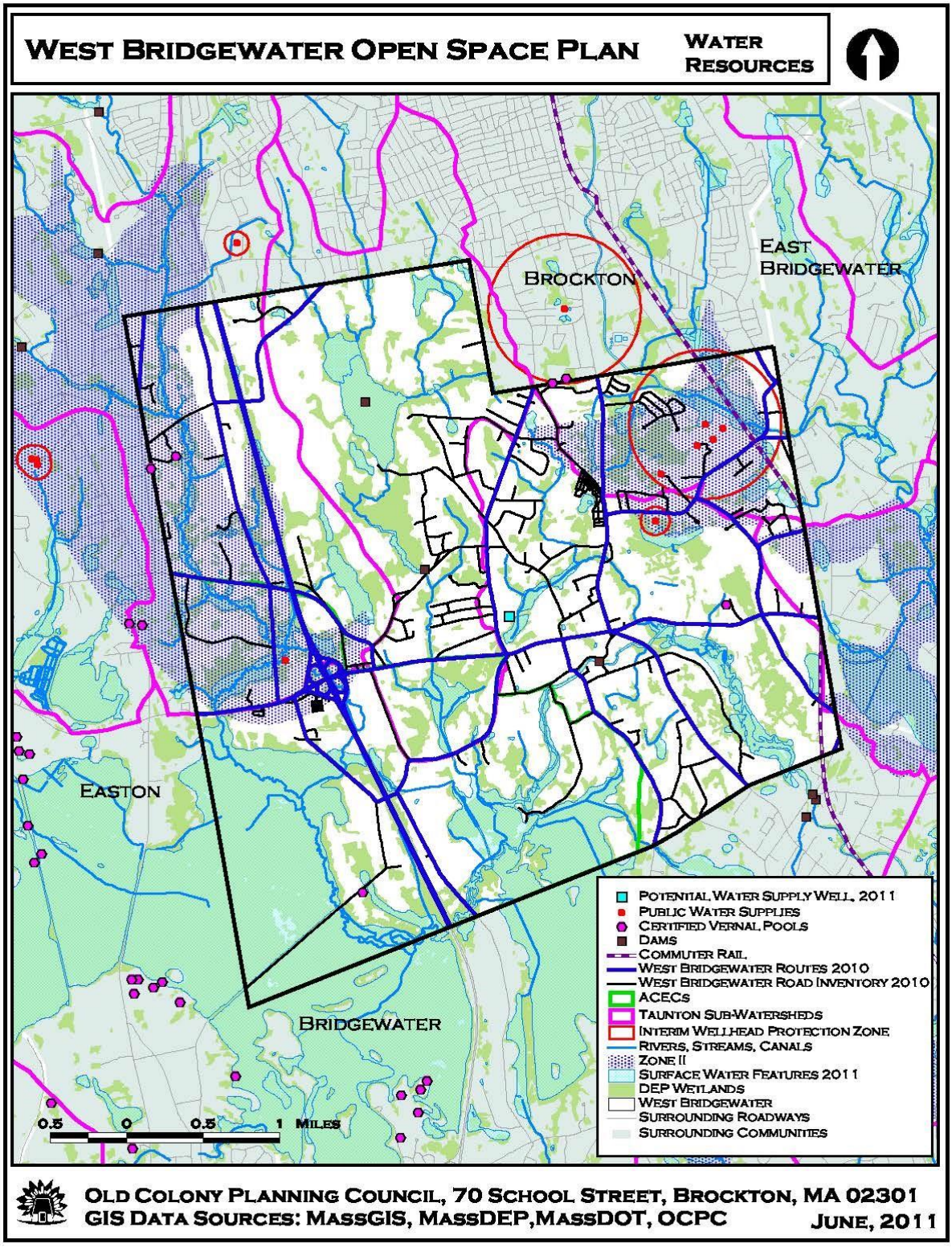
Aquifer, Recharge Areas, and Well Sites

West Bridgewater depends solely on groundwater for public supplies. A single aquifer lies beneath approximately 65% of town. It feeds the Cyr Street well field in the northeastern corner of the town and the Manley Street well west of Route 24, along with the potential well at the Robery Farm near North Elm Street. The areas with a good potential for recharge are largely those areas with coarse soils mapped above as having "moderate to no" constraints on septic systems. See the following map of Aquifers and Well Zones

The groundwater recharge areas include dense housing developments, industrially-zoned land, and state highway corridors, causing a concern about potential ground water contamination.
Potential threats are varied. Residences and farms threaten the aquifer through the use of potentially contaminating garden and lawn herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers along with septic systems releasing nitrates, and possibly transmitting pathogens and heavy metals. In addition road salt containing sodium could also threaten to the aquifer, though the Massachusetts Highway
Department reportedly limits sodium levels along Route 24 in these areas. A sewerage system could offer a higher degree of treatment and reroute potential contaminants away from sensitive areas.

The town protects against such threats by owning approximately 165.97 acres around the wells (187.58 acres at the Cyr Street wells; 14.61 acres at Manley Street and approximately 7 acres at the Robery Farm potential well site), and by enforcing protective zoning. In 1996 West Bridgewater

Figure IV-5


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN
WATER RESOURCES
BROCKTON
EAST BRIDGEWATER
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
0.5 0 0.5 1 MILES
POTENTIAL WATER SUPPLY WELL, 2011
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES
CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS
DAMS
COMMUTER RAIL
WEST BRIDGEWATER ROUTES 2010
WEST BRIDGEWATER ROAD INVENTORY 2010
ACECS
TAUNTON SUB-WATERSHEDS
INTERIM WELLHEAD PROTECTION ZONE
RIVERS, STREAMS, CANALS
ZONE II
SURFACE WATER FEATURES 2011
DEP WETLANDS
WEST BRIDGEWATER
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, MASSDEP,MASSDOT, OCPC
JUNE, 2011

created a Water Resource Protection Overlay district around the Cyr Street cluster of five wells in the northeastern part of town and the Manley Street Well west of Route 24. It was later extended to the more recently acquired Robery Farm future well site. The District protects the privately-owned recharge areas by not allowing new commercial development in the Zone 2 areas or any type of outside fuel storage. (The Zone II areas are those drawn on by the wells during a six-month drought.) However, as zoning it can not regulate present activities. This requires non-zoning provisions such as Board of Health regulations and non-zoning general bylaws. Such increased control over ongoing activities within the Zone II Well Recharge area could further ensure a clean water supply.

The town has recently relied less on the Manley Street well due to its proximity to potential contamination from Route 24 and the industrial-zoned portion of town.

In addition the recently purchased 7-acre (est.) Robery farm off North Elm Street includes a 29gallons a minute free-flowing artesian well. The purchase will protect the site from increasing development and keep it available to meet future demands. While the Water Resource Protection District has been extended to the site, there has been no need to develop the well yet.

Flood Hazards

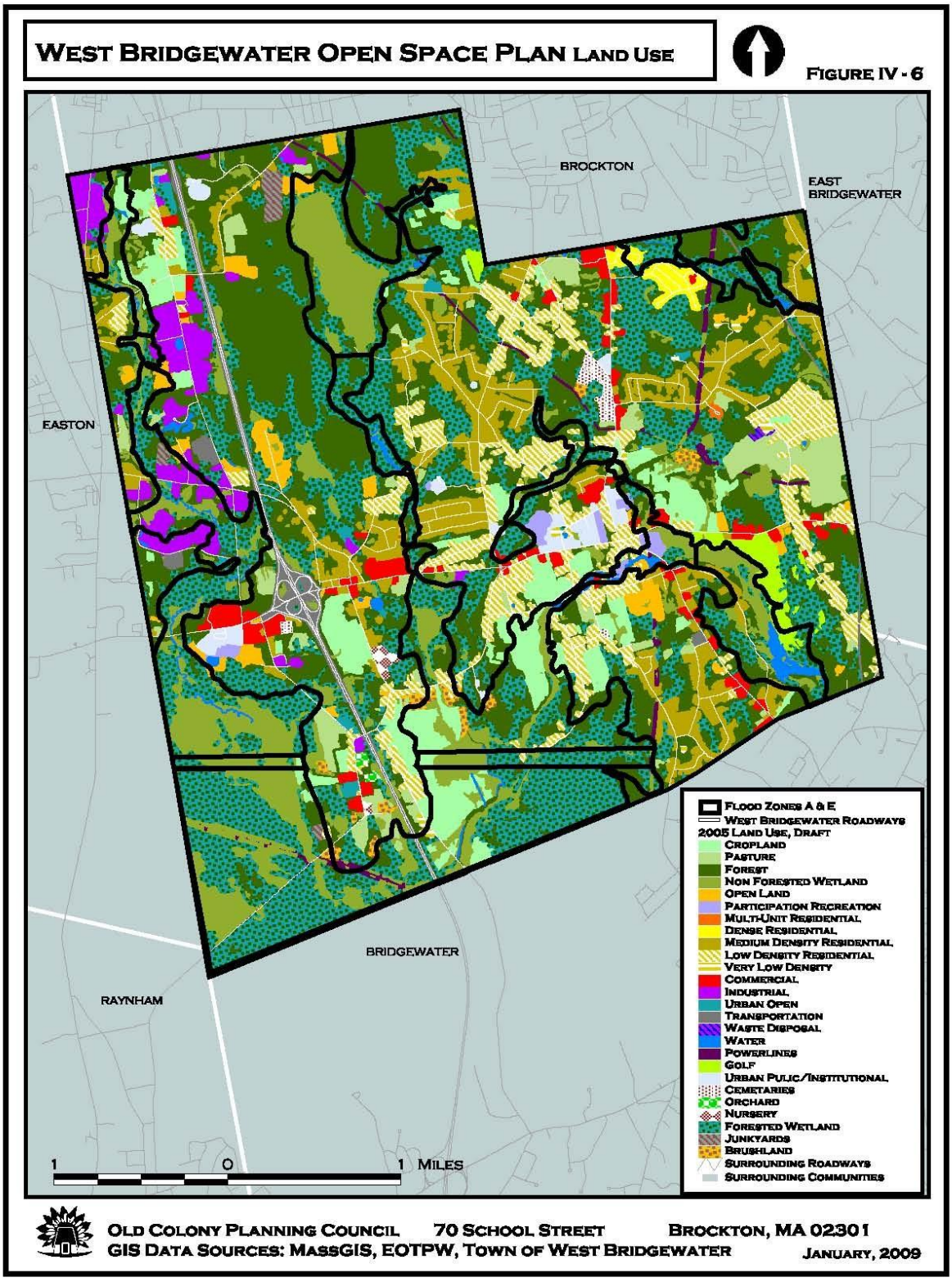
Many areas along all the town's rivers and brooks are subject to flooding. The town's 100-year and (very limited) 500-year flood hazard areas run along major streams and wetlands such as Coweeset Brook, the Hockomock River, the Matfield River, West Meadow Brook, and the Town River, and include the extensive Hockomock Swamp in the southern and southwestern portions of the town.. These flood hazard areas are defined and mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the National Insurance Rate Maps and shown on the map of land uses and flood zones (Fig. IV-6). The flood plains and flood storage areas serve to retain storm water during and after precipitation and snow melt. Flood storage in the flood plains and wetlands is an irreplaceable natural resource, but the structures already built in flood plains are at risk. Protecting the open floodplains, including wetlands, is integral to protecting the town from serious flooding.

To prevent damage, any development within the floodplain that lessens flood storage must be compensated with nearby flood storage so the water-retaining capacity is not lost.

Further streamside development is limited by the 100-foot to 200-foot buffer zone around perennial streams, brooks, and rivers under the Massachusetts River Protection Act. However, this omits some present or potential flood storage areas, and intermittent (i.e., non-perennial) streams may wetlands also require protection.

Wetlands

In addition to its streams and ponds, West Bridgewater has extensive areas of wooded swamp and marsh, primarily in the northern edge of the Hockomock Swamp along the western and southern edges of the town, and in many locations with poorly drained soils. In all, approximately 30% of West Bridgewater is composed of wetlands. About 6.7% of 674.01 acres are "non-forested wetlands" (wet meadows, open marsh…) while the rest is in forested wetlands or swamp. Figure IV7 shows the town's wetlands but may understate those in the northeast corner of the town.


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN LAND USE
FIGURE IV - 6
BROCKTON
EAST BRIDGEWATER
EASTON
BRIDGEWATER
RAYNHAM
1 0 1 MILES
FLOOD ZONES A & E
WEST BRIDGEWATER ROADWAYS
2005 LAND USE, DRAFT
CROPLAND
PASTURE
FOREST
NON FORESTED WETLAND
OPEN LAND
PARTICIPATION RECREATION
MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL
DENSE RESIDENTIAL
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
VERY LOW DENSITY
COMMERCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
URBAN OPEN
TRANSPORTATION
WASTE DISPOSAL
WATER
POWERLINES
GOLF
URBAN PUBLIC/INSTITUTIONAL
CEMETARIES
ORCHARD
NURSERY
FORESTED WETLAND
JUNKYARDS
BRUSHLAND
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
JANUARY, 2009



Winter view into low, level, wet Hockomock Swamp from Forest Street

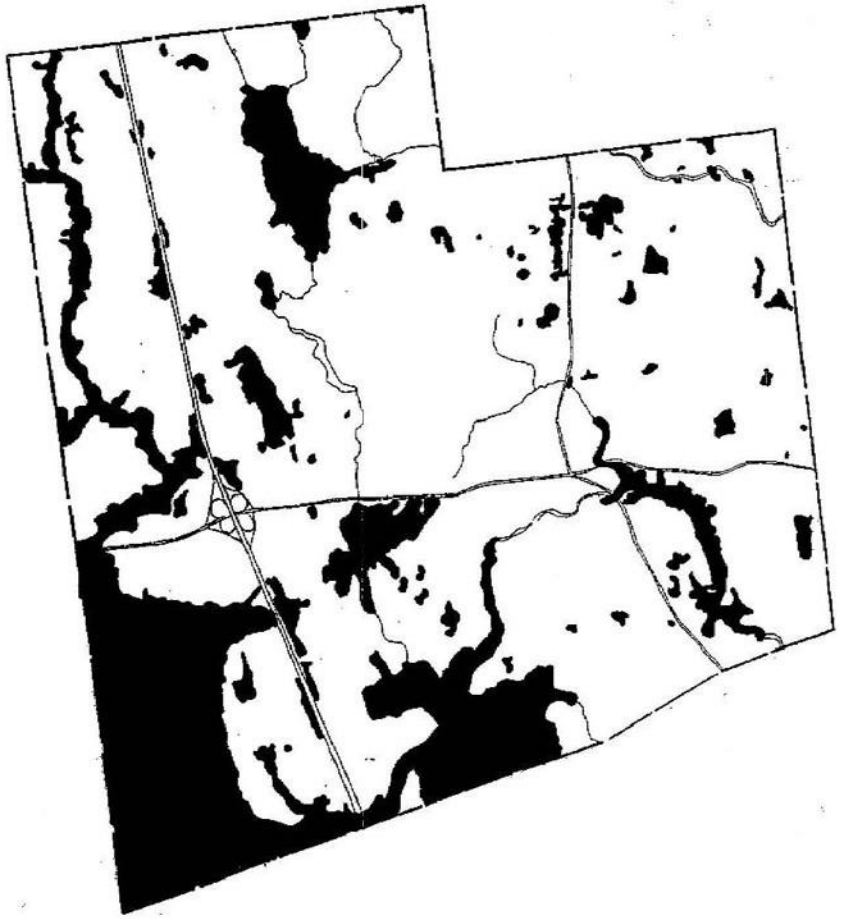
In all, the town's wetlands range in type from forested, to shrub, to emergent, to river corridor, to vernal pool. These wetlands are of varying sizes with the largest being in the Hockomock Swamp and the West Meadow Wildlife Area. The related natural communities; acidic graminiod fens, acidic shrub fens, coastal Atlantic white cedar swamps, kettle hole level bogs, and the very visible red maple swamps. These are shown on the map of Natural Communities (Fig.IV-8).

West Bridgewater has numerous vernal pools. These are isolated wetlands that fill with water only during the wettest times of the year. They are critical breeding habitat for frogs, salamanders, and other amphibians because their seasonal nature prevents habitation by predator fish. There are six vernal pools certified by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; - west of Manley Street near the Coweeset Brook; in the Hockomock Swamp near Maple St.; on the Brockton line near Copeland St.; and north of Route 106, west of the Trucchi land - as can be seen on the map of Priority and Estimated Habitats (Fig. IV-9). There are many more Potential Vernal Pools (PVPs) generally along streams and water bodies as shown on the map of Natural Communities.

Wetlands are the town's most underutilized open spaces. There are no signs or designated parking areas adjacent to most publicly owned areas and few designated trails or boardwalks to allow easy passage through them.

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN — WETLANDS

FIGURE IV - 7



Delineated wetland

Rivers

Main Roads

Map 4-8

WETLANDS

Wetlands are irreplaceable wildlife and plant habitat protected under the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act. They serve the areas surrounding them by providing floodwater retention, groundwater recharge and fostering species diversity. Approximately 20% of West Bridgewater is wetlands.

Open Space and
Recreation Plan Update
March 1999
Prepared for
West Bridgewater, MA

N
W E
S

Scale 1 inch = 3000 feet

3000 6000 9000

Conway School of Landscape Design
46 Delabarre Avenue
Conway, MA 01341

Anya Darrow, Heidi Putnam, & Seth Wilkinson

MassGIS Wetlands Map, USGS Map

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

DECEMBER, 2008

D. Vegetation

As in most of New England, by the mid-nineteenth century, the majority of West Bridgewater's forest had been cleared for agriculture. With the exception of some wooded swamp, most of the present forest is second growth reclaiming these former fields. The various kinds of vegetation offer high-quality recreational opportunities, scenic value, and soil stability, as well as varied habitats for wildlife. Today, open fields, woodlands, forested wetlands, and emergent wetlands compose approximately 67% of the town.

Open lands continue to be lost as they revert to forest or are developed. At the same time other forest is being developed. To illustrate the conflicting trends, the recovered town forests covered 5416 acres (54%) in 1977 according to the UMASS MacConnell maps; but dropped to 4632.4 acres (46.2%) in 1991; and to 4567.52 acres (45.5%) in 1999. Thus the peak in restored forest cover is probably past (depending on the future of the remaining fields) and more is being lost to development than is reverting on abandoned farmland. Various forms of vegetation may need protection, but except for protected species, plants on private land are protected only by the workings of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act.

Forest Plant Community

Since the abandoned farm fields returned to forest, white pine, hemlock, beech, sycamore, hickory, and various species of maple, oaks, ash, willow, cedar, birch, and poplar trees have flourished in West Bridgewater. They are accompanied by high bush blueberry, low bush blueberry, sweet pepperbush, swamp azalea, speckled alder, and many viburnum shrubs in the forest's understory.

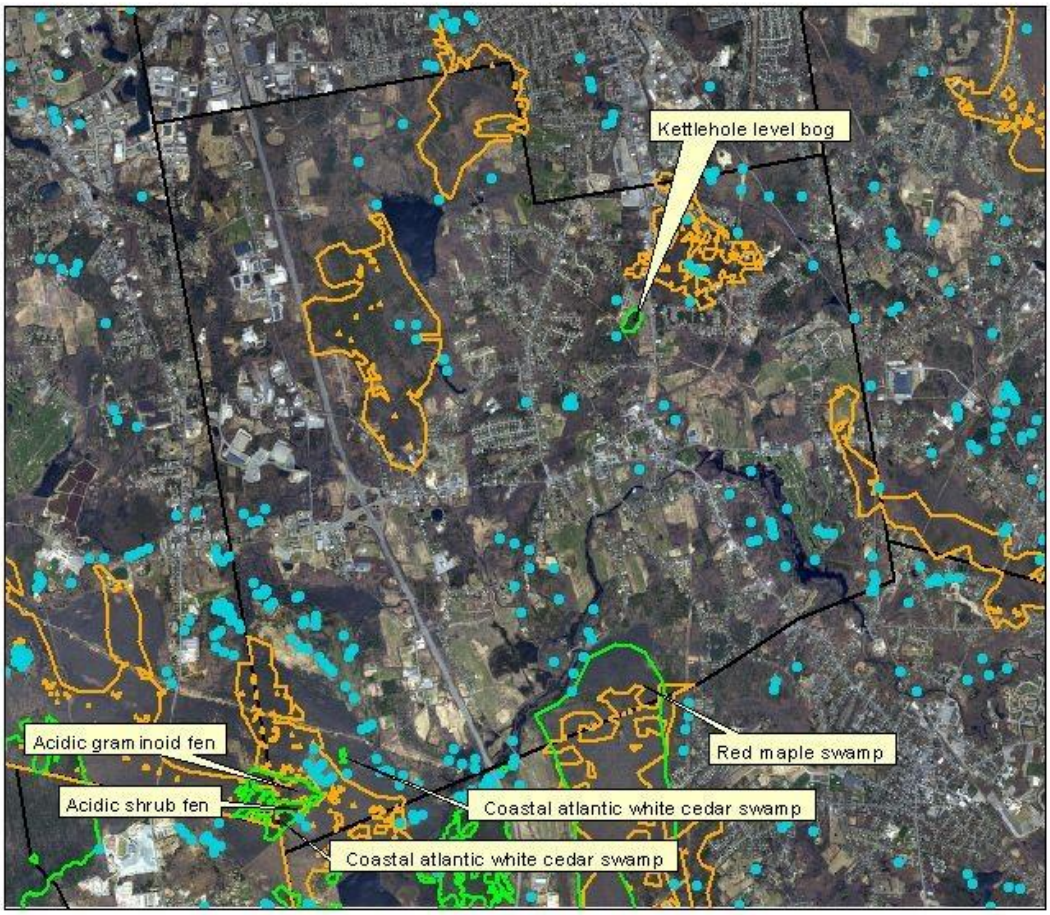
These remaining forests reflect untouched land and reforested former farmland. With increasing low-density development on both forest and farm land, solid blocks of forest are probable being lost more rapidly than new forest is replacing former farmland. Much of the forest is broken up by development along existing roads leaving few unbroken tracts. Indeed, some of the mapped and tabulated forest is land behind houses and surrounded by development. It is important to leave gaps in such development where wildlife may cross between isolated blocks of forest.

Another important factor affecting forest is whether the land has ever been tilled. According to the NHESP, Primary Forest, wood lots and wooded pastures "have greater biodiversity than areas that have been tilled. These are not Old Growth, they have been harvested and pastured, but the ground may not have been tilled …. (The remaining) soil fauna and flora, microorganisms and plants that primarily reproduce vegetatively contribute to the higher biodiversity. In addition, a variety… (of) wildflowers are more common in untilled forests…"

West Bridgewater is one of the towns which mapped lands in forest in the 1830s as then mandated by the Legislature. The NHES Program has compared these with more recent land use maps to identify possible remaining untilled forest. These areas, shown on the map of Natural Communities, PVPs, and Primary Forests (Fig.IV-8) are in the periphery of the town. Two are southwest and northeast of West Meadow Pond, another is in the northwest corner partly on Water Department Land, and in the southwest and south-central portions of the town largely along the Town River.

Figure IV-8

Natural Communities, Primary Forest and Potential Vernal Pools West Bridgewater



N

Potential Vernal Pools (from aerial interpretation)
NHESP Natural Communities
Forested 1830s and 1999
Town boundaries

Data Source: NHESP, MassGIS, Harvard Forest
Background: 2005 MassGIS Orthophoto
Map created March 28, 2008

The NHES Program notes that “The areas of 1830s forest on private land would be good targets for conservation acquisition to maintain the biodiversity of the town and region.” Such data should be used in setting priorities in the Five Year Action plan.

Open Field Plant Community

West Bridgewater's naturally vegetated areas are fragmented by roads, housing developments, and farm fields. Abandoned agricultural fields are returning to forest through natural ecosystem development. Junipers, goldenrod, meadow sweet, asters, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers are examples of plants found in these open areas. Open fields are valued for scenic qualities and grasslands habitat but they require maintenance to remain open. This includes mowing for hay or controlled burning once a year. These should be done in the second week of September after most field-nesting animals have finished nesting.

Edge Plant Community

Between field and forest (or in some cases between forest and power line easement) is the "edge" plant community which can consist of dogwoods, poplars, arrowwood, sumac, raspberries, and blackberries. These edge plant communities are of extremely high wildlife value as an abundant source of food and cover.

Wetland Plant Communities

The emergent wetland species include many species of rush and sedge cattail, cowslip, phragmites, and purple loosestrife, the last two being invasive exotic plants. The scrub-shrub wetland area edges are vegetated with such plants as winterberry, high bush blueberry, poison sumac, and buttonbush. The dominant trees in forested wetlands are red maple, swamp white oak, white pine, yellow birch, and Atlantic white cedar.

Native Plants

West Bridgewater's native vegetation is threatened by invasive plant species such as purple loosestrife, Asian bittersweet, phragmites, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, and euonymus species. For example, many of these species can be found in War Memorial Park. These invasive exotic plants provide a seed bank that threatens the native vegetation in West Bridgewater's wilderness areas. If unchecked, some invasive exotic species out-compete native vegetation, reduce wildlife habitat, lessen the variety of plants and dominate the landscape.

If wildlife habitat is diminished by exotic plant species, recreationally hunted species will suffer. The invasive exotic species in West Bridgewater require ongoing management since they are already well established. They are already proliferating in much of the town and threaten to dominate the native vegetation in West Bridgewater's landscapes.

Rare and Endangered Plants

The rare Long's bulrush and the ecologically important Atlantic White Cedar swamp community have been identified in West Bridgewater. Long's bulrush is an endangered perennial wetland sedge most commonly found in seasonally flooded sedge-grass meadows between white cedar/red maple swamps and

disturbed regenerating pine barrens. Long's bulrush depends on fire and seasonal low moisture for flowering. It is threatened by changes in hydrology, lack of natural fires, and competition from the invasive exotic purple loosestrife. There is considerable concern that such invasive exotic plant species are proliferating in much of the town and threaten to dominate the native vegetation in West Bridgewater's landscapes.

Atlantic white cedars form ecologically important forests in swampy areas. Their stands provide valuable habitat to many threatened animal species such as the rare hessel's hairstreak butterfly that feeds exclusively on Atlantic white cedar trees. The two greatest threats to Atlantic white cedars are clearing for various forms of development and changes in the normal hydrological functions of rivers or wetlands. The Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends that no clearing or filling of Atlantic white cedar swamps be allowed. (DFW Fact Sheets)

The known and probable locations of rare and endangered species are shown on the following maps of Estimated and Priority Habitats (or the Bio Core map.)

Rare Plant Species Documented in West Bridgewater

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Year
Vascular Plants			
Linum medium var. texanum	Rigid Flax	T	2000
Sabatia Kenndyana	Plymouth Gentian	SC	1960s
Scirpus longii	Long’s Bullrush	T	2003

E= Endangered T=Threatened SC=Special Concern Historic=No longer occurs in Massachusetts See maps of Priority and Estimated Habitaas

Street Trees/Public Shade Trees

Though street trees are not usually considered to be part of an open space system, they are on the public right of ways, are maintained by the Forestry and Parks Department, and, most important add shade and beauty to the town and improve its air quality.

The Department maintains hundreds of street trees by fertilizing stressed trees, trimming dead branches, and removing and replacing damaged trees as needed. It surveys all street trees and trees on town property at least annually. It then treats sick or damaged trees when possible and trims or removes them according to a very detailed Hazardous Tree Policy.

In the last 10 years the number removed has been as low as 59 in 2005 and as high as 113 in 2009. The trees removed reflect the street population generally and are primarily maple and oak with some ash, cherry, and hickory.

The trees planted are varied hardwoods with low, flowering trees used when there are overhead wires. After Elms were affected by disease, Norway Maples became the tree of choice, but now they are avoided

because they are very invasive. To minimize conflict with wires (and roadway contaminants such as salt) roadway) trees are planted as much as 15 or 20 feet away from the edge of the road where possible.

To protect health public shade trees from inappropriate private actions, the town has a Tree Removal policy. It states that “Public shade trees shall not be removed for a private purpose (e.g. creation of a driveway) without suitable compensation to the Town for replacements.” The policy sets detailed standards and provisions for such removals. It also limits excavation, paving, storage of impermeable materials or related activity within the dripline of any public or protected tree. .

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

West Bridgewater's waters, wetlands, and uplands provide homes to numerous species of animals, which offer recreational opportunities. Wildlife corridors are essential to prevent a decline in wildlife by connecting related habitat. The rivers and brooks connect to the three ponds in West Bridgewater that serve as spawning areas for fish species such as alewife, which return the same breeding areas each year. The Hockomock Swamp, the largest in the Northeast, is an important, unique resource and home to many animal species. There are four rare and endangered animal species in West Bridgewater.

As the above discussion suggests, West Bridgewater retains a significant amount of productive wildlife habitat, largely because of the pockets of forested, shrub, and emergent wetland habitats found in proximity to the streams scattered throughout the town. The mixture of wetlands, mature second-growth forest, farmland, and abandoned farmland in various stages of regrowth results in a large amount of critically important "edge" habitat. Edge habitat is where two habitat types meet and encourage larger wildlife populations of greater species variety. Most of the common mammal species in Massachusetts are found in West Bridgewater and it is likely that some less common ones are present as well since otters, gray foxes, and bobcats have been observed in neighboring towns. Woodchucks, cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, opossums, raccoons, and skunks are abundant.

None-the-less there are concerns. Habitat fragmentation, which is the leading source of plant and animal species extinction, is occurring where development and even agriculture create isolated islands of wildlife habitat.. When wildlife is confined to a specific area, competition for food and predation increase, and genetic diversity decreases as mating partners are less available. Wildlife corridors can prevent habitat fragmentation by connecting habitat areas along natural connections such as river ways or fields. Such corridors are not only essential to wildlife, but are very valuable for humans doing wilderness activities such as hiking, camping, bird watching, and canoeing.

Fish species in West Bridgewater are limited by the types of waterways present. There are no large deep-water ponds that could support cold water species such as trout. Instead most local fish are riverine or warm water species, such as yellow perch, black bass, and pumpkinhead sunfish, and anadromous species such as alewife, which spawn in the town's ponds.

Birds use habitat in West Bridgewater year-round. Greater concentrations are present during the spring and fall migrations, and large numbers of breeding birds are found as well. Preservation of habitat for breeding birds is vital if only for their consumption of vast numbers of insects. In addition, birds such as the purple martin, downy woodpecker, and screech owl are generally the most visible and the most admired of all wildlife. (The wildlife section draws on contributions by local naturalist Denise Cabral who has observed almost all of the bird species listed.)

Most common Massachusetts reptiles and amphibians are thought to be present and breeding in West Bridgewater. Painted, spotted, and snapping turtles are common breeders, as are spring peepers, gray tree frogs, common toads, wood frogs, green frogs, and bull frogs. The new state reptile, the Garter Snake, and northern water snakes are those most frequently encountered in West Bridgewater.

Rare Habitat

The Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program (operated under the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife) has identified several areas within the town as ecologically significant for their value as wetland habitat including vernal pools a shown below. The Hockomock and West Meadow areas contain a diverse population of plants and animals including species such as whitetail deer, rabbit, muskrat, salamanders, turtles, and red-winged black bird. Other ecologically significant areas include a "quaking bog" area adjacent to the Pine Hill Cemetery, and an area near the West Bridgewater State Forest.

Rare and Endangered Animals and Species of Special Concern

Several endangered species may inhabit parts of West Bridgewater. Informed observers have noted peregrine falcons in town. These observers also suggest that the Plymouth red-bellied turtle may use the Hockomock Swamp area and that the threatened marbled and blue-spotted salamanders may also exist locally.

The King Rail is a Massachusetts rare and endangered bird which inhabits freshwater emergent marshes. They are known to move from the marsh areas to forage in adjacent fields. The bluespotted salamander, spotted turtle, and Hessel's hairstreak butterfly are the three Massachusetts species of special concern found in West Bridgewater. These three species also require wetland habitats for part or all of their life cycles.

The following maps show the land identified as estimated (probable) Habitat for state-protected rare wildlife and certified vernal pools, and the Priority Habit for rare and endangered plants and animals based on observations. According to the 2003 Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas, the first is " for use with the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations and the Forest Cutting Practices Act Regulations," while the second "should be used in conjunction with the Rare Species Threshold in the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Regulations and the Forest Cutting Practices Act Regulations." In West Bridgewater's case the maps are the same though they often differ.

A more detailed list of West Bridgewater's reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals prepared by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences is in Appendix A.

Rare Animal Species Documented in West Bridgewater

Scientific Name	Common Name	MESA Status	Most Recent Year
Vertebrates			
Ambystoma laterale	Blue Spotted Salmander	SC	2006
Ambystoma maculatum	Spotted Salamander	delisted	
Clemmys Guttata	Spotted Turtle	delisted	2000
Emydoidea blandingii	Blandings Turtle	T	1998
Botaurus lintiginosus	American Bittern	E	1970s
Rallus Elegans	King Rail	T	1993
Invertebrates			
Enallagma laterale	New England Bluet - Damsefly	SC	1994
Callophrys hesseli	Hessel's Hairstreak – Butterfly	SC	1992
Lithopane viridipallens	Pale Green Pinion Moth	SC	1993
Papaipema stenocellis	Chain Fern Borer Moth	T	2002
Stomatochlora kenndeyl	Kennedy's Emerald - dragonfly	E	1989

Priority and Estimated Habitats, Bio Map areas and the Living Waters Core, and Natural Communities.

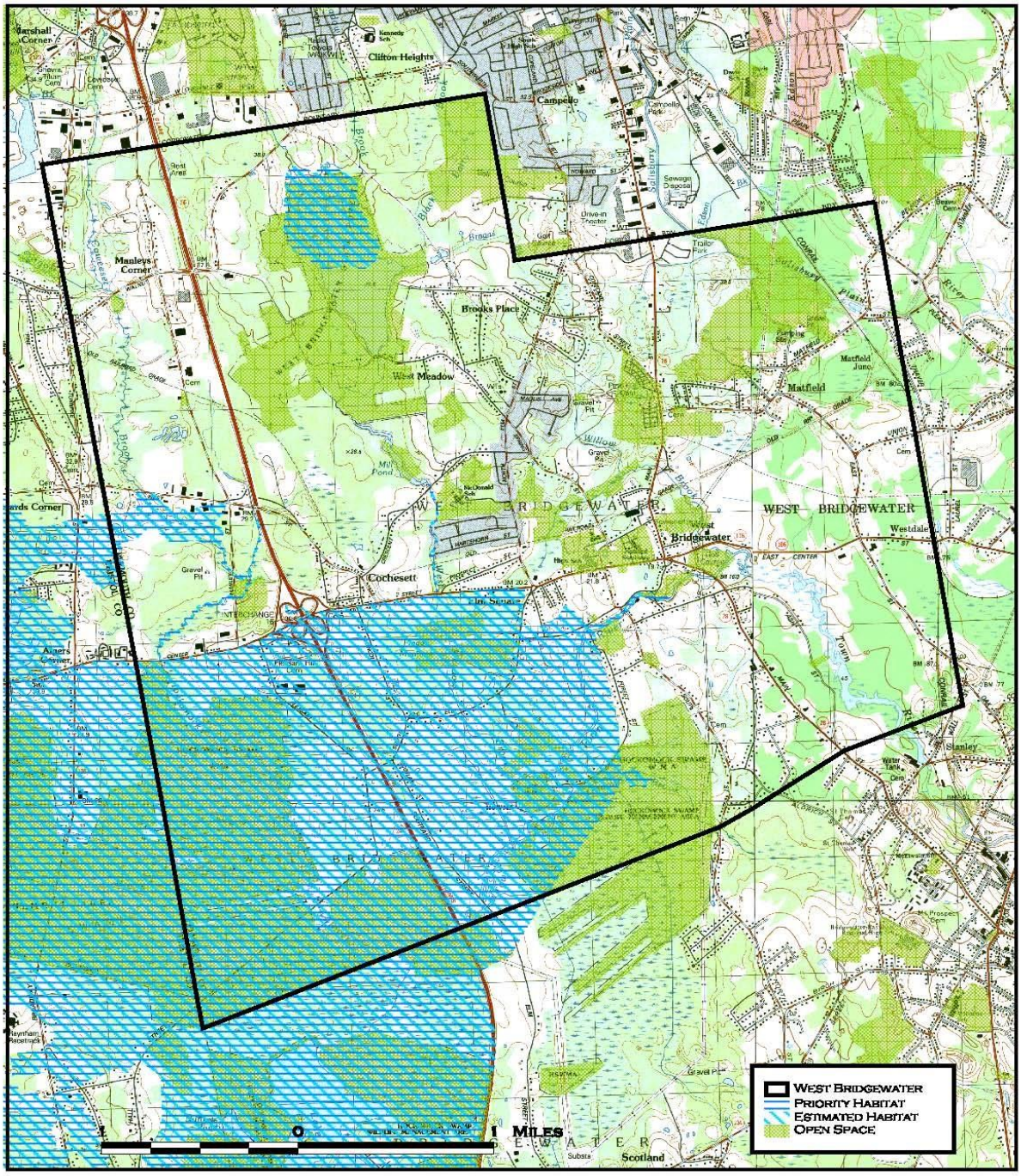
The NHES Program identifies and maps Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats for rare and endangered species as well as BioMap areas and Land in the Living Waters Core, and Natural Communities PVPs and Primary Forests.

As noted above, the Estimated Habitats are wetland-related areas significant for rare wildlife and are intended to be used in enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act while the slightly more inclusive Priority Habitats are the probable habitats of State listed rare species to guide protective activities. The combined areas cover the southwestern end (Hockomock Swamp) portion of the town and an area north of West Meadow Pond in the State Forest

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN

ESTIMATED & PRIORITY HABITAT

FIGURE IV-9



OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301 JANUARY, 2009

GIS SPOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

As explained by the NHESP the more extensive BioMap and the Living Waters cores "were produced… to identify the areas of most importance for biodiversity; they are based on known locations of rare species and uncommon natural communities, and incorporate the habitats needed by rare species to maintain the local populations. BioMap focused on species of uplands and wetlands; Living Waters focused on aquatic species. Large unfragmented conservation land provides the best opportunities to maintain populations of species and limit further species loss from the town" Hence, protection of land adjacent to existing public or private open space locally and across town lines "is one way to provide important large areas of biodiversity protection."

As can be seen on Fig. IV-10, "BioMap; Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversty" the identified area (and "supporting Natural Landscape") covers much of the southwest corner of the town comparable to the Priority and Estimated Habitats areas minus developed land along Rte, 24 and along the northern fringes of the area while covering more swamp, and area west of North Main St. and the land north of West Meadow Pond. The Living Waters are presently mapped only on the stream flowing south from West Meadow Pond.

Inclusion in any of these four categories would increase the value of an area of conservation and recreation interest and add to its priority for increased protection.

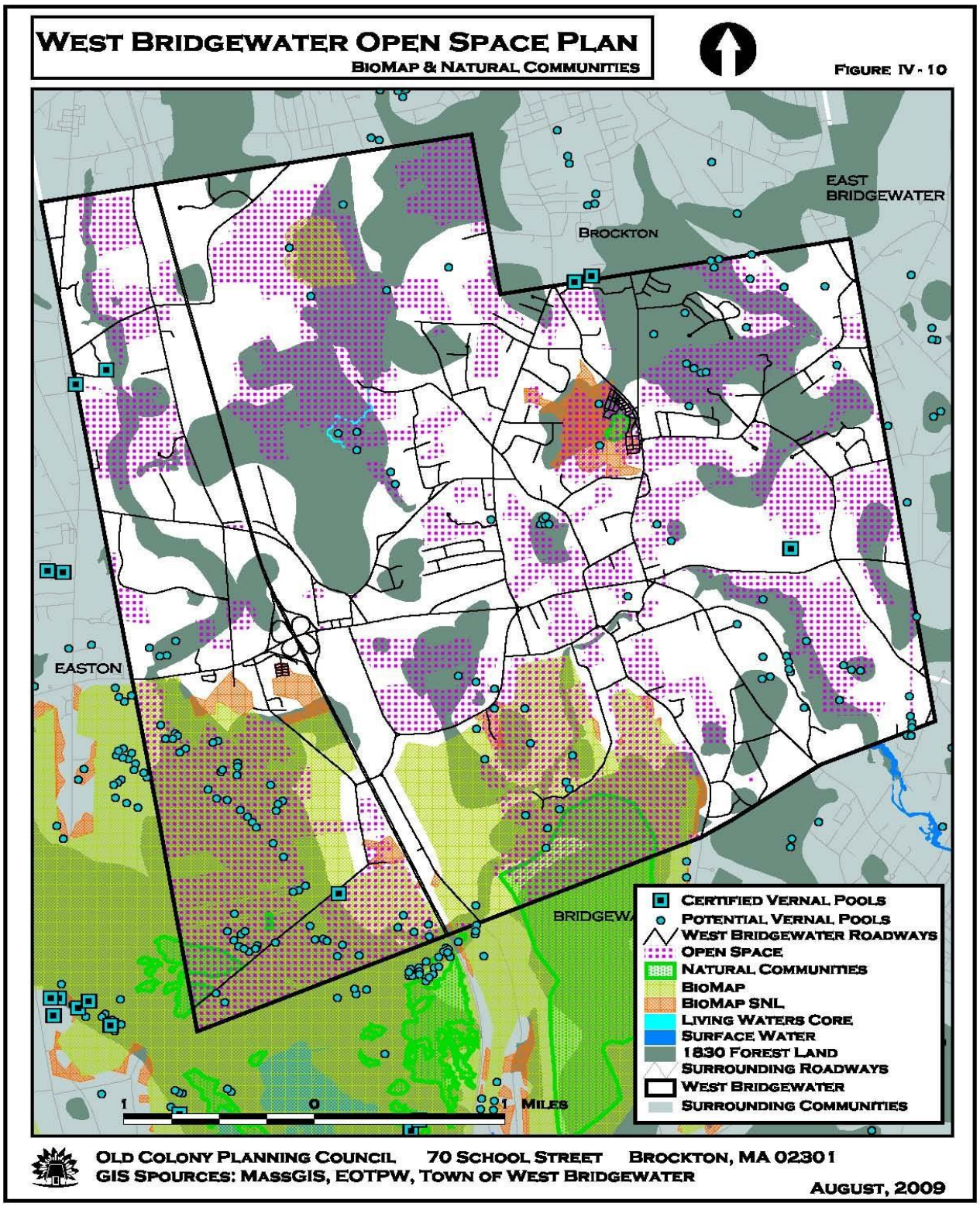
The generalized pattern of present protective ownership by state and local agencies is shown on Fig V-1 "Lands of Open Space and Recreation Interest" in the next chapter and these patterns are discussed in detail there.

F. Scenic Resources

Scenic Landscapes

West Bridgewater changes in elevation about 18 feet across the entire town resulting in a mostly flat and sometimes rolling topography. For this reason, most scenic views are across open land where housing and other structures have not been built. Open agricultural land, swamps, and forests all define the town as they represent the historic abundance of natural resources in this area: water, timber, and good farmland. The Mill Pond and War Memorial Park with their mill ruins are also of particular scenic value.

The former Department of Environmental Management did not designate any local scenic resources in its past state Landscape Inventory. This is because it was oriented to large-scale coastal, water and mountain resources and missed open fields, bogs or visually intriguing archeological complexes like the former Ames shovel mill water power works at the War Memorial Park on the Town River.


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN
BIOMAP & NATURAL COMMUNITIES
FIGURE IV - 10
EAST BRIDGEWATER
BROCKTON
EASTON
BRIDGEW
CERTIFIED VERNAL POOLS
POTENTIAL VERNAL POOLS
WEST BRIDGEWATER ROADWAYS
OPEN SPACE
NATURAL COMMUNITIES
BIOMAP
BIOMAP SNL
LIVING WATERS CORE
SURFACE WATER
1830 FOREST LAND
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
WEST BRIDGEWATER
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS SPOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
AUGUST, 2009



Part of former Ames mill complex in Memorial Park on the Town River Photo by Pasquale Ciaramella

Scenic resources identified it the 1988 West Bridgewater Bay Circuit Open Space Plan are shown by on the following map of scenic resources and unique environments (the Map of "Unique Features, Historic Sites, ACECs and Scenic Views") drawing on that plan. Generally these are open views across fields and marshes, or towards water the Hockomock Swamp or water bodies like the Mill Pond or the Town River.

Cultural, Archeological and Historic Areas

A survey helped to better categorize the concerns of the citizens of West Bridgewater. The results indicated that War Memorial Park was the favorite scenic and historic resource, followed by the Keith Parsonage, the Town River, and farmland. Scenic views of farms and the West Bridgewater State Forest were designated by community members on Scenic Resource maps used at a public forum in February 1999.

West Bridgewater has several historic buildings, however, none of them are listed in state or national Registers of Historic Places. Major landmarks are the Town Hall which is well over 100 years old, the Drury Bell from the majestic Howard Seminary which is displayed where the building stood until it burned to the ground in the 1040, and the town's iconic Triple Arch Stone Bridge, which is one of the few remaining dry-laid arch bridges in New England. These all remind townspeople of the history of the town. Old barns, farmhouses, and mill ruins dating back to the early 1700's regularly punctuate the landscape and stand as testament to the historic industry of West Bridgewater.

Many other landmarks still exist in West Bridgewater. The major archeological and historic sites, as listed in the 1988 West Bridgewater Bay Circuit Open Space Plan, are described in the previous chapter and are also shown on the following map (Fig. IV-11). These sites are:

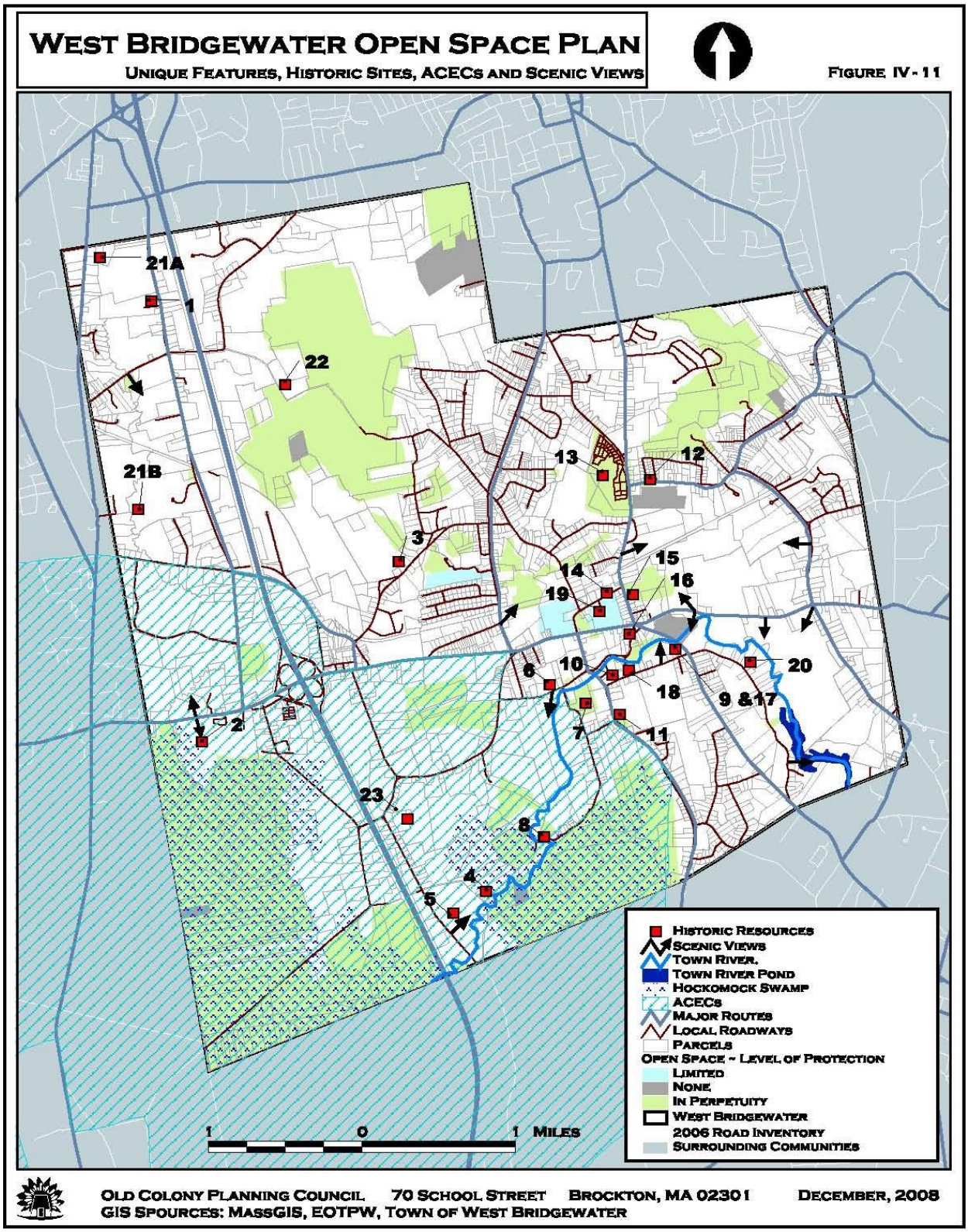
1 The Manley Farm
2 The Porter Farm
3. Mill Pond and Dam
4. The Skim Milk Bridge
5. Pete Cook's Place
6 The Keith Parsonage
7. The Stockade Hill
8. The Solitude Stone
9. Fish ladders, dams and sluice ways the War Memorial Park
10. The Carey Monument
11. The South Street Cemetery
12. The Matfield Street Cemetery
13. The Quaking Bog in the Pine Hill Cem
14. The First Cong./Unitarian Church
15. Town Hall
16. The GAR Monument
17. War Memorial Park
18. The Triple Arch Bridge
19. The Drury Bell
20. The Brick Kiln
21. (21A and 21B) The Howard Mill Site at
22. The Salt works copper site
23. The Forge Site

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

The Hockomock Swamp is in a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The ACEC designation boundary is the area south of Route 106 and east to the Town River. Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, an ACEC designation requires state environmental agencies to take actions, administer programs, and revise regulations to preserve, restore, or enhance the resources of the ACEC area. Although an ACEC designation does not limit development within the area, it does require that any proposals are thoroughly reviewed and include public input to ensure that adverse consequences to the area are avoided or minimized.



Fish ladders, dams and sluice ways in the vestigial Ames mill works in War Memorial Park


WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE PLAN
UNIQUE FEATURES, HISTORIC SITES, ACECs AND SCENIC VIEWS
FIGURE IV-11
21A
1
22
21B
13
12
3
14
15
16
19
6
10
18
20
9 &17
2
7
11
23
8
4
5
HISTORIC RESOURCES
SCENIC VIEWS
TOWN RIVER.
TOWN RIVER POND
HOCKOMOCK SWAMP
ACECs
MAJOR ROUTES
LOCAL ROADWAYS
PARCELS
OPEN SPACE ~ LEVEL OF PROTECTION
LIMITED
NONE
IN PERPETUITY
WEST BRIDGEWATER
2006 ROAD INVENTORY
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL 70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301 DECEMBER, 2008
GIS SPOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER



Triple Arch Stone Bridge upstream of War Memorial Park - over-exposed to show interior detail

G. Environmental Problems

Septic systems, agricultural runoff, road salt, the town landfill, and the Brockton sewage treatment facility represent the most significant point-source environmental threats in West Bridgewater. To various degrees development is the direct or indirect source of these environmental problems.

Surface Water Quality

Surface water contamination has been a problem in the past for West Bridgewater from agricultural runoff in the Hockomock River, the Town River, and Coweeset Brook, and from inadequate disposal systems along the Town River and Coweeset Brook. This is being reduced by improved agricultural practices, up-graded disposal systems, and, unfortunately, the decline of agriculture.

Groundwater Quality

Even when functioning perfectly, Title V-compliant septic systems do little to prevent nitrogen, heavy metals, or even viruses and other pathogens in wastewater from entering the aquifer which is West Bridgewater's sole water source. Of the last 250 septic systems tested in West Bridgewater, prior to March 1999, 32% failed. When septic systems fail, the wastes are entering the ground and aquifer without sufficient treatment in the soil. When nitrogen (and phosphorous) reaches the many surface water bodies in West Bridgewater in the right proportions, eutrophication can occur. This results in algal blooms, reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water and impairing fish and other oxygen-dependent

creatures. In addition, any heavy metals in sewage are toxic to many aquatic plants and to animals including humans, and pathogens, by definition, can induce diseases.

In addition, the pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides used by homeowners and farmers outside are primarily made up of nutrients and heavy metal compounds which are hazardous to aquatic plant and animal species and contribute to eutrophication of surface water. When these materials reach the ground water supply they can pose serious health risks to humans.

Road salt is a groundwater and surface contaminant and can harm many aquatic plants, animals and humans when sodium levels in the water are too high - above 40 parts per million. High sodium levels from drinking water or dietary habits can increase blood pressure in humans and excess salinity in surface water can harm freshwater plants and animals. Accordingly the American Heart Association has recommended a maximum of 20 ppm in drinking water for people with hypertension or cardiovascular diseases. (Some authorities feel that this is too low a standard, given the small amount of sodium in most water systems, and the considerably greater amount many people take in from other sources.) The town's recent levels range from 12.5 to 92.7, with the higher figure reflecting the wells nearest Rte. 24 during the high salt use winter season.

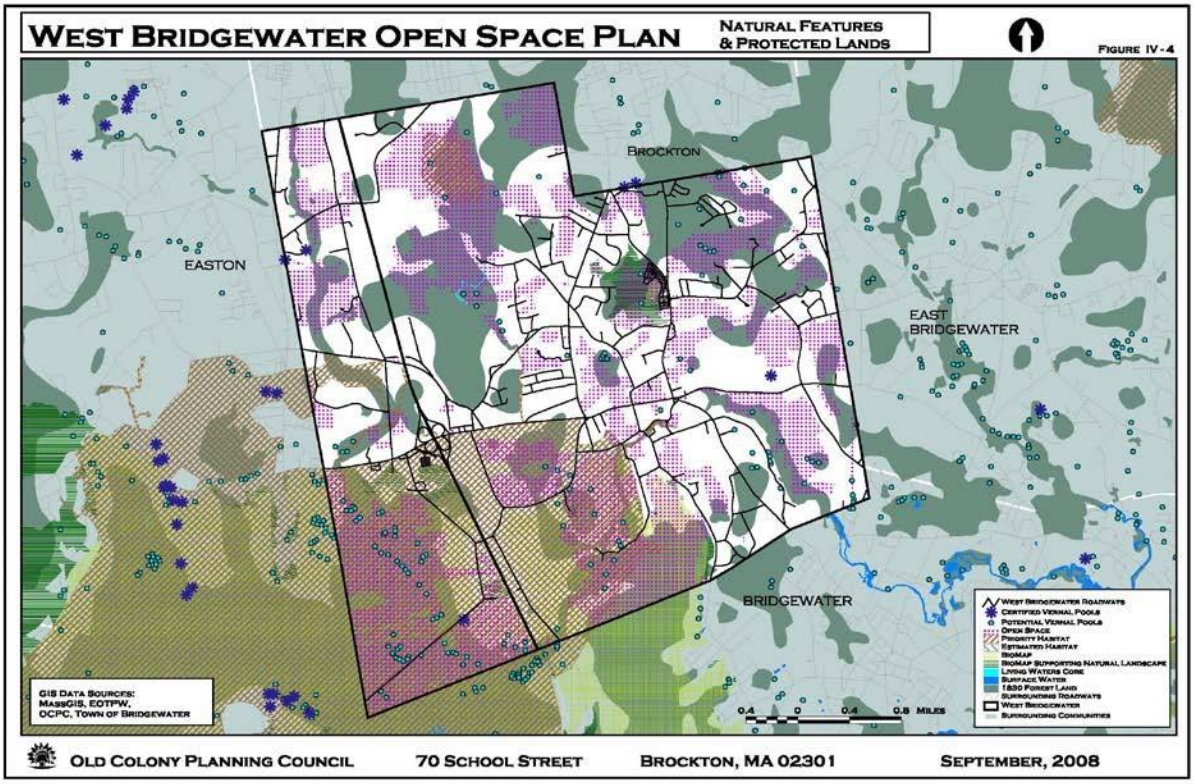
To protect the groundwater and surface waters, the town's Water Resource Protection Overlay Zoning District prohibits outdoor storage of salt and deicing chemicals, though it does not regulate customary road salting as such. To further prevent high sodium levels the Water Department uses only hand-applied sand on the roads nearest the wells, though the Highway Department uses its normal mixture town-wide. The Water Department has asked the Massachusetts Highway Department to use a reduced salt mix on the section of Route 24 near the Manley Street wells.

Landfills can be a host to all kinds of contaminants, from petroleum wastes to heavy metals in leachates. The former town landfill is located above the aquifer that supplies West Bridgewater with drinking water, but at a considerable distance from the wells. It has been capped and lined which should prevent groundwater contamination unless the liner becomes ruptured. In principal, testing the ground around the landfill site for toxic materials would help to protect and preserve the town's water supply, but the Water Department is confident that the distance between the landfill and the nearest wells precludes any harm.

The Brockton sewage treatment facility was a point source polluter to rivers upstream from West Bridgewater up to 1988. The result was elevated nutrient and heavy metal levels as well as odor problems in some of the town's rivers and brooks. This problem has since been managed through expanding and upgrading the plant, and the current plant expansion and upgrading should further limit such impacts. But the increasing demands on the plant call for continued vigilance.

All of the previously mentioned environmental problems reflect development. New golf courses on river banks, additional houses on individual septic systems, development which fragments habitats, and use of agricultural and home gardening chemicals can all degrade West Bridgewater's natural resources Prevention or mitigation of such impacts is one of the goals of open space planning and town master planning generally.

Figure IV-12



Hazardous Materials

According to Fire Chief/Hazardous Waste Coordinator Leonard T. Hunt, there are three former hazardous waste sites in the town; a gas station on West street, one in the town center on Rte. 106, and one at Elm Square. All had leaking tanks which have been remedied. The one on West Street is considered by DEP to be fully resolved while the other two have been cleaned up and repaired or replaced, but are still monitored for possible residual effects.

There are no other known contaminated former industrial sites, closed landfills or other sources of hazardous materials.

Erosion/Sedimentation

Due to the town's low relief, slow-flowing streams, and enforcement of protective construction techniques there are no known areas with serious problems of erosion or sedimentation. The techniques include protecting bare slopes and installing straw bales to protect streams from sediment, and street sweeping to keep winter sand from storm drains and stream beds**.**

Flooding

According to Fire Chief/Emergency Management Officer, Leonard T. Hunt, the only areas with significant recurring flooding are in the Forest Street, Clinton Road area on the Town River downstream of the Hockomock Swamp Wildlife Management Areas and of the Forest Street Bridge, (see cover Photo)

and along the edge of the Salisbury Plain River near Edson Brook at the West Bridge Trailer Park on the Brockton line.

The swamp and adjacent wetlands dampen flood flows and the losses in the Clinton Road area are minor according to the Chief.

The trailer park is low and close to the River, the Brook, and two small tributaries and has frequent minor flooding. The owner sought to protect the developed and vacant land from flooding by building a berm close to the river. This excluded much safely floodable vacant land from the flood plain and was rejected by the DEP. The owner has since been lessening risks and losses by replacing low-lying trailers with modular houses built on higher foundations.

Forestry Issues

According to Tree Warden and Forestry and Parks Superintendent, Christopher Iannitelli the has no major forestry issues. (Street Trees are discussed below.)

The major potential threats are:

- Wooly Adelgids which particularly attack hemlocks, as aphids do, sucking juices from them yearround not just in the spring. However the town has relatively few hemlocks.

- Winter Moths which attack various deciduous trees by chewing their leaves. They fly in on silk threads rather than having a visible base like tent caterpillars. They have been controlled by spraying in the past

- Other moths whose larvae eat leaves and weaken trees over time. Gypsy moth caterpillars crawl up from ground and therefore are combated with bands around tree trunks.

- Tent Caterpillars occupy their very visible tents and can be combated. They are also subject to various diseases and predators and are a reduced threat

- Asian Long Horned Beetles are the most destructive, boring into and out of hardwoods and ultimately killing the tree. Eradicating them requires removing trees with the slightest infestation. Fortunately none have been found in this area.

The Forestry Department and other agencies scrutinize trees thoroughly for the long horned beetle and other pests and act when needed.

Forest Fires have been minimal threat in West Bridgewater, largely because there are no large areas of fire-prone scrub oak and pine, but the possibility remains if there is a long dry summer.

As elsewhere, the breaking up contiguous blocks of forest limits wildlife movement and habitat integrity. However the large contiguous blocks of state wildlife management holdings and town lands in the

southwestern corner of the town and the West Meadow State Forest in the northwest corner reduce this threat. (See the discussion of the Forest Plant Community on Page IV-17.)

Environmental Equity / Open Space Equity

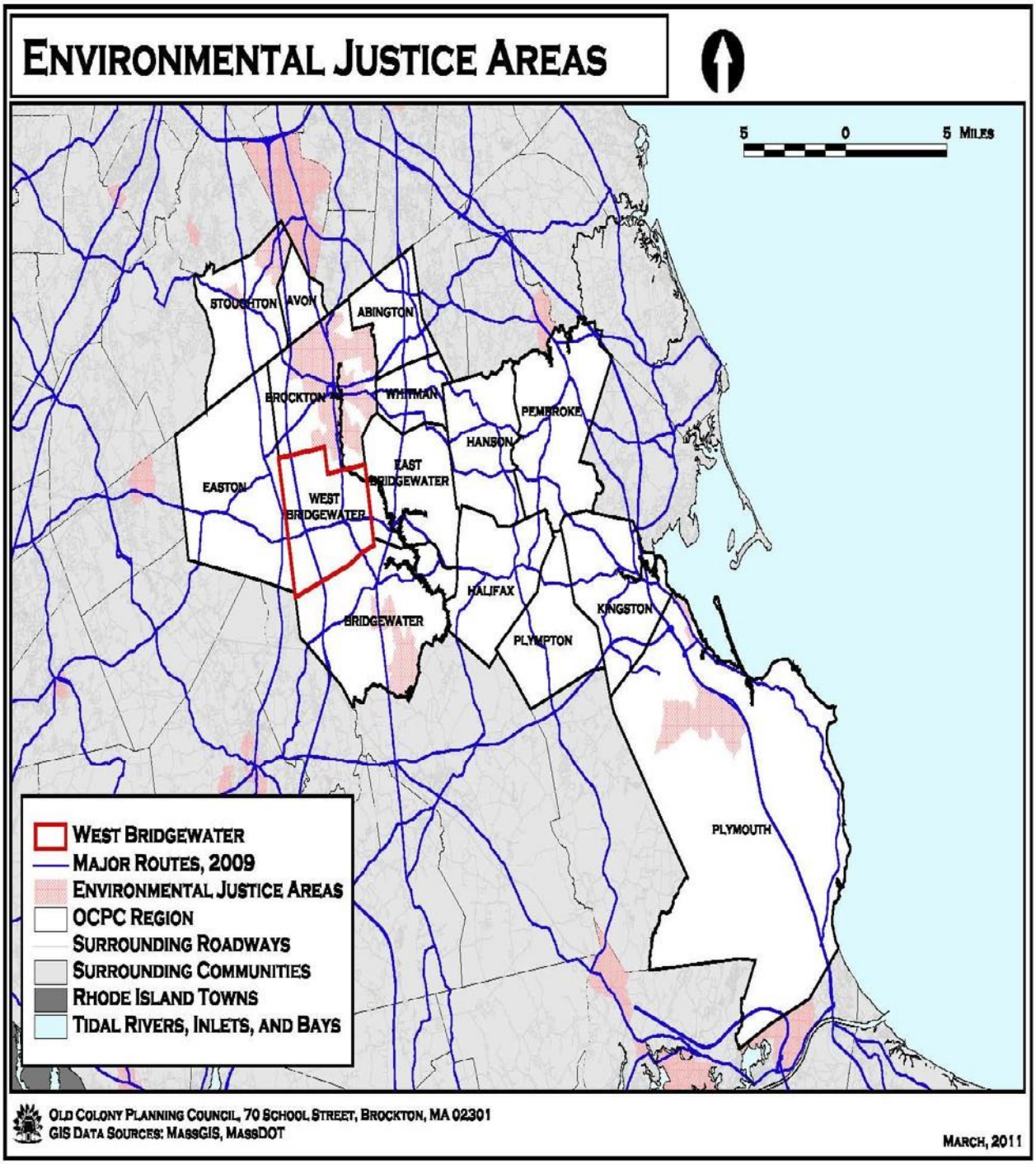
These are two aspects of Environmental Justice; the idea that no population should have a disproportional exposure to negative environment features like an uncapped landfill (Environmental Equity), nor should any neighborhood lack positive features like parks and playgrounds that more privileged neighborhoods have (Open Space Equity). The concern reflects situations where negative features like hazardous waste transfer stations, power plants, or disruptive highways were put in, near, or through low income and minority neighborhoods, while such neighborhoods lacked playgrounds, parks or other amenities found in more affluent areas.. These concerns with equity apply to all citizens but are most strongly felt regarding vulnerable low income/minority "Environmental Justice" communities

The following Mass GIS map of Environmental Justice Areas (Figure IV-13) shows that there are no such low income or minority areas in the relatively homogeneous town of West Bridgewater. Nor does the town have major areas with a degraded environment like an open land fill or hazardous waste site, and the land along Route 24 is largely undeveloped. The only nearby landfill is across the town line on Thatcher Street in East Bridgewater, but it is closed and capped and has been proposed for regional open space and recreation reuse. Thus there are no major Environmental Equity Issues.

In terms of Open Space Equity, Figure V-1, Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest, shows that there are major state and town-owned natural areas in the southwestern, south central and northernmost parts of the town. There also are partially protected school and recreation lands in the more populated center of town along with extensive water resource lands in the north-east corner abutting Brockton. Both the lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest and the proposed actions in the Seven-Year Action Plan (Figure IX-1) are well dispersed town-wide. Thus there are no Open Space Equity issues.

While there are no Environmental Justice Areas in West Bridgewater, there are such areas in the adjacent City of Brockton to the north. This includes some land touching town-owned land in the northeast corner of West Bridgewater and there are other moderate-income neighborhoods just north of the West Bridgewater line. The Plan's proposals to expand and connect town holdings and State Forest holdings in the area just south of the Brockton/West Bridgewater line could greatly
expand the resources within reach of these neighborhoods and thereby serve regional Environmental Justice and Open Space Equity.

Figure IV-13


ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS
5 0 5 MILES
STOUGHTON
AVON
ABINGTON
BROCKTON
WHITMAN
PEMBROKE
HANSON
EAST BRIDGEWATER
EASTON
WEST BRIDGEWATER
HALIFAX
KINGSTON
BRIDGEWATER
PLYMPTON
PLYMOUTH
WEST BRIDGEWATER
MAJOR ROUTES, 2009
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AREAS
OCPC REGION
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
RHODE ISLAND TOWNS
TIDAL RIVERS, INLETS, AND BAYS
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, MASSDOT
MARCH, 2011

V. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Open space protection is important if a community is to influence its future by protecting sites of environmental, scenic, and recreational value, and sites which help to guide growth by taking key holdings off the market. This is particularly true the face of continuing development pressures.

Communities tend to take their present character for granted until major iconic tracts are gone. Thus, acquiring some scenic tracts is important in order to preserve views of a valued landscape and to reinforce community character. In other cases, acquisition is important in order to provide sites for recreational purposes, ranging from nature-based ("passive" recreation like hiking, camping, birding, swimming,) or for more formal field sports (soccer, football, tennis). These benefits can be integrated when open spaces are tied together by greenways, trails, and wildlife migration corridors. In other cases acquisition can help to protect water resources even beyond the effect of comprehensive groundwater protection zoning and practices.

Acquisition to guide growth can be important by permanently removing land from the market. However it can be quite expensive and needs to be balanced by zoning or other tools such as mixed development or transferable development rights (TDR) redirecting needed development.

In summary, the protection of open space is important if the community is to remain a place where wildlands are around the corner and nature is still present. More specifically, it is important if we are to:

- Keep significant open space available to many neighborhoods
- Preserve major open spaces, habitats and natural resources such as remaining farm fields and areas of Primary Forest which has never been tilled
- Protect key resources, especially water resources
- Give children exposure to nature
- Maintain part of the town's traditional rural character
- Enable the connection of widely separated holdings
- And, to a lesser extent, to help to guide the town's development by creating permanent greenways and major holdings of potentially developable land.

There are various degrees of protection. As used here:

High Protection ("in Perpetuity") refers to land held for conservation, recreation or wildlife protection purposes and appropriately deeded to the Conservation or Recreation Commission, to a state agency or to a non-profit land-holding agency and/or protected by a binding Conservation Restriction (CR) or Agricultural Protection Restriction (APR) or to a lesser extent by inclusion under the state Constitution's Article 97 (Discussed below).

Moderate or Limited Protection ("Temporary") refers to land held by public agencies for other purposes such as water supply or education and protected as long as it is needed for the basic purpose. Examples would be water supply lands, school sites, or state college and correctional facilities which could be vacated and sold for other purposes if no longer needed.

Low ("Minimal"**)** This refers to miscellaneous town holdings serving no public purpose, commonly acquired through tax title takings, and available for sale.

Unprotected ("at Immediate Risk") this refers to publicly or privately-owned potentially developable undeveloped lands whose uses do not provide even the most temporary protection.

These degrees of protection are augmented by the provisions of Chapters 61, 61A and 61B and the effects of Article 97.

The Chapter 61 provisions allow owners of Classified Forest, Farm Land, and Recreation land to be taxed based on the land's value in its present use, rather than at its speculative "highest and best use." In exchange the owner gives the community (or a designated non-profit or public agency) a "right of first refusal" if the site is proposed for a change in use or offered for sale. This allows the community or agency to buy it by meeting the terms of any bona fide offer. This is often treated as a form of protection but it has no effect unless the community chooses to act and is able to act (alone or through a designee.) Thus its significance is for the opportunities it offers.

Article 97 requires a unanimous vote of the local park commission if parkland is involved and a 2/3 vote of town meeting or the city Council and a two-thirds vote of the General Court before state or municipal open spaces may be converted to other uses. The "no net loss" policy of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs sets strict requirements for approval of an Article 97 disposition by the Secretary of EOEA and requires "real estate of equal or greater fair market value or value in the proposed use …and of significantly greater resource value. (to be granted) to the disposing agency or its designee, so that the mission EOEA …and the constitutional right of the citizens of Massachusetts are protected and enhanced." (Note; the Article refers to land of resource value as well as open space/recreation so holdings such as town water lands may also be protected in some cases, but we generally assume that they are protected as long as they are needed for water supply.)

Local communities with land acquired with state aid are also required to replace any land sold or converted to other uses. (This caused the withdrawal of a recent article in another town to sell a town-owned country club because it had been bought with Self Help (LAND) funds and there was no replacement site in the town.

Communities may also be required to replace farmland or protected land converted to other uses (particularly if acquired with public assistance) either in-kind, or with a comparable payment.

Land held by private land trusts is not necessarily protected unless also under a state approved Conservation Restriction.

The following describes West Bridgewater's lands of habitat, scenic, water resource, recreation and conservation interest, whether protected, partially protected, or unprotected. It is intended to help to guide the town's actions in protecting land for broadly-defined open space and recreation purposes.

Summary: Approximately 2,450 acres in West Bridgewater are held by town or state agencies for open space, recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply protection, or educational purposes.

Another approximately 1,240 acres are partially protected under the state's Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B programs.

Property owned or managed by the community, the Commonwealth or non-profit agencies for explicit open space, conservation or recreation purposes purpose and/or protected by a recorded conservation restriction is the most protected land and is not at risk of a change in use. Conversely, land owned or managed by municipal agencies or the state for other purposes is less protected since it can easily be converted to other use or be sold, and privately held land has no protection beyond land use and environmental regulations and the concerns of the owner.

A. Private Parcels

1. Land Assessed under Chapters 61, 61 A, 61 B - Current Use Taxation

Chapters 61, 61A and 61B provide for reduced tax assessment reflecting the land's current land use rather than its speculative value if developed. The purpose is to lessen the pressure to sell land for tax reasons. However, the reduced rates do not prevent sale for more intensive use as a Conservation Restriction would. Chapter 61 applies to land used for managed forests, Chapter 61A applies to working agricultural land and some abutting land, and Chapter 61B applies to privately-held recreation land. Parcels classified under these chapters are subject to repayment of varied portions of the avoided taxes if the land is converted to another use. If the land is offered for sale for a different use, the community (Selectmen, Planning Board and Conservation Commission) must be notified and given a first refusal opportunity to match a bona fide offer being considered by the owner. However owners can remove land from the program by voluntarily paying a portion of the avoided taxes

Ch.61 Managed Forest

The town has 128.37 acres of managed or "Classified" forest under Chapter 61.

Chapter 61A Agricultural Land

Approximately 1,206.57 acres of agricultural land (plus that at map 52/parcel 32) are under Chapter 61A. This represents a 461.43-acre loss from the 1988 figure of 1,668 acres. This loss reflects the continuing pressure on farmers to sell for increasing values, even when the tax burdens are reduced, along with a reduced interest in farming by many younger generations, particularly with the endless hours and low profit of dairy farming. These increasing land values are caused by the demand for residential land generally and for industrially-zoned land along Manley Street. Currently, all of West Bridgewater's working farmland is assessed under the Chapter 61A.

Agriculture is declining in West Bridgewater as elsewhere in the region. Traditionally, the town's farms have produced dairy products, corn, vegetables, strawberries, blueberries, and apples. The greatest losses appear to be in large-scale dairying since the federal government's whole herd buyout program in the 1980's was concerned with reducing total milk production. Moderately-sized, intensively cultivated, and locally marketed vegetables and specialty crops are becoming the most economically feasible forms of farming in the area.

The loss of larger-scale farming and farmland results in a loss of basic productivity and in the past views across open fields. These open views reveal the form of the landscape and define the character of historic West Bridgewater. Such open views will increasingly remain only where conditions are too severe for development, as across wet meadows, and where land is specifically protected.

Ch. 61B Recreation Land

In addition to the above, the town contains 265.7 acres of privately-owned land in recreation use (all but 15.28 acres in Golf Courses or driving ranges) under Chapter 61 B and there are at least 18.55 acres of other commercial recreation land not under Ch. 61b.

Implications

Since these lands under current use taxation make up the bulk of West Bridgewater's remaining unprotected open space, it is important to identify the parcels which have the greatest open space value or offer the best opportunities for acquisition; to monitor the owners' needs and plans; and to be prepared to respond to key opportunities.

In some cases there may be opportunities for owners to enter the Commonwealth's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program. Under this the Commonwealth buys the development rights on a farm and the farmer is allowed to keep farming or to let the land lie fallow, but not to develop it. Thus the land remains available for future farmers or for reversion to natural forest and grassland

In other cases there may be opportunities for mixed development where an appropriate portion of the land is released for planned development according to town guidelines and the most valuable open space is preserved. In such cases it is important to acquire the land for municipal purposes and then determine the future uses before dividing the holdings and putting the land to be preserved under protective management as conservation or recreation land. Otherwise the provisions of Article 97 of the state constitution will make it difficult to release the land identified for development. This approach is discussed in Robert Lemire's seminal work "Creative Land Use".

In all, the extensive parcels in Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B are a major, if shrinking, resource for open space protection. Hence, review of these parcels is important in identifying actions to preserve conserve, or acquire land. Paul Cavanaugh, Ph.D, of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences has evaluated the present lands under current use taxation according to the Center's Conservation Mapper program.(see form in Appendix .) This stresses habitat value, landscape integrity, vegetation, aquatic resources, presence of rare species, present degree of protection and the probability nearby development, more than it does recreation value, local open space needs or the value for completing an open space system. Thus the score should be complemented by examining other open space needs and opportunities when recommending an acquisition.

According to the Center scores can be interpreted as follows:

00-20 - Little or no conservation value
20-40 - Poor to moderate conservation value
40-60 - Moderate to good conservation value
60-80 - Good to excellent conservation value

The following list and the map of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest (Figure V-1) show the extent and location of lands under current use taxation and their initial Conservation Mapper scores, and suggest potential opportunities. For these reasons noted above, parcels with a range of scores turn up on the subsequent preliminary list of Unprotected Lands of Special Interest. That list and the map reflect information from the Board of Assessors, but conditions change and the town should check on the status of any parcels of interest when exploring specific opportunities.

Table V-1

Lands under Current Use Taxation - Chapters 61, 61A and 61B

Number	Owner	Map/Lot	Acres	Conservation Mapper Score
1.	Jos. Spadea	3/15	47.00	
2	L.Kaminsky.	4/13	13.70	48
3.	L.Kaminsky	4/15	71.15	54
4.	Satucket Athletic Assoc.(Golf Course)	6/2 (61B)	53.15	32 Needs connection to to forest
5.	Demolles	7/31	36.14	29
6.	Demolles	7/49	2.01	
7.	Demolles	8/4	0.81	19
8.	Brockton Golf Realty	10/5 (61B)	2.91	16
9.	Brockton Golf Realty	10/6 (61.B)	8.73	15
10.	Brockton Golf Realty	10.10 (61B)	2.33	21
11. Realty	Brockton Golf	10/11 (61B)	.32	1
12	Carlson	10/12 (& 17/123)	12.42	
13	Couite	10/14	22.21	
14	Couite	11/19	13.00	
15	Couite	11/22	20.10	
16	Demolles	14/23	15.91	7
17	Demolles	14/24	1.84	24
18	Demolles	14/25	2.56	24
19	Demolles	14/49	4.27	
20	Carlson	17/63	22.04	
21	Smith	20/35	3.45	
22	Smith	20/37	2.73	30
23	Bertarelli	20/63	26.89	
24	Bertarelli	21/5	4.99	
25	Soares	21/9	27.60	28
26	Onyx	21/10	25.24 (C.61)	
27	Bertarelli	21/14	2.32	
28	Bertarelli	21/12	11.49	
29	Bertarelli	21/15	14.40	

30	Soares	21/22	23.23	4									
31	Clark	23/11	2.69	24									
32	Clark	24/14	6.85										
33	Howard	25/40 (C.61)	21.27	55									
34	Bertarelli	25/41	42.25	46									
35	Sigren	26/147	8.48										
36	Soares	28/2	5.00										
37	Leonard	32/45	3.00	21									
38	Leonard	32/46	17.75										
39	Leonard	32/48	2.39	17									
40	Jay's Café	32/51 (61B)	22.00	(Whole parcel?)	16								
41	Forbes	33/2	7.32										
42	Forbes	33/4	10.09	25									
43	Sigren	33/19	13.90	25	44	Bertarelli	33/20	20.74	10				
45	Bertarelli	33/21	19.84	10									
46	Bertarelli	34/1	14.72	28									
47	Bertarelli	34/2	3.20	16	48	Bertarelli	34/3	7.40	7	49	Bertarelli	34/48	19.70
16													
50	Bertarelli	34/51	2.53	-3									
51	Bertarelli	34/54	.49	-10									
52	Bertarelli	34/55	1.50	15	53	Wilbur	35/2	3.63	22				
54	Amerigian	38/76(61B)	15.28	33									
55	Leonard	39/81	4.86	10									
56	Bertarelli	40/1	4.09	15	57	Bertarelli	41/20	11.26	5	58	Bertarelli	41/25	20.84
12													
59	Wood	41/36	11.70										
60	Wilbur	42/1	17.09	29	61	Urban	44/55 (C.61)	29.40					
62	Urban	44/58 (C.61)	3.68	3									
63	Anderson	45/44	3.55	-9									
64	Anderson	45/45	6.24	-9									
65	Anderson	45/49	2.08	-9									
66	Anderson	45/50	9.55										
67	Anderson	45/59	6.70	-9									
68	Howell	46/15	7.62	-17									
69	Gibson	46/62	19.30	19									
71	Anderson	46/82	2.18	-11									
71	B and N Golf Course	47/45 (61B)	187.30	45									
72	Russo	51/5	15.50										
73	Urban	51/12	1.20										
74	Alexander	51/13	7.28	28	75	Cavallaro	51/19	22.74	27				
76	Nome	51/20	4.07	22									
77	Nome	51/21	12.28										
78	Nome	51/22	13.15										
79	Nome	52/16	11.50	27									
80	Anderson	52/17 (61A)	1.85										

81	Anderson		52/19		9.35					
82	Howard		52/21		35.17		21			
83	Anderson		52/28		17.80		26			
84	Topaz Dev.		21/23		32.90	(C.61)				
85	Chubbuck		53/58	5.08		8				
86	Donahue	53/35	26.00		38					
87	Asack	53/48	33.90		32					
88	Bertarelli		55/25	(61A)	14.80					
89	Kriebrook		57/19		16.80		32			
90	Anderson		59/8	31.50		45				
91	Anderson		59/13	C.61)	5.39		52			
92	Anderson		59/14	(C.61)	11.24		52	93	Anderson	
	59/16	37.50		44						
94	Hay		60/41	8.50						
95	Metcalf	60/42	17.50		32	96	Kriebrook	64/13	29.90	
97	Kriebrook		65/4	3.75		8	98	Kriebrook		
	65/6	2.00		13						
99	Kriebrook		65/7	3.60		6				
100	Hart		65/10	8.39						
101	Anderson		66/1	(C.61)	2.32		48	102	Bertarelli	
	71/2	9.02 (1)		11						
103	Anderson		53/25	14.75		32				
104	Milne		53/27		6.79					
105	Howard		52/38	24.19		26				

2. Land Under Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)

At the time of plan completion in 2009 the town had no land under an APR though the Open Space Committee and others had been working on a restriction on the 116-acre Anderson Dairy Farm. Under APR the Commonwealth acquires the development rights on a farm. This gives the farmer a significant payment and allows continued farming while preventing otherwise allowable development of the property.

More recently, in early 2010 the town appropriated $400,000 in local Community Preservation Act funds to be combined with $1,160,000 from the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), and $67,000 raised by the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts to acquire an APR on the farm for $1,627,000 - reportedly $700,000 below the appraised value. This followed efforts by the Trust informing local farmers of land preservation options and was negotiated in cooperation with the DAR, and the Open Space and Community Preservation Committees.

The Anderson Farm occupies 116 acres on six holdings, some fronting on Route 106 and identified by an iconic agricultural windmill, others to the south on either side of the Town River. Some abut other protected town and state land as can be seen on figures V-1 and IX-1 where the Anderson land is identified as “U-19”.

This remains West Bridgewater’s only APR designation and is the only land protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR).

3. Land under Conservation Restrictions

Conservation Restrictions (CRs) are granted by a land owner to a public or non-profit entity and commit the owner to preserving the land undeveloped. They are frequently used to further guarantee the preservation of designated open space. CRs have to be approved by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs and be monitored by an independent agency. To date the Board of Assessors and Kitty Doherty, Director of the town Department of Preservation, Conservation and Recreation are aware of no other no CRs in West Bridgewater.

4. Other Unprotected Public and Private Lands of Special Conservation and Recreation Interest

The following are lands or locations of special interest for review and revision by the Open Space Committee. They reflect the concerns and aspirations noted in the following Community Vision and Goals statement.

Map ID	Map/Parcels(s)	Description
U-1	46/15	7.62 acres of wet meadow under C.61A next to Richardson donation C- 16
U-2	23/14	An in-holding in State Forest 10.08 acres (minus house lot for existing building.)
U-3	22/7	A 6-acre in-holding in State Forest
U-4	20/63	Former railroad r.o.w, now 61a land, 26.89 acres, extending from recently acquired r.o.w ending at East St. It has the potential to extend the future trail to Matfield Street and to any prospective commuter rail station.
U-5	14/24	(1.84 acres)
	14/ 25	(2.56 acres) Two 61A parcels along Coweeset Brook from present 14/45 streamside conservation holding C-1 to a .69 acre town holding 14/45 recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission
U-6	38/95	Town-owned 2.72-`acre wetlands connecting holdings C-4 and C-5 as discussed above and recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission .
U- 7	30/20	21.96 acres between Forest (Co-3), Mill Pond C-2) and the Stoney Road neighborhood.
U-8	51/14	14.82 acres of Priority Habitat woods and wetlands within and south of the
	17/24, 25	Flaggy Meadow holdings and completing that area.
U-9	8/19	16.47 acres of mixed woods abutting the State Forest on two sides and close to West Meadow Pond. This would expand the forest and partially preclude further intrusions into the Forest like

the housing being developed on adjacent land surrounded by the Forest ("Hunting Permitted") on three sides.

U-10 15/ 8 & 9 6.97 acres of mixed woods between town holding C-11 and the State Forest which abuts these parcels on two sides.

U-11 5/ 2, 3, 4, 6 and 6/1 34.64 acres of woodlands and a portion of the 132.79-acre 5/2 to connect the Town-owned woods at 2/1,3,4 and 6/3 to the State Forest.

U-12 25/40 21.27 acres of C.61 woodlands (#34) ranked second highest by the Manomet Center at 55 and shown as Supporting Natural Landscape on the BioMap and offering a permanent wooded backdrop to surrounding neighborhoods. It has frontage on Copeland Street and on Kenneth Street via a .3 acre town parcel.

U-13 4/15 71.15 acres of pasture and woods ranked second highest at 54 and running between the northwest corner of the Forest and Walnut St., potentially expanding the northern edge of the Forest nearest Brockton and protecting habitat and meadows.

U-14 40/8 72. 97 acres of very scenic wet meadows and fields backing on to wetland abutting the forthcoming rail trail. Now offered for sale by Tedeschi's Markets and being explored by the Open Space Committee.

U-15 54/42 28.05 acres of low-lying land along the Town River and just downstream of Reynolds Landing (C-10) on Ash Street and across from the River Bend Golf Course

U-16 71/11 7.27 acres; 72/1, Skim Milk Bridge at C-18 (a present holding) 72/2, 3 1.44 acres 66/6 (a present holding)

A privately-owned landmark and hiking canoeing destination, a stone bridge carrying an unimproved paper section of Maple St. over the Town River between two town parcels and private lands of Cumberland Farms. The Board of Selectmen has long been working with the owner for better access than the present route along the edge of the River) from Scotland Street to the bridge and to the town land. Explore possible easements along portions of parcels 71/11 west of the River, 72/2 east of the river or 72/3 east of the paper Maple Street and abutting riverside town holding 72/1 and possibly incorporating recent gifts by the Company.

U-17 19/11 A landlocked 4.38 acre wooded private parcel crossed by a north-south powerline just east of the Matfield Woods Housing development abutting

		well protection land on three sides and potentially expanding the well protection area and adding to permanent open space next to the development. This might worth a very low cost acquisition.	
U-18	39/85	Partial acquisition of the un-developed portion of Map 38/85, the open land to the northwest of the Robery Farm parcel (38/82) potentially giving significant frontage on North Elm St.	holding C-4
U-19	45/44, 45 49,50, 59 46/82 52/25, 28, 53/25 59/8, 16	Anderson farm holdings proposed for Agricultural Protection Restriction (APR) and continued farming. Approximately 121 acres of hay and grain fields and pasture including three parcels fronting on the Town River. (Since accomplished)	

U-20 38/85 A private parcel between two portions of holding C-4. This needs an easement or a small acquisition to complete a path between North Elm and Spring Streets and on to North Main Street as discussed earlier. Such a path might also go through the adjacent Robery Farm land to south.

U-21 30/4, 5 There is no apparent access to the Mill Pond (holding C-2) to Crescent Street This suggests negotiating an easement through parcel 30/4 which contains the mill dam or the adjacent parcel 30/6 or seeking a small acquisition.

U-22 49/098 There is a proposed gift from Supervalu Inc. (owners of Shaws) of an estimated 30 acres of wetlands and woods along the Hockomock River to the Nature Conservancy which would then turn it over to the town. This would adjoin the state canoe launching area.

U-23 54/44 A 1.42-acre Town-owned parcel next to the Ash Street boat/canoe launching area that could be added to the site if it would create a more usable landing and riverfront area.

U-24 14/45 A .69-acre town parcel along Coweeset Brook recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission which manages the upstream site C-1.

U-25 Various parcels along the Coweeset Brook/Hockomock River Corridor from site C-1 to the Bridgewater Line

U-26 62/2, 62/18, 62.3, 62.1, 54/41 All or portions of parcels along the Town River from the River Bend Golf Course and site U-15 above to the town line totaling 48.22 acres as part of the proposed West Bridgewater /Bridgewater Greenway going on to the Stanley Dam/Bridgewater Greenway going on to the Stanley Dam and Iron Works Park in Bridgewater.

U-27 The extra-territorial (out of town) BFI landfill in East Bridgewater proposed elsewhere for a three community (East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater /Bridgewater) multi-use recreation area potentially funded under state PARC (ex-urban self help) funds or the Federal Land and Water Conservation Act.

U-28 38/77, 38/67 A series of former rail r.o.w. parcels east of North Main St and bracketing the 2.33-acre town parcel 31 (38/98) and totaling 19.42 acres. These may

38.68 44/29 have potential for continuing the rail trail west to West Meadow Brook and then down to West Center Street. This would require a detour around a major development via North Street, Howard Street, and the Spring Street School, and a possible easement along the edge of a house lot on North Elm St. Beyond the Brook new development south of Copper Beach Road appears to have absorbed the previously mapped r.o.w. precluding any further extension without easements through the development.

Table V-2

Summary of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

.

Major Holdings	Size (in acres)	Protection level (without known CRs)
West Meadow State Forest	844.7	Protected by State/Purpose/Article 97
Hockomock Swamp	1,189.2	Protected by State/Purpose/ Article 97
Conservation Land	105.1	Protected by Town/Purpose/ Article 97
Water Department	300.2	Moderately protected as long as needed
School Department	76.4	Moderately protected as long as needed unless playgrounds are formally designated as open space under Article 97
Forestry and Parks Department	26.4	Moderately or strongly protected depending on purpose and Article 97 applicability
61A Agricultural Land	1,243.5	Weak as privately held and subject to buyback out of program
61B Recreation Land	104.7	Weak as privately held and subject to buyback out of program
61 Forest Land	73.3	Weak as privately held and
	3,963.5	subject to buy back out of program

B. Protected Public and Non-Profit Lands

Note : While the State's past Self Help and Urban Self Help programs (now known as LAND [Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity] and PARC [Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities]) respectively, have assisted many local open space and recreation projects, neither have been used in West Bridgewater.

1. Land Managed by Conservation Commission

C-1 Walnut Street Area Map 14, Parcel 26

The 2.68-acre Walnut Street Area is located on the southern side of Walnut Street, west of Route 24. The parcel's eastern border is Coweeset Brook. The area is located in the flood plain and is largely wetlands with shallow fresh marsh species such as cattails, bulrushes and sedges. The area to the east is used for agriculture and much to the east is under current use taxation while that to the southeast is industrial and that to the west is residential.

Access: The property has frontage on Walnut Street but is wet which restricts access. Access is unmarked and unimproved and there is no defined parking area.

Condition: The site is in good condition as natural open space .



Site C-1 Low swampy land on Cowesett Brook off of Walnut St. Area east of Brook is similar.

Uses: This area is useful for wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and water retention.

Recreational Potential: Canoe enthusiasts and sport fishermen use this land for water- oriented recreation purposes, while it is less suitable for other, upland, recreational uses

Degree of Protection: High as Conservation land which would be protected as under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming, and Water Resource Protection District (Land just east of the Brook is Industrial and Water Resource Protection District)

Recommendation: Investigate acquiring adjacent Ch. 61a wetlands east of Brook (M14; P 24,25) and transferring town parcel 14/45 to the Conservation Commission.

C-2 Crescent Street/Mill Pond Area. Map 30, Parcel 3

The 10-acre Crescent Street/Mill Pond Area is located just 350 feet south of the West Bridgewater State Forest. The pond is above the dam site which is visible from the street.

Access: Pedestrian access is reportedly provided off Crescent Street but area is unmarked. Apparent access to lower end of pond is through overgrown adjacent private mill site and around dam. There is no defined parking area but nearby curb parking appears sufficient for the few visitors.

Condition: Good condition as a natural open space though the dam is deteriorating

Uses: This area is useful for wildlife habitat, watershed protection and hiking. Recreational interests include hiking, hunting, canoeing, and fishing.

Recreation Potential: Expanded outdoor opportunities as noted above

Degree of Protection: High as Conservation Land protected under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None Known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Negotiate useful access, perhaps clearing a path around the dam or from adjacent Mill Pond Road off of Stoney Road to the west. Seek extension to State Forest if needed. On the parcel map the lots appear to touch.



Restored small mill building/house and dam just south of Mill Pond

C-3 Former Samoset Rod and Gun Club Maps 24,30,31 Parcel 24/16

The 4.5-acre L-shaped former Samoset Rod and Gun Club land is 450 feet south of the State Forest on Stony Road. This area of mixed hardwoods and softwoods wraps around housing on the eastern end at end of Mill Pond Road and abuts housing on Jewel Drive to south, while abutting other woodland along to the west and north.

Access: Access is of off of Stony Road, but the area is unmarked and there is no defined parking area.

Condition: Good condition as a natural open space

Uses: Hiking, nature study, and it serves as a general natural neighborhood backdrop.

Recreational Potential: Suggested signing and expansion could expand woodland recreational activities

Degree of Protection: High as Conservation Land protected under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Add an identifying sign, consider opportunities for any low cost expansion to north or east as a permanent neighborhood amenity.

C-4 North Elm Street Area Map 31 Parcel 61 (9.41 acres) and Map 38 Parcel 94 (2.8 acres)

The 11.4-acre, 2-parcel North Elm Street area of backland is located almost directly across the street and just north of the MacDonald School entrance. The surrounding area is residential with two school complexes in the vicinity.

Access: Narrow access point to large western parcel is un-marked from North Elm St. There is no defined parking, but use of the low-lying site is likely to be slight.

Condition: In good natural condition as a low lying woodland

Uses: This area is important for wildlife habitat, informal flood water retention and possible ground water recharge, with recreation use limited to hiking along a potential trail to Spring Street.

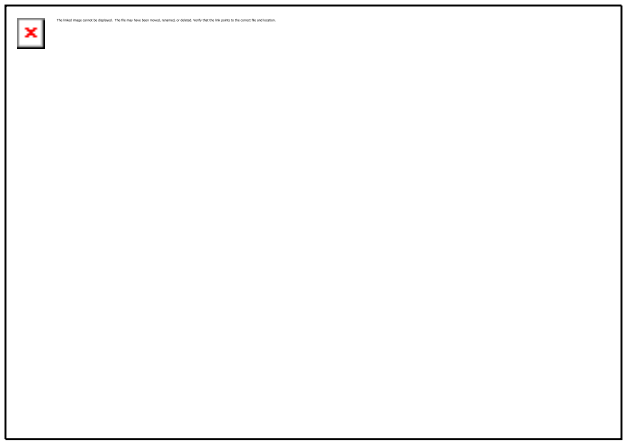
Recreation Potential: Limited active use due to wetness except for hiking to Spring Street with restoration of a former board walk.

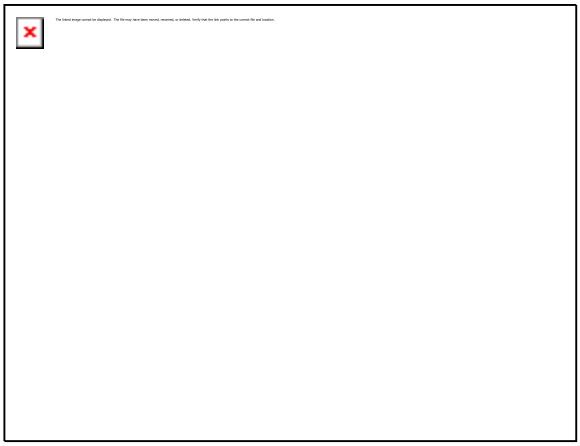
Degree of Protection: High as Conservation land protected under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None in past, potential Safe Routes to School funds for walkway development

Zoning: General Residential and Farming, and Water Resource Protection District

Recommendations: Restore a former boardwalk connecting holdings C-4 and C-5.
If needed, seek a walkable easement across the southern end of the intervening parcel 31/85 and acquisition/transfer of the adjacent parcel to the east (Map 38, Parcel 95 [2.7acres]) listed as townowned land (or an easement across it) to give frontage on Spring St. This would allow walking through the combined properties en route to the MacDonald School from neighborhoods east of Spring St.
Seek State Safe Routes to School funds for such a walkway.





C-4 Left: Narrow end of North Elm Street area. Right: Higher ground along edge of dug stream potentially allowing a walkway from Spring Street to MacDonald School

C-5 Spring St. Area Map 32/Parcel 36; (6.33 ac) Map 39, Parcels 37 (2.63 ac.) and 38 (1.36 acres)

The 9.8-acre (Note: apparent parcels total 10.32 acres.) Spring Street Area is located on the east side of Spring Street, directly east of North Elm Street area. The Elm Square Brook flows through the site which is largely wetlands with swamp shrubs.
Access: The area has frontage on Spring Street with a sign, but lacks defined parking or useable trails.

Condition: Good as a natural area with no improvements

Uses: It is important for flood retention and wildlife habitat. Recreational use is limited due to lack of access or usable trails.

Recreation Potential: Possibly expanded hiking opportunities along the proposed streamside trail from Spring Street to North Main Street.

Degree of Protection: High, as Conservation land protected under Article 97.

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Clarify parcels, examine possible acquisition of Map 31/lot 21 to east carrying Brook to North Main St. and explore possible streamside trail from Spring St. to North Main St.
as a continuation of the proposed North Elm St. area trail.

C-6 South Elm Street/Flaggy Meadow Area Map 44, Lot 45; [14.52 acres on map, 15.62 ac. on list]; Map 51, Lot 15;7.15 acres; Map 51; lot 18, 17.4 acres. (Missing 4.23 acres to make the 1988 plan's 43.3 acres?)

The 43.3-acre (1988 Plan) Elm Street/Flaggy Meadow Area is located south of West Center Street and northwest of Elm Street. Much of the western portion of the site is open wet meadow along Meadow Brook with shallow fresh water marsh vegetation. Eastern section is mixed woodland.

Access: Via a signed dirt road of South Elm St. (and possibly via a narrow bit of frontage between two houses to the north). In spring the road becomes low and wet before coming to the Meadow.

Condition: Good as a natural area but access road is wet for walking in the spring.

Uses: Casual recreation, hiking, some ATV riding, plus protection of wildlife habitat and wetlands, and floodwater retention.

Recreation Potential: Already used for potentially conflicting hiking, habitat protection, and ATV use



C-5 Brook and wet meadows in Spring Street area, east of proposed expansion of North Elm Street Area

Degree of Protection: High being Conservation land subject to protection under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Clarify parcels, Sign and improve access

C-7 South Elm Street Low landlocked woodland and marsh along the edge of Meadow Brook and south of town landfill. Map 59, Lot 11 (4.12 acres); Lot 12 (4.32 acres) totaling 8.44 acres.

Access: Only through Town Dump Road and the landfill property which has a gated entrance road and parking area and is managed by the Town.

Condition: Good as a landlocked natural area

Uses: The lower portions of parcels 11 and 12 appear to be partially cleared and to abut open water and fresh marsh or wet meadow along the Meadow Brook. It is useful for wildlife habitat, water retention, and wetlands. Recreational use is limited due to poor access.

Recreation Potential; Stream side activities and potential, more varied, uses (sliding ,hiking…) in conjunction with adjacent unprotected and partially protected town holdings giving access to South Elm Street and abutting Anderson Farm parcels

Degree of Protection: High (in perpetuity) as Conservation managed areas protected by Article 97, and low-moderate in at the landfill site subject to other uses.

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Clarify parcels, investigate possible future sliding and related recreation use of the adjacent landfill

- Consider ultimate merger with part of adjacent 8.35-acre town parcel 59/10 (partially accommodating waste disposal area) if available in the future
- Sign and improve access



Signed access to C-6 Flaggy Meadow Area, a long, occasionally wet walk in to the Meadow from here.

.

C-8 Forest Street Area Map 53, Lot 16 (7.87 ac.)

The 9.15-acre (in 1999 plan); (8.15 in 1988 plan) Forest Street area is located to the east of Forest Street and south of Town River and is listed as 7.8 Acres on Assessors map. The surrounding area is agriculture and low-density residential development.

Access: Signed spot on curve of Forest St without parking except along shoulder

Condition: Generally good, but trails are uneven – possibly due to ATV use

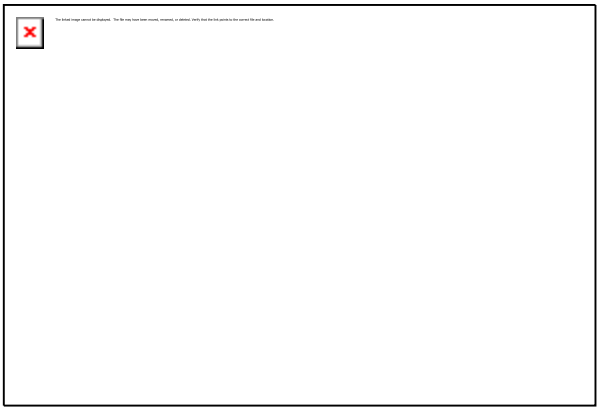
Uses: Used by neighborhood children, families, hikers and ATV riders
Recreation potential: varied, potentially conflicting, uses of this very accessible site being met by neighbors, children ATV riders…

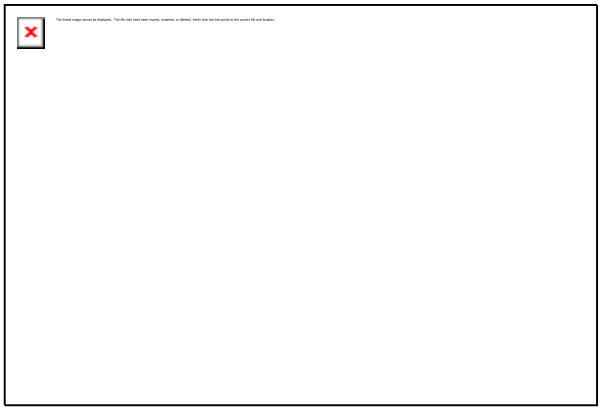
Degree of Protection: High, being a Conservation Area, subject to Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Add a small parking area, possibly grade trails for ATV safety, if their use is allowed.





C-8 Signed Forest Street Area (other name?)

Stone Wall at Forest Street.

C-9 Matfield Street Area Map 20, Lot 5, (2.5 acres)

The 2.8-acre Matfield Street area of hardwoods and pine sloping to the Water Department land is on the north side of Matfield Street. It abuts the Cyr Street land managed by the Water Department, and the new Samoset Rod and Gun Club.

Access: The site has access off Matfield Street, however, parking is available only on the street or at adjacent large Samoset Rod and Gun Club lot.

.

Condition: In good condition as wild land, but steep for pedestrian access to the rear water land

Uses: This area is important for wildlife habitat and watershed protection.

Recreation Potential: High as an access point for the extensive Matfield Street water land so long as uses are compatible with water supply protection

Degree of Protection: High, being Conservation and watershed protection land covered by Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming, and Water Resource Protection District
Recommendations: Leave as is unless a small parking area would facilitate acceptable use of water lands. Improve path through cut in the bank to the water lands.

C-10 Reynolds Landing Map 54, Lot 43, 1.2 ac

Reynolds Landing, located on Ash Street, provides one of three access points to the Town River for canoeing. The Town River connects to the Taunton River in Bridgewater. These rivers are part of the Wampanoag canoe passage that is 72 miles long and runs from Scituate to Fall River. At one-acre, the site is the smallest of all the conservation areas, but is the most heavily used.

Access: The site and the River are accessible from Ash Street. It is well marked and has adequate parking.

Condition: Fair condition; a slightly dug-out channel, adequate for boarding canoes and kayaks but a little more digging might make boarding easier.

Uses: Access point to River for boating and sightseeing. Swimming?

Recreation potential: Potential for eased boat handling with a slightly expanded launching area and a potential for a sitting area and small swimming spot if the current and water quality are acceptable.

Degree of Protection: High as conservation land subject to Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendation: Consult with canoeists/kayakers for any needed improvements, add a sitting area, explore possible sitting area. Consider acquiring adjacent 61A land downstream (U-15) and/or the smaller adjacent town parcel upstream (U-23).

C-11 Edge of State Forest, Map 15, Lot 7, 3.53 acres (also lots 8 and 9 according to BSC)

Wooded upland, largely hardwoods, between State Forest and Rte.24

Access: Through adjacent state forest and private woodlands

Condition: Good as natural wooded upland

Uses: Hiking, Habitat.

Recreation potential: Added area for varied uses of woodland, particularly if adjacent private area abutting other Forest land to east is acquired.

Degree of Protection: High as Conservation Land, subject to Article 97
Grants Assistance: None

Zoning: Industrial as most is w/i 1320' of Rte. 24, General Residential and Farming in fringe.

Recommendations: Incorporate in State Forest if contiguous, for coordinated management.

C-12 Edge of State Forest, east of RR grade. Map 22, Lot 11, 2.54Acres/M 29, Lot 6 - 3.55 acres & M29. Lot 7, 3.03 acres for 9.12 acres

Land-locked Pine woods at edge of State Forest

Access: Through adjacent woods. Possibly approachable via old railroad grade .if passable and/or via mapped right of way to south west.

Condition: Good as natural wooded upland

Uses: Hiking, Habitat.

Recreation potential: Added area for varied uses of woodland, extending bordering Forest land to west, north and north east.

Degree of Protection: High as Conservation Land coming under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: Mostly Industrial, being within 1320 feet of Rte. 24.i

Recommendations: Incorporate in State Forest if contiguous for coordinated management.

C-13 Small, largely overgrown wetland on North Elm St, Map 31, Lot 47, .43 acres

Access; Between North Elm St.and Francis Avenue

Condition: Good, as a pocket of wildland

Uses: Small natural; area as backdrop to housing, possibly a vernal pool

Recreation potential: Useful as an informal neighborhood adventure area between house lots

Degree of protection; High as Conservation land under Article 97.

Grants Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming,

Recommendations: Leave as is.

C-14 Trucchi's Landing, Across from and SE of Trucchi's Market. Wooded upland sloping to River; Map 40, Lot 12, 5.3 acres

Access: On East Center St., Route 106, with an informal parking area

Condition: Good as a natural stream bank but awkward for boat launching at low water.

Uses: Scenic observation, stream side picnicking, fishing, potential canoe and kayak launching area.

Recreation potential: Greater canoe/kayak put-in/take-out usage for exploring the river

Degree of protection: High as conservation area under Article 87

Grant Assistance: No public money; Gift of Trucchi's Market's

Zoning: Business District

Recommendations: Sign site and improve parking, develop boat launching area by grading it to work well at all water levels

C-15 River St., North bank of River, upstream of Arch St. ; (Map 46, Lot 74,.42 acres)

A key part of Memorial Park, abutting the dam shown on page II-13, 14 and including the channels/sluices carrying flow from the dam to the former mill works.

Access: At junction of River Street and Arch Street, shares parking with rest of Memorial Park

Condition: Very good, a well maintained park with a recently restored dam

Uses: As with rest of Memorial Park; sightseeing, walking, jogging, photography, picnicking, historic study of the original function of the various elements, relaxing , canoe portage and rest stop on river trips, and more formal uses such as weddings and the high school graduation ceremony

Recreation Potential: Enhanced education given an interpretive center with a model of original water power works showing functional relationships..

Degree of protection: High as Conservation land in active Park use and protected by Article 97.

Grant Assistance: $250,000 of state Dam Safety funds for repair of Memorial Park Dam, and $50,000 from the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Park Restoration Planning in 2000

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: As with rest of Park; Develop an interpretive center showing the various stages of development and identifying the roles of the remaining elements. As the Council's 1988 Plan noted, "This would add much to the visitor's understanding of the Park's extensive vestigial water power works." Consider partial restoration of some deteriorated stone work.

.

C-16 West Center St. Richards Donation, Hardwoods with part of a small ponding area (a vernal pool?) Map 45, Lot 9, (3.15 acres)

Access: Directly off of West Center St., across from School Complex and Civic Center with a potential pond acquisition to the east and an large area of interest to the west.

Condition: Good as low lying natural wild land

Uses: Neighborhood open space, habitat protection

Potential Recreation: Expanded exploring /recreation in conjunction with schools if pond to east and wet meadow to the west are unified

Degree of protection: High as Conservation land covered by Article 97

Grant Assistance: Private donation by Richards family

Zoning: Business - in 500'-deep Business-zoned strip with a possible fringe of General Residential and Farming to rear.

Recommendations: Explore access to Pond, and possible inclusion of rear of lot to east to include rest of pond, and expansion to include apparent wet meadow (Map 46, lot 15) to west.

C-17 Hockomock Swamp parcel on Easton border. Map 56, Lot 3 (1.18 acres)
An isolated parcel of wooded swamp west of the Hockomock River, largely surrounded by state Wildlife Management land

Access: Only through the swamp hiking south from Route 106, or east from Route 138 in Easton

Condition: Presumed to be good as natural wetland

Uses: Wildlife habitat protection, rough wet hiking, flood storage, limited ground water recharge

Recreation potential: Slightly expanded wildlife related recreation in this small piece within the Hockomock Wildlife Management Area.

Degree of protection: Very high as Conservation land surrounded by state Wildlife land, all under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: Industrial

Recommendations; Consider incorporating in State Wildlife area for coordinated management; remap zoning to General Residential and Farming.
.

C-18 Map 72 /Parcel 1. 7.27 acres and Map 66, Parcel 6, 7.85 acres = 15.12 acres
Streamside conservation land just south east of the Idyllic Skim Milk Bridge. Reported access is along edge of Town River from Scotland St. Town has been seeking better access to bridge from Cumberland Farms and may incorporate a recent gift from the firm.

Access: Along side of River from Scotland St.

Condition: In good condition as natural land but access could be improved and bridge may need some stones reset

Uses: Wildlife habitat protection, rough wet hiking, flood storage.

Recreation potential: High for passive use of bridge for picnicking etc. and canoeing /kayaking along the river

Degree of protection: High as Conservation land abutting state Wildlife land and subject to Article 97

Grant Assistance: None, but site benefits from a related downstream land donation by Cumberland Farms

Zoning: General Residential and Farming,

Recommendations:
- Continue to work with owners for better access to the Bridge
- Acquire riverside parcels to north, 66/4 and 66/5.

C-19 Map 57, 4.51 acres; Map 63 Misc. parcels, 12.96 Acres; Map 61, misc. parcels 7.33 acres; Map 74 Misc. parcels, 12.49 acres; Map 75, Misc. parcels totaling 12.12 acres; Map 77, misc. parcels totaling 25.71 acres. Scattered holdings within the Hockomock Swamp totaling 75.12 Acres.

Access: Through the swamp hiking south from Route 106, east from Pleasant St. or along Maple Street and intersecting power line easement running from Easton to Middleboro.

Condition: Scattered parcels in good condition as protected natural habitat

Uses: Wildlife habitat protection, rough, wet hiking, flood storage, nature observation, and bird watching

Recreation potential: Possible enhancement of above activities through improved trail access to southern-most parcels off of the adjacent power line

Degree of protection: Very high as Conservation land surrounded by state Wildlife land and protected by Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: Industrial

Recommendations:
- Rezone from Industrial to General Residential and Farming
- Seek acquisition of scattered in holdings by town or state
- Consider transfer to state for unified management

C-20 Scattered Hockomock Swamp holdings within the Forest St. areas.

Access: From Forest Street

Condition: Good as natural wildlands

Uses: Wildlife habitat protection, rough wet hiking, flood storage, nature observation, birding

Recreation Potential: Continuation of above listed uses, possibly enhanced by unified management

Degree of protection: Very high as Conservation land surrounded by state Wildlife land, all under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendation: Consider transferring and to state for unified management

C-21, C-22 Map 66/ Parcel 8, 4.35 acres and Map 59/Parcel 15, 4.71 acres; 9.06 acres total. Two parcels containing Town River on either side of Forest Street Bridge

Access: From the end of Forest St. (See cover photograph)

Condition: Good, land appears to be well kept.

Use: Access to River, protection of River

Recreation Potential: Possible small boat launching to explore a scenic natural area

Degree of Protection: High (in perpetuity) as Conservation land coming under Article 97.

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Make any slight improvements to ease small boat access
- Consider future extensions through town land along Town Dump Road to South St. if and when waste disposal use ceases.

2. Land Managed by Town Parks & Forestry Department

Summary: The town's Forestry and Parks Department manages the town's parks, recreational areas, and public cemeteries. The primary use of the park lands and fields is recreation. The 20.3 acres surrounding Town Hall are home to a gazebo and little league field. Summer concerts, as well as the annual celebration each September in War Memorial Park, are two of the recreational activities sponsored by the Forestry and Parks Department.

P-1 War Memorial Park; Map 46, Lots 38,39,75; (4.88 acres plus .74 acre Conservation Parcel Map 46. Lot 74 for a total of 5.62 acres)

The Town River first powered a grist mill in 1662, and in the 1700s Captain John Ames used his mill here to produce the first American-made metal shovels. In the late 1980's, the 6-acre War Memorial Park was in ruin. Once the site of the historic grist mill and the Ames Shovel Factory, Town Park, as it is affectionately called, was home to drug dealers and vandals. In early 1992, the town Parks & Forestry Department spearheaded an effort to reclaim this important monument. Today, the Park is the favorite resource of the townspeople. High School graduation, the prom march, and several weddings and special events are held there annually. Each September, the town gathers at the park for "Park Day," a day to clean up and celebrate this important resource.

The park contains a range of dams, sluices (channels), fish ladders, control structures, mill stones, a partially free-flowing section of the Town River, old foundations and an inoperable replica water wheel. Just downstream is the historic Triple Arch Stone bridge over the Town River. It is a resource worth protecting since there are few such dry (built without mortar) stone bridges remaining in New England. The park is also one of four canoe access points and is the site of Pulpit Rock, where Rev. Keith gave his first sermon in 1656.

Access: From River Street, just south of the town center, with off-street parking for 20 vehicles

Condition: Very good with recent improvements for handicapped access and earlier dam repair

Uses: Sightseeing, walking, jogging, photography, picnicking, historic study of the original function of the various elements, relaxing, canoe access, canoe portage and rest stops on river trips, and more formal uses such as weddings and the high school graduation ceremony

Recreation Potential: Increased historic education given an interpretive center and better connections to other sites as part of a proposed greenway

Degree of protection: High (in perpetuity) as a designated town park under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None for acquisition, but $50,000 from state for master planning in 2000 and $250,000 from the Dam Safety Program for dam repair and fish ladder construction, also in 2000

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Develop an interpretive center showing the various stages of development and identifying the roles of the remaining elements. As the 1988 Plan noted " This would add much to the visitor's understanding of the Park's extensive vestigial water power works"
- Consider partial restoration of some deteriorated stone work

P-2 Friendship Park

Located on the grounds of the Howard Street School, the 1-acre Friendship Park is a new playground for the Town. The Parks Department worked with the town to raise the funds to furnish and landscape the park. On a warm, sunny day many families enjoy playing in the park.

Access: Off of Howard Street next to Howard School grounds and Library

Condition: Very good, as shown in accompanying photograph

Uses: A very active playground

Recreation Potential: If space allows, a possible adult sitting area or exercise circuit or a small adventure playground with safe building materials

Degree of protection: High as town park land; also protected under Article 97.

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming



Friendship Park next to the Howard School – busy on a sunny day

Recommendations:

- Excellent facility; continue to maintain and operate as is;
- Possibly add an adult exercise circuit and sitting/socializing benches and tables and/or a small adventure playground area

P-3 Lion's Club (Francis D. Howe Memorial Ice Skating Rink On grounds of Fire Department lot, Map 39, Lot 3 (5.1 acres)

During the winter months, depending on the weather, the outdoor ice skating rink is open for residents to enjoy.

Access : Off of Howard Street.

Condition: Good, informal but well kept

Uses: Seasonal free ice skating and hockey, and relaxing at an adjacent outdoor fireplace

Recreation Potential: already well used, possibly a slight expansion to accommodate more skaters and spectators

Degree of protection: Uncertain, depends on status and future use of this town land behind fire and police stations.

Grant Assistance: None for acquisition

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:
- Operate as is
- Add a windscreen to outdoor fireplace or a warming building to better warm cold skaters.

P-4 Town Hall, Gazebo and Ball Field Map 39 Lot 63 (19.84 acres)

The land surrounding Town Hall is home to a gazebo and a Little League field, a softball field and small buildings used by a recreation organization, the W.B. Softball Association**.** In the summer months, the gazebo is the centerpiece for a monthly lawn party. Local bands are showcased in the gazebo and the town residents are invited to picnic on the lawn and enjoy the concert.

Access: Off of Main St. from parking lots next to and behind Town Hall.

Condition: Facilities are well used and well maintained

Uses: Little league baseball, softball, and lawn parties/music

Recreation Potential: Already used intensely for softball,, Little League and music, possibly could accommodate a tot lot/small playground

Degree of protection: High as held by the town for recreation purposes, presumably under Article 97.
Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: Business in the front and General Residential and Farming to the rear.

Recommendations: Consider adding a tot lot/playground to this very central location.

P-5 Torrie's Place Playground

Located in a courtyard on the grounds of the Spring Street School, this small playground was built to honor a slain child, and serves the school and its community.

Access: Off of Spring Street just north of Howard Street, but only through the school building

Condition: Good, small and well maintained

Uses: Active small playground, but only serving the school community

Recreation Potential: Could be slightly increased with an adult exercise circuit a/o sitting area

Degree of Protection: High as Town open space managed by the Department of Forests and Parks Unless school goes out of use, but not necessarily under Article 97

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Grant Assistance: None known

Recommendations:
- Continue to maintain and operate this excellent facility as it is
- Possibly add an adult exercise circuit and sitting/socializing benches and tables

P-6 Powder Hill Cemetery Map 25, Parcel 64 (.46 acres)

A small Town-managed cemetery on Matfield St., just east of Copeland St.

Access: Off of Matfield Street, just east of Copeland St.

Condition: Good

Uses: Burials and open spaces

Recreation Potential: Limited as peaceful resting area

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely even if not under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Continue in present uses

P-7 Howard St./Spring Street School Complex Forest and Parks Department operated and maintained facilities on or across from school grounds as described below under Schools and under Recreation facilities Map 38, Lot 99 (21. 12 acres); High School & Howard Elementary School - Map 39, Lot 7 (15.93 acres)

The town's approximately 76.4 acres of school lands (according to the 1988 and 2000 plans, but the Assessors' map totals 64.46 acres) at the High School, Spring Street School, Howard School Complex, and Rose L. MacDonald School include extensive play fields and a track as described below.

Due to their close proximity, these schools are referred to as the Howard School Complex. The Elementary School, once the site of the Howard Seminary for girls, still houses the historic Drury Bell and the original iron and brick seminary entry gates.

The combined school grounds contain a baseball diamond, a football field, two soccer or multipurpose (football/field hockey) fields, a volleyball court, a batting cage, a track, three tennis courts, four basketball backstops and hoops, and the nearby Friendship Park playground (and across Howard St., the Lions' Club Skating Rink on the 5.1 acre Fire Station parcel 39-3.) These are used primarily by school children and families, who have first priority, but they are open to the public including organized adult sports teams. See discussion in the Recreation Section.

Access: From Howard St., West Center Street, and Spring Street.

Conditions: Good; well used and well maintained

Uses: Varied multi-age recreation uses as described above and in Recreation section

Recreation Potential: Already extensively developed and used. Possibly some minimal expansion, e.g. of skating rink.

Degree of protection: Moderate (Limited) as school grounds subject to unlikely future reuse and not necessarily under Article 97.

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Explore space and facility needs of different activities. (See Recreation section)

P-8 Union St. Cemetery (Thayer Private Cemetery) Map 34, Parcel 57 (.09 acres)

A small town-managed cemetery next to the railroad tracks

Access: To South off Union St., near the East Bridgewater line.

Condition: Good, well maintained by town

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation Potential: Limited as a peaceful resting area

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely, even if not under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Continue in present uses

P-9 South Street Cemetery Map 53, Parcels 50 (1.27 acres)

A town-managed cemetery on the east side of South St. Filled but a popular local walking area

Access: Off South St. across from Cross St.

Condition; Good, well-managed by town

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation Potential: A peaceful sitting or walking area

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely, even if not under Article 97

Gant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Continue in present use; consider expansion into adjacent Ch. 61A land to the East if needed.

P-10 Manley St. Cemetery Map 21, Parcel 13 (.34 acres)

A town-managed small cemetery

Access: Off of the east sided of Manley St., north of old RR ROW.

Condition: Good, under town management

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation Potential: A peaceful sitting, resting area off a busy street

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely, even if not under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: Industrial

- Recommendations: Continue in present use
- Rezone to General Residential and Farming

P-11 Walnut St. Cemetery Map 14, Parcel 9 (.08 acres)

A town-managed small cemetery

Access: Off of the north side of Walnut St, at the Easton town line

Condition: Good, well managed by town

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation potential: A peaceful sitting, resting area off a busy street

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely, even if not under Article 97

Grant Assistance: None

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Continue in present use

P-12 Old Rail Road Grade Map 33/parcel 22 , 11.62 acres given to town by Shaw's Markets for conservation and bike trail use

Access: At grade from North Main St. on west, from Town Hall site (P.4) on south, and from East Street where trail is in a deep cut

Condition: Rough, somewhat overgrown

Uses: Planned bike/pedestrian trail between these points, nature observation etc, enroute, birding

Recreation Potential: Greater riding/hiking opportunities through extension east through Ch. 61A land to possible trackside trail to proposed Eastdale/ Westdale station on Kingston/Plymouth line.

Degree of protection: Very high (in perpetuity) as Conservation land or Recreation land under Article 97

Grant Assistance: Gift from Shaw's Markets

Zoning: Business on North Main St., otherwise General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Explore possible extension through Ch. 61A land to east to railroad tracks and proposed new station
- Examine a possible connection at grade from cut west of East St. to Ch. 61A land to the east. The alignment suggest past grade connection to east by a bridge carrying raised East Street or a tunnel under it, but little can be seen on site.

P - 13 Cochesett Cemetery Map 43 /Parcel 56 .25 Acres

A small, town maintained, cemetery next to the Methodist Church

Access: Off West Center St.

Condition: Good, responsibly maintained

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation potential: Expanded use as a peaceful sitting/resting area off a busy Street

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely

Grant Assistance: None Known

Zoning: Business

Recommendations:

- Continue in present use

Note: In addition to the above cemeteries, the town maintains the small Alger Family Private Cemetery at Map 52, Parcel 11 on South Street, south of River Street and the .05-acre Ames Family Private Cemetery at Map 60, Parcel 31 on the east side of Union Street.

3. Commonwealth Properties

Summary: The Commonwealth owns three major areas in West Bridgewater, the State Forest to the north, the Hockomock Swamp in the southwest managed by the Division of Fisheries and

Wildlife, and the south central section also managed by the D.F.W. The town owns scattered parcels within each area.

Co-1 The Hockomock Swamp, 888.89 state and town-owned acres out of the 1189.16 acres within the town

Hockomock means "where the spirits dwell" in Wampanoag. The 16,900-acre Hockomock Swamp is the largest swamp in New England. Climatic variations due to the swamp's size have allowed some plant and animal species indigenous to northern Canada or the deep south to survive here. West Bridgewater is home to 1189.16 acres of the Hockomock Swamp; of that, only 888.89acres are owned by the state or town.

In 1990, the Hockomock Swamp was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In West Bridgewater, the ACEC designation boundary is the area south of Route 106, extending east to the Town River. The ACEC designation requires state environmental agencies to take actions, administer programs, and revise regulations to preserve, restore, or enhance the resources of the ACEC area. Although an ACEC designation doesn't limit development within the area, it does require that certain proposals are reviewed more carefully, with more public input to ensure that adverse impact to the area is avoided or minimized.

The Hockomock Swamp is managed by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and is important for wildlife habitat, wetlands, flood water retention, hiking, and hunting and fishing. According to the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NH and ESP), several co-occurring rare species of significance have been sighted at the swamp. The Program further states that protecting additional adjacent wetlands or uplands would enhance the swamp's ecological resources. It recommends protecting these areas through acquisition, zoning, conservation restrictions, or management agreements.

Access: The area is accessible from a gated-off section of Maple Street where it becomes a dirt road. There are no signs, but this extensive area is readily found. There is no defined parking area but sufficient roadside parking. In addition an unsigned state-maintained canoe ramp with a small dirt parking area, located south of Route 106 near the Easton border, provides access to the Hockomock River while a powerline easement crosses the swamp from southeast to northwest intercepting Maple Street and potentially offering further access to the interior of the Swamp.

Condition: Good, as natural swamp land as shown on Page IV-15

Uses: Wildlife habitat, wetlands, flood water retention, hiking, hunting, and fishing

Recreation Potential: Extension of present uses, facilitating kayaking by improving the launching area on Hockomock River south of Rte. 106, consider possibilities for informal "hike in, hike out' camping out of hunting season.

Degree of Protection: High, due to Commonwealth ownership for wildlife purposes though the scattered town parcels may be technically unprotected.

Grant Assistance: None Known

Zoning: Industrial

Recommendations:

- Resolve mixed ownership by transferring scattered town-owned parcels to the state unless there is a particular interest in town management of land abutting private land at the eastern edge of the overall holdings. In that case transfer the land from the town to the Conservation Commission.
- Replace inappropriate Industrial zoning with General Residential and Farming
- Acquire privately-owned inholdings or peripheral areas of swamp.
- Acquire the remaining undeveloped east bank of the Hockomock River south of Route 106 including approximately 30 acres owned by Shaw's parent firm and possibly available through a non-profit land trust. See private site of special interest (U-22).

Co-2 Forest Street Fish and Game Area Many State and town parcels (300 acres)

The 300-acre Forest Street area is an additional portion of the Hockomock Swamp east of Rte. 24, and south of the Town River. Although it is physically separate from the main body of the Hockomock Swamp, it possesses many of the swamp's unique features. Located off of the Forest Street entrance, Solitude Stone is a significant historic marker with an inscription the Reverend Timothy Otis Paine carved to protest the Civil War. A large portion of the area is in town-owned parcels.

Access: This area is accessible from Forest Street and from a variety of dirt roads surrounding the swamp. Forest Street is an unimproved road in the Fish and Game area. Though there is no defined parking area, available roadside parking is sufficient for the site's use.

Condition: Good, as natural swamp land as shown on Page IV-15

Use. Wildlife habitat, wetlands, flood water retention, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

Potential Recreation Uses: Extension of present uses; consider possibilities for informal "hike in, hike out' camping out of hunting season.

Degree of Protection: High due to Commonwealth ownership for wildlife purposes though the scattered town parcels are technically unprotected.

Grant Assistance: None Known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Resolve mixed ownership by transferring scattered town-owned parcels to the state unless there is a particular interest in town management of land abutting the Town River. In that case transfer the land from the town to the Conservation Commission.

Co-3 West Bridgewater State Forest

The State Forest, located in the northern portion of town, consists of 826.18 acres of state land, 12.48 acres of town conservation land, and 6 acres of town land. It includes the approximately 50-acre impounded West Meadow Pond. There are several private in-holdings including one 6acre parcel (Map 22 Parcel 8) totally surrounded by Forest and unprotected town land in the southeastern portion of the Forest. A long, narrow 10-acre parcel (Map 23, Parcel 14) off of Stoney Road has a house at the Stony Road end but then penetrates about 1000' into the Forest.

A major 21.96-acre parcel (Map 30,Parcel 20) between the southern edge of the Forest and the Mill Pond has frontage on Mill Pond Road and should be considered for full or partial acquisition to connect these holdings. In addition a 12.56-acre private parcel (Map 15, Parcel 11) surrounded by Forest on three sides north and east of the mapped Spring Street is planned for 55+ housing. The adjacent 16.47-acre parcel (Map 8, Parcel 19) just west of West Meadow Pond should be considered for acquisition to expand the Park and to prevent further hazardous incursions. The Town's relatively in-accessible Mill Pond holdings are about 400' south of the Forest.

Access: The unpaved extension of Spring Street winds through the Forest from Stoney Road, providing access from the dirt parking lot located near the dam. West Meadow Pond is accessible to canoes from the parking lot. Other than the parking area, there are no other facilities in the forest. The entrances are unmarked and often hard to discern.

Condition: Generally good, but some peripheral trails are slightly muddy and rutted from ATV use.

Uses: Hiking, canoeing, fishing, cross-country skiing, skating, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and flood water retention

Potential Recreation Uses Extension of present uses; consider possibilities for informal "hike in, hike out" camping out of the hunting season.

Degree of Protection: High, since the site is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) (Formerly the Department of Environmental Management and the Metropolitan District Commission).

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Encourage DCR to acquire privately-owned in holdings
- Encourage DCR or the Division of Fish and Wildlife to acquire a strip of intervening woods between the Forest and approximately 52 acres of town-owned woods and swamp along Black Betty Brook in the northeastern corner of the town.
- Encourage the Town and/or DCR to acquire Map 30, Parcel 20, Map 8, Parcel 19, and the rear portion of Map 23, Parcel 14.

C. Partially Protected Land held for other Purposes 1. Land Managed by the Water Department

Summary: The Town of West Bridgewater owns 320 acres of land around the town's wells, the Manley Street well site, and the Cyr Street well site. The Coweeset Brook passes through the Manley Street site. These properties act as groundwater recharge and water protection areas. Recently, the Water Department purchased additional land at Robery Farm, where there is a potential natural spring well.

W-1 Cyr Street Well Area

These 201.36 acres of mixed, predominantly hardwood forest protect the town's main water supply and have experienced nearby residential growth in the past 15 ten years. The site is penetrated by a north-south power line easement which also intersects the proposed rail trail to the south. One central portion of the site is somewhat scared by earth removal and well sites. The protected area is slightly increased by an abutting 2.5-acre conservation parcel. (C-9) on Matfield St.

Access: To protect water resources access to the land is controlled by a gated entrance off Cyr Street which remains open throughout the year at the discretion of the Water Superintendent. There is also informal pedestrian access through the hardwoods and pines in Matfield Street Conservation Land C-9 above.

Condition: Good as woodlands protecting water supplies

Uses: Primarily water supply protection and some informal hiking and cross country skiing largely by local neighborhood residents

Recreation Potential: Minimal expansion of present uses consistent with water supply protection

Degree of Protection: High as Water Resource land under Article 97, at least as long as the town needs to protect these supplies

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming, and Water Resource Protection District

Recommendations:
- Examine any problems with present informal public use, consider improving unsigned access.
- Consider acquisition of any available portion of the 5.44-acre parcel 19/11 (U-17.)
- Ensure that maintenance of the north-south power line running through this area is consistent with water supply protection.

W-2 Manley Street Wells Map 43, Lot 2, 12.9 acres. (Listed as 12.0 acres with another Lot 3 at .9 acres on Assessors list, but mapped as one 12.9-acre parcel 43/2)

The Manley Street site and the future well site at the newly acquired Robery Farm area are not used for recreation, but contribute to the overall open space owned by the Water Department. The site, between Manly Street and Rte. 24, includes a portion of the Coweeset Brook.

Access: By Water Dept. driveway, but limited to protect resources

Condition: Good, as unimproved water supply protection land

Use: This relatively swampy area is held only to protect water resources and accommodate a well.

Recreation Potential: Limited; a small restricted area

Degree of Protection: High as water resource land under Article 97, at least as long as the town needs to protect these supplies and operate the well

Grant Assistance: None Known

Zoning: Industrial and Water Resource Protection District

Recommendations:
- Consider acquiring swamp and wet meadow to east to further protect supplies
- Continue to monitor road salting on adjacent Rte. 24 and nearby town roads.

W-3 Robery Farm Site Map 38, Lot 82, 20.7acres

This 20.7-acre site south of the North Elm St. Conservation Site (C-4) has been acquired to protect a possible future well site. In the meantime it adds to the open space resources in the North Elm Street -Spring Street neighborhood. It is unusual in being largely open farm land rather than low, wet woodlands.



Robery Farm (excluding field to north) bound by stream to north and old railroad grade to south

Access: A right of way from North Elm St.

Condition: Good, open farm land

Use: Protection of a potential water supply well site

Recreation Potential: Possible playfields if consistent with water supply protection, and possible well-sited community gardens

Degree of Protection: High under Article 97 as long as the town needs to protect these water resources

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming, and Water Resource Protection District

Recommendations:

- Investigate potential integration with the North Elm Street holdings and possible interim or long-term agricultural activities such as community gardens.
- Consider partial acquisition of the un-developed portion of the open land to the northwest (Map 38, Parcel 85) potentially giving holding C-4 significant frontage on North Elm St.

2. Lands under the School Department

The town's approximately 76.4 acres (according to the 1988 and 2000 plans but assessors' map totals 64.46 acres) of school lands at the High School, Spring Street School, Howard School Complex, and Rose L. MacDonald School include extensive play fields and a track as described below and under Recreation.

S-1 (P-7) High School, Spring Street School, and Howard Elementary School Complex Spring St. School - Map 38, Lot 99 (21. 12 acres); High School & Howard Elementary School - Map 39, Lot 7 (15.93 acres). Described above under Forestry and Parks

S-2 Rose L. MacDonald School Map 37, Lot 019 (27.41 acres)

The 34.6-acre (2000 Plan) Rose L MacDonald School (Assessors maps only show 27.41 acres) is located 1500' in from North Elm Street. It has a small modern playground and land for a potential playfield. The site is used primarily by school children and neighborhood families.

Access: By a long driveway off of North Elm Street, a paved walkway in from Crescent Street near the Mill Pond, and an informal walkway along an emergency access r.o.w. from Goldie Road

Condition: Good condition, well-maintained

Uses: School site with new compact playground

Potential Recreation: Addition of a playfield if needed

Degree of Protection: Moderate, as long as the school is needed unless open space/recreation areas are under Article 97.

Grant Assistance: None Known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendation: If needed, consider expanding the facility to serve a wider age/interest range

3. Land under Highway Department

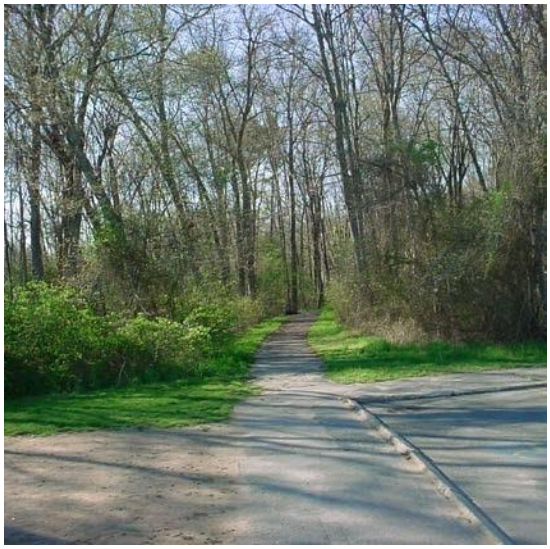
HD- 1 Map 52. Lot 15(5.25 ac.); Map 59, lots 6.(1.73ac.), 7.(.22 ac.) and 9 (8.44 acres) Totaling 15.64 acres.

These are lots accommodating or giving access to the solid waste disposal areas, to other town land and to abutting Chapter 61A agricultural lands to the east and south.

Access: From South Elm St. via Town Dump Road



Right of way from Goldie St. to MacDonald School school site



Paved path from Crescent St. entering



Rose MacDonald School play area; little used on weekends

Condition: Fair to good condition as solid waste areas

Use: Waste disposal

Recreation Potential: Considerable potential in conjunction with adjacent land if solid waste function is relocated.

Degree of Protection: Low-moderate (temporary) as land that could be sold if not needed unless playground is seen as Article 97-protecterd land.

Grant: Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Examine recreation use in conjunction with C-7 and the adjacent town lot at 59/10 if the waste function is relocated

4. Non-Profit Holdings

NP-1 Pleasant Hill Cemetery Map 50, Parcel 128 (3.09 acres)

A mid-sized private cemetery

Access: South of West Center St. and east of Pleasant St., but is mapped as landlocked, presumably with access through adjacent property

Condition: Good as well-maintained facility

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation potential: Minimal, except as a quiet open space near busy highways.

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: Industrial

Recommendations:
- Continue in present use
- Clarify Access
- Rezone to General Residential and Farming

NP-2 Pine Hill Cemetery Map 25/Parcel 42,43 38.2 acres

A large/scenic park-like private cemetery including a rare quaking bog to the rear of the site

Access: By a main gate off of North Main St.

Condition: Excellent, well maintained facility

Uses: Burials and open space

Recreation Potential: Considerable, as allowing strolling and resting in a peaceful setting

Degree of Protection: High, as reuse is unlikely

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: Business along North Main St; otherwise General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:
- Continue in present use
- Explore a possible connection to the rear Ch.61A woodlands (U-12) (ranked second highest by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences)

The following table V-3 summarizes these holdings. For more detail, e.g., on degrees of protection see Table V-6.

See text for discussion of conflicting area measurements

Table V- 3

Summary Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest
Publicly Owned or Managed Parcels
(See text for discussion of conflicting area measurements)

Map ID	Site	Acres	Use	Management
C-1	Walnut St. Area	2.68	Wildlife, canoeing	Cons. Com.
C-2	Crescent St./Mill Pond	10.00	Canoeing, fishing	Cons. Com.
C-3	Former Samoset R.&G Club	4.5	Nature Study	Cons. Com.
C-4	North Elm St. Area	9.4	Hiking, wildlife	Cons. Com.
C-5	Spring St. Area	9.8	Flood retention, wildlife	Cons. Com.
C-6	Elm St./ Flaggy Meadow area	39.7 mapped (43.3 in 1988 plan 19.5 in 1999 plan)	Hiking, wildlife flood retention ATVs	Cons. Com

C-7	South Elm St.	18.66 in old Plans, mapped as 15.42	Wildlife, wetlands	Cons. Com.
C-8	Forest St. Area	9. 15	Local open space, ATVs, hikers	Cons. Com.
C-9	Matfield St. area	2.5	Wildlife, watershed protection	Cons Com.
C-10	Reynolds landing	1.2	Boat launching	Cons. Com.
C-11	Edge of State Forest	3.53 (+15/8.9?)	Hiking/ habitat	Cons. Com.
C-12	Edge of State Forest	9.12	Hiking/Habitat	Cons. Com
C-13	No. Elm St. wetland	.43	Wildlife	Cons. Com.
C-14	Town River/Trucchi's Landing	5.3	Unimproved boat launch area	Cons. Com.
C-15	North Bank of River, above Arch St.	.42	Key part of Memorial park water works	Cons. Com
C-16	Richardson Donation	3.15	Local open space, habitat	Cons. Com.
C-17	Hockomock Swamp	1.18	Wildlife	Cons. Com.
C-18	Skim Milk Bridge Area	15.12	Streamside	Cons. Com.
C-19	Scattered holdings within Hockomock Swamp.	75.12	Swampland	Cons. Com.
C-20	Scattered Holdings within Forest St. area	40.39	Habitat /Flood control	
C-21	No/Main St to East St. RR R.O.W. grade	11.62 acres	Bike /Ped. Trail	Cons. Com. Town?
C-22	Town River /Forest St.	9.06 acres	Stream channel	Cons. Com.
P-1	War Memorial Park	4.88 plus .42.at C-15	Water works park	Forestry and Parks Dept.
P-2	Friendship Park	1 on Howard Sch. grounds	Playground	Forestry and Parks Dept.

P-3	Lion's Club Skating Rink	1.0 est. on Fire Dept. grounds	Skating, Hockey	Forestry and Parks Dept. /Lions Club
P-4	Town Hall Gazebo and ballfield	19.84	Little League and music, picnicking	Forestry and Parks Dept.
P-5s	Torrie's Place Playground	On school site	Playground activity	Forestry and Parks Dept.
P-6	Powder Hill Cemetery	.46	Burials, Open Space	Forestry and Parks

P-7/S-1	School Complex	37.05	Schools and rec. areas	School Dept.
P-8	Union St. Cemetery	.09	Burials, Open Space	Forestry and Parks
P-9	South St. Cemeteries (2)	1.27	Burials, Open Space	Forestry and Parks
P-10	Manley St. Cemetery	.34	Burials, Open Space	Forestry and Parks
P-11	Walnut St. Cemetery	.08	Burials, Open Space	Forestry and Parks
P-12/C-21	Old Railroad grade	11.62 acres	Planned bike/pedestrian trail	Forestry and Parks
P-13	Cochesett Cemetery	.25 acres	Burials, Open Space	Forestry and Parks
S-1/P-7	School complex (above)			
S-2	MacDonald Sch.	27.41	School and rec. area	School Dept.
W-1	Cyr St. well area	201.36 est.	Water supply protection	Town Water Dept.
W-2	Manley St. wells	12.9	Water supply protection	Town Water Dept.
W-3	Robery Farm Site	20.7	Potential well site	Town Water Dept.
W-4	No. Elm Street Tank (Not mapped)	1.03	Water tank	Town Water Dept.
HD-1	Landfill complex	15.64	Landfill / transfer station	Highway Dept.
Co-1	Hockomock Swamp	888.9 in state & town holdings out of 1189.9 total	Wildlife, hiking, Wetlands, flood retention	State Dept. of Fish and Game And Town
Co-2	Forest St. Fish and Game area	300 in state and town holdings	Wildlife, hiking, Wetlands, flood retention	State Dept. of Fish and Game and Town
Co-3	W.B. State Forest	826.18 plus 12.48 acres of Cons. Land; 6 acres of other town land.	Wildlife, skiing, fishing, flood retention, hiking	State Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (ex. DEM)

4**. Other Town Owned Parcels**

In addition to above-described Conservation, Water Department and School Lands, the town owns approximately 49 parcels of miscellaneous holdings, mostly land taken or in the process of being taken for past taxes, totaling about 105.77 acres. Many are extremely small fragments of an acre with little potential except as part of an access to a larger piece backland, a means to fill a gap in an existing holding, or a possible neighborhood tot, while others range from a few acres to 41.35 acres.

This excludes the noted holdings which appear to be part of a conservation or school site or part of the landfill site. Their distribution can be seen on the map of Land of Conservation and recreation interest.

The largest is a 41.35-acre parcel abutting parcels of 6.16 acres and 5.57 acres for a total of 53.08 acres of woodland and swamp. It is in the northeastern corner of the town next to a private golf course and about 1500' from the nearest part of the West Bridgewater State Forest. The Golf course has expressed an interest and the State Division of Fish and Game would be interested if the site were contiguous with the Forest - perhaps by acquisition of some of the intervening woodlands.

Parcels with a potential for filling a gap in a public open space include Map 22-Lot 8 on the southern edge of the State Forest, while parcels offering a chance to complete or extend present holdings include Map 25, Lot 44 next to site C-10, Reynolds Landing, and the wetland parcel Map 38, Lot 45 potentially connecting sites C-4, the North Elm St. Area and C-5, the Spring St. area as discussed above. See the map of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest for possibilities.

An example of a parcel which might best be left as a natural neighborhood backdrop with minimal development is the 5.19 acres of woods on Map 24/Lot 107 nearly surrounded by housing on North Elm Street , Tiffany Circle and Maolis Ave./Wendell Ave.

The parcels in the following list are presumed to be surplus lands or lands taken by tax title or potentially being taken because they are vacant and not listed for any department's uses and are not shown on an aerial photo as holding a present or former town facility such as the land fill. Their status should be confirmed before any related recommendations are pursued.

Table V-4

Vacant, Potentially Surplus Town-Owned Lands

Number	Map	Lot	Street	Acres
1	02	01	Walnut St.	6.16
2	02	03	Walnut St	5.55
3	02	04	Walnut St.	41.35
4	03	11	Turnpike St.	2.60
5	03	12	Turnpike St.	3.60
6	06	03	Walnut St.	.91
7	08	17	Walnut St.	1.91
8	10	08	Roosevelt Ave.	1.07

| | | |

PR-1 War Memorial Park; Map 46, Lots 38,39,75 (4.88 acres plus .74 acre Conservation Parcel Map 46. Lot 74 for a total of 5.62 acres)

The park contains a range of dams, sluices (channels), fish ladders, control structures, mill stones, a partially free-flowing section of the Town River, old foundations and an inoperable replica water wheel. Just downstream is the historic Triple Arch Stone bridge over the Town River. It is a resource worth protecting since there are few such dry (built without mortar) remaining in New England. The park also has four canoe access points and is the site of Pulpit Rock, where Rev. Keith gave his first sermon in 1656.

Access: From River Street, just south of the town center, with off-street parking for 20 vehicles

Condition: Very good with recent improvements for handicapped access and earlier dam repair

Uses: sightseeing, walking, jogging, photography, picnicking, historic study of the original function of the various elements, relaxing, canoe access, portage and rest stop on river trips, and more formal uses such as weddings and the high school graduation ceremony.

Recreation Potential: Increased historic education given an interpretive center and better connections to other sites as part of a proposed greenway

Degree of protection: High as a designated town park under Article 97

Grant assistance: Not for acquisition but site had state aid for planning and dam repairs

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Develop an interpretive center showing the various stages of development and identifying the roles of the remaining elements. As the 1988 Plan noted "This would add much to the visitor's understanding of the Park's extensive vestigial water power works." Consider partial restoration of some deteriorated stone work.

PR-2 Friendship Park

Located on the grounds of the Howard Street School, the 1-acre Friendship Park is a new playground for the Town of West Bridgewater. The Parks Department worked with the town to raise the funding to furnish and landscape the park. On a warm, sunny day many families enjoy playing in there.

Access: Off of Howard Street next to Howard School grounds and Library

Condition: very good as shown in the photo on page V-27

Uses: Very active playground

Recreation Potential: If space allows, a possible adult sitting area, or exercise circuit, or a small adventure playground with safe building materials.

Degree of protection: High as town park land under Article 97

Grant assistance: None Known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations: Excellent facility; continue to maintain and operate as is;

- Possibly add an adult exercise circuit and sitting/socializing benches and tables and/or a small adventure playground area

PR-3 Lion's Club (Francis D. Howe Memorial) Ice Skating Rink On grounds of Fire Department lot, Map 39, Lot 3 (5.1 acres)

During the winter months, depending on the weather, the outdoor ice skating rink is open for residents to enjoy.

Access: Off of Howard Street.

Condition: Good, informal, but well kept:

Uses: Seasonal free ice skating and hockey, and relaxing at an adjacent outdoor fireplace

Recreation potential: Already well-used, possibly a slight expansion to accommodate more skaters and spectators

Degree of protection: Depends on future of this town land behind fire and police stations.

Grant assistance: None for acquisition

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Operate as is
- Add a windscreen to outdoor fireplace or a warming building to better warm cold skaters.

PR-4 Town Hall, Gazebo and Ball Field Map 39 Lot 63 (19.84 acres)

The land surrounding Town Hall is home to a gazebo and a softball field, a Little League field and small buildings used by a recreation organization, the W.B. Softball Association. In the summer months, the gazebo is the centerpiece for a monthly lawn party. Local bands are showcased in the gazebo and the town residents are invited to picnic on the lawn and enjoy the concert.

Access: Off of Main St. from parking lots next to and behind Town Hall.

Condition: Facilities are well-used and well maintained

Uses: Little league baseball and lawn parties

Recreation Potential: Already used intensely for softball, Little League and music, possibly could accommodate a tot lot/small playground

Degree of protection: High as held by the town for recreation purposes, presumably under Article 97.

Zoning: Business in the front and General Residential and Farming to the rear.

Recommendations: Consider adding a tot lot/playground to this very central location.

PR-5 Torrie's Place Playground

Located in a courtyard on the grounds of the Spring Street School, this small playground was built to honor a slain child, and serves the school and its community.

Access: Off of Spring Street just north of Howard Street

Condition: Good, small and well maintained

Uses: Active small playground with uses limited by access only through the school as discussed earlier

Recreation potential: Could be slightly increased with an adult exercise circuit a/o sitting area

Degree of Protection: High as Town park land managed by the Department of Forests and Parks unless school goes out of use, but not necessarily under Article 97.

Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Continue to maintain and operate this excellent facility as it is
- Possibly add an adult exercise circuit and sitting/socializing benches and tables

The town's approximately 76.4 acres of school lands at the High School, Spring Street School, Howard School Complex, and Rose L. MacDonald School include extensive play fields and a track as described below.

PR-6/ S-1 Howard Street Complex, High School, Spring Street School, and Howard Elementary School Complex Spring St. School - Map 38, Lot 99 (21. 12 acres); High School & Howard Elementary School - Map 39, Lot 7 (15.93 acres)

Due to their close proximity the West Bridgewater High School, Spring Street School, and Howard Elementary School are referred to as the Howard School Complex. The Elementary School, once the site of the Howard Seminary for girls, still houses the historic Drury Bell and the original iron and brick seminary entry gates.

The combined school grounds contain:

- A baseball diamond
- A football stadium
- Two soccer fields/ multi-purpose (football/field hockey) fields
- Two volleyball courts
- A batting cage
- A track
- Two tennis courts
- Four basketball backstops and hoops
- The nearby Friendship Park playground
- The nearby Lions' (Francis D. Howe Memorial) Skating Rink

These are used primarily by students and families, who have first priority, but they are open to the public including organized adult sports teams.

Access: From Howard St., West Center Street, and Spring Street.

Conditions: Good, well used and well maintained

Uses: Varied multi-age recreation use as described above.

Recreation Potential: Already extensively developed and used. Possibly some minimal expansion, e.g., of the skating rink

Degree of protection: Moderate ("limited") to High, as school grounds subject to unlikely future reuse.

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Grant Assistance: None known for acquisition

Recommendations: Explore space and facility needs of different activities

PR-7 (C-14) Trucchi's Landing, Across from and SE of Trucchi's Market, Wooded upland sloping to River; Map 40, Lot 12, 5.3 acres

Access: On East Center St., Route 106, with an informal parking area

Condition: Good, as natural stream bank but awkward for boat launching at low water

Uses: Scenic observation, streamside picnicking, fishing, potential canoe and kayak launching area. The site is being improved to mitigate the effects of an off-site state project.

Recreation Potential: Greater Canoe /Kayak put–in /take- out activity for exploring the river given other such facilities along the river.

Degree of protection: High as a town conservation/recreation subject to Article 97

Grant Assistance: No public money, a gift from Trucchi's Markets

Zoning: Business District

Recommendations: Sign site and improve parking, improve the boat launching area by grading it to work better all water levels.

PR-8 (C- 15) Reynolds Landing Map 54, Lot 43, 1.2 ac

Reynolds Landing, located on Ash Street, provides one of three access points to the Town River for canoeing. The Town River connects to the Taunton River in Bridgewater. These rivers are part of the Wampanoag canoe passage that is 72 miles long and runs from Scituate to Fall River. At one-acre, the site is the smallest of all the conservation areas but is the most heavily used.

Access: The site and the River are accessible from Ash Street. It is well marked and has adequate parking.

Uses: Access point to River for boating and sightseeing. Swimming?

Degree of Protection: High as conservation land subject to Article 97

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendations:

- Consult with canoeists and kayakers for any needed improvements
- Add a sitting area.

- Consider integration with 1.42-acre adjacent town land to the north (U-23) and acquisition of adjacent 28.05-acre private holding downstream (U-15).

PR-9 (S-2) Rose L. MacDonald School Map 37, Lot 019 (27.41 acres)

The 34.6-acre (2000 Plan) Rose L MacDonald School (Assessors maps only show 27.41 acres) is located 1500' in from North Elm Street and has a potential play field, and a small modern playground. The site is used primarily by school children and neighborhood families.

Access: By a long driveway off of North Elm Street, a paved walkway in from Crescent Street, and an informal walkway along an emergency access r.o.w. from Goldie Road.

Condition: Good condition, well maintained. See photo on page V-40.

Uses: School site with new compact playground

Recreation Potential: Possible addition of a playfield, if needed.

Degree of Protection: Low (temporary) as long as the school is needed.
Grant Assistance: None known

Zoning: General Residential and Farming

Recommendation: If needed, consider expanding the facility to serve a wider age/interest range.

SR- 1 Hockomock River canoe access point and parking area off Route 106 (West Center St.) maintained by the State Department of Fish and Game

Access: South of Route 106, West Center St. via an unsigned driveway and a small dirt parking lot.

Condition: Fair, minimal parking lot, awkward launching area

Uses: Access point to River for carry-in boating.

Recreation Potential: Possible increased use with signage, better parking area, improved launching area, and more put-in/take-out spots along the river system.

Degree of Protection: High (In perpetuity) as state recreation/conservation land presumably under Article 97

Grant Assistance: Unknown, developed and maintained by state

Zoning: Industrial

Recommendation:

- Consult with canoeists and kayakers for any needed improvement such as slight grading for easier access to the water
- Add a sitting area.
- Consider integration with of proposed Shaw land acquisition (U-22).
- Add signage on Route 106

2. Private Facilities

PF-1 Golf City Map 46 Parcel 25; An 18.55-acre private compact par-three golf course and miniature golf course and support facilities next to the town center. Not under C 61B The Facility is sited partially under a power line.

PF-2 Driving Range. A golf driving range, support facilities and restaurant on a 22.00 acre Ch.61B site (#41) (Map 32/Parcel 51) north of the town center



Golf City

PF-3 Brockton Country Club (Satucket Athletic Assoc.) under C.61B. It straddles town line with access from Copland St. in Brockton. Map 6/ Parcel 2 (61B) 53.15 acres in West Bridgewater

PF-4 White Pine Golf Course (Brockton Golf Realty) under C.61B. It straddles the town line with most of the course in Brockton and access from Copeland St. Map 10, parcels 5,6,10, and 11 totaling 14.29 acres in West Bridgewater.

PF-5 River Bend Golf Course under C. 61B A scenic course along the Town River on the former Hayward Farm. Map 47, Parcel 45 (167.3 acres)

3. Semi-Public Lands Overlapping with the above is the amorphous category of "Semi-Public Lands." This is used by the Division of Conservation Services in correspondence, but is not defined in the most recent (2008) Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook.

.

The term is assumed to refer to:

- Publically-owned land with a recreation/open space value held for another purpose like a capped but open and scenic landfill or the grounds of a hospital or college, whether or not protected
- Private recreation and open space facilities which the public may use for a fee, as at a campground, or a private golf course, whether or not protected
- Protected land held by a non-profit land trust (like the Wildands Trust) for public use consistent with its regulations
- Land held by a private trust (not a non-profit land trust) for its own exclusive use.

The first are public but not intended for open space or recreation use. The second are intended for such uses whether or not protected, but are not public, though the public may be allowed during an off-season."
The third are purely private lands, often of great open space and recreation value, whether or not protected.

The fourth refers to such land when held for private use.

Another potentially confusing category is private land which is protected under a Conservation Restriction which may or may not allow public access.

These all may seem more like a public open space than, for example, a private back yard, and the term remains a very broad description. The sites of greatest interest are discussed above under "Unprotected Public and Private Lands of Special Conservation and Recreation Interest beginning on page V-5.

The town's recreation facilities are summarized below and are discussed further in Chapter VII, Analysis of Needs.

Table V-5
Total Recreation Facilities

Type	Location	Size/Capacities/Facilities	Public
Community Parks			
War Memorial Park	River St.	5.62 acres	
Playgrounds.			
Friendship Park	Howard Sch. Grounds	Swings, slides, Climbing structures etc.	
Torrie's Place	At Spring St. School	Small Playground	
MacDonald School	On School Grounds	Small playground / totlot See Page V-32	
Lions Club Ice Skating Rink	Off Howard St.	Big enough for several hockey games and free skating	**S kati ng Rin**
	Ball Fields		
Baseball Diamond (Plus a batting cage)	At Howard St. Complex	Standard	
Little League Field	Next to Town Hall	Standard size	
Softball field	" " " "	Standard size	
Football Field	At Howard St. Complex	Standard size, no bleachers?	
Soccer/ multi-purpose fields	" " " "	Two	
Volleyball Courts	" " " "	Two	
Tennis Courts	At Howard St. Complex	Three	
Basketball back stops and hoops	At Howard St. Complex	Four	
Track	At Howard St. Complex	One	
Boat Landings			
Reynolds Landing	Off of Ash St.	Small level canoe/kayak area	
Hockomock River Canoe access	Off Rte. 106	Small canoe/kayak area w/ parking	
Private			
Golf Courses			
Golf City	Rtes. 28/106	Small par-three course and miniature golf course	
River Bend Golf Course	Along the Town River on former Hayward Farm.	167.3 acres	
Brockton Country Club St.	Access from Copeland in Brockton	53.15 acres in W.B.	
White Pine Golf Course	From Copeland St.	14.29 acres in W. B.	
Driving Range	Rte. 28 north of the center	Mid-sized range.	

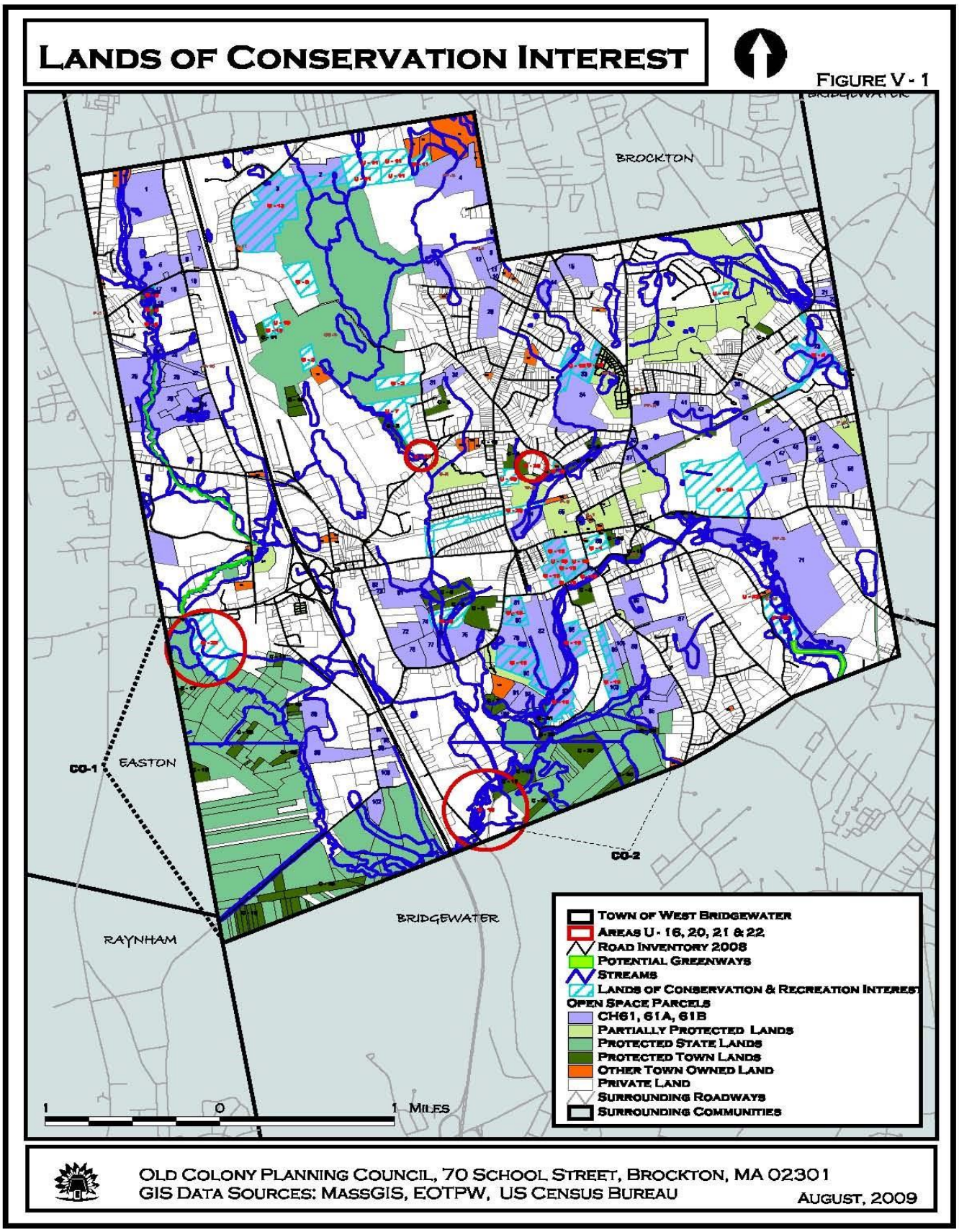
ks

Town River ("Trucci's") Landing	Off East Center St.	Small sloping landing under development

The overall "Summary of Public and Non-Profit Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest" follows as Table V-6 and these sites are shown on the subsequent map, "Lands of Conservation Interest," Figure V-1.

E. Environmental Justice/Open Space Equity

As shown on the Environmental Justice Map (Figure IV-13), there are no Environmental Justice Areas in the relatively homogenous town of West Bridgewater and the present and proposed open space and recreation areas shown on Figure IX-1 are well dispersed, leaving no local issues of Open Space Equity. At the same time, the open space proposals near the Brockton line would help to improved regional Open Space Equity by adding accessible resources close to Environmental Justice areas in the city. See pages IV 34-35.


LANDS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST
FIGURE V - 1
BROCKTON
EASTON
RAYNHAM
BRIDGEWATER
CO-1
CO-2
TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
AREAS U - 16, 20, 21 & 22
ROAD INVENTORY 2008
POTENTIAL GREENWAYS
STREAMS
LANDS OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION INTEREST
OPEN SPACE PARCELS
CH61, 61A, 61B
PARTIALLY PROTECTED LANDS
PROTECTED STATE LANDS
PROTECTED TOWN LANDS
OTHER TOWN OWNED LAND
PRIVATE LAND
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
1 0 1 MILES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, US CENSUS BUREAU
AUGUST, 2009

VI Community Goals

The present goals very much build on those developed in 1988 and 1999 since the town is growing slowly and the population and context have changed little

A. 1988 Background

The 1988 Bay Circuit Open Space Plan set the foundation for the progress West Bridgewater has made over the past ten years. The community worked together to reclaim the historic mill site and turn it into the town's favorite location.

The town raised the funds to build a new town playground, Friendship Park, and an ice skating rink. As a result of the 1988 plan, an Open Space Committee was formed and it began actively pursuing open space opportunities for the future. In 1994 the town adopted zoning provisions which protect its well recharge areas. (Other achievements are described in the 2009 Plan Summary, Chapter I.)

B. Description of the 1999 Process

The open space goals for the 1999 plan were formulated with community participation through public fora and surveys. Additionally, informal interviews with town officials and knowledgeable citizens helped to gather and incorporate public input to the planning process. The 1999 plan was developed by students from the Conway School of Landscape Design under the guidance of the 12-member Open Space Committee and the Old Colony Planning Council.

Public meetings to gather input were held on February 18 and March 11, 1999 after extensive publicity, and surveys were conducted in 1996 and 1999. The 20 residents at the first forum heard presentations on the process, town history, and the study's finding to date, and then broke into smaller groups to discuss the favorite places in the town and to identify concerns, opportunities for improvement, and possible future open space actions.

Seventeen residents attended the March 11 meeting as well as several town commission and the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. The students presented their analysis of the town and a draft of proposed goals, objectives, and actions as well as a draft action plan targeting critical areas to conserve. An active discussion followed regarding farm protection, zoning revisions, and the implications of the upcoming master plan. The following 1999 goals statement reflects this process:

> As West Bridgewater moves into the 21st Century, the challenge of retaining its rural character is ever present. With development becoming more frequent and farming becoming less cost-effective, much of the town's remaining rural land and agricultural

open space is in danger. Already, fragmented forests, inaccessible conservation lands, and the loss of scenic resources and wildlife habitat are critical issues. The town has a limited budget for purchasing and maintaining these recreation and conservation lands. Now is the time to step back and decide what is important for maintaining the quality of life West Bridgewater as known for hundreds of years. Preserving West Bridgewater's rural character, protecting the natural environment, and providing adequate recreational areas and facilities for people of all ages and abilities are the overall goals of this plan.

C. 2008, 2009 Process

The revised goals below reflect subsequent work and meetings with the 2007-2008 Open Space Plan Committee. Building on past achievements as described in Chapter II. As noted there, there were nine meetings of the Committee, some with participating visitors, and one meeting was advertised and posted as a public participation session. The town's needs were identified by reviewing the following overall goals along with the present resources and related opportunities in Chapter VII. These findings were then expanded into the more detailed programmatic statement of Goals and Objectives in Chapter VIII.

D. 2009 Goals

The proposed 2009 goals are similar to the 1988 and 1999 goals, but modified to reflect recent changes and opportunities.

As the town moves further into the 21st Century, maintaining its rural character is evermore challenging. With on-going commercial, light industrial and residential development reflecting the accessibility provide by nearby restored commuter rail service and Route 24 at the same time that most farming remains unprofitable, West Bridgewater's valued landscape is increasingly endangered. The remaining open fields tantalizingly remind us of what has been West Bridgewater's long-term landscape. This is particularly noticeable east of Rte. 24 where low-density traditional housing and farm fields have been rezoned for business reflecting the adjacent highway more than the area's scenic character or resources.

Fortunately, the town's limited budget for purchasing and maintaining recreation and conservation land has been enhanced by money from the Community Preservation Fund Act. This may allow further actions in pursuit the 1988 and 1999 goals and the 2008 Goals and Objectives. Accordingly it is all the more important to "Step back and decide what is important" for maintaining West Bridgewater's long-term visual character and quality of life. The result follows:

West Bridgewater's 2009 Overall Community Vision and Conservation, Recreation and Resource Protection Goals Overall Goals

To achieve its Vision of a mixed community combining a strong traditional center with varied neighborhoods and a combination of woodlands, marshes, open grasslands, and productive agriculture and protected water resources.

To do so by preserving West Bridgewater's rural character, protecting its natural environment, and providing adequate, challenging recreation resources for all.

Related Goals - and Implied Objectives to be spelled out in Ch. VIII Goals and Objectives Open Space Related

1. To retain or provide some significant open space and recreation land in or near all neighborhoods to serve as their focus or backdrop.

2. To create a town-wide, regionally-oriented network of related open spaces and habitat areas

.

3. To enhance and protect major public holdings by acquisition of key in-holdings and abutting properties.

Water Related

4. To continue to identify and protect key water resources and recharge areas, particularly by adopting low impact design (LID) principles in the Subdivision Rules and Regulations

5. To protect environmentally sensitive areas and resources including the quality and capacity of the public water supply

6. To protect the riparian areas of the Town and Taunton Rivers and related streams and ponds

Habitat Related

7. To identify and protect key habitat, particularly those for endangered and threatened species

8. To especially protect a variety of forest, wetlands, edge, and (increasingly endangered) grasslands and pond shore habitat.

9. To establish streamside greenbelts, even if discontinuous, along West Bridgewater's portion of the joint West Bridgewater/Bridgewater Town River Greenway proposed by Bridgewater, and along other major streams.

Recreation Related

10. To seek to meet traditional recreational needs and to exploit any unique local or regional resources or opportunities.

11. To increase access to water bodies for a range of water sports

12. To improve the local pedestrian and bicycle systems for pleasure and for functional use to reach schools, stores and other local destinations.

Agriculture Related

13. To support retention /adaptation of local agriculture by various means including passage of a Right to Farm bylaw, creation of a town Agricultural Commission, encouraging Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs), designating community garden space for people with small, shaded or rocky yards, acquiring valuable productive land, directing large-scale commercial and industrial development away from good farmland, and leasing suitable public land to farmers

Landscape / Historic Preservation Oriented

14. To protect West Bridgewater's major landscape resources and historic features through a variety of direct and regulatory measures, such as adoption of a demolition delay bylaw and an open space residential development (OSRD) bylaw.

Implementation Related

15. To work with diverse local and regional planning and action bodies such as the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts, the Nature Conservancy, the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater, the Taunton River Watershed Alliance, The Taunton River Watershed Campaign, and the Old Colony Planning Council.

16. To adopt an Open Space Residential (Cluster) zoning bylaw to allow probable development while preserving key open space resources.

VII Analysis of Needs

A. Open Space / Resource Protection Needs

West Bridgewater's Resource Protection needs include:

Acquisition of in-holdings around the State Forest
- Bird-friendly mowing practices at golf courses and grasslands holdings
- Protection of remaining Cumberland Farms fields.
- Acquisition of scattered open space areas enhancing immediate neighborhoods
- Creation of a schematic town-wide open space system
- Adopting regulations requiring Low Impact (maximum recharge) Design (LID) in new or retrofitted projects
- Protecting the variable shoreline habitat needed by some species
- Appropriately managing edge habitat along power lines
- Cooperation with the Town River Fisheries Committee and others to maintain /operate the Iron Works (Stanley) dam controlling the Town River Pond
- Acquisition of in-holdings needed to protect/expand the State Forest

B. Community Recreation Needs

Standards There is no easy way to measure the need for recreation faculties. The state has quantitative guidelines suggesting the number of acres of a particular facility type needed for a given population. These are found in past Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) and are applied below. However, as the Plan acknowledges in reviewing varying regional interests and demands, such standards do not recognize that the demand for a facility or activity reflects many factors including the population's age groups, sex, income, and ethnic traditions; local patterns of interests; and the present opportunities. Also, the past standards focus on facilities for competitive team sports and are less helpful in measuring the need for places for individual, less formal, activities such as hiking, fishing, swimming, skateboarding, bicycling, gardening or camping.

In addition, reliance on such published standards alone could lead to missing unique local opportunities such as:
- Gardening on former farm fields
- Hiking, sledding or skiing over a properly-shaped capped landfill
- Canoeing on local streams
- Motorized sports like dirt bike riding in an old sand pit.

The Traditional public recreation facility definitions and past standards follow:

- Tot Lots One half-acre for each 1000 persons in densely-populated neighborhoods. The population served would live within one-quarter mile. Facilities should include swings, slides and other equipment for five year olds.

  (Ideally they would also have facilities or activities for accompanying adults, e,g., sitting areas, tables and benches, and/or exercise circuits.) In a low-density town like West Bridgewater, smaller numbers would need to be served by each lot to get a better distribution town-wide.

- Playgrounds: Playgrounds serve as outdoor games centers for particular neighborhoods. Facilities should include play devices, running areas, swings and benches. Larger playgrounds should include an area for tot lot activities. Some standards require a 5-acre minimum size. The published standards require one acre per 250 children of elementary school age in densely populated neighborhoods, and a service area radius of one-quarter mile.

  Comment: The need for playgrounds and tot lots may seem to be less in low-density, relatively affluent communities where many families have large yards, but these facilities can allow children (and parents) more interaction than is available in isolated private yards.

- Community Parks: These serve the entire community and provide a large contiguous open space area for town residents. Some standards call for 20 or more acres for a community park.

- Neighborhood Park: A neighborhood park is similar to a community park, but serves a smaller geographic area. The purpose of this type of park is to provide water, forest, or landscaped settings as an aesthetic release from development. Past standards for neighborhood parks are one-half acre serving a one-quarter to one-half mile radius. This need maybe less when individual house lots are large, but there still could be value to a gathering place.

- Playfields: Playfields are a community's center for outdoor sports competition for all ages, but especially for teenagers and adults. They can be all-purpose (available for both spontaneous and organized activities) or specialized, i.e. designed specifically for use as baseball, football or soccer field to meet dimensional standards. Past SCORP guidelines called for 3 acres per 1,000 residents, with a minimum size of 10 acres. Playfields also require a parking area with adequate number of parking spaces.
  .

2. Regional Demands or needs are suggested by the present use of facilities in Southeastern Massachusetts. An extract from the discussion in the current SCORP, "Massachusetts Outdoors 2006" follows:

Demand in the Southeastern Region

Activities

By a wide margin, the three most popular individual activities in the Southeastern Region are close in percentages: swimming at 60.1%, sightseeing, tours and events at 57.3% and walking at 57.1%. In fact, the sightseeing, tours, and events category received its highest level of interest statewide in this region. Well below that level of participation, substantial numbers also enjoy playground activities (37.9%), fishing (34.2%), and hiking (32.6%). Nearly one quarter of the population of this region has experience during the year with golfing (24%), and watching wildlife and nature study (23.7%). Lesser, but still significant, numbers (10-20%) also experience picnicking, sunbathing, biking (both types), skiing (downhill), non-motorized boating (motor boating is just under 10%), and canoeing.

When grouped by type of activity, the water-based activities predominate, but as in other regions, there is strong participation in some dimension of each type. A rough rank order would be water-based, passive, trail-based, field-based, and wilderness activities.

While one community with few major hills and a small population cannot be expected to meet all the regional needs or desires, this extract does suggest meeting desires such as swimming, hiking and biking that can be done locally, as well as making some provision for field sports and other more organized activities.

Regional Interests/Desires

Earlier surveys included in the 2006 SCORP indicate the following levels of participation (i.e. one visit in the last 12 months) in major activities particularly where regional participation rates differ greatly from the state rates. See Table VII-1. These presumably reflect a combination of interest and opportunity. The table also shows the comparative percentage of residents seeking different types of facility state-wide and regionally. These may offer some insights into local as well as regional needs and desires.

Table VII-1

Participation Rates and Expressed Needs in State and Southeastern Massachusetts

Activity	Statewide % population participating	SE Massachusetts % of population participating	Statewide % Expressing needs	SE Mass. % Expressing needs
Field-based Activities				
Baseball	6.4	1.9	5.3	6.7
Basketball	5.6	2.5	6.2	1.8
Playground activity	26.1	37.9	9.9	8.3
Soccer	2.6	0	3.0	4.0
Tennis	2.2	.7	6.0	4.3

Rink Skating	.1	0	2.4	2.7
Golfing	24.7	24.0	7.9	10.7
Volleyball	2.5	1.7	1.1	.6
Toddlers/Tot lots	5.5	5.2	1.6	2.1
Passive /Natural Activities				
Picnicking	22.6	17.5	3.1	1.4
Nature Study/Wildlife	21.7	23.7	2.2	3.4
Sightseeing/Events	54	57.3	2.3	1.6
Trail–Based				
Mountain biking	12.5	9.6	6.7	5.3
Road biking	15.8	18.3	12.9	17.6
Roller blading	2.7	4.2	3.0	2.6
Cross country skiing	3.2	2.5	1.3	.6
Downhill Skiing	7.6	10.9	1.3	.6
Snowmobiling	.9	0	.6	.0
Horseback Riding	.8	1.1	1.2	1.7
ATV Riding	.7	.9	0	0
Running/Jogging	3.9	4.3	3.0	4.5
Water-Based				0
Non-motorized boating	7.8	14.1	1.0	0
Motorized Boating	8.2	9.0	1.7	1.4
Surfing	.9	.9	.2	1.2
Canoeing/rafting	8.5	13.6	1.5	1.9
Fishing	26.5	34.2	4.3	5.9
Pond Hockey	.3	0	1.6	.6
Pond skating	1.8	3.3	1.1	.9
Sailing	2.5	5.1	.6	.0
Swimming	54.6	60.1	14.8	14.8
Water Skiing/jet skiing	1.9	.7	.2	0
Wilderness Activities				
Camping	7.7	9.1	2.9	3.8
Hiking	30.8	32.6	7.1	10.2
Hunting	2.7	3.5	.3	0

Source Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, pp. 50 and 56

Areas where regional usage and expressed regional interest both exceed state levels presumably are the areas of greatest demand, while those where only interest exceeds state levels may reflect slightly lesser demand (or conversely a lack of opportunities reflecting need.) For the present purposes this report assumes that the first group indicates the greatest need/demand and that the second group comes next.

The first group where the usage and expressed need equaled or exceeding state levels includes:

Nature Study/Wildlife
Road Biking
Horseback Riding
Canoeing/ Rafting
Fishing
Camping
Running/Jogging
Hiking
Swimming

The second group in which only the stated regional need exceeded state needs were:

Playground activity
Baseball
Soccer
Rink Skating
Golfing
Toddlers/Tot Lots

The third category in which regional participation exceeds state-wide participation rates, and stated regional needs are less than stated state-wide needs, presumably reflect relatively adequate local and regional facilities.

Some of the desired facilities may be more suited to other parts of the region than to West Bridgewater, but they can suggest opportunities, e.g. to add tot lots to playgrounds, to add or improve bike paths and to develop/expand swimming facilities at existing ponds.

Local Needs

An approach to identifying/measuring local need is to compare a community's resources with standards adopted by urban-oriented national recreation associations. The 2000 and 2006 SCORPs offer no standards for local open space and recreation facilities but standards published in earlier SCORP reports suggest the following present and future needs:

Item/ Standards	Population	Supply	Calculated Total Need/ Net Need
Playgrounds			
One acre Per 250 Elem Age. Children (.6 acre)	2000 population 5-14 years old, 835	Town has . three small sites totaling a bout 26,000 s.f.	3.34 acres/ 2.74 acres
Tot Lots			
Half an acre per 1000 pop, w/i 6,634 ¼ mile	Total pop. 2000 pop. . count	None unless the 3 small playgrounds	3 lots on 3.3 acres/ preferably
Park			**Community**
20+ acres One /community more concentrated and		5.62 acres at War memorial Park; varied but w/o large open spaces	One such park
Playfields			
Three acres / 1000 pop. Some at 10 acres each	Total pop. 6,634	Town has an est. 8.2 acres at three sites.	On a population basis town needs 9.9 acres
Tennis Courts			
None known		Town has three	Unknown

Since these standards were designed for dense neighborhoods with little informal open space and small yards (and since they omit other interests such as skate boarding), they may greatly over-state measured needs, while missing more current needs and possibilities, Hence they are only suggestive of needs in West Bridgewater.

In addition to the needs suggested by the SCORP Surveys and standards in SCORP reports, input from the Open Space Committee and guests, and observations of present resources and activities suggests local needs/opportunities for:

- Varied recreation facilities serving all population groups and exploiting many local opportunities

- Swimming facilities - The lack of a known designated swimming area at the State Forest or other ponds suggests creating /enhancing a natural swimming area at West Meadow Pond or elsewhere where water quality permits it.

- Space for motorized "Bad Lands" activities such as riding all terrain vehicles (ATVs), trail bikes or snowmobiles - possibly along selected power lines.

- A skate board/in-line skating and stunt bicycle park

- An adopted town-wide system of single-use or joint-use pedestrian and bicycle trails, and bride paths, along with potential trail bike and snow mobile trails. The bike/pedestrian system should be binding on new development so that the paved offstreet walkways and bikeways encouraged under the subdivision Rules and Regulations are able to tie into the over-all system.

- Space for community gardens for people with land that is too rocky, wet, or shaded for a home garden.

- Handicapped accessibility to all feasible sites and facilities, particularly at the iconic War Memorial Park

- Local family tot lots with adult sitting areas, tables and exercise circuits

- Cooperation with any proposed multi-community recreation use of the capped East Bridgewater BFI land fill at the Brockton/East Bridgewater lines, e.g. through Small Town Urban Self Help funds - now called PARC funds.

- Upgrading the War Memorial Park with a visitor center, interpretive display, increased handicapped accessibility, and selective restoration of the stone works

- Increased access to present or potential streamside trails along streams such as the Coweeset Brook going through public and Ch. 61A lands, and along portions of the Hockomock River and the Town River itself.

- Filling gaps in routes to school with sidewalks, bike paths and off-road trails where appropriate

- Creation / adoption of a binding schematic town-wide bicycle/pedestrian trail system

- Enhanced boating opportunities with new or improved put-in/take-out facilities at Reynolds Landing, Trucchi's Landing, and the Hockomock River Landing, along with the Forest Street/Town River bridge and any other sites

- Improved access to the Skim Milk Bridge and integration of nearby stream-side land recently donated Cumberland Farms with present holdings.

- Extension of the proposed rail trail to the track east of East St. and on to any potential added "Eastdale" or "Westdale" commuter rail station to the south, and to Matfield Street to the north.

C. Management Needs

- Consolidation of ownership/management of scattered holdings by transfer of town parcels surrounded by state lands to the state, and by transfer of isolated state parcels to the town.

Examination of the Goals Statement in Chapter VI in the context of present holdings and resources produced the above review of remaining needs and opportunities to affect those goals. Though not subject to a separate vote, this statement of remaining needs was implicitly approved in the final report accepted by the Open Space Plan Committee.

The combination of Goals and remaining Needs in turn suggests linking related Goals with more tangible Objectives as called for in the Open Space Plan Requirements. These recommended Goals and Objectives are discussed in the next chapter (VIII) and were in the final plan approved by the Open Space Plan Committee. The Goals and Objectives then led to the heart of the Plan, the Seven Year Action Program in Chapter IX.

VIII Goals and Objectives

("U" items refer to unprotected or minimally protected Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest mapped and listed in Chapter V.)

The following Goals and Objectives are derived from the previous background and inventory chapters and from Chapter VI, Community Goals and Chapter VII, Open Space, Resource Protection Needs. The items reflect past work with the Open Space Plan Committee and other participants.

The chapter mentions specific parcels when necessary for clarity and makes a more general statement when a town-wide action, e.g., monitoring eutrophication, is proposed.

Goals
Open Space Related

1. To retain or provide some significant open space and recreation land in or near all neighborhoods to serve as the neighborhood focus or backdrop.

A. Objective- Acquisition of 21.27 acres of Ch.61 woodlands (25/40) ranked highest (55) by the Manomet Center, shown as Supporting Natural Landscape on the BioMap, offering a permanent wooded backdrop to surrounding neighborhoods. This has frontage on Copeland St., and abuts a major Ch.61 holding. This also supports Goal #3. (U-12)

2. To create a town-wide, regionally-oriented network of related open spaces and habitat areas

A. Objective- Identification of opportunities to tie together conservation lands, agricultural lands, wildlands and other resources along the Coweeset Brook/Hockomock River Corridor as suggested in the 1999 Open Space Plan. (Includes U-5, U-22, U-24 and generalized U-25)

B. Objective- Exploration of opportunities to jointly manage Town River Pond in cooperation with the Town of Bridgewater and the owners of the Stanley Mill Dam

C. Objective- Exploration of opportunities for cooperative management of town land in the northeastern corner of the town with the owners of the adjacent golf courses, of intervening land next to the State Forest, and of related undeveloped land in Brockton, and with interested state agencies; develop and implement an action program connecting these. (U-11) This could create a needed wildlife corridor.

3. To enhance and protect major public holdings by acquisition of key in-holdings And abutting properties.

A. Objective - State acquisition of parcel 8/19 offering 16.47 acres of mixed woods abutting the ("Hunting Allowed') State Forest on two sides and close to West Meadow Pond, thereby expanding the Forest and partially precluding further residential intrusions into it (U-9)

B. Objective-State or Town acquisition of parcels 15/8 & 9. (U-10) and parcel 22/7 (U-3) The first two parcels hold 6.97 acres of mixed woods between town holding C-11 and the State Forest, while the second is a wooded in-holding surrounded by State Forest or town land.

C. Objective-Town or State acquisition of 21.96 acres on parcel 30/20 between the State Forest, the Mill Pond (C-2), and the Stoney Road neighborhood in order to expand, connect and improve access to these holdings. (U-7)

D. Objective-State acquisition of in-holding parcel l23/14, to add 10.08 acres (minus a lot for an existing building) to expand the Forest and preclude future use conflicts such as hunting near houses. (U-2)

E. Objective-Cooperative acquisition of 71.15 acres of Ch. 61A pasture and woods between the northwest corner of the Forest and Walnut St. (ranked second highest in conservation value by Manomet at 54), thereby expanding the northern edge of the Forest near Environmental Justice neighborhoods in Brockton and protecting habitat and meadows. (U-13)

Water Related

4. To continue to identify and protect key water resources and recharge areas

A. Objective-Acquisition of a land-locked 4.38-acre wooded private parcel (19/11) crossed by a north-south powerline just east of the Matfield Woods housing development and abutting well-protection land on three sides, thereby expanding well protection holdings and adding permanent open space (U-17)

B. Objective-Confirmation/revision of the present Zone II recharge areas, if needed

C. Objective - Acquisition of land directly west of the Manley Street wells to further protect them (U-22)

5. To protect environmentally-sensitive areas including the quality and capacity of the Public water supply

A. Objective-Adoption and implementation of any needed local regulations supporting the new state storm water regulations and encouraging/requiring Low Impact Development (LID).

B. Objective- Monitoring and identification of sources of any eutrophication in the Town's ponds.

6. To protect the riparian areas of the Town River and various streams

A. Objective- Acquisition of two 61A parcels (14/24; 84 acres, and 14/25; 2.56 acres) along Coweeset Brook between the present 14/45 streamside conservation holding C-1 and a .69-acre town holding, 14/45, recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission (U-5)

B. Objective - Transfer of parcel 14/45 above, to the Conservation Commission. (U-24)

C. Objective- Improved access to the Skim Milk Bridge holdings C-18 (72/2,3 and 66/6) as discussed in Chapter V by acquiring easements along portions of parcels 71/11 west of the River, 72/2 east of the river, or 72/3 east of the paper Maple Street and the abutting riverside town holding 72/1 (U-16) This would build on past communication between the Board of Selectmen and Cumberland Farms management and incorporate recent gifts from the firm.

D. Seek access to the Coweeset Brook along portion of Ch 61,61A and 61B parcels 14/ 25, 26, 30 and 36.

E. Examine the proposed gift from Supervalu Inc. (owners of Shaw's Markets) of an estimated 30 acres of wetlands and woods along the Hockomock River south of Rte. 106 and next to the state canoe launching area, and recommend the appropriate long-term ownership and management. The land has been proposed to go to a non-profit land trust which would hold and manage it in consultation with the town.

Habitat Related

7. To identify and protect key habitat, particularly for endangered and threatened species

A. Objective- Acquisition of parcels 51/14, and 17/24, 25 for 14.82 acres of Estimated Habitat woods and wetlands within and south of the Flaggy Meadow holdings and incorporating them in that area. (U-16)

B. Objective- Enhancement of habitat connectivity by connecting town woodland (2/1, 3, 4 and 6/3) in the northwest corner of West Bridgewater with the State Forest by acquiring 34.64 acres of woodlands (a large portion of the town's 1830 Primary Forest) on parcels
5/2, 3, 4, 6 and 6/1, and a portion of the 132.79-acre parcel 5/2 in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game. This implements Objective 2-B. (U-11)

8. To especially protect a variety of forest, wetlands, edge, and increasingly endangered grasslands and pond shore habitat.

A. Objective. Acquisition of parcel 46/15, offering 7.62 acres of wet meadow under C. 61A next to the Richards donation, C- 16. (U-1)

B. Objective - Acquisition of parcel 48/8, with 72.97 acres of very scenic wet meadows and fields (" The Tedeschi land") backing onto major wetlands which abut the forthcoming rail trail. Use for open space, grasslands habitat, and leased farming. (U-14)

C. Objective- Establishment of nesting-friendly mowing practices in major grasslands such as the Tedeschi fields (U-14)

9. To establish a greenbelt, even if discontinuous, along West Bridgewater's portion of the joint West Bridgewater/Bridgewater Town River Greenway proposed by Bridgewater

A. Objective- Acquisition of parcel 54/42, offering 28.05 acres of low-lying land along the Town River and just downstream of Reynolds Landing (C-10) on Ash Street and across from the River Bend Golf Course, and incorporating the adjacent 142-acre upstream town parcel if appropriate. This also supports goal #4. (U-15), (U-23)

B. Objective- Integration of an adjacent 1.42-acre town-owned parcel to the north (54/44) with Reynolds Landing if appropriate.(U-26)

C. Objective- Exploration of a continued trail from the land above to the Stanley Dam/Iron Works Park in Bridgewater. (U-27).

Recreation Related

10. To seek to meet traditional recreational needs and to exploit any unique local or regional opportunities.

A. Objective- Acquisition of 26.89-arce parcel 20/63, former railroad r.o.w, now under Ch.61A , running in a deep cut from the recently acquired r.o.w ending at East St. to the tracks, and potentially extending the future trail to Matfield Street and to any prospective commuter rail station; design and implement appropriate connections and grading. (U-4) This also supports goal 10.

B. Objective- Exploration and, if feasible, development of a three-community (Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, and Brockton) recreation facility at the capped BFI landfill in East Bridgewater, possibly through state PARC funds (the former small town Urban Self Help program), along with Federal Land and Water Conservation Act funds and Community Preservation funds. (U-28)

C. Objective- Creation of an appropriate all terrain vehicle (ATV)/ trail bike riding area in a badlands setting such as a remote old sand pit

D. Objective- Expansion of the State Park and establishment of simple tenting areas

E. Objective- Designation/establishment of community gardens for people with small, shaded or rocky yards, possibly at the Tedeschi property, if acquired. (U-14)

F. Objective- Creation /adoption of a binding town-wide bicycle/pedestrian system

11. To increase access to water bodies for a range of water sports

A. Objective - Improved signage to West Meadow Pond in the State Forest and improved trails around the pond giving better access to the whole pond

B. Objective - Getting access to the Millpond (Town holding C-2) from Crescent St. by negotiating an easement through parcel 30/4 containing the mill dam or through adjacent parcel 30/6, or by a small acquisition. (U-21)

C. Objective - Exploring water quality concerns and other considerations affecting a potential beach on West Meadow Pond and implementing it if feasible.

C. Objective - Establishment of a kayak/canoe loan or rental program on a pond or stream, e.g., West Meadow Pond, Reynolds Landing, or Trucchi's Landing

12. To improve the local pedestrian and bicycle system for pleasure riding and functional access to schools and other local destinations.

A. Objective- Acquisition of parcel 38/85 between two portions of holding C-4. This needs an easement or another small acquisition to complete a proposed path between North Elm and Spring Streets and on to North Main Street. (U-20)

B. Objective- Transfer of the Town-owned 2.72-acre wetlands parcel 38/95 connecting holdings C-4 and C-5, to the Conservation Commission and installation of a boardwalk allowing walking to the MacDonald School from the neighborhoods to the east. (U-6) This might be done by replacing a boardwalk which formerly ran through these wetlands.

Agriculture Related

13. To support retention/adaptation of local agriculture by various means including passage of a Right to Farm bylaw, creation of an Agricultural Commission, encouraging Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APRs), designating community garden space for people with small, shaded, or rocky yards, acquiring available productive land, and leasing suitable public land to farmers

A. Objective- Acceptance of the (Estimated Habitat) Anderson Farm holdings into the Agricultural Protection Restriction (APR) program allowing continued farming of approximately 121 acres of hay and grain fields and pasture including three parcels fronting on the Town River. This includes parcels 45/44,45; 49,50,59; 46/82; 52/25,28; 53/25; and 59/8,16. (U-19) (Since accomplished)

B Objective- Passage of a Right to Farm bylaw with help from the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council (PRC and D).

C. Objective - Establishment of an Agricultural Commission in cooperation with the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council.

D. Objective- An inventory and analysis of remaining farmland, whether or not under current use taxation, to target farms for outreach and land preservation work

E. Objective - Working with the Planning Board to identify and remedy areas where zoning is inconsistent with agricultural preservation.

Landscape /Historic Preservation Related

14. To protect West Bridgewater's major landscapes and historic resources

A. Objective - Improvement of War Memorial Park with an interpretive center, and possibly
an historically accurate replica of early facilities such as a water wheel, where appropriate, and improved handicapped access.

B. Objective-Repair of the Triple Arch Bridge's underlying stonework and any comparable historic artifacts

C. Objective- Acquisition of the open, scenic Tedeschi Fields (U-14)

D. Protection of major (and local) vistas, possibly by developing guidelines encouraging developers to site houses at a right angle to the road rather than parallel to it, and by adopting provisions (like some in Bridgewater) giving developers a density incentive to do small subdivisions rather developing along the road frontage.

E. Objective - Identification and Designation of Scenic Roads

F. Objective - Exploration of establishing an Historic District

G. Objective - Enactment of a demolition delay bylaw.

Implementation Related

15. To accomplish local and regional projects through cooperation with planning and action bodies such as the West Bridgewater Planning Board and Conservation Commission, the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts, The Nature Conservancy, The Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater, The Taunton River Watershed Alliance, The Taunton River Watershed Campaign, other communities, the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, and the Old Colony Planning Council.

A. Objective - Continued work with the West Bridgewater-Bridgewater Town River Fisheries Committee to identify needed fish ladder improvements and other actions

B. Objective - Joint three-community (West Bridgewater, Brockton, and East Bridgewater) exploration of open space and recreation opportunities at the capped BFI landfill in East Bridgewater. (U-28)

C. Objective – Cooperative work with the Planning Board to identify and remedy areas where zoning is inconsistent with major natural features, as with the Industrial zoning of the Hockomock Swamp, or with goals such as agricultural preservation.

IX Seven Year Action Plan

Note: This draft puts the more important and more time-sensitive projects in earlier years before opportunities are lost to development. It also puts needed studies a year or so before the actions that they would lead to. Major projects like acquisition of the Tedeschi land can and should be advanced when circumstance call for it. The "U" designations refer to the sites on the Figure V-1, the map of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest.

The following Seven Year Action Program is derived from the previous background and inventory chapters and from Chapter VI Community Goals; Chapter VII, Open Space and Resource Protection Needs; and Chapter VIII, Goals and Objectives. The items reflect work with the Open Space Plan Committee and other participants and the wishes of the citizens expressed through the planning and review process.

Specific parcels are mentioned for clarity since the program is meant to be implemented and many acquisitions are for a specific purpose, e.g. filling a gap in a greenway and they are shown clearly on Figure IX-1, the Seven Year Action Plan.

The right hand Column suggests responsible parties with the lead agency coming first, as well as possible sources of funds. The S and A refer to Study and Action locations on Figure IX-1.

Initials Used:

AC	Agricultural Commission
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Compliance Board
BOH	Board of Health
BS	Board of Selectmen
CC	Conservation Commission
CPC	Community Preservation Committee
DAR	Department of Agricultural Resources
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation - Source of Recreational Trails Grants
DCS and	Division of Conservation Services - Source of state LAND (ex Self Help) PARC (ex Urban Self Help) funds, and related Federal funds
DEP	State Department of Environmental Protection
DMF	Division of Marine Fisheries
DWF	Division of Fish and Wildlife
FP	Forestry and Parks Department
HDC	Historic District Commission
HD	Highway Department
MCCS	Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences
MHC	Massachusetts Historic Commission
MTC	Massachusetts Technology Collaborative- Alternative energy funds
NRT	Natural Resources Trust of Greater Bridgewater
OSC	Open Space Committee

PB	Planning Board
PRC&D	Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council
RC	Recreation Commission
TM	Town Meeting
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TPL	The Trust for Public Land
WD	Water Department
WTSEM	The Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts
ZBA	Zoning Board of Appeals

2011 **Studies**	Participants/ Funding Sources
S-1 Identifying opportunities to tie together conservation lands, agricultural lands, wildlands, and other resources along the Coweeset Brook/Hockomock River Corridor as suggested in the 1999 Open Space Plan. (Includes U-5, U-22, U-24 and the generalized U-25) Goal 2	OSC, CC, BS/ DCR, CPC, DCS
S-2 Exploring improved access to the Skim Milk Bridge holdings C-18 (72/2,3 and 66/6) as discussed in Chapter V, possibly by acquiring easements or land along portions of parcels 71/11 west of the River, 72/2 east of the river, or 72/3 east of the paper Maple Street, and the abutting riverside town holding, 72/1 (U-16), or other arrangements negotiated with the owner. (This would build on past correspondence between Eldon Moreira,Chair of Board of Selectmen, and John Peck of Cumberland Farms, and a recent major donation from the firm). Goal 6	OSC, CC, BS/ DCR, CPC, Private Gifts
S-3 Working with the Planning Board and other bodies to identify and remedy areas where zoning is inconsistent with major natural features, as with the Industrial zoning of the Hockomock Swamp, or with goals such as agricultural preservation. Goals 7, 13	CC, OSC, PB/ Volunteer Boards
S-4 Examining the proposed gift from Supervalu Inc. (owners of Shaws) of the estimated 30 acres of wetlands and woods (U-22) along the Hockomock River south of Rte. 106 and next to the state canoe launching area, and recommending appropriate long-term ownership and management. Goal 6	CC, OSC, WTSEM/ DCR, CPC
S-5 Work with state agencies and non-profits like the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land and the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts and the owners to acquire or protect the open, scenic Tedeschi Fields (U-14) Goals 13,14	OSC, CC, BS/CPC, DCS, TNC, TPL,WTSEM
S-6 Examine a potential kayak/canoe loan or rental program on a pond or stream, e.g., West Meadow Pond, Reynolds Landing or Trucchi's Landing. Goal 11	RC, CC, OSCV
S-7 Study **e**stablishment of community gardens on suitable land for people with small, rocky, or shaded lots , possibly at the Tedeschi property if acquired.	CC, BS, CPC/DFAR/CPC
2011 **Actions**	

A-1 Acquisition of 21.27 acres of Ch.61 woodlands (25/40) ranked highest (55) by the Manomet Center shown as Supporting Natural Landscape on the BioMap, offering a permanent wooded backdrop to surrounding neighborhoods, having frontage on Copeland St., and abutting a major Ch.61 holding. (U-12) Goal 1	OSC, CC, BS/ CPC/DCS
A-2 Supporting acceptance of the (Estimated Habitat) Anderson Farm	CC, OSC, BS, AC/ DAR

holdings into the Agricultural Protection Restriction (APR) program to allow continued farming of approximately 121 acres of hay and grain fields and pasture, including three parcels fronting on the Town River. This includes parcels 45/44,45; 49,50,59; 46/82; 52/25,28; 53/25; and 59/8,16. (U-19) Goal 13 Since Accomplished	
A-3 Town or State acquisition of 21.96 acres on parcel 30/20 between the State Forest, the Mill Pond (C-2), and the Stony Road neighborhood to expand, connect and improve access to these holdings. (U-7) Goal 3	CC, OSC, DCR/ CPC, DCR
A-4 Pass a Right to Farm Bylaw with help from the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Council (PRC and D)	CC, PB, TM, PRC and D
2012 **Studies**	
S-8 Adopting and implementing any needed local regulations to support the new state storm water regulations and encouraging/ requiring Low Impact Development (LID) Goal 5	CC, PB, BOH,TM, Volunteer Boards
S-9 Doing an inventory and analysis of remaining farmland whether or not under current use taxation to target farms for outreach and land preservation work. Goal 13	CC, PB, OSC, WTSEM, Volunteer efforts
S-10 Initiating contact with owners of high priority Ch.61, 61A and 61B lands, e.g., the Copeland Street woodlands at Map/Parcel 25/40. Goal 2	OSC, CC, AC,
S-11 Work with the Planning Board and other bodies to identify and remedy areas where zoning is inconsistent with major natural features as with the Industrial Zoning of the Hockomock Swamp or with goals such as agricultural preservation Goals 7,13	OSC, CC, PB
2012 **Actions**	
A-5 Work with state agencies and non-profits like the Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land and the Wildlands Trust of SE Massachusetts and the owners to acquire or protect the open, scenic Tedeschi Fields (U-14) Goals13,14	OSC, CC, BS, WTSEM, TNC/ DCS, CPC/
A-6 Achieving improved access to the Skim Milk Bridge holdings following previous studies/negotiations and donations. Goal 6	OSC, CC, BS/ DCR, CPC, Private Gifts
A-7 State or Town acquisition of parcels 15/8 & 9 (U-10) and parcel 22/7 (U-3). The first holds 6.97 acres of mixed woods between town holding C-11 and the State Forest, while the second is a wooded inholding surrounded by State Forest or Town land. Goal 3	OSC, CC, DCR/ CPC, DCR
A-9 If feasible, create a kayak/canoe loan or rental program on a pond or stream, e.g., West Meadow Pond, Reynolds Landing or Trucchi's Landing. Goal 11	RC, CC, OSCV

s

A-10 Establishment of community gardens on suitable land for people with small, rocky, or shaded lots, possibly at the Tedeschi property, if acquired.	CC, BS, CPC/DFAR/CPC
A-11 Establishing an Agricultural Commission in cooperation with the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council Goal 13.	CC, BS, PRC&D/ volunteer effort
A-12 Repairing the Triple Arch Bridge's underlying stonework and any comparable historic artifacts. Goal 14	BS, HD / CPC
2013 Studies	
S-12 Monitoring and identifying sources of any eutrophication in the town's ponds, and planning responces. Goal 5	CC, BOH, DEP/ CPC, DEP
S-13 Exploring potential access to the Coweeset Brook along portions of Ch. 61, 61A and 61B parcels 14/ 25,26, 30 and 36. Goal 6	OSC, CC, PB

S-14 Exploring acquisition of the 26.89-acre Ch. 61A parcel 20/63, a former railroad r.o.w, running in a deep cut from the recently acquired rail r.o.w ending at East St. to the remaining north-south tracks, and potentially extending the future trail along the tracks to Matfield Street to the north and to any prospective "Westdale" or "Eastdale" commuter rail station to the south. (U-4) Goal 10.	OSC, CC, BS, RC
S-15 Exploring opportunities to jointly manage the Town River Pond in cooperation with Bridgewater and the owners of the Stanley Mill Dam Goal 2	CC, HD, BS, Bridgewater officials and dam owners
2013 Actions	
A-13 State acquisition of parcel 8/19 offering 16.47 acres of mixed woods abutting the ("Hunting allowed") State Forest on two sides and close to West Meadow Pond, thereby expanding the Forest and partially precluding further residential intrusions into it. (U-9) Goal 3	CC, OSC, DCR / DCR
A-14 Improving signage to West Meadow Pond in the State Forest and the trails around the pond, giving better access to the whole pond. Goal 11	CC, DCR/ CPC, DCR
A-15 Implementing town or multi-agency acquisition/protection of the Tedeschi Fields (U-14) Goals 13**,**14	OCS, CC,/TNC, DCR, WTSEM
A-16 Acquisition of two 61A parcels (14/24; 84 acres and 14/25; 2.56 acres) along Coweeset Brook between the present 14/45 streamside conservation holding C-1 and a .69-acre town holding, 14/45, recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission (U-5) Goal 6	CC, OSC, BS, / CPC,DCS
2014 Studies	
S-14 Continuing to work with the West Bridgewater-Bridgewater	CC, DMF, Brid. CC

Town River Fisheries Committee to identify needed fish ladder improvements and other actions Goal 15	
S-15 Confirmation / revision of the present Zone II recharge areas, if needed Goal 4	CC, WB Water Dept.
S-16 Working with Bridgewater to explore a possible trail from the proposed acquisition below Reynolds Landing to the Stanley Dam/Iron Works Park in Bridgewater. (U-27). Goal 9	CC, RC, DCR, Brid. CC
S-17 Identification of Scenic Roads for subsequent designation Goal 14	CC, USC, PB

S-18 Design improvements to Memorial Park, e.g., an interpretive center, and possibly historically accurate replicas of early facilities such as a water wheel, where appropriate; along with improved handicapped access through changes such as wider paths, modified picnic tables, selective ramp construction, designated parking, and bridge modifications. Goal 14	FP, CC, RC, HC, ADA, BS/DCR
S-19 Seek access to the Millpond (Town holding C-2) from Crescent St. by negotiating an easement through parcel 30/4 containing the mill dam or through adjacent parcel 30/6, or by a small acquisition. (U-21) Goal 11	CC, OSC, Private Owner
2014 Actions	
A-17 Rezone Industrially zoned areas of open space, wildlife habitat, and farmland value to General Residential and Farming , as studied in 2011	CC, PB, OSC, TMC
A-18 Gain access to the Millpond (Town holding C-2) from Crescent St. via negotiated easements or acquisitions through parcel 30/4 containing the mill dam, through an adjacent parcel 30/6, or by a small acquisition. (U-21) Goal 11	CC, RC, Owners / CPC,DCS
A-19 State acquisition of in-holding parcel l23/14, to add 10.08 acres (minus a lot for an existing building.) to expand the Forest and preclude future use conflicts such as hunting near houses. (U-2) Goal 3	OSC,CC/DCR
A-20 Cooperative acquisition of 71.15 acres of Ch. 61A pasture and woods between the northwest corner of the State Forest and Walnut St. (ranked second highest in conservation value by Manomet at 54), thereby expanding the northern edge of the Forest nearest Brockton, and protecting habitat and meadows. (U-13) Goal 3	CC, DCR, WTSEM/ CPC, DCS, WTSEM
A-21 Acquisition of parcel 54/42, offering 28.05 acres of low-lying riverside land (U-15) just downstream of Reynolds Landing (C-10) on Ash Street and across from the River Bend Golf Course, and incorporating the adjacent 1.42-acre upstream town parcel (U-23) if appropriate. This supports Goals 4 and 9.	CC, RC, /CPC, DCS
A-22 Act on any possible extension of the rail trail west of Rte. 28	CC, OSC, RC/

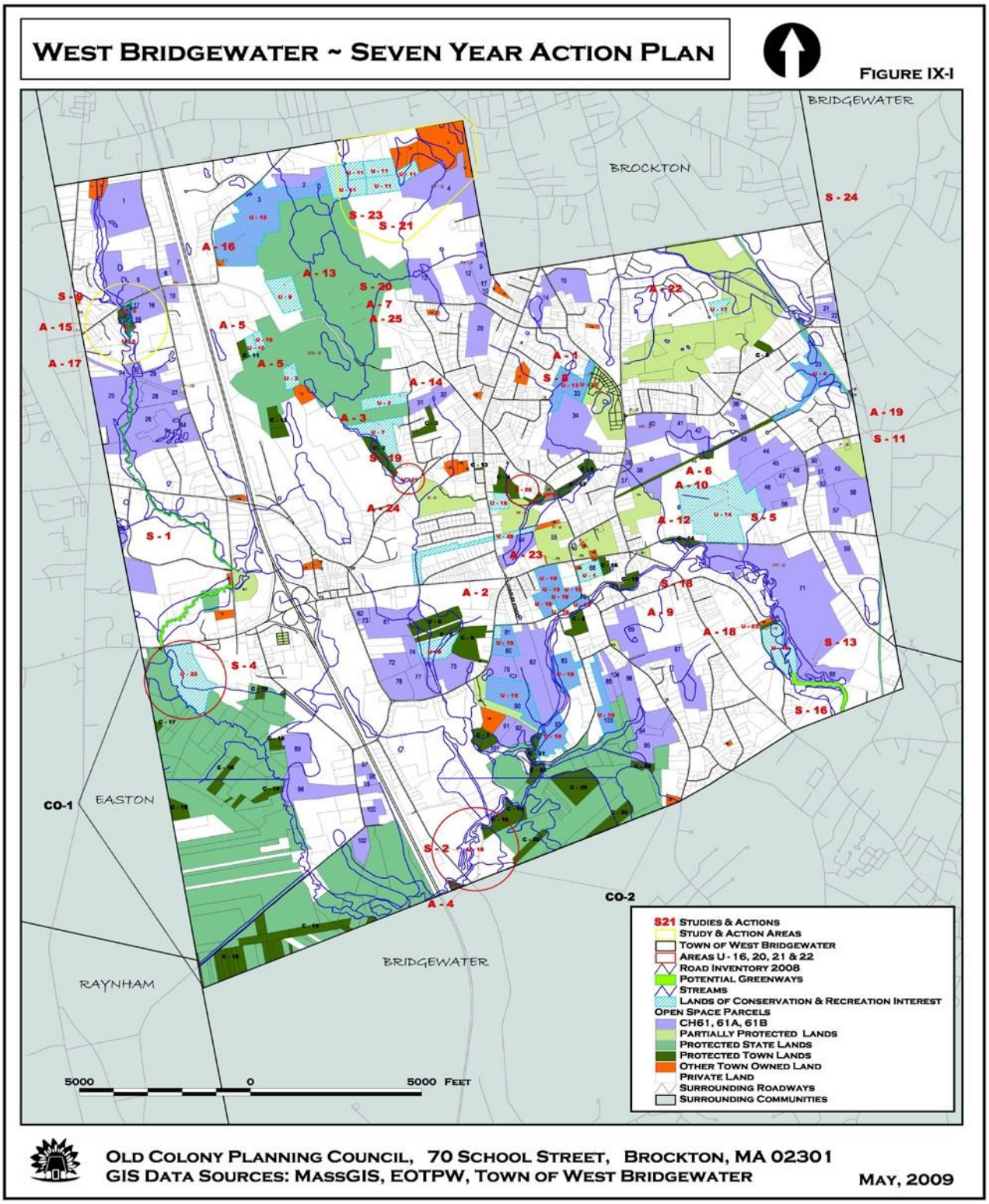
studied in 2013 (U-28) Goal 12	DCR, CPC
2015 **Studies**	
S-20 Exploring water quality concerns and other considerations affecting a potential beach on West Meadow Pond. Goal 11.	RC, CC, BOH, DCR
S-21 Exploring opportunities for cooperative management of town land in the northeastern corner of the town with the owners of the adjacent golf courses, of intervening land next to the State Forest, and of related undeveloped land in Brockton, and with interested state agencies. Then developing and implementing an action program connecting these. (U-11) Goal 2	CC, OSC, DCR, DFW and private golf courses
S-22 Exploring creation of an appropriate all terrain vehicle or trail bike riding area in a badlands setting such as a remote old sand pit Goal 10	RC, OSC, CC, BS, HD
S-23 Explore Enhancement of habitat connectivity between town woodland (2/1,3,4 and 6/3) in the northwest corner of West Bridgewater and the State Forest by acquiring 4.64 acres of woodlands (a large portion of the town's 1830 Primary Forest) on parcels 5/2,3,4,6 and 6/1, and as large a portion of the 132.79-acre parcel 5/2 (all under U-11) as is feasible in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Wildlife. This implements objective 2-B. (U-11) Goal 7	CC, DFW, and private owners /DFW, CPC, DCS
2015 Actions	
A-23 After, or along with, expansion of the State Park, establisnment of simple tent camping areas Goal 10	DCR, RC
A-24 Acquisition of 26.89-acre parcel 20/63, former railroad r.o.w, now under Ch.61 A, and potentially extending the future trail to Matfield Street and to any prospective commuter rail station; and designing and implementing appropriate connections and grading. (U4) Goal 10.	CC, OSC, RC, BS/ CPC, DCR
A-25 Acquisition of a land-locked 4.38-acre wooded private parcel (19/11) crossed by a north-south powerline just east of the Matfield Woods housing development, and abutting well protection land on three sides, thereby expanding well protection holdings and adding permanent open space (U-17) Goal 4	CC, OSC, WD/PCDCS
A-26 Acquiring access to the Coweeset Brook along portions of Ch. 61,61A and 61B parcels 14/ 25,26, 30 and 36 Goal 6	CC, OSC, BS/ CPC, DCS

•

A-27 Designation of identified Scenic Roads Goal 14	CC, HC, PB, TM
2016 Studies	

S-24 Examine water quality concerns and other considerations in creating a beach on West Meadow Pond Goal 11	CC,BOH,DEP,DCR
S-25 Confirm, revise Zone II delineations if needed.	WD,CC, BOH, DEP
S-26 Exploration of creating an additional historic district and/or expanding the present one Goal 14.	HC, PB, HDC
2016 Actions	
A-28 Acquisition of parcel 48/8, with 72.97 acres of very scenic wet meadows and fields backing onto wetland and abutting the forthcoming rail trail. Potential for use as open space, grasslands habitat and leased farm land. (U-14) Goal 2	CC, OSC, AC, DAR / CPC, DCS, WTSEM, TNC, Owners
A-29 Acquiring parcel 46/15, offering 7.62 acres of wet meadow under C.61A next to the Richards donation, C- 16 . (U-1) Goal 8	OSC, BS, Owners / CPC, DCS
A-30 Creating a West Meadow Pond beach if found to be feasible. Goal 11	RC, DCR / CPC, DCS
A-31 Improvement of War Memorial Park with an interpretive center, historically accurate replicas of early facilities such as a water wheel, or restored stone work where appropriate, and improved handicapped access. Goal 14	FP, HC, CC, OSC/ DCR,CPC, DMF
A-32 Acquisition of land directly west of the Manley St. wells to further protect them. (U-22) Goal 4	WBWD, CC/ WBWD
A-33 Transfer parcel 14/45 above to the Conservation Commission U-24 Goal 6	BS, CC
2017 Studies	
S-27 Explore the feasibility of extending the rail trail west from North Main Street around some major private holdings or through easements and along the former rail right of way to West Meadow Brook, and south to West Center Street. (U-28)	FP, CC, OSC, Owners/ DCS,CPC
S-28 Update this Plan	CC, RC, OSC, PB, volunteers
2017 Actions	
A-34 Acquire parcels 51/14 and 17/24,25, 14.82 acres of Estimated Habitat woods/wetlands south of the Flaggy Meadow and add them to that site.	OSC, CC/CPC/DCR, DCS
A-35 Begin to implement the proposed three-community (West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, and Brockton) open space/recreation facility at the capped BFI landfill in East Bridgewater, possibly through state PARC funds (the former Small Town Urban Self Help program), Federal Land and Water Conservation Act funds and/or the Community Preservation Fund. Goal 10	RC, CC, EB and Brockton RCs /DCS-PARC

A-36 Creation of an appropriate all terrain vehicle (ATV)/ trail bike riding area in a badlands setting such as a remote old sand pit. Goal 10	RC, HD, FP/CPC, DCR
A-37 Transfer the Town-owned 2.72-acre wetlands parcel 38/95 connecting holdings C-4 and C-5, and install (or replace) a boardwalk allowing walking to the MacDonald School from the neighborhoods to the east. (U-6) Goal 12	BS, TM, FP, HD/ CPC, DCR
A-38 Establishing an additional Historic District if warranted	HC, TM, PB


WEST BRIDGEWATER ~ SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN
FIGURE IX-I
BRIDGEWATER
BROCKTON
EASTON
RAYNHAM
BRIDGEWATER
CO-1
CO-2
S - 24
S - 23
S - 21
A - 16
A - 13
S - 20
A - 7
A - 25
S - 8
A - 15
A - 17
A - 5
A - 5
A - 14
A - 3
S - 19
A - 24
S - 1
S - 4
A - 2
A - 23
A - 22
A - 1
S - 6
A - 19
S - 11
A - 6
A - 10
A - 12
S - 5
S - 18
A - 9
A - 18
S - 13
S - 16
S - 2
A - 4
5000
0
5000 FEET
S21 STUDIES & ACTIONS
STUDY & ACTION AREAS
TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
AREAS U - 16, 20, 21 & 22
ROAD INVENTORY 2008
POTENTIAL GREENWAYS
STREAMS
LANDS OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION INTEREST
OPEN SPACE PARCELS
CH61, 61A, 61B
PARTIALLY PROTECTED LANDS
PROTECTED STATE LANDS
PROTECTED TOWN LANDS
OTHER TOWN OWNED LAND
PRIVATE LAND
SURROUNDING ROADWAYS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES
OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL, 70 SCHOOL STREET, BROCKTON, MA 02301
GIS DATA SOURCES: MASSGIS, EOTPW, TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER
MAY, 2009

X Public Comments

Board of Selectmen

65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
Telephone (508) 894-1267
Fax (508) 894-1269

October 7, 2009

RECEIVED
OCT 09 2009

Mr. James Watson, Planner
Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Dear Jim,

Please allow us this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to both you and Old Colony Planning Council for all of your hard work in compiling the West Bridgewater Open Space Plan.

Certainly there was an abundance of information and data to organize in order to create such a useful and integral resource to our community. Your dedication and commitment to coordinating this Plan exemplifies your keen attention to detail and strong work ethic.

Again, we thank you for your many efforts and contributions to both the Open Space Plan and the Town of West Bridgewater

Sincerely,

Elizabeth D. Faricy

Elizabeth D. Faricy
Administrator

Planning Board

65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater,
Massachusetts 02379
Telephone (508) 894-1200
Fax (508) 894-1210

RECEIVED
NOV 03 2009

To: Chris Iannitelli
Forest and Parks Superintendent
Chair, Open Space Plan Committee

From: West Bridgewater Planning Board

Re: 2009 Update of the Open Space & Recreation Plan

Date: October 22, 2009

At a meeting held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 the West Bridgewater Planning Board held a discussion regarding the upgrade of the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

After careful review of the plan, the Board agreed, by Unanimous vote, to recommend that the plan be initiated, as submitted, and forwarded to the Division of Conservation Services. (DCS)

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

WBPB:dc
Cc: Eldon Moreira, Delegate
Elizabeth Faricy, Town Administrator

Old Colony Planning Council

Jeanmarie Kent Joyce
President

Pasquale Ciaramella
Executive Director

70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301-4097

Telephone: (508) 583-1833
Fax: (508) 559-8768
EMAIL: info@ocpcrpa.org

April 4, 2009

Christopher Iannitelli, Chair
Open Space Plan Committee
Town Hall
West Bridgewater, Mass. 02379

Dear Mr. Iannitelli:

The Old Colony Planning Council has reviewed the February, 2009 draft West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update and is pleased to offer the following comments:

1. Format. The approach, doing the plan as an update of the 1999 West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan, shows a good respect for the handsome earlier document done by the Conway School of Landscape Design. You incorporate and build on some of their excellent graphics, thorough community descriptions and statements of evolving goals, and then go on to produce a very complete contemporary plan reflecting continuing needs and current opportunities.

2. Planning Process It is good to see that the broad-based committee includes people who had key roles in preparing the 1987 plan done by OCPC, and the 1999 plan. Institutional memory is important and these participants guaranteed it.

3. Background Chapters II, "Community Setting," and III, "Environmental Inventory and Analysis," give a good understanding of the town's setting as a semi-rural town and a suburb; of its natural, cultural and human resources; of influences on its continuing evolution; and of challenges and opportunities facing its citizens as they seek to maintain West Bridgewater's traditional character while meeting contemporary economic and social needs. These chapters do a good job of blending the 1999 black and white graphics with contemporary colored GIS maps, interpreted aerial photos from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, and some well-chosen photographs.

4. Findings The report thoroughly inventories public and non-profit lands of conservation and recreation interest and 47 miscellaneous, unprotected town holdings. It also notes 105 parcels under Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B, which were evaluated for habitat-oriented conservation value by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, and appropriately notes that land may have a conservation/recreation value beyond habitat value alone. It considers this possibility in developing the key list of "Unprotected Public and Private Lands of Special Interest" in the context of the present protected lands and key unprotected resources. This is an effective approach since it avoids separately examining all 105 Chapter 61,61A and 61B properties.

The descriptions are well done, though there is some repetition because some open space holdings also have recreation uses and are described under both headings.

5. Goals, Needs, and Goals and Objectives Though somewhat repetitive due to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements, these sections lead logically to the Plan's recommendations. We are particularly impressed by the pairing of:

   - Goal 1: To have some "significant open space and recreation land in or near all neighborhoods to serve as a neighborhood focus or backdrop," and
   - Goal 2: "To create a town-wide, regionally-oriented network of related open spaces and habitat areas."

   This combination acknowledges the importance of large-scale systems without forgetting that small local spaces may benefit more people day-by-day and are just as important.

   The other goals and objectives comprehensively cover the needed range of water resource protection, habitat protection, stream protection and usage, landscape preservation, and recreation and agricultural support purposes of the plan, along with related state concerns.

6. Recommendations The report does a good job of closely examining possibilities, and finds many opportunities to fill gaps in holdings (especially around the State Forest), to develop trails, and to expand upland and water-based recreation opportunities. Particularly imaginative are:

   - The extension of the rail trail east along Ch. 61A land to the active railroad, north to other public land, and south to a proposed West Bridgewater/East Bridgewater commuter station

   - The acquisition of land between the golf courses in the northeast corner of the town and the State Forest to make a major wildlife corridor.

   - Working with various bodies to acquire and protect the scenic open Tedeschi fields north of Rte. 106

   - Upgrading the Memorial Park and increasing its handicapped accessibility

   - Improving access to the Mill Pond and to the Skim Milk Bridge

   - Developing varied streamside trails and trails connecting present holding and giving access to destinations like schools.

   - On the regional side it is good to see:

   - The interest in jointly managing the Town River Pond with Bridgewater .
   - The interest in access to the proposed East Bridgewater/West Bridgewater rail station
   - The interest in exploring a potential three-community (West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater and Brockton) multi-purpose open space and recreation area on the nearby capped BFI landfill in East Bridgewater as noted in an earlier East Bridgewater open space plan.

- Continued participation on the Bridgewater -West Bridgewater Town River Fishery Committee
- Interest in working with Brockton in creating a wildlife corridor from the golf courses on the town/city line to the State Forest

7. Maps The maps, new and old, vary in format depending on their origin, but are clear and informative. The few foldouts are well chosen for use where readable detail is important, as with Figures V-1, "Lands of Interest..." and IX-1 "Five Year Action Plan."

   Comment: To show long- term hopes/intentions the Plan might well have included a map of the Future Open Space System going beyond that implied by the Five Year Action Plan. This could have drawn on the "Open Space Concept" map in the 1999 Plan or on the "Future Land Use under the Recommend Plan" map in the 2001 Comprehensive Plan; or the present map could have included the "Actions for Later Years" listed in Chapter IX. None-the-less showing the Five Year Action Plan on a background of the Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest gives a good sense of the intended future.

8. ADA Self Evaluation The four-page summary of needs done by the ADA Compliance Committee is quite helpful as the attached survey forms are very cumbersome and largely inapplicable to the town's conservation and recreation sites and facilities. It is good to hear that the Forest and Parks Superintendent has made site visits with members of the Committee to identify needed improvements.

The Council congratulates the town and its Open Space Committee on a well done plan.

It was a pleasure assisting West Bridgewater with this project, and we hope to be able to assist the community in implementing the Plan's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Pasquale Ciaramella

Pasquale Ciaramella
Executive Director

Cc. Eldon Moreira, Delegate

XI References

Plymouth County Soil Survey, US Soil Conservation Service, 1969

West Bridgewater Bay Circuit Open Space Plan, 1988, the West Bridgewater Bay Circuit Committee and the Old Colony Planning Council

Open Space and Recreation Plan, 1999 Resource Analysis, Town of West Bridgewater, Conway School of Landscape Architecture, Conway, Massachusetts

Comprehensive Plan, Town of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, Larry Koff and Associates, SEA Consultants, Mark Bobrowski, Esquire, and the Bluestone Planning Group, 2001

Massachusetts Outdoors 2000! and Massachusetts Outdoors 2006, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan,
Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2000, 2006

Planning for Wildlife, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, 2003

Draft Species Lists for West Bridgewater, Paul Cavanagh, Ph.D. The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, 2005

Regional Multi-hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation plan, and West Bridgewater Annex, Old Colony Planning Council, 2906

Maps of Priority and Estimated Habitat, Natural Communities, the BioMap, and related resources, and correspondence, Patricia Swain, Ph.D. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, 2007,2008
.
Evaluation of the Conservation Value of Land in Current Use Taxation in West Bridgewater (Drawing on the Conservation Mapper Program), Paul Cavanagh, Ph.D., The Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, 2005.

Joan Pierce, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Town of West Bridgewater, Annual Reports

Assessors maps and records, West Bridgewater Board of Assessors

West Bridgewater, ADA Compliance Committee, Diane L. Perry, Chair

Kathleen Doherty, President, Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB); Founder Taunton River Watershed Alliance

Wildlands News, Spring 2010, Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts

West Bridgewater Open Space Plan	XI-1	December, 2009
West Bridgewater Open Space Plan	XI-2	December, 2009

Appendix A Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation

- Selectmen's letter regarding non-discriminatory policies, responsibilities and procedures

- ADA/ Grievance Policy Statement

- ADA Compliance Board Survey Results

Completed Conservation Site and Recreation Site Forms are available at the Open Space Committee Office . They would double the size of tis report.

Board of Selectmen

65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
Telephone (508) 894-1267
Fax (508) 894-1269

July 20, 2009

RECEIVED
JUL 22 2009

Mr. James Watson, Planner
Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301

RE: West Bridgewater's Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Dear Mr. Watson,

In response to your request regarding ADA issues for the finalization of the Open Space and Recreation Plan and in accordance with the sections highlighted regarding these matters, I offer the following:

Part 1: Administrative Requirements:

a. Selectmen Eldon F. Moreira is the appointed ADA coordinator with enforcement coordinated through the Inspector of Buildings Paul Stringham who is familiar with ADA requirements, building codes and is the Town's liaison to the ADA Committee. Mr. Stringham meets frequently with the Committee to review problems throughout the Town and to consult with them regarding ADA building requirements and problems.

b. A grievance procedure was adopted by the Board of Selectmen and has been previously forwarded to you. Copies are available from any of the ADA Committee members, the Board of Selectmen's office, the Town Clerk's office, is posted on the bulleting board of Town Hall and the Town's Web Site. A copy is attached.

c. Public Notification Requirements: In all advertisements for employment opportunities, the Town uses the initials "EOE" and "AA" as standard practice.

Part II: Program Accessibility: Previously members of the ADA Committee had completed an inventory of such and forwarded same to you.

Part III: Employment Practices. As stated above, the Town uses the initials "EOE" and "AA" as standard practice in all of its advertisements for the recruitment of employees and treats all facets of the employment process with this in mind.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth D. Faricy
Elizabeth D. Faricy
Administrator

Enc.: Grievance Policy for Equal Access to Facilities and Activities

Board of Selectmen

65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
Telephone (508) 894-1267
Fax (508) 894-1269

ADA GRIEVANCE POLICY
TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Maximum opportunity will be made available to receive citizen comments, complaints, and/or to resolve grievances or inquiries.

STEP 1: COMPLAINT GIVEN to ADA COMMITTEE

All complaints regarding equal access to facilities and activities in the Town of West Bridgewater should be addressed to the ADA Compliance Committee either in writing or verbally by contacting any member of the committee. When a complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification is received either in writing or through a meeting or telephone call, every effort will be made to create a record regarding the name, address, and telephone number of the person making the complaint, grievance, program policy interpretation or clarification. If the person desires to remain anonymous, he or she may.

Information about the Committee can be found on the Town's web site located at www.town.West-Bridgewater.ma.us. Contact can also be made through the Board of Selectmen's office whose staff will refer the matter to the ADA Committee for resolution at that level.

The ADA Committee meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month in Town Hall except during the months of July and August. The Committee will meet during those months if there are outstanding issues that need to be resolved.

In determining a course of action for a complainant, the Committee will confer with the Inspector of Buildings to determine the extent of the matter as it relates to building codes and the ADA codes, rules and regulations. The Committee will then meet with the respective head of the department from where the complaint has been generated to recommend a resolution and advise of the steps that should be taken to alleviate the complaint. In all cases, the Committee strives to promote the least invasive and extensive solution within the confines of the applicable laws and codes in accordance with its By-Laws "American with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee of West Bridgewater."

A complaint, grievance, request for program policy interpretation or clarification will be responded to by the ADA Committee within fifteen (15) working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format that is sensitive to the needs of the recipient, (i.e. verbally, enlarged type face, etc) and explain the steps that have been taken and will be taken to resolve the matter. All such recommendations by the ADA Committee will also be sent in writing to the respective department.

STEP 2: APPEAL PROCESS - Level One:

If the complainant is not satisfied with the proscribed course of action or the department fails to make the recommended changes, then either the complainant or the ADA Committee can appeal the decision or lack of action to the appropriate next level. For School buildings and grounds, the Superintendent of Schools may serve as first step in the appeal process for the School Committee. The Administrator will serve in such capacity for the Board of Selectmen and all other Town buildings and grounds.

The School Department may adopt steps similar to those outlined below for the Administrator to the Board of Selectmen (herein after referred to as "Administrator") who will be available to meet with citizens and employees during business hours regarding such appeals.

A written appeal will be submitted to the Administrator. Assistance in writing the appeal will be available to all individuals.

Such appeal will be responded to by the Administrator within ten working days (if the person making the complaint is identified) in a format similar to that used by the ADA Committee and explain the new steps that have been taken and will be taken to resolve the matter.

If the grievance is not resolved at this level, it will move to the next level.

STEP 3: APPEAL PROCESS - Level Two:

If the complainant or Committee is not satisfied by the resolution at Level One, then the Committee or the complainant will be informed of the opportunity to meet and speak with the Board of Selectmen, with whom local authority for final grievance resolution lies for those grounds and buildings under their control.

They must forward in writing the complaint, grievance, or request for program policy interpretation or clarification to the Board of Selectmen for determination of the correct course of action along with a summation of al the steps taken to date.

The Selectmen will schedule a meeting to hear the complaint and may call Town officials from the appropriate respective departments to respond to the matter at hand. In all cases the ADA Committee will be called upon at the hearing to give their report of the steps they took and recommendations they made to resolve the matter at hand.

ADA COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
65 North Main Street,
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

(508) 894-1267 • Fax (508) 894-1269

Areas accessed by ADA Compliance Board per OCP

1. 1. C-1 Walnut Street Area Map 14, Parcel 26
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. No access, no parking, wetlands

2. 2.C-2 Crescent Street/Mill Pond Area Map 30, Parcel 3
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. No handicap access or parking

3. C-3 Former Samoset Rod & Gun Club Map 24/30/31, Parcel 24/16
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. Could not find access or parking

4. C-4 North Elm Street Area Map 31, Parcel /Map 38 Parcel 94
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. No marked access or parking

5. C-5 Spring Street Area Map 32/Parcel 36, Map 39, Parcel 37 and 38.
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. Difficult to access exact location or entrance, no defined parking, basically wetlands

6. C-6 South Elm St/Flaggy Meadow Area Map 44 lot 45, Map 51, Lot 15, Map 51 lot 18
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. Signed access but no defined path, basically wetlands and marsh

7. C-7 South Elm St, Low landlocked woodland & marsh along the edge of Meadow Brook and south of town landfill Map 59, Lot 11: Lot 12
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. Poor access, unmarked parking, basically wetlands

8. C-8 Forest Street Area Map 53, Lot 16
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. Signed area but no defined path for travel, no defined parking

9. C-9 Matfield Street Area Map 20, Lot 5
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. Access difficult to assess, street parking only, no defined path of travel

10. C-10 Reynolds Landing Map 54, Lot 43
Site visit: Totally not accessible for persons with disabilities. Pathway partially obstructed by tree roots

11. C-11 Edge of State Forest Map 15, Lot 7 (also lots 8 & 9 according to BSC)
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities. No defined access-woodlands

12 C-12 Edge of State Forest east of RR grade Map 22, Lot 11, Map 29, Lot 6, Map 29, Lot 7
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities, no defined access-woodlands

13 C-13 Apparently small, largely overgrown wetland on North Elm Street, Map 32, Lot 47
No Site visit, could not find. N/A for persons with or without disabilities

14C-14 Town River Landing, Across from and SE of Trucci's Market, Wooded upland sloping to river Map 40, Lot 12
Site visit: Not accessible for persons with disabilities. No defined path, tall grass. No handicap parking, informal dirt parking space alongside route 106

15. C-15 River Street, North Bank of River, upstream of Arch Street Map 46, Lot 74
Site visit: Not accessible for persons with disabilities.
Part of War Memorial Park which is not handicap accessible, no defined access, No defined parking or trail for handicap basically not accessible for HP disabilities.

16. C-16 West Center St, Richards Donation, Hardwoods Map 46, Lot 9
No site visit, could not find.

17. C-17 Hockomock swamp parcel of Easton border Map 56, Lot 3
Site visit: N/A for persons with disabilities, no defined access-wetlands

18. C-18; C-19, C-20- C-21-C-22 scattered parcels, some Hockomock swamp holdings, railroad grade etc
NO SITE VISITS. N/A

P-1 War Memorial Park

Map 39, 39, 75; Parcel Map 46, Lot 74

Site visit: Totally NOT accessible for persons with disabilities. No defined parking spaces, no defined path of travel-uneven and not wide enough, picnic tables, stairs not accessible for wheelchair etc.

P-2 Friendship Park Map?

Site visit: This area is accessible for persons with disabilities. Site visit done previously and suggestions for accessibility were completed. Appropriate signage, HP Van Accessible parking, clear flat path of travel, emergency pull. Only suggestion is moving the picnic table down to a flat surface for accessibility.

P-3 Lions Club (Ice skating Rink) 0n grounds of Fire Department

Map 39, Lot 3

Site visit: This area could be accessible for persons with disabilities if handicap access parking spots were designated in adjacent Fire/Police station parking lot then it could be used for viewing/drop off area for skating rink

P-4 Town Hall, Gazebo

Map 39, Lot 63

Site visit: This area is totally accessible for persons with disabilities there is adequate defined parking, defined path of travel, curbcuts, and town hall has accessibility to entrance with signage and automatic doors, elevator and handicap bathroom facilities.

P5- Torrie's Playground Map?

Site visit: This site is NOT open to public-does not serve the community-only school. Play area from a distance appears adequate for all, access routes are adjacent to accessible path, handicap ramps and parking in front of school only, **locked fenced in playground with ONLY ACCESS VIA SCHOOL therefore is not open to the public.** Handicap bathroom facilities are located in the school. Potential for handicap accessibility if made open to the public.

No accessible path of travel (dirt and grass surface); entrance to fields not primary; lack of signage. No restrooms in snack bar. Only bathroom open to public during weekend games is not HP accessible and has one stall (signed women's bathroom). High school football and baseball fields are not accessible because path of travel is grass and dirt and not accessible for physically challenged or wheelchair. There are no defined seats in bleachers for HP individuals.

P-4 Base Ball field Separated from Town Hall and Gazebo Map 37, Lot 63
Site visit: This site is not accessible for persons with disabilities. Path of travel not accessible from parking lot, surface is grass and asphalt and not evenly paved; no HP parking allocation in front of ball field (34 spaces lined); side of field closest to club house & highway dept.-not lined; 2 restrooms are not HP accessible, one in the new snack bar has a step up, other in club house tiny step-up-not wheelchair accessible..

P-7 Howard Spring Street school complex Soccer Field
Site visit: This site as is not accessible for persons with disabilities but could be-Path of travel initially is paved but meets up with grass (needs to be continued for accessibility). Drop off area with signage for accessibility in back were soccer fields are would make this area accessible. There is HP parking with signage in front of the Howard School. No restroom facilities during games only open during school week,

SURVEY COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BY THE ADA COMPLAINCE BOARD

Diane L. Perry
Marilyn Raleigh
Mary Petrie
Denise Lewis
Gloria Hopkins

November 18, 2008

Appendix B

- 1996 Open Space Survey Forms and Results

- 1999 Open Space Survey Forms and Results

1996 Open Space Survey Results

VI. Community Goals

To determine community goals, the open space committee distributed a questionaire at the general election in November. These questionaires asked voters to rank each choice in order of importance from one to five (one = not important, five = very important) in the following areas:
Your Preservation Interests
Your Open Space Needs and Interests
Your Vision for Town Growth

The questionaire also asked more specific questions in the following areas:
Existing town open space areas you and/or your family use
Bicycling interests
Maintenance, improvement, and/or acquisition of additional open space

Voters completed 128 questionaires with the following results:

Note: Order has been changed to reflect order of importance according to those completing the survey. A copy of the original survey follows this evaluation.

I. Your Preservation Interests (Max. score 640):

Preservation of forests/wildlife habitat	589	92%
Preservaton of groundwater recharge area	570	89%
Preservaton of farmlands	545	85%
Preservation of historic buildings and/or sites	531	83%

II. Your Open Space Needs and Interests (Max. score 640):

1. Athletic Fields (soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	536	84%
2. Conservation Land	533	83%
3. Bike Paths	505	79%
4. Tot Lots and Playgrounds	502	78%
5. Athletic Courts (tennis, volleyball, etc.)	497	77%
6. Picnic Areas	463	72%
7. Ice Skating Rink	454	71%
8. Hiking/Skiing Trails	445	70%
9. Canoe/Kayack/Rowboat Access Areas	411	64%
10. Swimming Pool/Pond	407	64%
11. Horseback Riding/Mtn. Biking Trails	368	58%

12. Other: Educated use of conservation investment, after school programs, youth center, sidewalks on South St.

Three most important items from the list above (max. score 128):

Tot Lots and Playgrounds:	39 votes
Conservation Land	30 votes
Bike Paths	28 votes
Athletic Fields	20 votes
Hiking/Skiing Trails	16 votes
Swimming Pool/Pond	12 votes
Athletic Courts	8 votes
Horseback Riding/Mtn. Biking Trails	8 votes
Canoe/Kayack/Rowboat Access Area	8 votes
Ice Skating Rink	8 votes
Picnic Areas	5 votes

Open Space Survey Tabulation, Cont'd.:

III. Your Use of Open Space Areas:

Of the following, please check the three areas you use most frequently (max. score 128):

Town Park	82	64%
Town Athletic Fields and Courts	55	43%
Town Conservation Areas	21	16%
West Meadows	18	14%
State Forest	18	14%
Hockomock Swamp	17	13%
Canoe Launch	15	12%

Other: roadsides; accessible riding trails

IV. Bicycling Interests:

Note: Many did not complete this portion of the questionaire.
Do you use you bicycle for any of the following:

Recreation	25
Physical Fitness	15
Shopping	1
School	1
Work	0

How many times per week do you use your bicycle? 1 - 4 times/week. Average miles/trip: 2 - 10 miles.

Note: The following questions were on the second page of the survey, and only 108 people marked some portion of these questions. Many only answered some of the questions on this page.

V. Your Vision for Town Growth (Max. score 540):

1. Residential--Elderly Housing	329	61%
2. Industrial Development	307	57%
3. Residential--Single Lot on Ex. Roads	291	54%
4. Residential--Large Lot Subdivisions	253	47%
5. Residential--Small Lot Subdivisions	230	43%
6. No Growth	206	38%
7. Commercial--Strip Development	192	36%
8. Commercial--Concentrated Development	185	34%
9. Residential--Multifamily Housing	174	32%

From the list above, please select the two items you feel are most necessary to the town:

Industrial Development	24 votes
Residential--Elderly Housing	23 votes
Commercial--Concentrated Development	22 votes
Residential--Single Lot on Ex. Roads	20 votes
No Growth	11 votes
Residential--Large Lot Subdivisions	10 votes
Residential--Small Lot Subdivisions	9 votes

From the list above, please select the two items you feel could most endanger the town's character and resources if not carefully controlled:

Residential--Multifamily Housing	31 votes
Commercial--Strip Development	28 votes
Industrial Development	21 votes
Commercial--Concentrated Development	15 votes
Residential--Large Lot Subdivisions	10 votes
No Growth	9 votes

Open Space Survey Tabulation, cont'd.:

To Meet Open Space Needs, Should the Town:

Mix maintenance, improvement, and acquisition equally.	41 votes
Improve existing holdings by adding parking, facilities, trails, etc.	33 votes
Maintain existing facilities and spaces.	32 votes
Acquire additional land for open space needs.	26 votes

Would you support a town property tax override to make these improvements or additions? Yes: 34. No: 57.

Would you support facility user fees to cover maintenance and improvement costs? Yes: 61. No: 33.

Additional Comments:

1. New to area (not sure what is available).
2. West Bridgewater is a wonderful place just the way it is.
3. Fix sidewalks first or you can't get to any of the other.
4. I feel it is absolutely necessary to create in some way more housing and opportunities for young families to create a larger tax base that would benefit many things, including youth programs and schools.
5. Whoever is covering this aspect of the town's growth is doing a great job. Most of the items in II are complete, in great shape, or well on their way. Things are looking very good in that area. I'm very proud of all that has been accomplished in the past couple of years.

1999 Open Space Survey Results

Town of West Bridgewater
Open Space Committee

Results of public survey

Number of respondents: 50

1. How long have you been a resident of West Bridgewater?
   less than 5 yrs. 15 5 to 10 yrs. 09 1 1 to 20 yrs. 10 more than 20 yrs. 16

2. Age: 13-77

3. M 22 F 28

4. Number in household: under 18 yrs. of age 40 over 60yrs. of age: 29

5. What residential growth policy do you favor for the town?
   18 regulate growth in existing developed areas
   15 growth evenly spread
   11 no growth
   07 regulate growth in underdeveloped areas

6. What business and industrial growth policy do you favor for the town?
   27 regulate growth in existing developed areas
   08 regulate growth in underdeveloped areas
   07 no growth
   05 growth evenly spread

7. Which of the following do you feel are the most critical problems facing our town?
   29 destruction of the towns rural character
   24 destruction of natural habitat
   24 loss of green space
   18 loss of agricultral land
   15 lack of recreational facilities
   15 lack of municipal sewage in town
   12 private septic systems in need of repair
   12 pollution of ponds and streams
   11 groundwater pollution
   10 uncontrolled business/industrial growth
   09 lack of adequate conservation land
   09 too much housing development
   06 increased auto and commercial truck traffic
   06 pond dams in need of repair
   06 loss of historical sites
   05 lack of business in town
   04 cemeteries in need of repair
   04 availability of clean drinking water

8. Indicate the number of times you or a family member have participated in a particular activity in West Bridgewater?
   0 =never 1 =a few times 2 =a moderate number of times 3 =many times

use a playground	ice skating	use of a ballfield/soccerfield	street hockey
0=12	0=26	0=	0=36
1=07	1=03	1=00	1=03
2=05	2=07	2=05	2=02
3=22	3=06	3=17	3=03

recreational walking	rollerblading	tennis	ice hockey
0=07	0=33	0=34	0=35
1=04	1=03	1=02	1=02
2=09	2=03	2=03	2=02
3=24	3=05	3=05	3=03

fishing	canoeing	cross country skiing	visiting a historic site
0=25	0=26	0=33	0=25
1=03	1=07	1=04	1=06
2=06	2=03	2=00	2=06
3=09	3=08	3=04	3=08

bicycling	jogging/running	bird watching	skiing/nature walking
0=15	0=24	0=21	0=19
1=03	1=05	1=08	1=07
2=05	2=01	2=06	2=09
3=21	3=05	3=09	3=13

other: attending concerts @ town gazebo
more outdoor activities

9. Which of the following recreational facilities do we need more of?

30 bike trails
22 hiking trails
14 conservation areas
13 swimming pool
12 family picnic areas
11 senior recreation areas
09 community gardens
08 rollerblade park
08 natural conservation land
08 bird and wildlife sanctuaries
07 lighting for courts and fields
07 bridal path
07 tot lots/playgrounds
06 canoeing
06 athletic field
05 sledding
05 ice skating rink
03 recreation center for use by all
03 jogging/running track
02 tennis
02 motorbike trail
02 cross country ski trails
02 athletic courts
02 youth center
01 public access to water
01 hunting and fishing areas
01 football field
01 baseball field
01 softball field
01 neighborhood ballfields
00 soccer
00 outdoor amphitheater
00 town beach
00 basketball
00 golf course

10. Should tour town act first to:

21 acquire conservation lands for passive recreation use
15 improve existing recreational facilities
05 establish guidelines for future land development

11. How important is it for our town to acquire land to assure preservation of natural areas?

28 very important
11 important
02 less important

12. What do you consider to be our town's most important historic features?

26 War Memorial Park	03 First Church	01 Skim Milk Bridge
10 Keith House	02 natural habitat	01 Friendship Park
07 Town River	02 cemeteries	01 antique dealers
06 area farms	02 historical society	01 Center Tree site
	01 Old Mill House	

13. How important is it to you to preserve:

5- very important 4- important 3- neutral 2- less important 1- not important at all

buildings of architectural or historical interest	5=17	4=23	3=07	2=04	1=00
places of historical or archaeological value	5=14	4=19	3=03	2=04	1=01
open space to meet our water needs	5=32	4=12	3=02	2=00	1=00
open space to meet our recreation needs	5=18	4=17	3=10	2=02	1=00
possible town well sites	5=24	4=12	3=05	2=01	1=00
open space in heavily developed areas	5=12	4=17	3=05	2=03	1=02
farmlands	5=17	4=14	3=07	2=02	1=02
wetland areas/wildlife habitats	5=27	4=14	3=03	2=01	1=00
woodland areas	5=25	4=11	3=06	2=00	1=00
open space for future generations	5=27	4=11	3=05	2=00	1=00
river banks and flood plains	5=28	4=11	3=03	2=01	1=01
open space to create greenbelt (i.e. Bay Circuit Trail)	5=19	4=10	3=09	2=01	1=00

14. Which of the following approaches do you support in protecting natural areas?
    - 38 purchase areas with 80% reimbursement from state/federal government
    - 34 protect water supplies by zoning
    - 27 establish a program of conservation land giving
    - 26 acquire conservation easements through donation and purchase
    - 10 purchase areas with town funds only

15. Would you support a town appropriation for acquisition or construction of additional recreational facilities?
    - 37 yes
    - 08 no

16. Would you support a town appropriation for acquisition of additional conservation lands?
    - 40 yes
    - 03 no