



Town of Avon

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Working Group Meeting #1 7/19/21



Hosted by Old Colony Planning Council, OCPC

Old Colony Planning Council

At Old Colony Planning Council, we assist cities and towns in planning for present and future needs, utilizing our local knowledge, technical expertise, and regional collaboration.



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Development



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Senior Comprehensive
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Old Colony Planning Council

SERVING 17 Communities through:

- Natural Resource and Environmental Planning,
- Transportation Planning,
- Comprehensive Land Use Planning,
- Economic Development,
- Geographic Information System Services,
- Area Agency on Aging.



A LOOK AHEAD

- Draft specific language for goals, objectives and actions,
- Develop public participation plan,
- Collect data (Parcel Inventory, ADA Inventory, Analysis of Needs, Demographics),
- Set dates for listening sessions and working group meetings.

Image: John J. DeMarco Park

Source: https://www.businessyab.com/explore/united_states/massachusetts/norfolk_county/avon/john_j_demarco_park.html

What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?



- Roadmap for prioritizing open space and recreation projects and expenditures.
- Prerequisite for MA Division of Conservation Service Grants.
- Public Process.
- Plan components:
 - Plan Summary & Introduction
 - Community Setting
 - Environmental Inventory
 - Inventory of Lands
 - Community Goals
 - Analysis of Needs
 - Goals & Objectives
 - 5-Year Action Plan
 - Public Comments
 - ADA Inventory

Image: D.W. Field Park

Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/dw-field-park--2/photos>

What is Open Space?

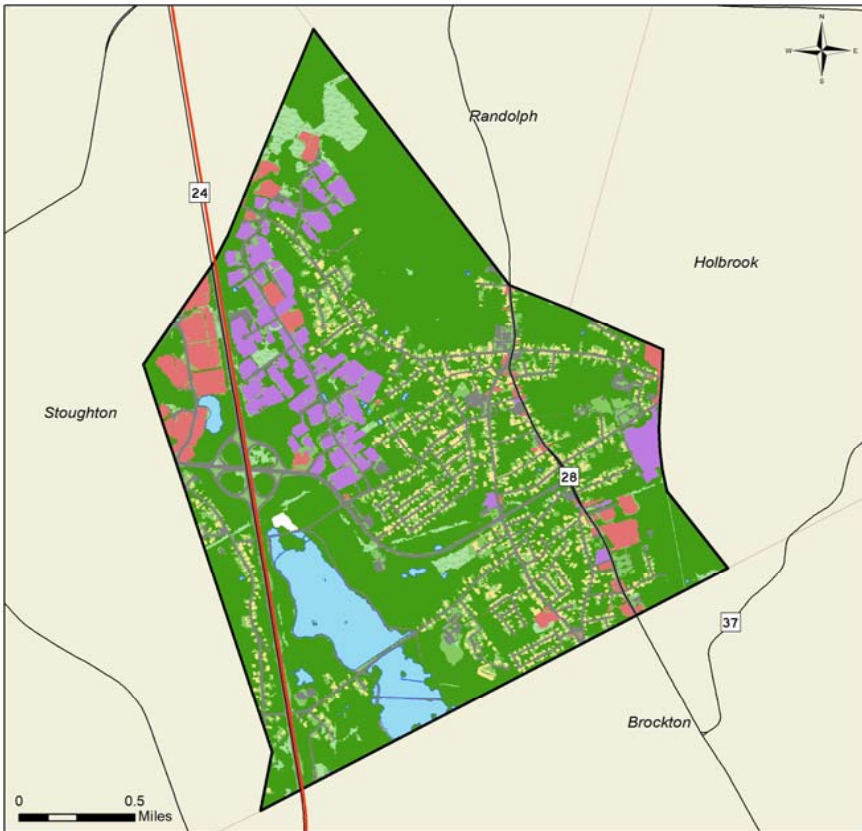


- Conservation Land,
- Forested Land,
- Agricultural Land,
- Athletic Fields,
- Playgrounds,
- Small/Pocket Parks,
- Green Buffers along Roadways, and/or
- Undeveloped Land of Conservation/Recreation Interest.

Image: D.W. Field Park

Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/dw-field-park--2/photos>

Current Land Use



- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Mixed Use
- Impervious Surfaces and Rights-of-Way
- Agriculture
- Forest and Wetland
- Developed Open Space
- Other Open Space



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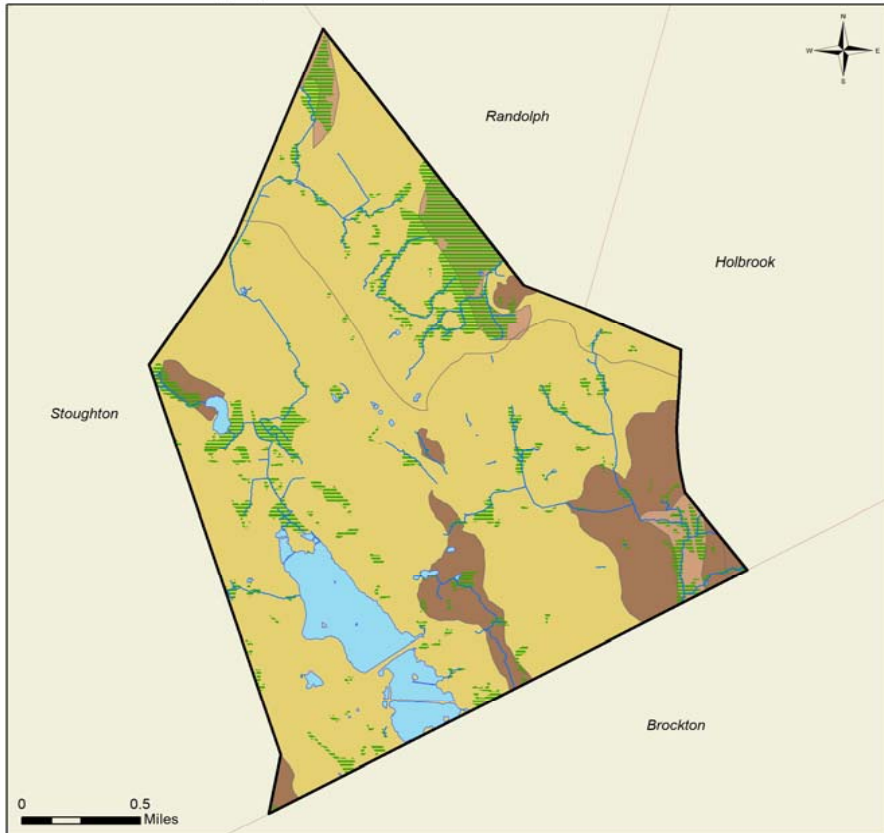
www.ocprpa.org
Created July 2021

GIS Data Sources:
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT),
Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS),
Old Colony Planning Council

Open Space Maps

By Andrew Vidal – Old Colony Planning Council

Soils and Geographic Features



- Lakes and Ponds
- Wetlands
- Surficial Geology**
 - Sand and Gravel
 - Till or Bedrock
 - Fine-Grained Deposit
 - Floodplain Alluvium



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Previous Plans & Resources



- 1964 Master Plan
- 1974 Master Plan
- 2001 Master Plan
- **2004 Community Development Plan** ★
- 2004 & 2006 Water Assets Studies
- 2011 Community Services Need Study
- 2019 Housing Production Plan
- **2020 ADA Transition Plan** ★
- FY2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan
- And more!

Image: D.W. Field Park

Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/dw-field-park--2/photos>



2010 GOALS & OBJECTIVES



DeMarco Park

- Heavy public outreach on that park
- Access and egress issues for use as a band stand
- Lack of signage
- Crosswalk concerns
- Handicapped accessible
- Landscape Plan/Design taken over by Town Administrator



Pocket parks along old industrial

- Stormwater management

- Survey q: are people aware of parks in the area
- Make sure park and rec website shows the open space areas available
- Check with Laurie on DLTA and how Avon pays

CHANGE

Image: West Bridgewater Rail Trail
Source: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/78601955975915859/>

GOALS



- **Preserve and Enhance Avon's Character and Scenic Quality**
- **Expand and Improve Recreational Opportunities**
- **Protect Natural Resources and Biodiversity**
- **Protect and Enhance Conservation Lands**
- **Enhance DeMarco Park**
- **Identify underutilized parcels for pocket parks**
- **Monitor OSRP Action Plan Progress**

Image: D.W. Field Park

Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/dw-field-park--2/photos>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



- Purpose of Engagement,
- Stakeholders,
- Resources, Opportunities & Scale,
- Messaging & Approach
 - Survey
 - Digital vs. In-Person
 - Outreach tools and logistics.
- Timeline
 - Survey goes live August
 - **One August Listening Session**
 - September **Working Group Meeting #2**
 - October: Draft plan
 - November: **Working Group Meeting #3**
 - **One December Listening Session**
 - January: Finalize Plan & **Working Group Meeting #4**
 - February: Submit Plan

Image: D.W. Field Park

Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/dw-field-park--2/photos>

Timeline

JULY
Working Group Meeting #1
Initial Research



SEPTEMBER
Working Group Meeting #3
Draft Plan



NOVEMBER
Finalize Draft Plan



AUGUST
Working Group Meeting #2
Public Listening #1 & 2
Survey Goes Live



OCTOBER
Send Draft to working group
for review
Revise Plan Based on
Comments



DECEMBER
Submit Plan to State



Image: D.W. Field Park

Source: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/massachusetts/dw-field-park--2/photos>

NEXT STEPS

- Update Goals & Objectives,
- Set Dates for Public Listening Sessions,
- Set August working group meeting date,
- Acquire parcel inventory for analysis,
- Launch Survey,
- Citizen/staff photos for report.

thanks!

Any questions?

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**OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL**