



West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Plan

Old Colony Planning Council
2024 – 2031

Acknowledgments

The Town of West Bridgewater received technical assistance from the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) through the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program.

Drafting an Open Space Recreation Plan (OSRP) requires collecting, coordinating, and analyzing substantial information. This effort was only possible with valuable input and assistance from many working within West Bridgewater and the region. Below is a partial list of public and private organizations that contributed to the making of this plan:

Open Space and Recreation Committee

Conservation Commission

Board of Assessors

Board of Health

Planning Board

Water Department

Recreational Space Committee

Department of Public Works

Commission on Disability

Town Administrator, David Gagne

Taunton River Watershed Alliance

Old Colony Planning Council

LETTER FROM WEST BRIDGEWATER TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



Office of the Town Administrator

Town Hall
65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

May 13, 2024

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

RE: Town of West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Updated, 2024

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Town of West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen, I am writing to express our strong support for the completed Town of West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2024-2031.

The Town and the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee have worked diligently to complete this final plan. The plan articulates to protect open space and natural resources, conserve open space, develop community-gathering spaces, improved trail systems and provides a variety of well-maintained recreational opportunities for the Town of West Bridgewater.

The Plan identifies and Town's future Open Space and Recreation needs.

The Board of Selectmen is committed to helping ensure the creation of Open Space and Recreation Plan and providing whatever assistance it can to the Town toward this goal.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Gagne
Town Administrator

LETTER FROM OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE



May 9, 2024
Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2024-2031

Dear Ms. Cryan,

The West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Committee enthusiastically endorses the contents of this plan. Under the guidance of the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), the committee has spent innumerable hours over the past few years painstakingly working through the many elements of the plan. We conducted surveys, held focus groups, and participated in many planning sessions elucidating what we most wanted this document to accomplish: first, to support the active protection of the town's open space, its woodlands, farms, waterways and general rural character -especially in the context of ongoing pressures to develop; and also, to expand appropriate access to the town's open spaces by as many users as possible through trail improvements, management plans and improved dissemination of site information. The Plan, as written, hopes to provide guidance and direction for town decision makers, helping to ensure that the priorities and aspirations of West Bridgewater residents are upheld in future development and conservation efforts.

In closing, the West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Committee fervently hopes that the measures outlined within the Plan are wholeheartedly embraced by all tasked parties and supported by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By doing so, we aim to preserve and protect the town's open space to maximum effect, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy and benefit from the nature, resources, beauty, agricultural heritage and recreational opportunities that West Bridgewater has to offer.

Sincerely,

Mary Wynne-Yee

Mary Wynne-Yee, Chairperson
West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Committee

WEST BRIDGEWATER TOWN HALL
65 NORTH MAIN STREET, WEST BRIDGEWATER, MA 02379

LETTER FROM REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL

Rebecca Colletta, *President* | Mary Waldron, *Executive Director*

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Brockton, MA 02301

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March 12, 2024
Melissa Cryan
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Town of West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update, 2024

Dear Ms. Cryan,

On behalf of the Old Colony Planning Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the recently completed Town of West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2024 - 2031. The Town and its Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee are to be commended for their diligent work completing this Plan.

The Town and the Open Space Working Group have done a very thorough job, and the final document appears to meet the standards for such plans as promulgated by your office. This plan highlights the need to balance new development with protecting open space and natural resources and enhancing recreational opportunities. This Plan articulates a need for enhanced protection and upkeep of critical town-owned open spaces, improved trail systems and links on town-owned open spaces, promotion of the Town's open space and recreation opportunities, and equitable access to the Town's open space and recreation facilities. This Plan provides the Town with specific guidance and action steps to accomplish its goals and objectives. This Plan also recognizes the need for partnerships with public and private entities to realize its goals and objectives.

Please consider this letter to demonstrate OCPC's support for the Plan and the development process. West Bridgewater's Plan is consistent with the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Waldron".

Mary Waldron
Executive Director

LETTER FROM WEST BRIDGEWATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION



West Bridgewater Conservation Commission

65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379
Phone: 508-894-4073
Fax: 508-894-1210



5/22/2024

Laurie Muncy, AICP
Director, Comprehensive Planning and Sustainability
Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street
Brockton, MA 02301

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Laurie,

The Conservation Commission has reviewed the West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Plan 2024-2031. There is an abundance of information and data that went into this plan. It will be an extremely useful resource going forward with both our short and long term goals. Having a completed Open Space and Recreation Plan such as this will not only help the planning efforts of the Conservation Commission, but will greatly assist in grant funding. It has been a struggle without having this in place over the past few years.

Thank you and your team at the Old Colony Planning Council for all their hard work and contributions in helping to complete this Open Space Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Hay".

Timothy J. Hay, Conservation Agent

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SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

This Plan continues the ongoing efforts by the Town of West Bridgewater to protect natural resources, conserve open space, develop community gathering spaces, and provide a variety of well-maintained recreational opportunities.

Section 2 includes a statement of purpose and outlines the planning and public participation process undertaken for this Plan.

Sections 3 and 4 provide background information on the Town, including history, demographic data, development patterns, and the natural environment. This information helps to set the community and natural context for the inventory of the Town's present open spaces and recreation facilities, contained in Section 5.

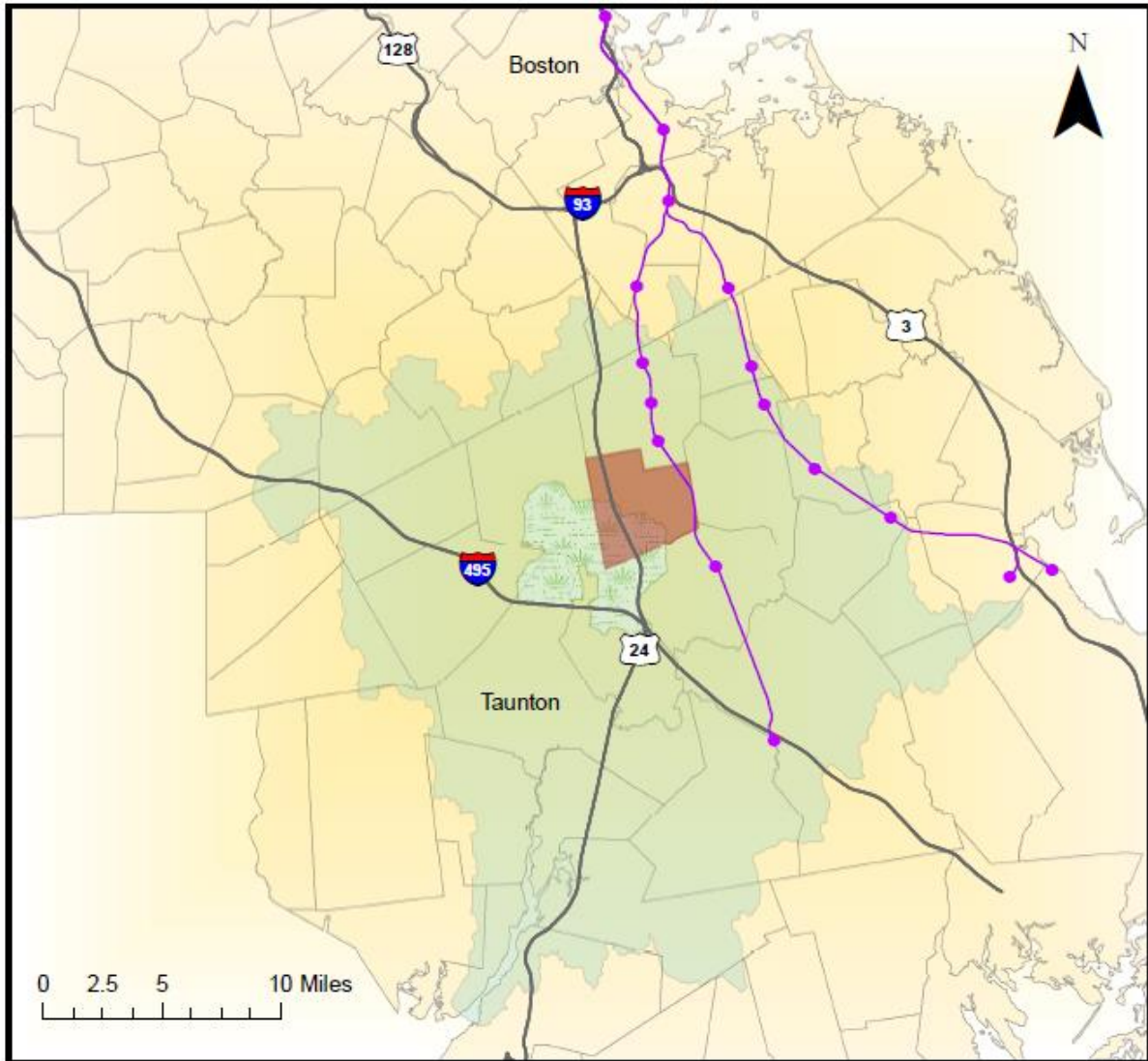
Sections 6 through 8 identify the Town's future open space and recreation needs and outline community priorities. Finally, the detailed Action Plan in Section 9 provides a prioritized seven-year program to address the identified community needs.

The Open Space and Recreation Goals

Resource Protection Goals

1. Protect and improve the Town's natural environment for the benefit of the Town's current and future citizens, optimizing resources for water and habitat protection, invasive species management, and climate resilience.
2. Prioritize the preservation of open space in the context of managing the Town's growth through various means, including bylaws, articulated zoning, managing the impacts of state and federal mandates, adopting Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques whenever possible, and consistent enforcement of established protections.
3. Plan for the future of the Town's existing water structures, including dams, stone bridges, and fish ladder.
4. Establish a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission to create management plans for the Town's open space holdings, including conservation areas, trails, landings, waterways, and new acquisitions that support their protection, maintenance, and optimize appropriate public access to them, with the further possibility of forming associated Friends Groups.
5. Task all designated stakeholders of this 2024 Open Space Plan to track their progress in meeting their agreed-upon goals on a 3-year basis and report those findings to the Open Space Committee when invited. The Open Space Committee will collate and make those findings public and use the acquired information to prepare incrementally for the 2031 Open Space Plan.
6. Promote increased awareness and passive use of the Town's trails and landings, utilizing digital maps, kiosks, the Town's website, and community engagement opportunities.
7. Promote safe pedestrian and bike access outdoors by supporting sidewalk construction, bike lanes, riding loops, and greenway connectivity between the Town's open spaces.
8. Pursue the acquisition and protection of valuable open space assets for recreation, conservation, and resource protection in a manner that addresses the identified needs of the Town.
9. Establish a resource hub that makes available information on relevant programs, including land stewardship and trusts, tax incentives, and conservation easement opportunities for private landowners interested in protecting the undeveloped, forested, farmed, river-accessible, scenic, or historic property for the future.

Figure 1: Regional Context Map 1



Legend

- West Bridgewater
- Hockomock Swamp
- Taunton Watershed
- Major Roadways
- MBTA Commuter Rail Lines
- MBTA Commuter Rail Stations



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS
 Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS April 3, 2020
 OpenSpace\RegionalContext

SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

West Bridgewater is a growing South Shore community with a rich history and a wealth of natural, cultural, and historical resources. Foremost amongst these are copious ponds, rivers, streams, and wetlands that dominate the landscape. It is a town that many of its residents identify as being semi-rural and possessing a charming, small New England town character. This character and the sense of community accompanying it are some of the most highly enjoyed aspects of living within West Bridgewater. Part of this character is the abundance of open spaces where people can enjoy recreation or bask in the beauty and wonder of undeveloped natural landscapes. The 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update guides protecting and enhancing the town's many valued natural and cultural resources.

The Town of West Bridgewater is committed to preserving and protecting its natural, social, and cultural resources and providing its citizens opportunities to interact with and enjoy them. Open space is needed for natural resource protection, recreation, and the Town's quality of life. As towns throughout the region continue to experience growth pressures, Bridgewater residents are increasingly aware of the need to preserve the resources that the Town's citizen leaders have worked hard to protect.

This 2024 West Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update makes recommendations to help guide planning and development. It suggests criteria and actions for protecting and stewarding West Bridgewater's resources and recreational spaces. This document provides the cultural and natural context for what has taken place to date, presents the trends that will continue to affect our community in the future, and provides an inventory of open land, both public and private, protected and unprotected.

The purpose of this plan is to inventory, assess, and plan for future open space and recreation resources. Through this process, we have identified existing and potential needs that still need to be met or will only be met if we address these shortcomings today.

This 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of West Bridgewater:

- ✓ Identifies natural and recreational resources within West Bridgewater and inventories of all open spaces within the town.

- ✓ Incorporates public input to better serve the community’s needs, build support for various efforts, and encourage public participation in protecting essential resources.
- ✓ Addresses threats of climate change and recommends actions to adapt to and mitigate these threats.
- ✓ Identifies strategies for directing development and resource protection.

In drafting this 2024 plan update, while strides have been made to protect West Bridgewater’s various resources, the dominant pattern of urban sprawl continues to pressure these resources, and this type of growth has gone unchecked.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

West Bridgewater’s current Open Space and Recreation Plan follows the guidelines and requirements of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Division of Conservation Services. This Plan has been developed to enhance and protect West Bridgewater’s valuable natural and recreational resources during escalating real estate values and tightening fiscal budgets. Staff and volunteer members of the Open Space Committee undertook the current update. Public participation was a vital component of the Plan Update’s planning process and recognized the importance of including residents’ concerns and input in developing the community’s overall goals for passive and active open space.

Public Participation

The outline below describes the public participation process followed in the plan’s development.

- **Public Surveys:** In July 2021, a link to an online survey was sent directly to vital municipal departments and Boards and through various means outlined below. The survey results and feedback from the efforts listed below guided the Goals and Action steps outlined in the Plan. From July 2021 through December 2023, three surveys were conducted with residents and community members of the Town of West Bridgewater to determine their views about Open Space and Recreation Planning and Preservation. These surveys were distributed to residents as online surveys from Survey Monkey. The OSRP survey was distributed with printed fliers with information and QR codes to reach the survey online through the town staff emails, school department emails, and word of mouth. The surveys received 225 responses (66 in 2021, 49 in 2022, and 120 in 2023).
- **Environmental Justice Input:** The map of Environmental Justice Areas shows no such low-income or minority areas in the homogeneous town of West Bridgewater. Nor does the town have significant areas with a degraded environment like an open landfill or hazardous waste site, and the land along Route 24 is mainly 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. The most significant areas of the Environmental Justice population reside in the abutting communities of the City of Brockton, which has a large Environmental Justice population (71,966, 75%), and the Town of Bridgewater (3,847, 16%). The public survey for this OSRP Update and draft plans for public comment were provided to representatives of these communities through their delegates with the Old Colony Planning Council. Thus, there are no major Environmental Equity Issues.

- ***Public Meetings and Forums:*** An online public listening session and working group meetings were held as follows. These meetings were advertised on the town and OCPC websites, and video recordings were posted on both sides. Public engagement materials are in Appendix G of this Plan.
 - The July 19th meeting reviewed the proposed timeline and objectives for the project, developed a public participation plan, discussed data collection, and set additional dates for working group meetings and public listening sessions.
 - A public listening session was held on July 29, 2021. The audio of this meeting was recorded and can be accessed here: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/f5czqc82tcnu2ebkzwf5h/GMT20210729-170612_Recording.m4a?rlkey=lxha11meh38xyaro7ojid7sn&dl=0
 - The August 12th working group meeting reviewed the plan's Goals and Objectives and areas of concern, including regional bicycle and connectivity.
 - The October 26th public listening session reviewed the Goals and Objectives for the OSRP proposed at the August 9th working group meeting. The session was open for public comment on the proposed goals.
 - A meeting was held with town officials on January 13, 2022, to review the final list of Goals and Objectives; an additional meeting was held on January 19, 2022, to confirm the final Goals and Objectives of the Plan.
- ***Media Outreach:*** Public participation efforts were publicized as broadly as possible through all available media outlets, including:
 - *West Bridgewater Facebook Page*
 - *OCPC Facebook Page*
 - *Town of West Bridgewater website and News and Announcements*
 - *OCPC website and Newsletter and Council Announcements*
 - *West Bridgewater Conservation Commission outreach efforts*
 - *West Bridgewater River Walk 2022*
 - *Standard notification to Town Committees and Staff*
 - *Government Outreach through the Open Space Committee, Town Clerk's office, and WB Bicentennial Celebration Day on August 20, 2022.*
 - *Targeted distribution through the Council on Aging.*
 - *Survey engagement at Town Meetings in 2021 and 2023.*
 - *WB Park Day, 2021.*

Due to the time it took to complete the plan and the limited number of responses, the steering committee and OCPC chose to continue to survey the community. The impact of the environment on the public has always held significance but was highlighted by the media during the pandemic and throughout much of the engagement process. The pandemic's impact on the planning process and the community inspired the need for more outreach efforts at the project's close. Forty-nine responses were collected from June 13, 2022, to August 22, 2022. Then, 120 responses were collected from October 16, 2023, to December 18, 2023, and results were included in the plan. The steering committee reviewed the objectives from previously completed plans and reflected them in contrast to the new survey results.

Enhanced Outreach

The town undertook enhanced outreach to populations with limited access to traditional electronic and social media and who were less inclined to respond. Census data indicates that the population of West Bridgewater and surrounding communities is aging. This elder subpopulation is a critical one to support with the new OSRP. Recent calls for more elder-focused recreational amenities are given additional credence with this data. Targeted distribution of materials to seniors through the Council on Aging, outreach was undertaken, and to specific young populations and neighborhoods through the School Department. For those unable to participate in the live listening sessions, copies were available through the broadcast of videos on YouTube and Community Access television.

This additional enhanced outreach was initiated to focus on the young and older residents on either side of the spectrum. Digital copies of the plan were provided to the delegates of the communities in the OCPC district for distribution to their constituents.

For 2023, the new survey was available in digital and printed copies. It was advertised digitally through Buzz Around: Bridgewaters, OCPC social media and newsletter, and the town's social media. The survey on aging was conducted at the town hall, the library, and the council, using physical copies, QR codes, and paper surveys. The Old Colony Planning Council went in person to the COA to inform members of the survey and provide paper copies as needed.

The map of Environmental Justice Areas (Appendix A) shows no such low-income or minority areas in the relatively homogeneous town of West Bridgewater. The most significant areas of the Environmental Justice population reside in the abutting communities of the City of Brockton, which has a large Environmental Justice population (71,966, 75%), and the Town of Bridgewater (3,847, 16%). The public survey for this OSRP Update and draft plans for public comment were provided to representatives of these communities through their delegates with the Old Colony Planning Council.

Tell us what you think about West Bridgewater's Parks & Recreation Areas!

this is part of a comprehensive plan that will help the town improve amenities and qualify for grant funding opportunities

TAKE THE SURVEY



<https://bit.ly/3JWfyjQ>




Old Colony Planning Council
70 School St., Brockton, MA 02301



"Open Space" is: "public and privately owned undeveloped lands which are important for a variety of reasons, including recreation, agriculture, forestry, etc

The survey takes less than 10 minutes.
<https://bit.ly/3JWfyjQ>

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, CONTACT:

Town of West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Committee Chair: Mary Wynne-Yee mary.wynne@verizon.net	Old Colony Planning Council: Dottie Fulginiti dfulginiti@ocpcrpa.org or (774) 539-2905
--	--



If you need a paper survey, assistance with filling out the survey or translation services, contact Dottie Fulginiti.

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

RIVER WALK 2022

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH 10-2

ENJOY BEAUTIFUL, CAR-FREE RIVER STREET

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| Live Music |  | Blacksmithing |
| Canoes & Kayaks | | Yoga in the Park |
| Coffee Cart | | Kid's Play Area |
| Keith House Tours | | Raffles ...and more |

EVENT IS FREE, BUT THERE WILL BE SNACKS AND TICKETS FOR PURCHASE. FOLLOW WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENT UPDATES.
RAIN DATE IS SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH.





Public Listening Session
August 12, 2021 @ 7PM

First Floor Conference Room
West Bridgewater Town Hall
65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE



Hosted by the Town of West Bridgewater's Open Space & Recreation
Committee, Conservation Commission & Old Colony Planning Council



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL



SCAN TO
TAKE SURVEY

SCAN BELOW TO
TAKE OUR SURVEY



Let us know
what you think
about West
Bridgewater's
Parks &
Recreation Areas





SCAN BELOW TO TAKE OUR SURVEY



Let us know what you think about West
Bridgewater's Parks & Recreation Areas



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



TAKE THE SURVEY

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBopenSpace>



**WE NEED
THE
PUBLIC'S
INPUT!**

SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS
ON:

- CONSERVATION
- PARKS
- SPORTS FIELDS
- AND MORE

QUESTIONS?

Contact the town at openspace@wbridgewater.com
Or OCPC at rdugan@ocpcrpa.com



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN



TAKE THE SURVEY

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBopenSpace>

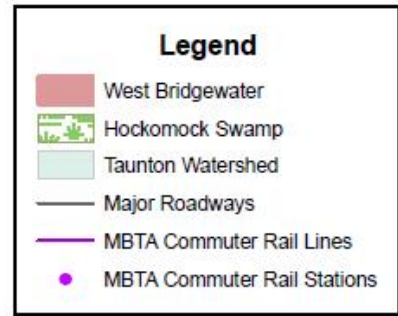
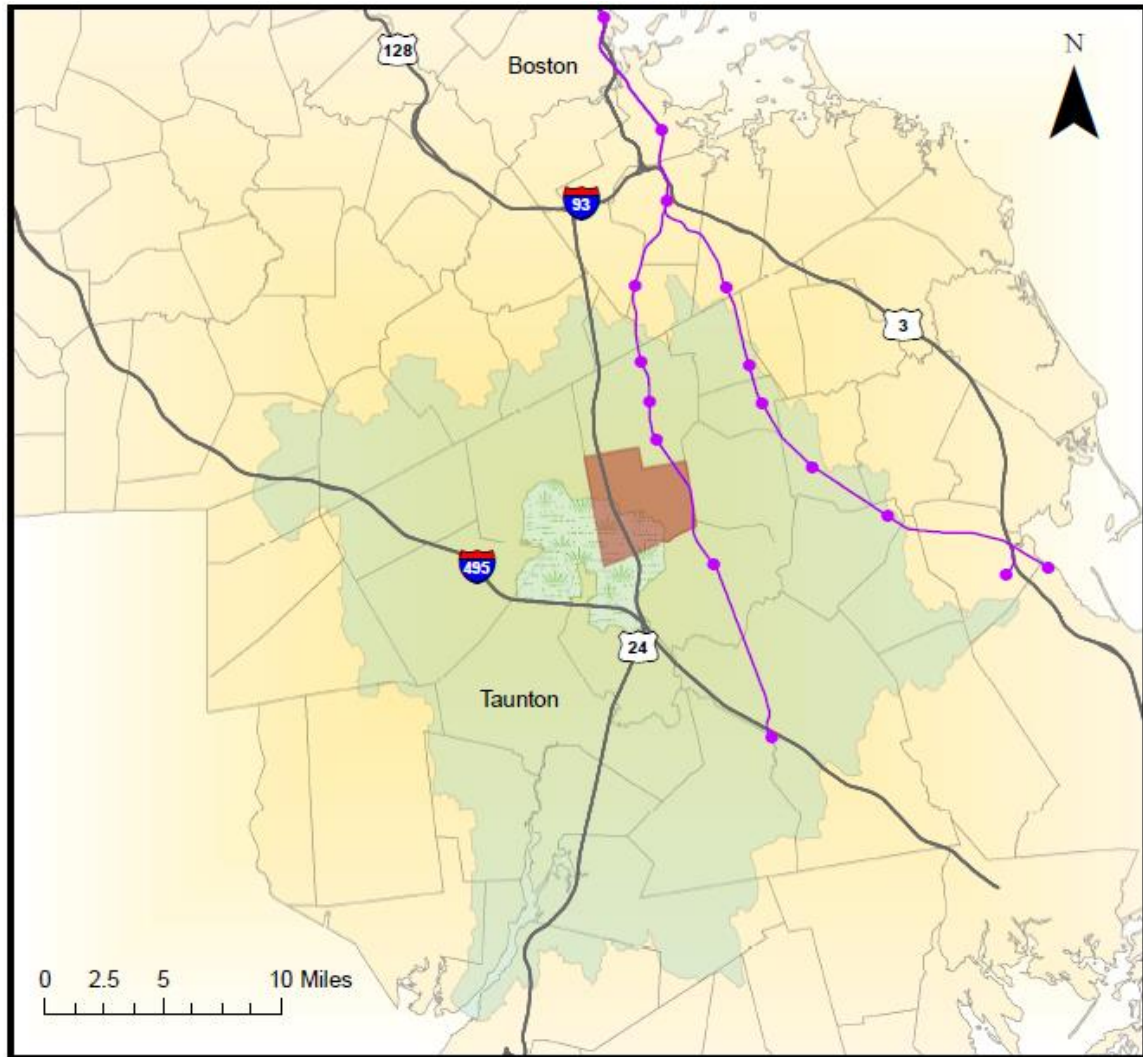


QUESTIONS?

Contact the town at openspace@wbridgewater.com
Or OCPC at rdugan@ocpcrpa.com



Figure 2: Regional Context Map



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS
Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS April 3, 2020
OpenSpace\RegionalContext

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

A. Regional Context

Physical Locations and Characteristics

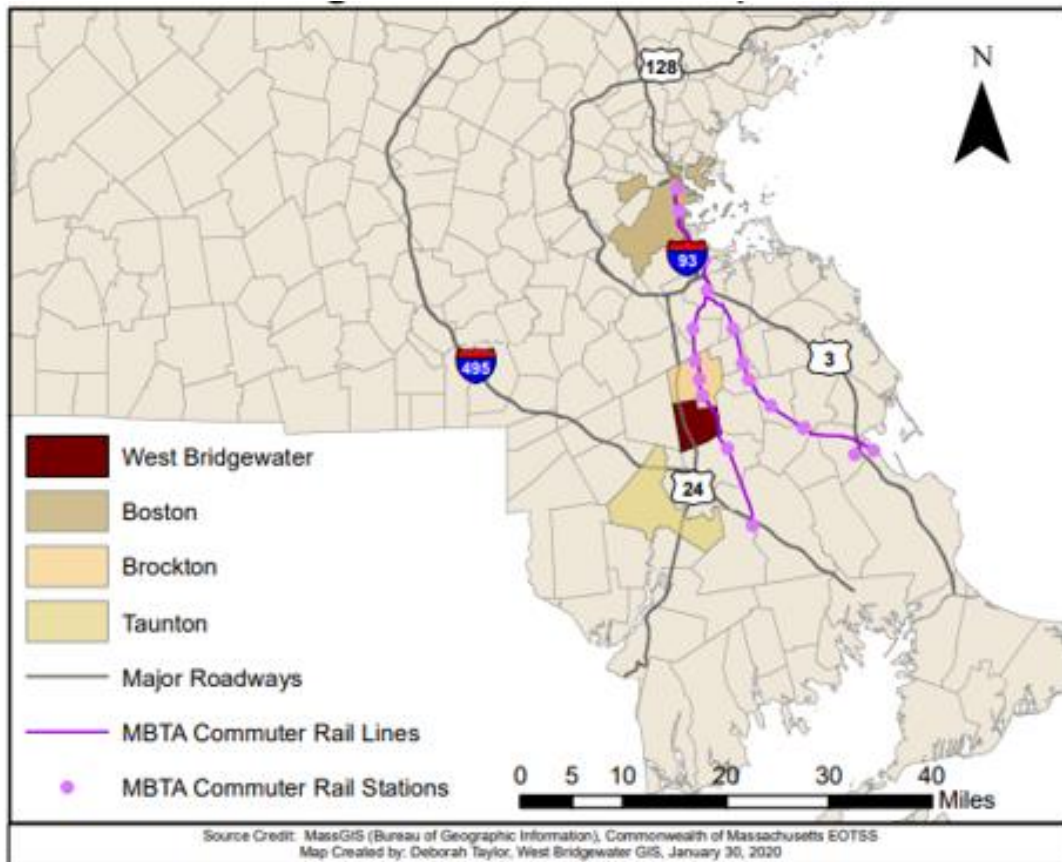
West Bridgewater, affectionately known as 'WB,' is a small residential town in southeastern Massachusetts. It ranks 238 out of 351 cities and towns in size and has a population of just over 7700 people. Nestled in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, 25 miles south of Boston, MA, and 25 miles north of Providence, RI, it is an agricultural town that is striving to retain its rural character. With 15.48 square miles of land and 0.27 square miles of water, the town is home to valuable natural resources of regional importance, notably a portion of the Hockomock Swamp to the southwest, the largest continuous wetland in New England. The preservation of these natural resources is a shared responsibility, as pressures to become a suburb of Brockton and Boston are mounting, with West Bridgewater sandwiched between the highly developed city of Brockton and the larger, more developed town of Bridgewater.

West Bridgewater started in 1650 as part of historic Old Bridgewater, the first interior settlement of Massachusetts Bay Colony, on land purchased directly from Massasoit, then Chief of the Pokanoket Wampanoags. The area was attractive for its “fertile fields, glorious woodlands, abundant streams, and great cedar swamp.” A settlement was quickly established along the town’s river. Architectural remnants from that time remain, like stone bridges and the Reverend James Keith parsonage, considered the oldest in the United States. About 170 years later, in 1822, West Bridgewater became incorporated as an independent town. Over the subsequent 200 years, the town’s location, agricultural economy, and significant natural resources proved critical to its survival and stability as a community.

Current Challenges

Southeastern Massachusetts, including West Bridgewater, is facing a critical challenge. As one of the last remaining areas in Greater Boston with more extensive tracts of land due to its agricultural past, it has become a magnet for residential and commercial developers. The risk of succumbing to the sprawl evident in many overbuilt areas is a pressing concern that needs immediate attention.

Figure 3: MBTA Commuter Rail



Local trends have seen the proliferation of several significant residential developments exacerbated by Massachusetts statute Chapter 40B filings and an increase in warehouses and solar farms, many on previously wooded or more agriculturally suited tracts. Left unmanaged, these changes will quickly impact the town's nature, look, and feel and strain its roadways, services, and infrastructure. Like many other towns, West Bridgewater struggles with balancing economic development, suburbanization, and resource management pressures while aiming to preserve the community's unique rural and historical character.

Location & Physical Features

West Bridgewater is in southeastern Massachusetts in Plymouth County, encompassing the geo-coordinates of 42N and 71W. West Bridgewater has 15.48 square miles of land and 0.27 square miles of surface water. Geographically, the town is midway between the capital cities of Providence, RI, about 24 miles south, and Boston, Massachusetts, about 24 miles north. It is also situated about 30 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean. 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. According to data from 2018, there are 59.80 total road miles in West Bridgewater. The town 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 West Bridgewater State Forest. Glaciers scoured the region to the north, leaving behind till and deep soils well suited for agriculture, which supported the Wampanoag tribe and later settler colonists for hundreds of years. The surrounding forests were necessary for the lumber mill industry, which relied on the hydropower of the region's many rivers, especially West Bridgewater's Nunckatessett River (also called the Town River). West Bridgewater strives to retain its rural character as farming becomes less cost-effective and commerce replaces extractive activities and local manufacturing.

General Landscape

West Bridgewater's topography results from glacial scouring and can be categorized as forested lowlands and scattered fields with generous surface water. The town has many wooded areas, wetlands, fields, and bodies of water. Historically, these features have influenced the town's character and economy, enabling industry, portage, milling, or supporting native wildlife. Today, however, this "green infrastructure" is increasingly at risk. Subdivision plots are replacing agricultural fields. Overdrawing fresh water, fertilizer use, septic and stormwater runoff, PFAS leaching, and illicit discharge impact our water resources. And tree cover, too, is being lost. Trees serve aesthetic, economic, and recreational value, providing critical wildlife habitat, erosion and flood control, oxygen production, carbon absorption, improvements in air quality, water capture and filtration, and pollutant extraction. They also provide shade, cooling, and noise reduction. Today, we risk losing these resources to residential and industrial construction, a changing climate, pollution, and invasive species without much local attention. As we move forward, it is increasingly vital that we find ways to protect the remaining woodlands, fields, and wetlands so that they can continue to provide the intrinsic benefits we rely on.

Regional Resources

West Bridgewater lies in an area offering significant recreational resources and cultural opportunities. For cultural offerings, the capital cities of Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, RI, are within an hour's drive, north or south. Thirty miles to the east lies the Atlantic Ocean. More southeasterly is the historic Town of Plymouth with the Mayflower II and Plimoth Patuxet Museums, the iconic Plymouth Rock, and gateway bridges to Cape Cod and its unparalleled national seashore. Regional open space in surrounding towns includes Easton's Borderland 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.

Significant in-town open space resources include the Town River, War Memorial Park, Rail Trail, West Bridgewater State Forest, West Meadows Pond, and a local stretch of the Bay Circuit Trail.

Figure 4: Bay Circuit Trail



Bay Circuit Trail

The Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) 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 provide access to the heritage and character of the New England countryside.

The contemporary concept is necessarily more modest, as many opportunities for significant holdings are gone. The volunteer implementing body, the Appalachian Mountain Club,

stresses creating continuous trails through scenic areas and connecting them rather than trying to create an expansive greenbelt. However, the club still encourages and supports open space acquisition and protection of critical resources along the Trail and seeks to integrate the trail with such resources.

The 230+ mile Trail intersects over 50 communities, 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.

Figure 5: Bay Circuit Trail, Southern Section, including West Bridgewater

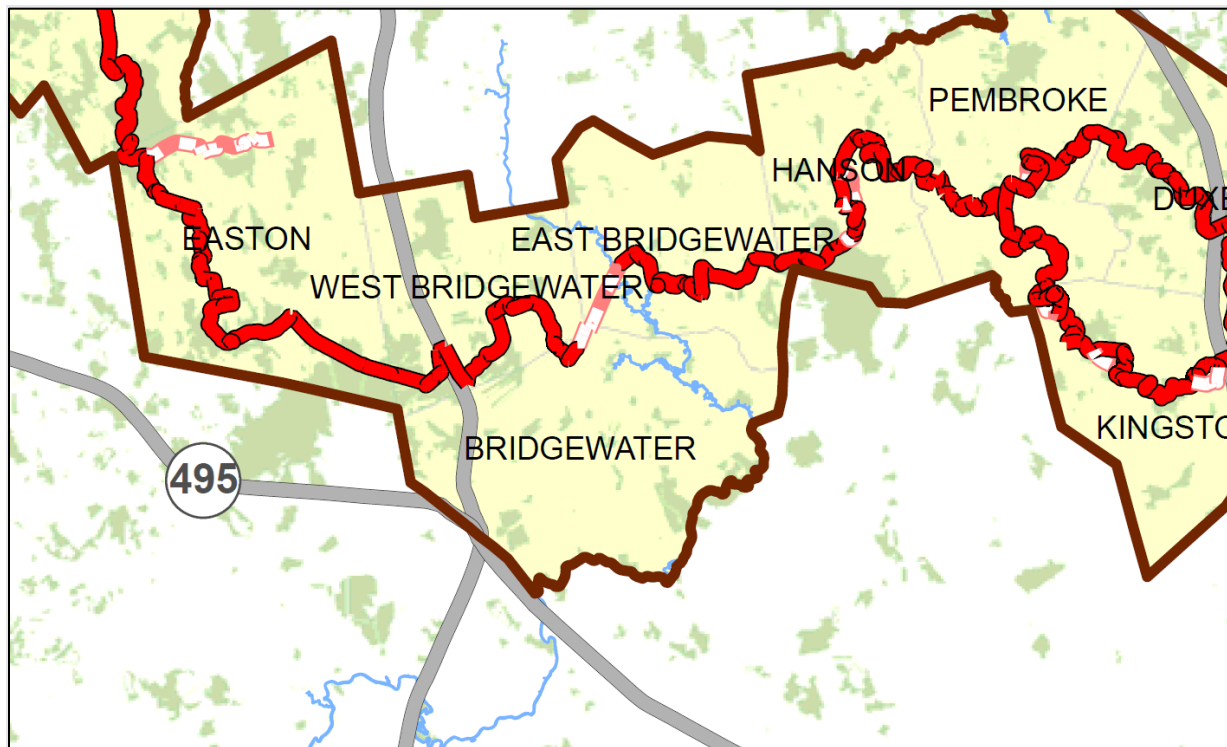
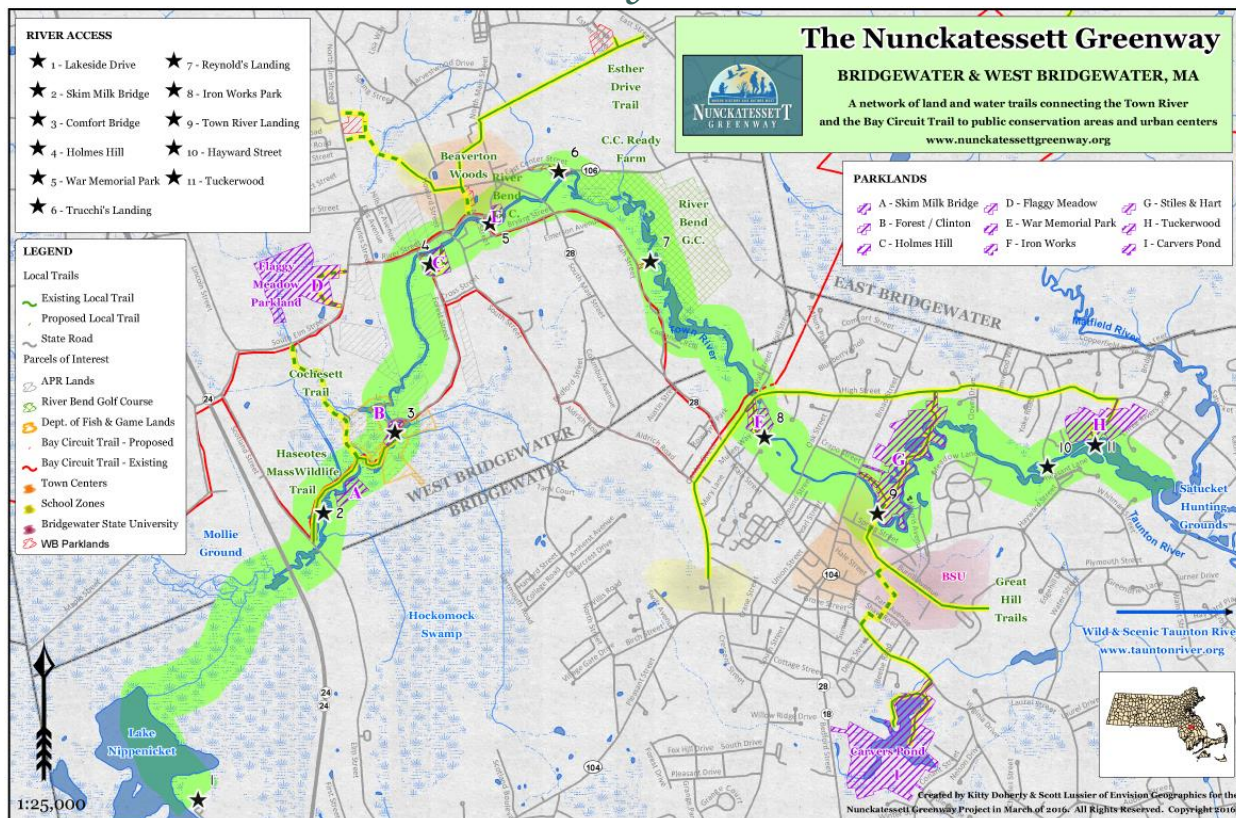


Figure 6: The Nunckatessett Greenway, more aspirational than reality.

The Nunckatessett Greenway



Climate and Environmental Features

Wetland topography

West Bridgewater is a water-rich town, part of the 562 square mile Taunton River Watershed, the second largest in the state. Some of the town's wetland resources are of regional significance, most notably a portion of Hockomock Swamp, New England's largest vegetated freshwater wetland and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in Massachusetts. Additionally, a freshwater aquifer underlies 65% of the town's land area, supplying drinking water through the town's numerous wells. West Bridgewater has three rivers: the Salisbury Plain River, the Hockomock River, and the Town River (known initially as the Nunckatesset). The Town and Salisbury Plain rivers join the Matfield River in Bridgewater, forming the Wild and Scenic Taunton River, Massachusetts's longest undammed coastal river. Additionally, the town has two significant ponds -Mill Pond and West Meadows Pond- and a network of streams and brooks crisscrossing the landscape. This topography defines and limits the activities and structures suitable for the different areas of town. The presence of wetlands limits commercial building and housing developments to more upland areas while also increasing the probability of flooding of nearby properties. In areas that are not wetlands, the soil profile is glacial till and well-suited for agriculture.

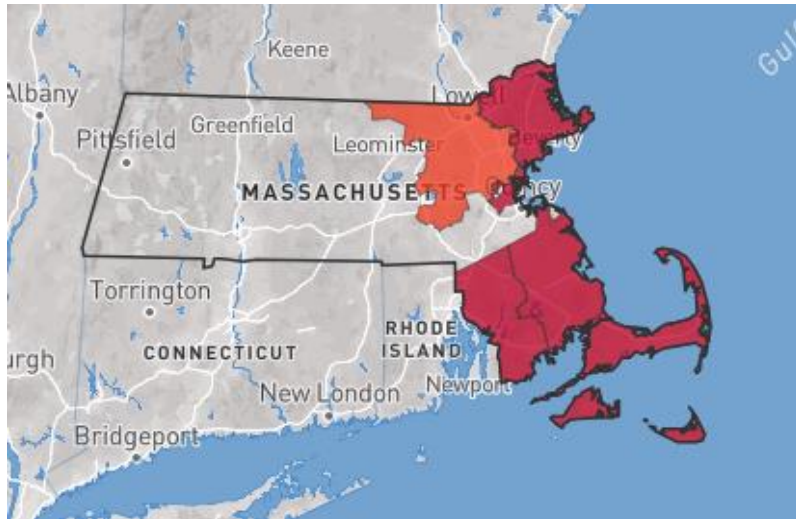
Weather

Massachusetts experiences some of the most dynamic weather in the country. It is in the Northeast Climate Region and experiences four distinct seasons. The climate in southeastern Massachusetts is classified as humid continental, exhibiting cold, snowy winters and hot, humid summers. The average precipitation for the state is about 44 inches a year; historically, that has been mostly snow, but now it is trending towards rain. Coastal and southeastern Massachusetts weather is also impacted by its proximity to the ocean. Summer daytime temperatures average in the 80s, and winters tend to stay just above freezing, especially in coastally influenced areas.

Plymouth County experiences more natural disasters (20) than the national average (12). These include floods, hurricanes, blizzards (nor'easters), snow accumulation, and wind events that endanger life and can cause extensive damage, economic disruption, and cost. NOAA also reports that the area has an increased risk of ice events, droughts, riverine flooding, and lightning strikes. Like the rest of the country, average annual temperatures have been trending upward since the 1970s and spiking even higher after 1998. Higher average temperatures are associated with an increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events. The last few decades have seen extended drought and excessive precipitation. While historically less common, forest fires and tornadoes may become a more significant threat with the predicted increase in the frequency of hotter temperatures and extreme weather events.

Additional Regional Risk Assessments

Figure 7: Regional Risk Assessment



**High Risk of
Regional Coastal Flooding**
NOAA, FEMA

**High Risk of
Hurricane**
NOAA, FEMA

Figure 8: High Risk of Hurricane

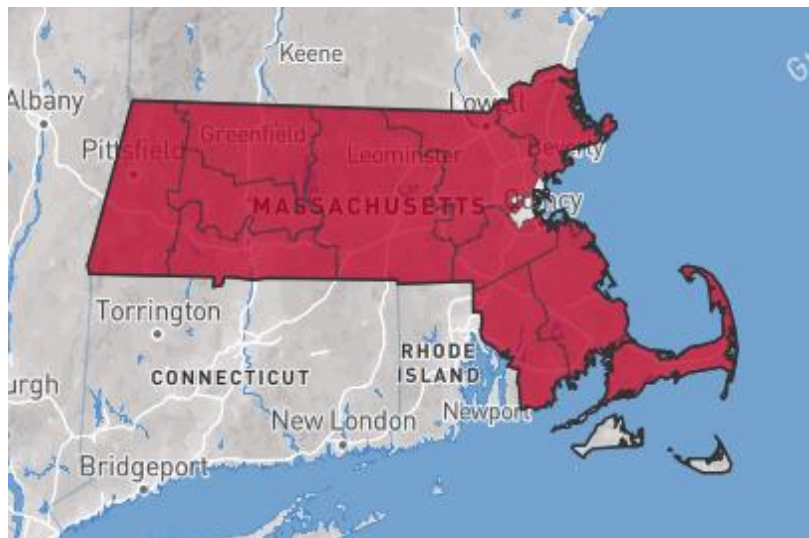
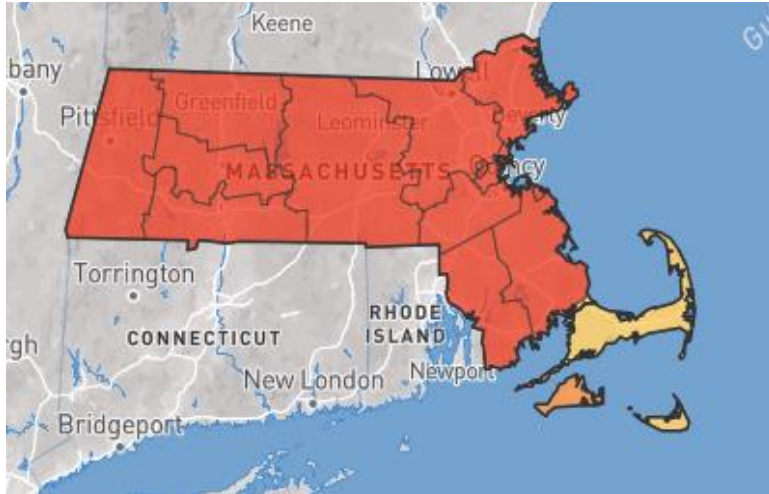
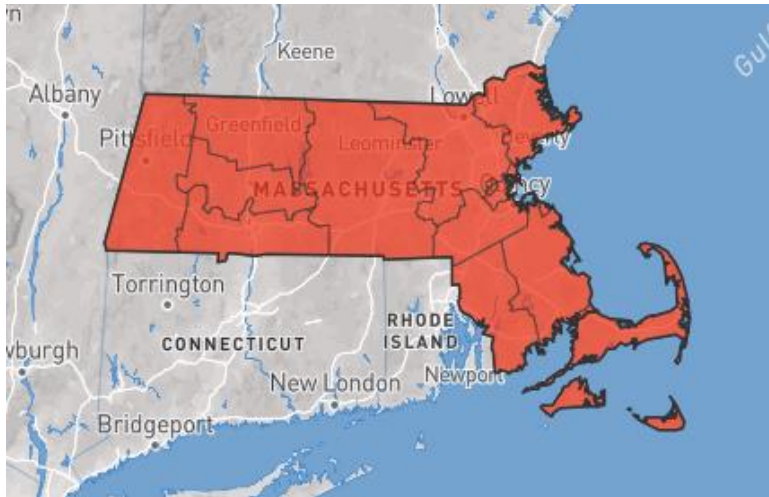


Figure 9: Medium Risk of Extreme Heat



**Medium Risk of
Extreme Heat**
NOAA, FEMA

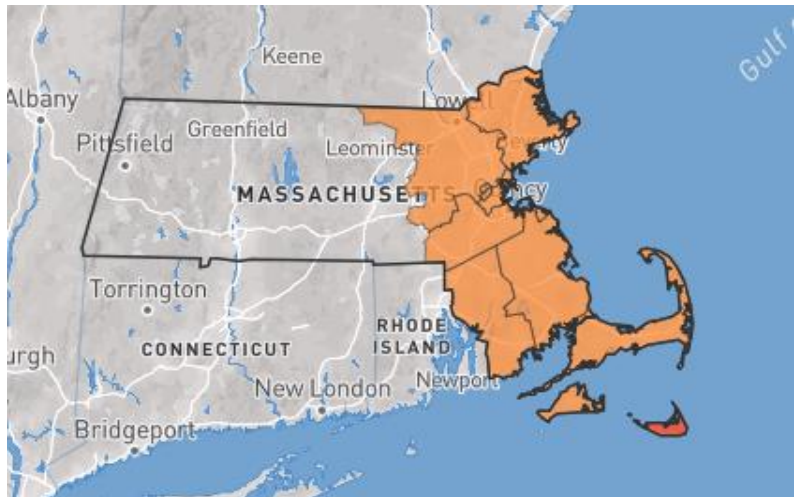
Figure 10: Medium Risk of Fire



**Medium Risk of
Fire**
NOAA, FEMA

Figure 11: Low Risk of Tsunami, NOAA, FEMA

Low Risk of Tsunami
NOAA, FEMA

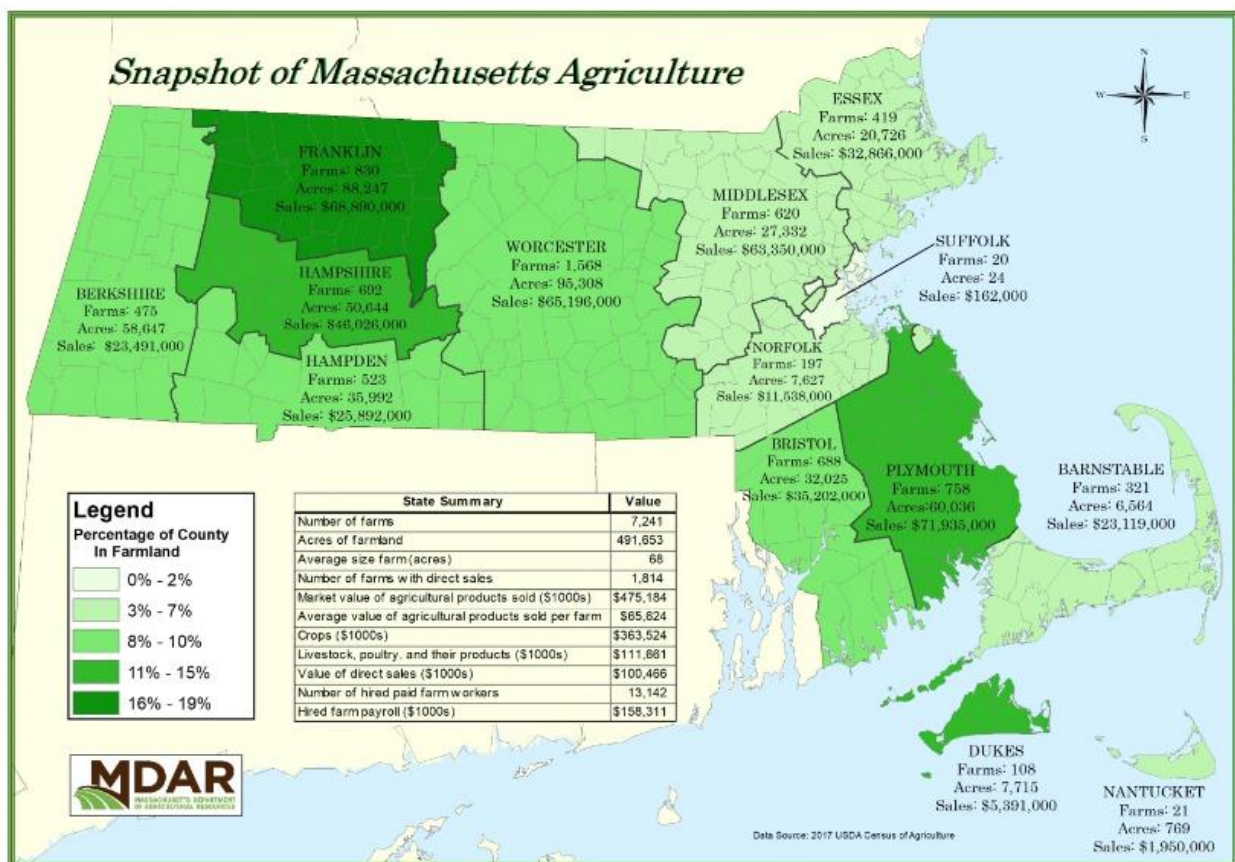


Climate and Agriculture

Plymouth County is an important agricultural region for the Massachusetts economy. The county has historically ranked number one in the state for the market value of agricultural products, accounting for just 15% of the state’s farm sales. Income-producing commodities include greenhouse and nursery products, cranberries, berries, vegetables, hay, and livestock. Notably, in 2022, cannabis cultivation became the state’s most valuable crop, bringing in \$361 million, knocking cranberries from their historic number-one spot at \$66 million. Hay, a critical West Bridgewater crop, came in third at \$13 million.

In 2012, the USDA’s Plant Hardiness Zone designation for southeastern Massachusetts, critical for agricultural and ecosystem monitoring, was reclassified upward to Zone 6b, reflecting the region’s rising average temperatures. Weather predictability is vital to agriculture, and as noted, the climate is changing. The annual growing season in the region has always been variable, ranging from between 180 to 220 days; however, changes in water reliability -too much water, too little water, flooding, drought- and hotter temperatures are creating additional challenges for West Bridgewater farmers and those in the OCPC region.

Figure 12: Massachusetts Agriculture



Climate and Health

Climate-related concerns directly impact health and quality of life in West Bridgewater and the region. Increasing precipitation, storms, and heat intensity trends can detrimentally impact how residents experience their environment. These factors may affect well-being and dampen the desire to enjoy the outdoors. A heated climate stresses humans and affects the native species in the local area. Hotter and more extreme summers can challenge the tolerance levels of familiar animals and plants and increase the threat of fungal and vector-borne illnesses. Increased exposure to longer seasons of mosquitoes and ticks poses genuine health risks and can become a deterrent to thoroughly enjoying the outdoors. Over the past 50 years, tick-borne Lyme disease has become an epidemic in the area, now averaging 87,000 cases per year in Massachusetts (2018). In addition, Babesiosis, Tularemia, Annaprasan miosis, and Alpha-gal Syndrome, among others, are becoming an increasing health threat. Mosquitoes in the area are already known to spread West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV).

Another local climate-related concern is air quality. In 2013, the average air quality in Plymouth County was significantly worse than the national average measured in the Air Quality Index (AQI) Report. However, in the intervening years, Massachusetts' air quality has improved significantly, earning a B in the recent American Lung Association's State of the Air Report for 2023. According to a recent Boston College Global Observatory study, current air quality standards are insufficient to protect health. Specifically, particulate exposure from emissions, smoke, ash, and dust contributes to health issues relating to heart disease, cancer, asthma, and diabetes, among others. Massachusetts is estimated to have about 2780 deaths yearly from this air pollution. This is in addition to the over 60,000 adult and 11,000 pediatric asthma diagnoses and 25,000 COPD cases in Plymouth County alone. As the level of pollutants from vehicular traffic and local industries pick up from COVID-19 era levels, and particulate pollution from local industries and wind events, or even distant wildfires make their way here, attaining and maintaining healthy air quality promises to remain a challenge.

The expanding threat of emergent diseases and the worsening of existing health conditions due to heat stress and air pollution call for our ongoing attention and our preparedness to implement remedial measures whenever the opportunities present themselves.

Earthquakes

West Bridgewater has a very low risk of earthquakes and landslides. The probability of a 5.0 earthquake is 1.68% within the next fifty years. Small earthquakes are an occasional event. Twenty-two have been recorded since 1931. The largest one within thirty miles of the town measured 3.1 magnitude in 1977.

Bridges

West Bridgewater has 14 bridges, the largest and most recent being Route 24 overpasses. Several stone bridges, some dating from the 1700s, remain. Two of the most notable are the Triple Arch Bridge, which can be seen on Arch Street in War Memorial Park, and the Skim Milk Bridge, which was found off Scotland Street and is currently under consideration for federal listing as a

“structure of historical significance.” Flaggy Meadow Bridge is another arched stone bridge on South Elm Street, but it is more hidden from view. The Reynold’s Landing site is being explored for the remnants of Comfort Willis Bridge, which dates to the early 1700s.

Dams

West Bridgewater has three dams -one at War Memorial Park, one at West Meadows State Forest, and one downstream from Mill Pond on Crescent Street. The dam at War Memorial Park includes a fish ladder for migrating fish. The recent removal of a downstream dam at High Street in Bridgewater provides an opportunity and incentive to upgrade the town’s fish ladder to facilitate better fish passage upstream to Lake Nippenicket (the Nip), a historical spring spawning destination for herring and American eel. The current ladder is of obsolete design and needs significant repairs. Efforts are currently underway to seek funding for the necessary improvements.

West Meadow Dam	State Ownership	Significant Hazard
War Memorial Park Dam	Municipal Ownership	Low Hazard
Mill Pond Dam	Private Ownership	Significant Hazard

Figure 13: Stone Bridge



Transportation and Traffic

In West Bridgewater, most people drive to work. There are about 4200 private vehicles in town, an average of more than two cars per household. Pre-covid, average commute times for residents ranged from between 40 and 90 minutes daily. West Bridgewater’s location and proximity to highway access make it an attractive option for potential home buyers and commercial interests. *Route 24*, Amvets Highway, a regionally significant six-lane divided, limited-access-highway, lies along West Bridgewater’s western perimeter. The highway runs from Fall River in the south to Interstate 93 north. At Exit 28 in West Bridgewater, one can head

northbound towards Brockton and metro Boston or southbound towards Route 495, Taunton, and Rhode Island. For West Bridgewater, the highway allows easy access to most significant points; however, besides being a busy and dangerous highway, the resulting volume of commuter traffic accessing Route 24 creates outsized problems for the town, particularly regarding congestion during rush hours.

Access to Route 24 is gained from east-west oriented, two-lane **Route 106**, West Center Street. Commuter, commercial, and truck traffic from surrounding towns often bottlenecks along the route during daily rush hours. This results in congestion, slow progress, increased noise, unsafe pedestrian movement, and general driver and resident frustration. Traffic often spills over to residential side streets. Lincoln Street, Pleasant Street, and River Street are frequently used alternatives to residents' dismay. Recently completed changes to the intersection at the town center relieved some congestion, but challenges remain. Today, an estimated 280,413 autos and 27,296 trucks traverse the town daily, primarily because of Route 24 traffic; however, this is expected to increase to almost half a million vehicles daily by 2031.

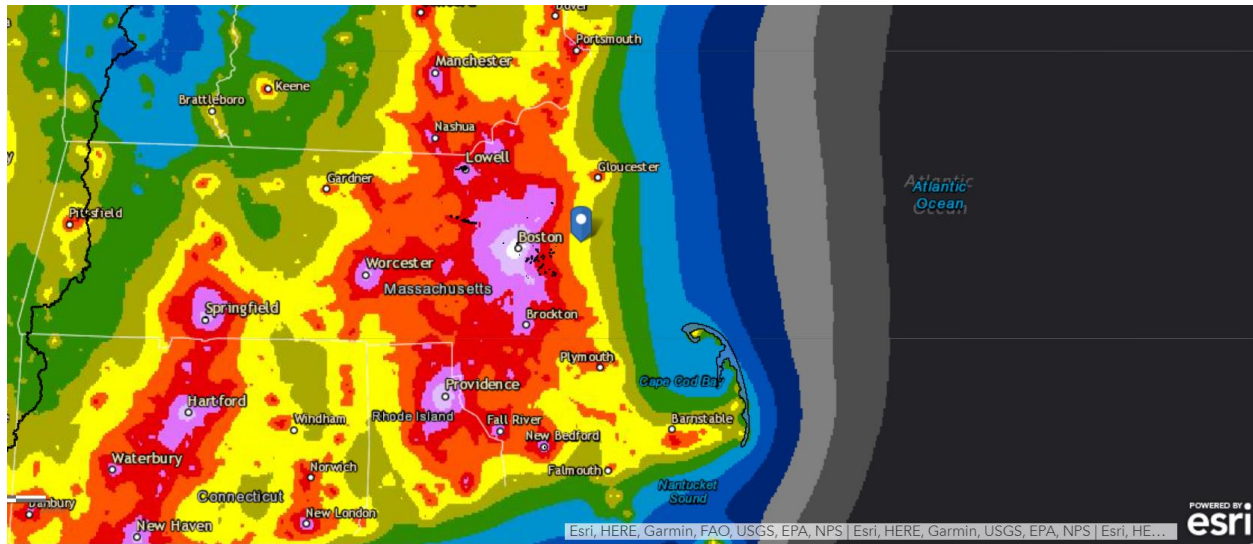
Local access **Route 28** connects West Bridgewater to Brockton in a northerly direction and to Bridgewater in a southerly direction. Commuter rail service on the Boston /Middleborough-Lakeville Line is available at nearby stations - Campello in Brockton and Bridgewater State University in Bridgewater. The current average one-way ticket price is \$12 plus \$2 parking. Direct in-town express bus service to Boston was terminated in 2021, to the disappointment of many. Historically, there has been discussion about reestablishing an in-town commuter rail station, but there is no further action to report.

In 2022, due to its proximity to a commuter rail station, West Bridgewater was designated an MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority) Community—like most other towns in the region. This program was established to address the state's affordable housing crisis. An MBTA Community designation requires the town to zone at least one district of reasonable size for multi-family housing.

Night Sky Light Pollution

The northeast corridor of the East Coast has the highest level of light pollution in the US. Both humans and animals are affected by light. Insufficient levels of darkness and excessive exposure to artificial light have been linked to human health issues and detrimental outcomes in animals. Among the effects are sleep and hormonal disturbances, circadian rhythm problems, and vulnerability to disease. Urban areas generate the highest level of light pollution, but the effect is diffused to surrounding areas as the sky glows. West Bridgewater measures at a level 5, resulting in a diminished night sky view. To minimize health impacts, protect wildlife, and preserve optimal viewing, localities should take measures to mitigate light pollution to the greatest possible extent.

Figure 14: Night Sky Light Pollution



Ratio to natural brightness	Artificial brightness ($\mu\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$)	Approximate total brightness (mcd/m^2)	Color
<0.01	<1.74	<0.176	Black
0.01–0.02	1.74–3.48	0.176–0.177	Dark gray
>0.02–0.04	>3.48–6.96	>0.177–0.181	Gray
>0.04–0.08	>6.96–13.9	>0.181–0.188	Dark blue
>0.08–0.16	>13.9–27.8	>0.188–0.202	Blue
>0.16–0.32	>27.8–55.7	>0.202–0.230	Light blue
>0.32–0.64	>55.7–111	>0.230–0.285	Dark green
>0.64–1.28	>111–223	>0.285–0.397	Green
>1.28–2.56	>223–445	>0.397–0.619	Yellow
>2.56–5.12	>445–890	>0.619–1.065	Orange
>5.12–10.2	>890–1780	1.07–1.96	Red
>10.2–20.5	>1780–3560	>1.96–3.74	Magenta
>20.5–41	>3560–7130	>3.74–7.30	Pink
>41	>7130	>7.30	White

Falchi et al., Sci. Adv., Jakob Grothe/NPS contractor, Matthew Price/CIRES.

Socioeconomic Context

West Bridgewater is a moderate-income agricultural/suburban community. It strives to maintain its small-town size and rural aesthetic. However, it is adjacent to the well-developed City of Brockton and is a moderate commute north to Boston by the restored MBTA Commuter Rail and south to Rhode Island via Route 24.

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.

B. History of the Community

In the 1600s, when the first European settlers came to the area, they found an unblemished territory with abundant wildlife, virgin forests, and miles of inland waterways to the sea. Native Peoples had lived along the banks of these rivers for centuries, hunting and fishing in harmony with the ecosystem that supported them. The vast waterways that formed their habitat comprised a unique river complex today called the Taunton River Basin. Tributary rivers with ageless aboriginal names, such as our Nuncketsett, the Nemasket, Winnetuxet, and Satucket, eventually joined the Kuttetequat to provide passage to the tidal estuaries of Narragansett Bay.¹

West Bridgewater has a rich history as it was one of the first settlements of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1650s. Bridgewater, including the current West Bridgewater, Brockton (formally North Bridgewater), East Bridgewater, and Bridgewater, was 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 within these parts long before the landing of the pilgrims. He had been acclaimed as "the greatest sagamore in the country," his favorite encampment was in the southern part of what was later Old Bridgewater, on the banks of the great river, Tetiquet (today Taunton 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 of land this was, with fertile fields, glorious woodland to warm the hearts of the huntsman, and streams sure 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 this presence 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 bargain above and sale, we, the said Miles Standish, Samuel Nash, and Constant Southworth, do bind ourselves to pay unto the said Ousamequin (aka Massasoit) for and in consideration of the said tract of land as follows:

Seven coats, a yard, and one in each coat,
Nine hatchets,
Eight hoes,
20 knives,
Four moose skins,
10 yards and cotton.

¹ Town River 2003 Shoreline Survey Report & Action Recommendations

Though the payment for the land did not reflect its value, the settler colonists seized on the opportunity to purchase farmable soils and water. Later observers have argued whether the Indigenous tribal leaders thought that they were selling exclusive ownership of the land or just the right to use it freely as they did.

The area's natural resources attracted farmers to start plantations along the Nunckatessett River. In the 18th century, settlement began to spread north toward West Meadow Pond because early settlers had already taken the land near the center of town.

The Nunckatessett, or the Town River Corridor, is one of the earliest areas of colonial settlement, with the first church organized in 1651 and the first inland sawmill and gristmill founded in 1654 on the Town River. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, lumber mills took advantage of the surrounding forests and the hydropower offered by the Nunckatessett River and West Meadow Brook. Lumber mills were established in Bridgewater during the 19th century to build houses and to supply the Civil War. An early mill on the Nunckatessett River became the Ames Shovel Factory (later expanded in Easton) and made shovels for the transcontinental railroad and the Union Army. (The mill ruins still stand at War Memorial Park on River Street.) The economy of the three Bridgewater's thrived, and North Bridgewater (now Brockton) boomed. During this period, large farms remained away from the concentrated industrial sites.

Settlement patterns have followed the high ground over the years, avoiding the unbuildable land in low, wet areas around the town. As a result, most of the existing vacant land and protected open space are concentrated around ponds, rivers, wetlands, and abandoned farmland.

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 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 town's character changed further. West Bridgewater's natural resources began to dictate where development could happen per septic system requirements.

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 increasingly challenging. This challenge was eloquently anticipated just over 100 years ago by a Pokanoket tribal leader at the "gathering of the clans" during the second Centennial Celebration of the settlement of Bridgewater. In response to a toast to Massasoit, he said:

Brothers: I have come a long way to visit you. I am glad 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. This zoning has ceased to be an adequate tool for directing development as farms and open land give way to residential and commercial development, changing the town’s character again. Although they are the worst places for such uses, industrial zoning extends into “low-value” wetlands. 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 1993 and 1996 Community Action Statements, the 2001 Master Plan, the 2004 Community Development Plan, the 2005 Community Annex, and the Route 28 Existing Conditions Study. The town voters adopted the Community Preservation Act and the Right to Farm Act. The town is building on those efforts to strategically prepare the 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan using APRs and land purchases.

Table 1: West Bridgewater History Timeline

WEST BRIDGEWATER HISTORY TIMELINE	
Prehistoric times to the 1660s	Settlements of Native People
1645	Land granted to white settlers in the area
1656	The town was incorporated as “Bridgewater.”
1661	The First Meeting House was built.
1662	Deacon Samuel Edson built the first grist mill.
1664	James Keith was named the first minister of the town.
1774	Ames Ironworks
1785	Baptist Church organized in West Bridgewater.
1801	The First Congregational Church was built on Howard Street.
1820s	Iron Furnaces and wool mills launched the industrial age in town.
1822	West Bridgewater, formerly the West Parish of Bridgewater, is incorporated as a separate town.
1844	Methodist Church was built in Cochesett.
1845	Copeland and Hartwells Shoe Manufactory were established, employing 50; it joins other towns in the Southeastern Massachusetts shoe trade.
1875	Howard Seminary, the first high school in West Bridgewater, has been completed.
1879	Public Library organized.
1910	Water Commission established.
1910	The Board of Health was established.
1933	St. Ann’s Catholic Church was built.
1952	New Junior-Senior High School replaced Howard Seminary.
1954	Union of Congregational and Unitarian Churches.
1956	Spring Street School was built.
1954	Route 24 construction initiated.
1954	Zoning by-law adopted.
1965	Conservation Commission established.

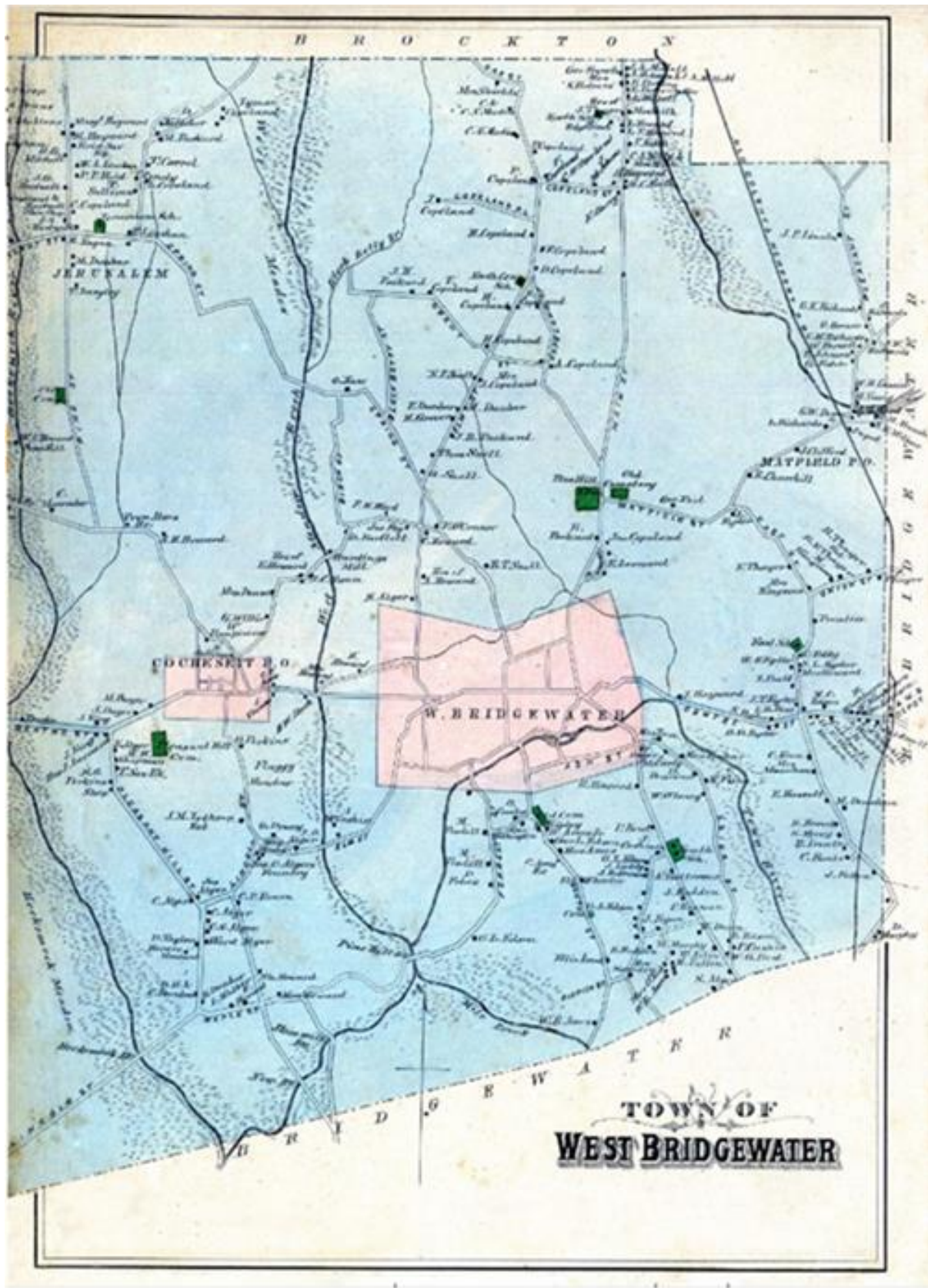
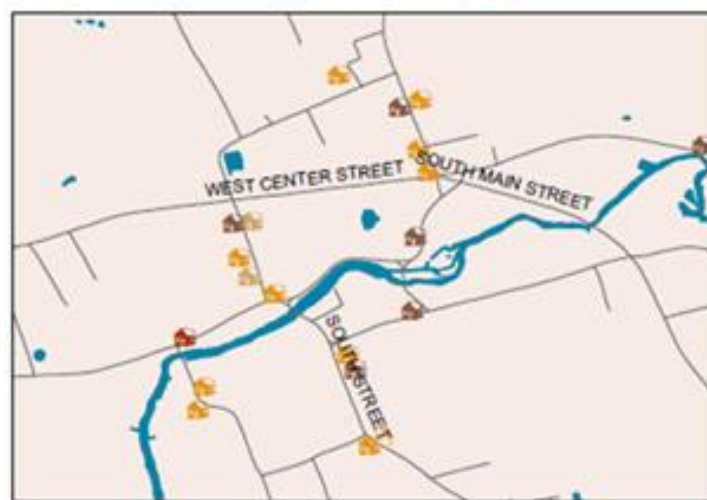
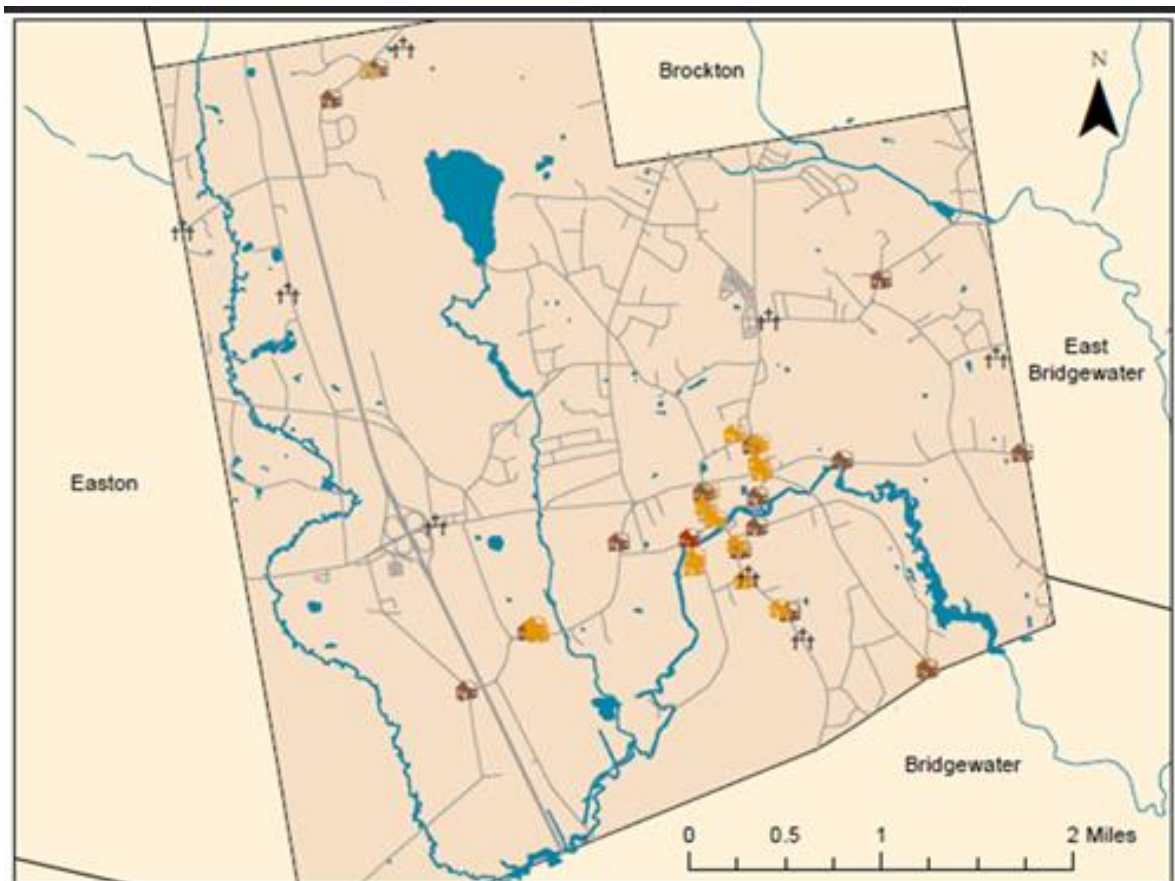


Figure 15: Bridgewater Town West, West Bridgewater Town, Published by Geo. H. Walker & Co. in 1879



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS, Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS May 3, 2021
 OpenSpaceHistoric

Figure 16: Historical Buildings & Burial Grounds

C. Population Characteristics

According to the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS), the population of West Bridgewater was 7,622. The 2020 Census data indicates that the population of West Bridgewater increased by 791 residents, an 11.44 percent change between 2010 and 2020. This reflects an increase from the 2000 to 2010 decade, when the population increase was 4.25 percent (282 residents), and the 1990 to 2000 decade, which experienced population growth of 3.83 percent (245 residents). This reflects an increase from the 2000 to 2010 decade, when the population increase was 4.25 percent (282 residents), and the 1990 to 2000 decade, which experienced population growth of 3.83 percent (245 residents).

According to the ACS, there were 2,726 households in 2021, an increase of 155 households (6.03%) between 2010 and 2021. This was a slight increase from the 2000 to 2010 decade, which experienced a 5.20 percent increase (127 households) and less than the 9.5 percent growth from 1990 to 2000 (212 households).

Table 2: Population Characteristics for West Bridgewater

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS FOR WEST BRIDGEWATER				
Category	2010	2021	Estimate	% Change
Population ACS B01003	6,859	7,622	763	11.10%
Gender ACS B01001				
Category	2010	2021	Change	% Change
Male	3,241	3,761	520	16.00%
Female	3,618	3,861	243	6.70%
Ethnicity Census	2010	2020	Change	% Change
Caucasian	6,564	6,739	175	2.70%
African American	104	250	146	140.40%
Hispanic	121	251	130	107.40%
Asian	75	84	9	12.00%
Native American – Alaskan	0	1	1	
AGE DP05				
Category	2010	2021	Estimate	% Change
Under five years	376	399	23	6.12%
5 to 9 years	435	458	23	5.29%
10 to 14 years	466	444	-22	-4.72%
15 to 19 years	505	539	34	6.73%
20 to 24 years	437	378	-59	-13.50%
25 to 34 years	597	1,072	475	79.56%
35 to 44 years	949	909	-40	-4.21%
45 to 54 years	1,089	1,346	257	23.60%
55 to 59 years	510	367	-143	-28.04%
60 to 64 years	471	460	-11	-2.34%
65 to 74 years	683	745	62	9.08%
75 to 84 years	263	336	73	27.76%
85 years and over	200	169	-31	-15.50%
Median Age	43.9	39.8	-4.1	-9.3%
Households	2,480	2,726	246	9.9%
Median Household Income	\$76,277	\$111,964	35,687	46.8%
Persons Employed	3,388	4,111	723	21.30%
Persons with Disabilities	768	573	-195	-25.40%

The median age in West Bridgewater decreased by -4.1 years from 2010 to 2021, from 43.9 in 2010 to 39.8 in 2021. The 2000 Census indicates a median age of 40.1, an increase of 3.8 between 2000 and 2021. According to the ACS, the median age for men in 2021 was 38.3 years and 42.9 for women.

The most significant population decline was seen in the 55 to 59 age distribution, with a -28.04 percent decrease (-143), followed by the 85 and over age cohort, with a -15.50 percent decline (-31), and the 20 to 24 years age cohort, with a -13.5 percent decline, (-59). The school-age population (5 to 17) declined from 1,166 in 2010 to 1,119 in 2020. There is some ethnic diversity, with the Census “white alone” category accounting for 87.44 percent of the population in 2020, much more than the Commonwealth’s percentage of 69.65 percent.

Population Trends

The 2020 Census data shows a population count of 7,707, an increase of 11.44 percent, with a total population increase of 791 persons from 2010 Census data. The 2021 American Community Survey Census data estimates 2,726 households in the town. In the 2000 to 2010 decade, the number of households increased by 127 (5.2%), less than the 1990 to 2000 decade, which had an increase of 212 households (9.5%).

Of the total occupied housing units in West Bridgewater (2,726), 995 had related children of the householder under 18 years living with them (36.5%). Of those households, 541 had children between the ages of 6 and 17 (19.8%), and 249 had children under six (9.1%) living with them. There were 350 households where the householder was 65 or older (12.8%). There were 691 non-family households (25.3%), of which 279 had a householder aged 65 years and over (10.2%), and 569 were reported to be householders living alone (20.9%).² The average household size in 2021 was 2.75, a decrease of -0.2 from 2010, and the average family size was 3.22, a reduction of -0.26 from 2010.

According to the decennial census, the population density has increased during the 2010 to 2020 decade, from 451.4 reported in 2010 to 502.9 per square mile in 2020.

From 2010 to 2020, the total population of Plymouth County increased from 494,919 persons to 530,819 persons, an increase of 7.25 percent. The Commonwealth experienced similar gains: population increased by 7.37 percent, resulting in 482,288 new residents. The growth rate in the Town of West Bridgewater has increased more than many of its neighbors. Between 2010 and 2020, West Bridgewater's population increase (11.44%), in percentage, was more significant than most of the communities within the OCPC region, except for Brockton, which also saw a population growth of 12.61 percent (11,833).

² 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates S2501

Population Density

The town's population is dense in the central neighborhoods bordering the intersection of Routes 28 and 106 and in the north-central part of the town south of the State Forest. The table below depicts town-wide density trends.

Table 3: Population Change 1990 to 2020, OCPC Region

	Decennial Census Population				Change 1990-2000		Change 2000-2010		Change 2010-2020	
	1990	2000	2010	2020	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Abington	13,817	14,605	15,985	17,062	788	5.70%	1,380	9.45%	1,077	6.74%
Avon	4,558	4,443	4,356	4,777	-115	-2.52%	-87	-1.96%	421	9.66%
Bridgewater	21,249	25,185	26,563	28,633	3,936	18.52%	1,378	5.47%	2,070	7.79%
Brockton	92,788	94,304	93,810	105,643	1,516	1.63%	-494	-0.52%	11,833	12.61%
Duxbury	13,985	14,248	15,059	16,090	263	1.88%	811	5.69%	1,031	6.85%
East Bridgewater	11,104	12,974	13,794	14,440	1,870	16.84%	820	6.32%	646	4.68%
Easton	19,807	22,299	23,122	25,058	2,492	12.58%	813	3.65%	1,946	8.42%
Halifax	6,526	7,500	7,518	7,749	974	14.92%	18	0.24%	231	3.07%
Hanover	11,912	13,164	13,879	14,833	1,252	10.51%	715	5.43%	954	6.87%
Hanson	9,028	9,495	10,209	10,639	467	5.17%	714	7.52%	430	4.21%
Kingston	9,045	11,780	12,629	13,708	2,735	30.24%	849	7.21%	1,079	8.54%
Pembroke	14,544	16,927	17,837	18,361	2,383	16.38%	910	5.38%	524	2.94%
Plymouth	45,608	51,701	56,468	61,217	6,093	13.36%	4,767	9.22%	4,749	8.41%
Plympton	2,384	2,637	2,820	2,930	253	10.61%	183	6.94%	110	3.90%
Stoughton	26,777	27,149	26,962	29,281	372	1.39%	-187	-0.69%	2,319	8.60%
West Bridgewater	6,389	6,634	6,916	7,707	245	3.83%	282	4.25%	791	11.44%
Whitman	12,240	13,882	14,489	15,121	1,642	13.42%	607	4.37%	35,900	7.25%
Plymouth County	435,276	472,822	494,919	530,819	37,546	8.63%	22,097	4.67%	35,900	7.25%
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	6,547,629	7,029,917	332,672	5.53%	198,532	3.13%	482,288	7.37%

Table 4: Population Density, 1950 through 2020

WEST BRIDGEWATER POPULATION DENSITY								
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Persons per square mile	258	321	386	404	405.7	421.2	451.4	502.9
Population	4,059	5,061	6,079	6,359	6,389	6,634	6,916	7,707
% Change		24.4%	20.2%	4.7%	0.4%	3.8%	7.2%	11.4%

From 1950 to 1970, the total population grew gradually from 4,059 to 6,079. Growth then slowed, reaching only 6,359 by 1980, 6,389 by 1990, and 6,634 by 2000. Between 2000 and 2010, the population increased from 6,634 residents to 6,916, an increase of 4.25 percent. Between 2010 and 2020, the population increased again to 7,707 residents, a rise of 11.44 percent over the decade and one of the highest percent increases in the OCPC region.

With the town's area fixed at 15.75 square miles, the overall density, reflecting developed and undeveloped land, rose from 258 persons/square mile in 1950 to 421 persons/square mile in 2000. In 2020, the population density increased to 502.9 persons/square mile. This is still lower than the regional figure of 929 persons /square mile in 2000, Whitman's 1,986 persons /square mile, or East Bridgewater's 732 persons/square mile.

Age Distribution

The population of the United States is aging at a pace historically unprecedented. This statistical, demographic reality is indisputable, yet only some communities address this reality in policies and planning efforts. In the US in 2010, there were 40.3 million people aged sixty-five and older, twelve times the number in 1900. The percentage of the overall US population aged sixty-five and over increased from 4.1 percent in 1900 to 13.0 percent in 2010; it is projected to reach 20.9 percent by 2050. In absolute numbers and percentages, people aged sixty-five and older are the fastest-growing cohorts among older adults. The US older adult population is growing steadily, with increasing numbers of older adults living longer, healthier lives and contributing to their communities and society.

To determine how to best meet future open space and recreational needs in West Bridgewater, it is essential to examine the current age of the population, as well as aging trends over time. The population of West Bridgewater increased 11.44 percent in the decade from 2010 to 2021, but the population that comprised it has changed since the early 2000s. When reviewing population change by age group during the 2010 to 2021 decade, those with the highest percentage increase include the 25-to-34-year age group (79.56%), the 75 to 84 years group (27.76%), and 45 to 54 years age group (23.60%). Age cohorts with population decrease between 2010 and 2021 include 55 to 59 years (-28.04%), 85 years and over (-15.50), and 20 to 24 years (-4.72%). When reviewing the data from 2000 through 2021, the age cohort with the most significant percent increase was 60 to 64 years, which increased by 63.12 percent (178 persons). The 25 to 34 age cohort increased by 37.44 percent (292 persons) during this same period, followed by the 65 to 74 age cohort at 36.70 percent (200 persons). Age cohorts that saw a population decrease during 2000 – 2021 include 75 to 84 years (-25.83%) and 35 to 44 years (-15.83%).

The population of Preschool-aged children has consistently decreased since 1990. Pre-school-aged children made up 6.2 percent of the population in 1990 population and 5.9 percent of the population in 2000. In 2010, preschool children were 5.4 percent of the population; in 2021, this age group decreased to 5.2 percent. School-aged children in the 5-19 age range were only 15.8 percent of the total 2000. During 2010, those in the 5-to-19-year group increased to 20.1 percent of the population, but in 2021, that age group decreased to 18.9 percent.

The following Figure shows the population by age for West Bridgewater from 2010 to 2021 and aging trends over time.

Young adults (18-24 age cohort) and adults starting families (25 – 34 age cohort) combined were 24.7 percent of the 1990 population, while those in the smaller 20-34 range were only 20.4 percent of the 2000 population. In 2010, the 20 to 24-year-old age cohort was 6.3 percent of the total population, which decreased to 5 percent in 2021. The 25 to 34 age cohort was 8.6 percent of the population in 2010 and increased to 14.10 percent in 2021. This would indicate that more people of childbearing age are moving into the town.

Adults 45-64 were 22.0 percent of the population in 1990 and 24.7 percent in 2000. In 2010, this age cohort increased to 29.5 percent of the population. In 2021, that age cohort decreased slightly to 28.5 percent of the total population.

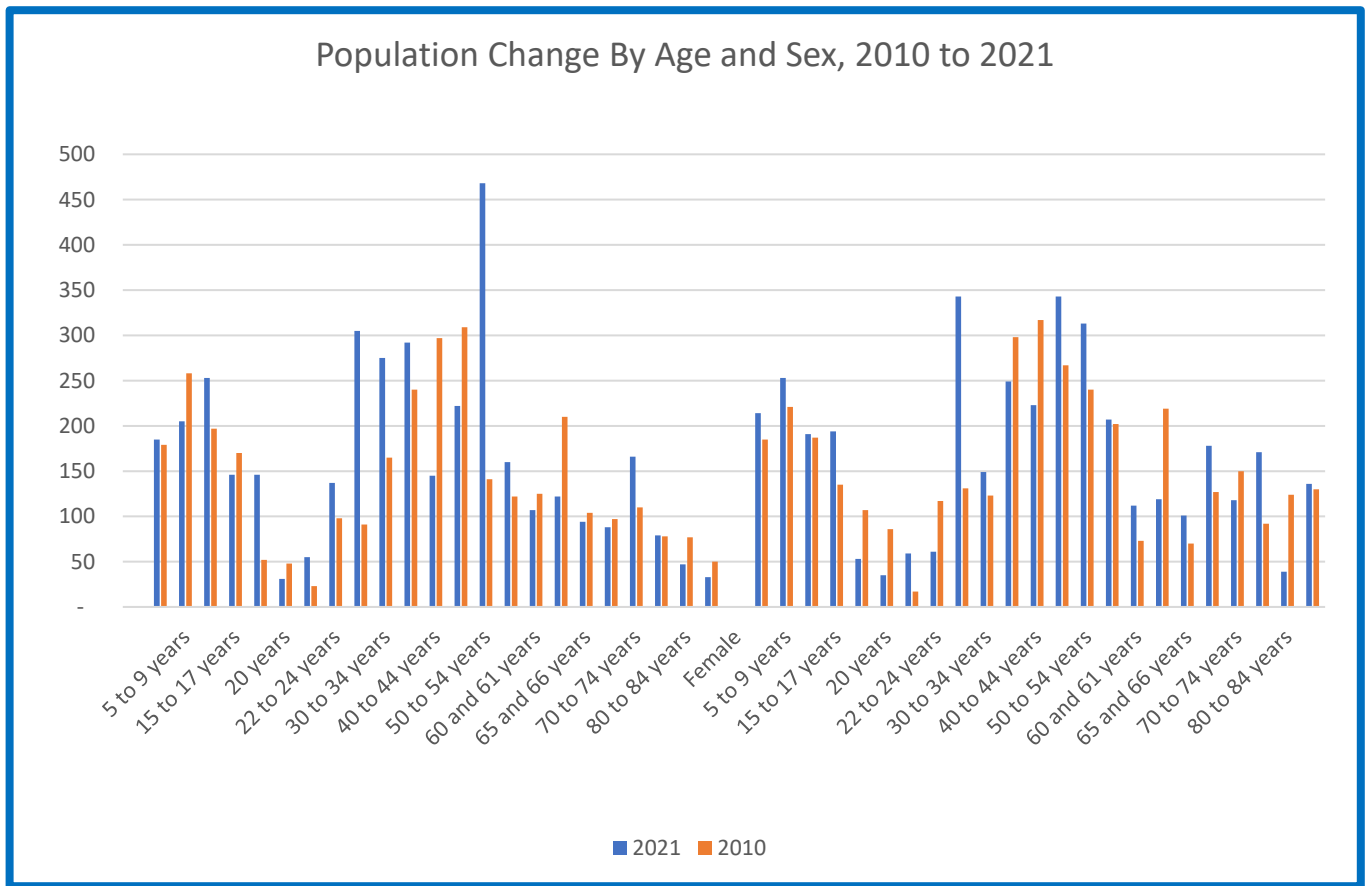
Similarly, those over sixty-five were 14.5 percent of the town in 1990 and grew to 17.8 percent by 2000. In 2010, residents over sixty-five decreased slightly to 16.5 percent of the total population. In 2021, the population aged sixty-five and over was estimated to be 16.4 percent.³

Table 5: West Bridgewater Age Distribution, 2000 to 2021

WEST BRIDGEWATER AGE DISTRIBUTION, 2000 to 2021								
Age	2000 Census SF1		2010 ACS DP05		2021 ACS DP05		Change 2010 - 2021	
	Number	Percent of Population	Estimate	Percent of Population	Estimate	Percent of Population	Estimate	Percent of Population
Under 5 years	392	5.9	376	5.4%	399	5.20%	23	6.12%
5 to 9 years	399	6.0	435	6.2%	458	6.00%	23	5.29%
10 to 14 years	438	6.6	466	6.7%	444	5.80%	-22	-4.72%
15 to 19 years	421	6.3	505	7.2%	539	7.10%	34	6.73%
20 to 24 years	304	4.6	437	6.3%	378	5.00%	-59	-13.50%
25 to 34 years	780	11.8	597	8.6%	1,072	14.10%	475	79.56%
35 to 44 years	1,080	16.3	949	13.6%	909	11.90%	-40	-4.21%
45 to 54 years	978	14.7	1,089	15.5%	1,346	17.70%	257	23.60%
55 to 59 years	379	5.7	510	7.3%	367	4.80%	-143	-28.04%
60 to 64 years	282	4.3	471	6.7%	460	6.00%	-11	-2.34%
65 to 74 years	545	8.2	683	9.8%	745	9.80%	62	9.08%
75 to 84 years	453	6.8	263	3.8%	336	4.40%	73	27.76%
85 years+	183	2.8	200	2.9%	169	2.20%	-31	-15.50%

³ 2010, 2021 ACS DP01

Figure 17: Population Change by Age and Sex, 2010 to 2021



Median Age

The population of the Commonwealth is aging and is projected to continue to do so. Statistics from the Census data indicated that West Bridgewater is beginning to change that trend, with the median age indicated in the 2010 Census at 43.9; in the 2021 ACS, the median age decreased to 39.8 years, a decrease in the median age of 4.1 years between 2010 and 2021. Of the OCPC region, Plymouth had the highest increase in median age, 6.5 years, to a median age of 47.9 years between 2010 and 2021.

Table 6: Change in Median Age, OCPC Region

CHANGE IN MEDIAN AGE, OCPC REGION						
Source: 2000, 2010 Census SF1, 2021 ACS B01002	2000 Census Median Age	2010 Census Median Age	2021 ACS Median Age	Change in Median Age 2000 - 2010	Change in Median Age 2010 -2021	Change in Median Age 2000 -2021
Abington	36.7	39.5	39.9	2.80	0.4	3.2
Avon	40.2	44	36.9	3.80	-7.1	-3.3
Bridgewater	33.6	36.7	35.8	3.10	-0.9	2.2
Brockton	34	35.9	39.4	1.90	3.5	5.4
Duxbury	40.3	44.8	47.6	4.50	2.8	7.3
East Bridgewater	35.9	40.5	39.9	4.60	-0.6	4
Easton	35.5	39.5	41.9	4.00	2.4	6.4
Halifax	37.5	42.8	40.9	5.30	-1.9	3.4
Hanover	37.5	41.8	40.9	4.30	-0.9	3.4
Hanson	36.1	40.4	42.8	4.30	2.4	6.7
Kingston	37.2	42.3	44.7	5.10	2.4	7.5
Pembroke	36	40.8	44.3	4.80	3.5	8.3
Plymouth	36.5	41.4	47.9	4.90	6.5	11.4
Plympton	37.7	44.4	45.5	6.70	1.1	7.8
Stoughton	39.2	42.9	45.7	3.70	2.8	6.5
West Bridgewater	40.1	43.9	39.8	3.80	-4.1	-0.3
Whitman	34.7	38.2	41	3.50	2.8	6.3
OCPC Region	37.0	41.2	42.1	4.18	0.9	5.1

School Enrollment

Table 7: School Enrollment by Grade

WEST BRIDGEWATER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY GRADE																
YEAR	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
2012-2013	61	83	84	79	99	92	91	119	111	110	110	111	108	86	0	1,344
2013-2014	54	86	87	79	79	98	97	90	120	111	105	108	107	103	0	1,324
2014-2015	56	72	92	89	81	85	102	98	100	116	100	101	111	105	0	1,308
2015-2016	58	83	80	97	89	82	91	105	101	109	112	99	101	113	0	1,320
2016-2017	59	82	82	81	94	92	85	93	113	105	102	106	94	99	0	1,287
2017-2018	62	79	84	85	78	101	94	93	106	116	101	104	105	94	0	1,302
2018-2019	67	114	85	90	87	84	101	98	97	112	104	100	111	102	0	1,352
2019-2020	63	95	112	90	95	92	87	108	107	107	105	103	103	106	0	1,373
2020-2021	44	113	91	112	85	104	99	90	115	112	98	103	105	103	0	1,374
2021-2022	52	92	120	90	108	89	103	103	104	120	94	99	102	103	0	1,379

Source: <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/enrollmentbygrade.aspx>

Table 8: West Bridgewater School Enrollment by Grade 2023-2024

ENROLLMENT by GRADE (2023-2024)																
	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	TOTAL
Howard School	0	0	0	0	0	99	112	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309
Rose L Macdonald	0	0	105	101	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	326
Spring Street School	49	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
West Bridgewater Junior/Senior	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	111	94	105	96	102	0	619
District	49	99	105	101	120	99	112	98	111	111	94	105	96	102	0	1,402

<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=03230000&orgtypecode=5>

Households

More than population, the number and type of households and their spending power within a community correlate with housing demand. A *household* is a single person or two or more people who occupy the same housing unit, which can be a house, apartment, mobile home, group home, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters. According to the US Census Bureau, a household comprises everyone who occupies a housing unit (e.g., house, apartment, single room). A household includes the related family members and all the unrelated people, if any, such as lodgers or foster children who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit is counted as a household. The household count excludes group quarters.

According to the US Census Bureau, the percentage of the number of households in West Bridgewater has steadily decreased since the early 2000s. In 1990, there were 2,232 households in West Bridgewater; in 2000, that number increased to 2,444, an increase of 212 households (9.50%). In 2010, the number of households increased from 2,444 to 2,571, an increase of 127 households (5.20%). In 2020, the number of households was estimated to be 2,503, a decrease of sixty-eight households (-2.64%).

Household Types

Different household types often have different housing needs. For example, a married couple with children usually requires a larger dwelling unit than a single person. A community's composition of household types can indicate how well-suited the existing housing inventory is to residents.

According to the 2021 ACS DP02, West Bridgewater had 2,726 households, an increase of 155 households (6.03%) occurring within the 2010 – 2021 decade. During the 2000 – 2010 decade, there were 127 new households (5.20%), and in the 1990 to 2000 decade, there were 212 new households developed, a 9.50 percent increase.

The 2020 Census indicates 2,898 housing units; 2,798 were occupied, and 100 were vacant. According to the 2021 ACS S2501, West Bridgewater had 2,726 households divided between family and non-family households. Family households are any household with two or more related persons living together. In contrast, non-family households are defined as one person or more than one non-related person living together. According to the 2021 ACS, approximately 74.7 percent of West Bridgewater households were family households (2,035), and 25.3 percent (691) were non-family households.

According to the 2021 ACS B09005 of the households in West Bridgewater, 1,641 had children under the age of 18. Of those households with children, 1,492 were married-couple households, and 37 were cohabitating couple households. Of the remaining households with children under 18, a male householder led 22 with no spouse or partner present, and 90 were female householders with no spouse or partner present.

Table 9: West Bridgewater Householder by Age

WEST BRIDGEWATER HOUSEHOLDER BY AGE		
Age of Householder	Estimate	Percent
Under 35 Years	406	14.9%
35 to 44 Years	388	14.2%
45 to 54 Years	741	27.2%
55 to 65 Years	469	17.2%
65 to 74 Years	448	16.4%
75 to 84 Years	219	8.0%
85 Years and Over	55	2.0%

Table 10: Educational Attainment of Householder

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLDER		
Educational Attainment	Estimate	Percent
Less than a High School graduate	111	4.1%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	612	22.5%
Some college or Associate's degree	783	28.7%
Bachelor's degree or higher	1,220	44.8%

Source: 2021 ACS S250

A review of the 2021 ACS S2501 data indicates that of the estimated occupied housing units (2,726), 569 housing units (20.9%) comprised a 1-person household, 833 housing units (30.6%) comprised 2-person households, 470 housing units (17.2%) comprised 3-person households, and 854 (31.3%) were 4-or more person households. According to the ACS, the number of persons per household from 2017 – 2021 was 2.75.

The 2021 ACS S2502 data indicates the race and origin of the housing unit occupants: 2,596 were occupied by white persons (95.2%), 51 were occupied by Black or African American persons (1.9%), and seven were occupied by persons of Asian descent (0.3%). Of the occupied housing units, 72 were occupied by persons who identified as two or more races (2.6%), and 39 identified as Hispanic or Latino origin (1.4%).

Of West Bridgewater households, 97 percent have a computer, and 91 percent live in households with broadband internet subscriptions.

Table 11: West Bridgewater Households, 30-Year Change

WEST BRIDGEWATER HOUSEHOLDS, 30-YEAR CHANGE								
Source: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, 2021	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2021 ACS DP02	Change 2000-2010		Change 2010-2021	
					Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Abington	4,817	5,263	6,080	6,083	817	15.52%	3	0.05%
Avon	1,591	1,705	1,709	1,653	4	0.23%	-56	-3.28%
Bridgewater	5,947	7,526	7,995	8,690	469	6.23%	695	8.69%
Brockton	32,850	33,675	33,303	37,554	-372	-1.10%	4,251	12.76%
Duxbury	4,625	4,946	5,344	6,092	398	8.05%	748	14.00%
East Bridgewater	3,593	4,344	4,750	4,949	406	9.35%	199	4.19%
Easton	6,436	7,489	7,865	8,993	376	5.02%	1,128	14.34%
Halifax	2,362	2,758	2,863	2,930	105	3.81%	67	2.34%
Hanover	3,742	4,349	4,709	4,744	360	8.28%	35	0.74%
Hanson	2,838	3,123	3,468	3,920	345	11.05%	452	13.03%
Kingston	3,224	4,248	4,665	5,321	417	9.82%	656	14.06%
Pembroke	4,666	5,750	6,298	6,861	548	9.53%	563	8.94%
Plymouth	15,875	18,423	21,269	24,985	2,846	15.45%	3,716	17.47%
Plympton	766	854	1,006	989	152	17.80%	-17	-1.69%
Stoughton	9,394	10,254	10,295	11,277	41	0.40%	982	9.54%
West Bridgewater	2,232	2,444	2,571	2,726	127	5.20%	155	6.03%
Whitman	4,435	4,999	5,300	5,684	301	6.02%	384	7.25%
O CPC Region	109,393	122,150	129,490	143,451	7,340	6.01%	13,961	10.78%

Household Projections

Overall, household growth in West Bridgewater is expected to increase. According to the MassDOT Demographic and Socio-Economic Forecast completed in May 2023, between 2010 and 2050, the number of households in West Bridgewater is expected to increase from 2,550 in 2020 to 2,945 in 2050. Below are tables reflecting the different household projections.

Table 12: MADOT Household Population Projections

HOUSEHOLD POPULATION PROJECTIONS					
	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Total Household Population	6,851	7,374	7,502	7,448	7,356
Households with Children	798	805	820	812	786
2+ Adults with No Children	1,097	1,297	1,354	1,251	1,301
Living Alone	655	700	753	895	858
Household Population < 18 Years	1,424	1,378	1,364	1,335	1,280

Table 13: Projected Households 2020 to 2050

WEST BRIDGEWATER PROJECTED HOUSEHOLDS 2020 TO 2050			
West Bridgewater Projected Households in 2020 ⁴	West Bridgewater Projected Households in 2030	West Bridgewater Projected Households in 2040	West Bridgewater Projected Households in 2050
2,550	2,927	2,958	2,945

Table 14: Household Population Projections by Age Group

HOUSEHOLD POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE GROUP					
Age Group	HH 2010	HH 2020	HH 2030	HH 2040	HH 2050
0-04 Years	350	353	370	339	338
05-09 Years	395	362	395	348	341
10-14 Years	402	376	371	401	369
15-19 Years	434	451	349	382	353
20-24 Years	359	420	326	335	350
25-29 Years	352	440	395	346	358
30-34 Years	357	433	427	389	398
35-39 Years	437	449	497	449	423
40-44 Years	553	421	502	509	454
45-49 Years	552	477	479	538	489
50-54 Years	480	512	403	481	483
55-59 Years	453	552	475	474	527
60-64 Years	537	646	646	541	606
65-69 Years	392	436	525	443	448
70-74 Years	254	419	477	463	400
75-79 Years	239	302	415	434	388
80-84 Years	161	183	265	324	333
85 Years+	144	143	185	252	298

Table 15: Household Income Projections

WEST BRIDGEWATER HOUSEHOLD INCOME PROJECTIONS					
Household Income Group	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
< = \$35,000	575	630	706	768	764
\$35,000 - \$75,000	682	733	784	773	781
\$75,000 - \$125,000	678	767	765	737	725
\$125,000 - \$225,000	437	459	478	487	479
>\$225,000	178	213	194	193	196

⁴ MAPC Socioeconomic Projections Committee May 2023

Housing Characteristics

Table 16: West Bridgewater Housing Characteristics

Units In Structure	2019 ACS		2020 ACS	
	Estimate	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	2,696	100%	2,681	100%
1-unit, detached	2,087	77%	2,017	75%
1-unit, attached	117	4%	104	4%
2 units	183	7%	282	11%
3 or 4 units	90	3%	69	3%
5 to 9 units	69	3%	27	1%
10 or more units	8	0	37	1%
Mobile Home	142	5%	145	5%
Boat, RV, Van, etc.	0	0	0	0

Source: 2019 & 2020 ACS 5-year Estimates, DP04

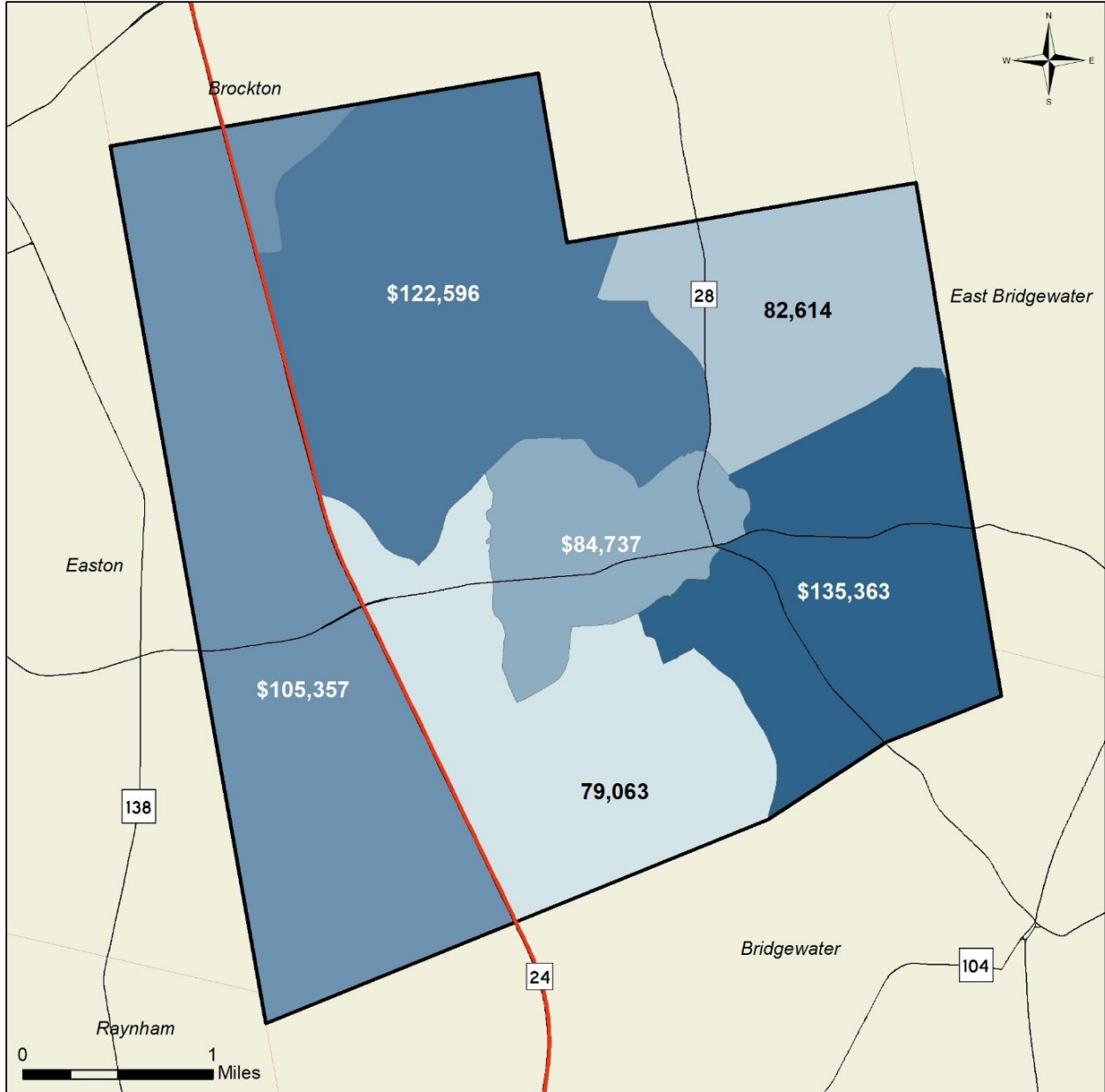
Table 17: Occupied Housing Units and Income

OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS AND INCOME						
Source: 2021 ACS S2503, Quickfacts	Occupied housing units	Percent occupied housing units	Owner-occupied housing units	Percent owner-occupied housing units	Renter-occupied housing units	Percent renter-occupied housing units
	Occupied housing units	2,726	100%	2,317	85%	409
HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (IN 2021 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)						
Less than \$5,000	76	2.80%	35	1.50%	41	10.00%
\$5,000 to \$9,999	15	0.60%	9	0.40%	6	1.50%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	43	1.60%	43	1.90%	0	0.00%
\$15,000 to \$19,999	3	0.10%	3	0.10%	0	0.00%
\$20,000 to \$24,999	65	2.40%	54	2.30%	11	2.70%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	181	6.60%	119	5.10%	62	15.20%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	145	5.30%	112	4.80%	33	8.10%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	319	11.70%	276	11.90%	43	10.50%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	330	12.10%	223	9.60%	107	26.20%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	686	25.20%	653	28.20%	33	8.10%
\$150,000 or more	863	31.70%	790	34.10%	73	17.80%
Median household income (dollars)	\$111,964	\$111,964	\$116,563	\$116,563	\$78,317	\$78,317
MONTHLY HOUSING COSTS						
Less than \$300	32	1.20%	32	1.40%	0	0.00%
\$300 to \$499	49	1.80%	36	1.60%	13	3.20%
\$500 to \$799	139	5.10%	108	4.70%	31	7.60%

\$800 to \$999	271	9.90%	271	11.70%	0	0.00%
\$1,000 to \$1,499	409	15.00%	336	14.50%	73	17.80%
\$1,500 to \$1,999	495	18.20%	353	15.20%	142	34.70%
\$2,000 to \$2,499	539	19.80%	438	18.90%	101	24.70%
\$2,500 to \$2,999	375	13.80%	375	16.20%	0	0.00%
\$3,000 or more	381	14.00%	368	15.90%	13	3.20%
No cash rent	36	1.30%	(X)	(X)	36	8.80%
Median (dollars)	1,962	1,962	2,026	2,026	1,745	1,745
MONTHLY HOUSING COSTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS						
Less than \$20,000	137	5.00%	90	3.90%	47	11.50%
Less than 20 percent	9	0.30%	9	0.40%	0	0.00%
20 to 29 percent	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
30 percent or more	128	4.70%	81	3.50%	47	11.50%
\$20,000 to \$34,999	228	8.40%	173	7.50%	55	13.40%
Less than 20 percent	24	0.90%	17	0.70%	7	1.70%
20 to 29 percent	55	2.00%	50	2.20%	5	1.20%
30 percent or more	149	5.50%	106	4.60%	43	10.50%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	145	5.30%	112	4.80%	33	8.10%
Less than 20 percent	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
20 to 29 percent	17	0.60%	17	0.70%	0	0.00%
30 percent or more	128	4.70%	95	4.10%	33	8.10%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	301	11.00%	276	11.90%	25	6.10%
Less than 20 percent	87	3.20%	69	3.00%	18	4.40%
20 to 29 percent	70	2.60%	70	3.00%	0	0.00%
30 percent or more	144	5.30%	137	5.90%	7	1.70%
\$75,000 or more	1,879	68.90%	1,666	71.90%	213	52.10%
Less than 20 percent	1,019	37.40%	900	38.80%	119	29.10%
20 to 29 percent	683	25.10%	624	26.90%	59	14.40%
30 percent or more	177	6.50%	142	6.10%	35	8.60%
Zero or negative income	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
No cash rent	36	1.30%	(X)	(X)	36	8.80%
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units 2017 – 2021	\$397,900					

Figure 18: Median Household Income

Median Household Income



Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

www.ocpcrpa.org
Created July 2021

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

Income

According to the US Census Bureau, median household income is calculated based on the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over living in a household. The median household income of a community is determined by dividing the income distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median.

The median household income in West Bridgewater in 2021 was estimated by the ACS at \$111,964, more than the median household income for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of \$89,645 and the OCPC Region of \$110,704. Brockton had the lowest median income (\$68,581), and Hanover had the highest median income (\$149,048) in the OCPC Region.

Between 2000 and 2021, the median income of West Bridgewater increased by 63.8 percent from \$55,958 in 2000 to \$111,964 in 2021. Between 2010 and 2021, the median income increased by 46.8 percent. Within the Old Colony Planning Council region, the community with the highest percentage increase in median income was Avon, which rose 120.5 percent from 2000 to 2021, followed by Pembroke at a 75.8 percent increase in median income between 2000 and 2021. Duxbury experienced the lowest percentage increase in median income, with a rise of 16.2 percent between 2000 and 2021.

While median income is a valuable social and economic indicator, it does not account for a community's broad range of household incomes. The 2021 ACS S1701 estimates that 317, or 4.2 percent, of the population of West Bridgewater lived below the poverty level. Of those, 53 were under 18 (3.3%). Of the population under the age of 18, 114 were living in households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamps/SNAP in the past 12 months.

The 2021 ACS estimates that 202, or 7.5 percent of the occupied households in West Bridgewater, had an annual income of less than \$25,000, and approximately 528 occupied households (19.4%) had a yearly income of less than \$50,000.

Adjusting these values for inflation is essential to make an absolute comparison. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Inflation Rate Calculator, one dollar in 2000 has the same buying power as \$1.80 in 2023 dollars, an increase of \$0.80 over 23 years. This means that prices in 2023 are 1.80 times higher than the average since 2000, according to the Consumer Price Index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The inflation rate in 2000 was 3.36 percent. The inflation rate 2020 was 1.23 percent, and the current inflation rate in Massachusetts is 5 percent (May 2023).

Per Capita Income

The US Census Bureau defines per capita income as the average income received in the past 12 months for every man, woman, and child in a geographic area. It is derived by dividing the total income of all people 15 years old and over in a geographic area by their total population. Income is not collected for people under 15 years old, even though those people are included in the denominator of per capita income.

Table 18: West Bridgewater Household and Family Income

WEST BRIDGEWATER HOUSEHOLD AND FAMILY INCOME				
Source: 2021 ACS S1901	Households	Families	Married-couple Families	Nonfamily Households
Total	2,726	2,035	1,769	691
Less than \$10,000	3.30%	2.00%	0.00%	7.20%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1.60%	0.80%	0.90%	3.90%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	2.50%	1.30%	0.00%	8.10%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6.60%	2.50%	1.50%	19.00%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	5.30%	2.80%	2.40%	12.90%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	11.70%	8.60%	7.20%	19.00%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	12.10%	12.50%	11.40%	11.70%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	25.20%	30.00%	32.30%	10.00%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	17.00%	21.50%	23.50%	7.70%
\$200,000 or more	14.70%	18.10%	20.80%	0.60%
Median income (dollars)	111,964	131,033	143,277	49,063

According to HUD, “extremely low income” housing is reserved for households earning at or below 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI); “very low income” households are households earning between 31 percent and 50 percent of the AMI; and “low income” households are households earning between 51 percent and 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI).

The federal poverty level was \$16,100 for a household of one in 2021. According to the 2021 ACS S1701, of the West Bridgewater population for whom the poverty status is determined (7,475), 317 live below the poverty level (4.2%). Of the population for whom poverty status is determined, 1,630 are under 18 years, and of that age cohort, 53 or 3.3 percent live below the poverty level. All 53 of those children living below the poverty level are minors between the ages of 5 to 17 years.

Table 19: Change in Median Income, 2000 to 2021, OCPC Region

CHANGE IN MEDIAN INCOME 2000 TO 2021, OCPC REGION							
	2000 Census	2010 ACS	2010 ACS	Change 2000 to 2021	% Change	Change 2010 to 2021	% Change
Abington	\$ 57,100	\$ 74,589	\$ 113,115	\$ 56,015	67.5%	\$ 38,526	51.7%
Avon	\$ 50,305	\$ 67,313	\$ 127,953	\$ 77,648	120.5%	\$ 60,640	90.1%
Bridgewater	\$ 65,318	\$ 100,747	\$ 107,757	\$ 42,439	64.97%	\$ 7,010	6.9%
Brockton	\$ 39,507	\$ 49,913	\$ 68,581	\$ 29,074	47.3%	\$ 18,668	37.4%
Duxbury	\$ 97,124	\$ 114,565	\$ 130,260	\$ 33,136	16.2%	\$ 15,695	13.7%
East Bridgewater	\$ 60,311	\$ 78,492	\$ 110,842	\$ 50,531	53.6%	\$ 32,350	41.2%
Easton	\$ 69,144	\$ 86,050	\$ 112,116	\$ 42,972	37.7%	\$ 26,066	30.3%
Halifax	\$ 57,015	\$ 81,855	\$ 98,264	\$ 41,249	28.8%	\$ 16,409	20.0%
Hanover	\$ 73,838	\$ 100,233	\$ 149,048	\$ 75,210	66.1%	\$ 48,815	48.7%
Hanson	\$ 62,687	\$ 81,964	\$ 112,315	\$ 49,628	48.4%	\$ 30,351	37.0%
Kingston	\$ 53,780	\$ 77,656	\$ 103,945	\$ 50,165	48.9%	\$ 26,289	33.9%
Pembroke	\$ 65,050	\$ 80,694	\$ 130,015	\$ 64,965	75.8%	\$ 49,321	61.1%
Plymouth	\$ 54,677	\$ 74,767	\$ 97,956	\$ 43,279	42.4%	\$ 23,189	31.0%
Plympton	\$ 70,045	\$ 87,917	\$ 118,098	\$ 48,053	43.1%	\$ 30,181	34.3%
Stoughton	\$ 57,838	\$ 67,175	\$ 94,823	\$ 36,985	47.8%	\$ 27,648	41.2%
West Bridgewater	\$ 55,958	\$ 76,277	\$ 111,964	\$ 56,006	63.8%	\$ 35,687	46.8%
Whitman	\$ 55,303	\$ 76,277	\$ 94,919	\$ 39,616	33.7%	\$ 18,642	24.4%
OCPC Region	\$ 61,471	\$ 80,970	\$ 110,704	\$ 49,234	80.1%	\$ 29,735	36.7%
Massachusetts	\$ 50,502	\$ 67,846	\$ 89,645	\$ 39,143	43.2%	\$ 21,799	32.1%

Individuals between 18 and 64 are most likely to live in poverty in West Bridgewater, consistent with regional, state, and national trends. Of those within the 18 to 64 age cohort (4,725), 173 (3.7%) lived below the poverty level. The 65-year-old and over-age cohort contains the highest percentage of residents living below the poverty level (8.1%).

Affordability is of particular concern to low-income households. Many federal and state housing programs define low-income households according to household size and income, measured as a percentage of Area Median Income (AMI).

Employment

The residents of West Bridgewater are employed in various industries, although most are employed outside of West Bridgewater's borders. The industries that employ the most residents are the educational services, health care, and social assistance industries (19.5%), retail trade (18%), and manufacturing (10%). Employment data is essential to review because it shows how many people in Town work in traditional high-paying industries, such as management and finance, versus people working in traditionally low-paying industries, such as retail, hospitality, and food service.

Unemployment is a concern related to employment and income. Over the five years before the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rates in West Bridgewater, its neighboring communities, the County, and the Commonwealth dropped as the economy rebounded from the most recent recession.

The current unemployment rate is 4.5 percent, compared to 4 percent the month before and 3.5 percent last year. This is lower than the long-term average of 6.06 percent, and the US average is 6.0 percent. The mean travel time to work (in minutes) for West Bridgewater workers aged 16 years and over was 27.6 minutes.

For the reference year 2017, there were 316 employer firms in West Bridgewater. Of those firms, 221 were men-owned firms, 33 were women-owned firms, 249 were non-minority-owned firms, and 245 were non-veteran-owned firms.⁵

Employment Projections

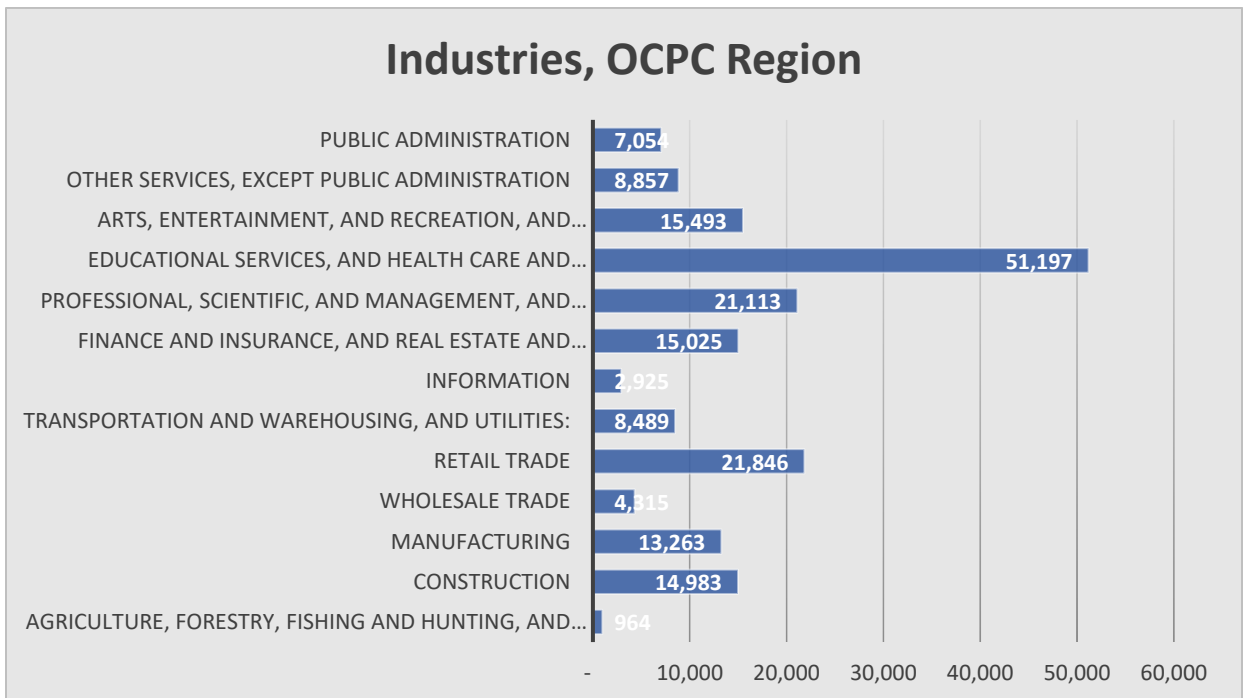
The Donahue Institute of Economic and Public Policy Research and UMass Amherst created Massachusetts state and regional employment projections. They developed baseline payroll employment by industry super sector for the 13 Regional Planning Agencies. The job projections are consistent with population projections by age, sex, and RPA. They assume the state's economy will be at full employment by 2030 with a NAIRU (non-accelerated inflation rate of unemployment) unemployment rate of 3.6 percent.

⁵ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/westbridgewaterplymouthcountymassachusetts#>

Table 20: Employment Place of Work

EMPLOYMENT PLACE OF WORK ⁶					
	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
West Bridgewater, MA	7,096	7,629	7,131	6,960	6,861
Construction	533	690	642	627	612
Education and Health Services	836	948	920	967	1,031
Financial Activities	363	254	248	248	243
Government	117	80	75	68	64
Information	14	14	20	30	36
Leisure and Hospitality	1,734	1,928	1,770	1,623	1,507
Manufacturing	581	568	532	495	475
Mining and Logging / Other Services	213	324	309	301	290
Professional and Business Services	1,481	1,515	1,390	1,391	1,399
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	1,224	1,308	1,225	1,210	1,204

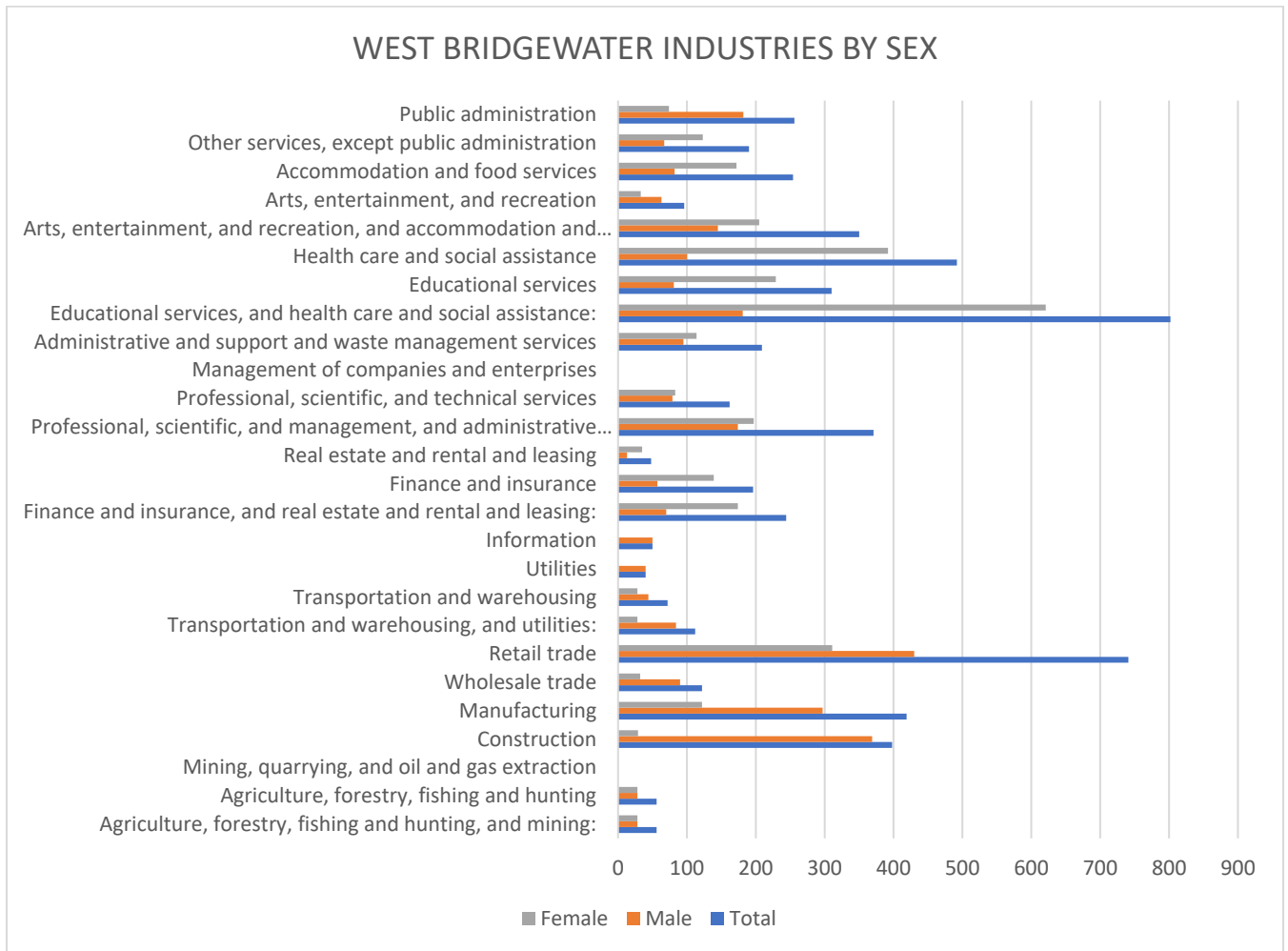
Table 21: Industries, OCPC Region



Source: 2021 ACS 5-year estimates S240

⁶ MAPC Socioeconomic Projections Committee 05/2023

Figure 19: West Bridgewater Industries by Sex



Source: 2021 ACS 5-year estimates S2403

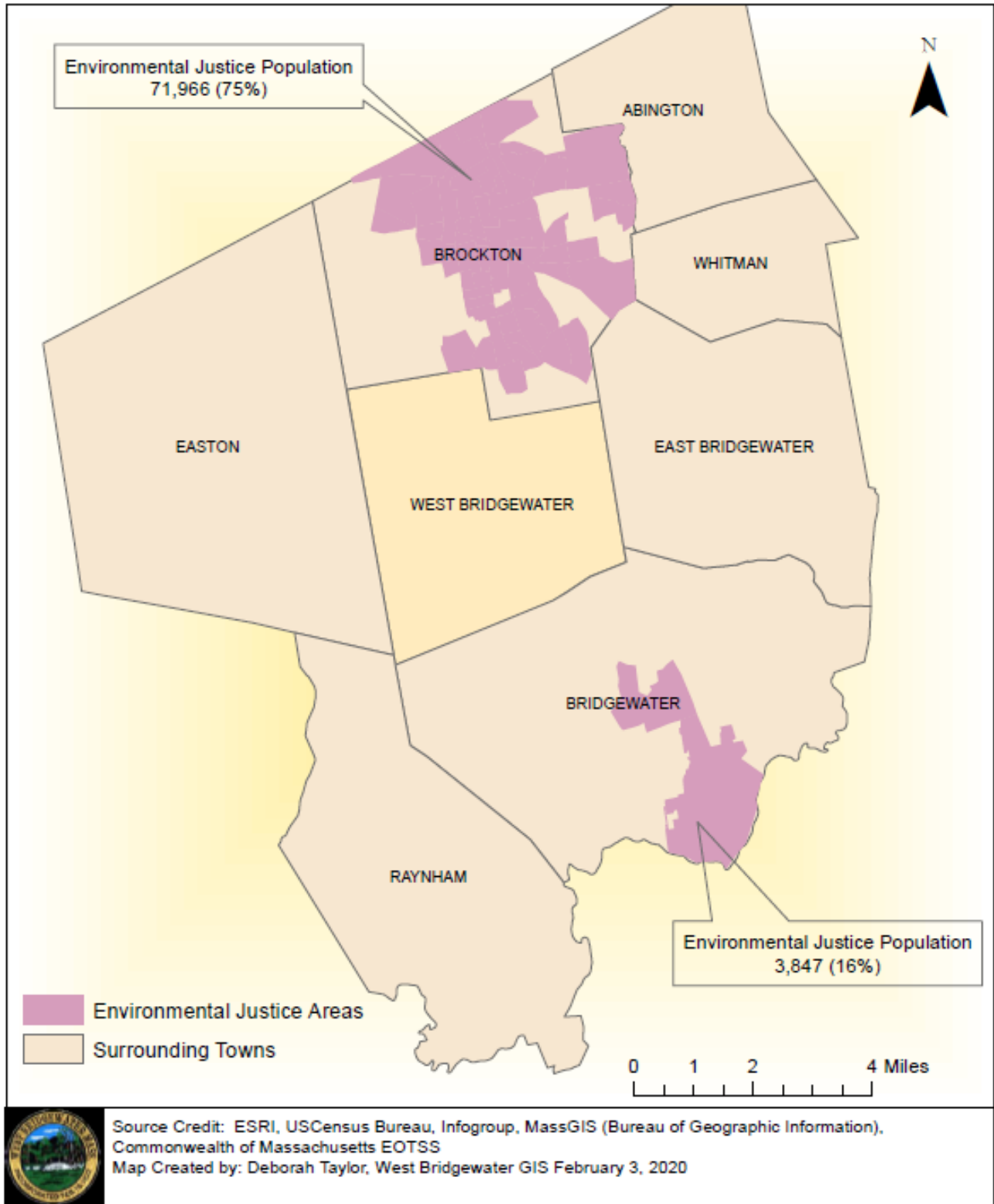
Table 22: West Bridgewater Industries by Sex

WEST BRIDGEWATER INDUSTRIES by SEX			
<i>Source: 2021 ACS 5-year estimates S2403</i>	Total	Male	Female
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining:	56	28	28
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	56	28	28
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0	0	0
Construction	398	369	29
Manufacturing	419	297	122
Wholesale trade	122	90	32
Retail trade	741	430	311
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities:	112	84	28
Transportation and warehousing	72	44	28
Utilities	40	40	0
Information	50	50	0
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing:	244	70	174
Finance and insurance	196	57	139
Real estate and rental and leasing	48	13	35
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative and waste management services:	371	174	197
Professional, scientific, and technical services	162	79	83
Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0
Administrative and support and waste management services	209	95	114
Educational services, health care, and social assistance:	802	181	621
Educational services	310	81	229
Health care and social assistance	492	100	392
Arts, entertainment, recreation, and accommodation and food services:	350	145	205
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	96	63	33
Accommodation and food services	254	82	172
Other services, except public administration	190	67	123
Public administration	256	182	74

Table 23: Top Employers in West Bridgewater

TOP EMPLOYERS IN WEST BRIDGEWATER				
Company Name	Address	Town	# of Employees	NAICS Code
Shaw's Supermarkets Inc	W Center St	West Bridgewater	500-999	4451
JP Noonan Transportation Inc	West St	West Bridgewater	250-499	4842
Shumacher Landscape	Pleasant St	West Bridgewater	250-499	5617
Trucchi's Supermarkets	E Center St	West Bridgewater	250-499	4451
ABF Freight System Inc	Manley St	West Bridgewater	100-249	4842
Double E Co LLC	Manley St # 301	West Bridgewater	100-249	3322
Lowe's Home Improvement	W Center St	West Bridgewater	100-249	4441
Market Basket	W Center St	West Bridgewater	100-249	4451
Paula Young	Manley St # 1	West Bridgewater	100-249	4581
Rexa Corp	Manley St	West Bridgewater	100-249	4236
Saphena Medical	West St	West Bridgewater	100-249	6214
Shawmut Corp LLC	Manley St	West Bridgewater	100-249	3256
Specialty Commerce Corp	Manley St # 1	West Bridgewater	100-249	5619
West Bridgewater Med Investors	W Center St	West Bridgewater	100-249	6231
Chili's	W Center St	West Bridgewater	50-99	7225
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	West St	West Bridgewater	50-99	5321
Equal Exchange Co-Op	United Dr	West Bridgewater	50-99	4239
Equal Exchange Inc	United Dr	West Bridgewater	50-99	4244
Gencon	Manley St	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Good Days	S Main St	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Guardian Home Health Care	W Center St # 3	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Honey Dew Donuts	W Center St	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Starburst EMS	Pleasant St	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Tech Mechanical Systems	West St # 3	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Universal Pipeline & Paving	Crescent St	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
West Bridgewater Middle-Senior	W Center St	West Bridgewater	MA	50-99
Affiliated Physicians Group	Pearl Rd	West Bridgewater	MA	20-49
Amedisys Home Health Care	United Dr # 301	West Bridgewater	MA	20-49

Figure 20: Environmental Justice Populations



Race & Ethnicity

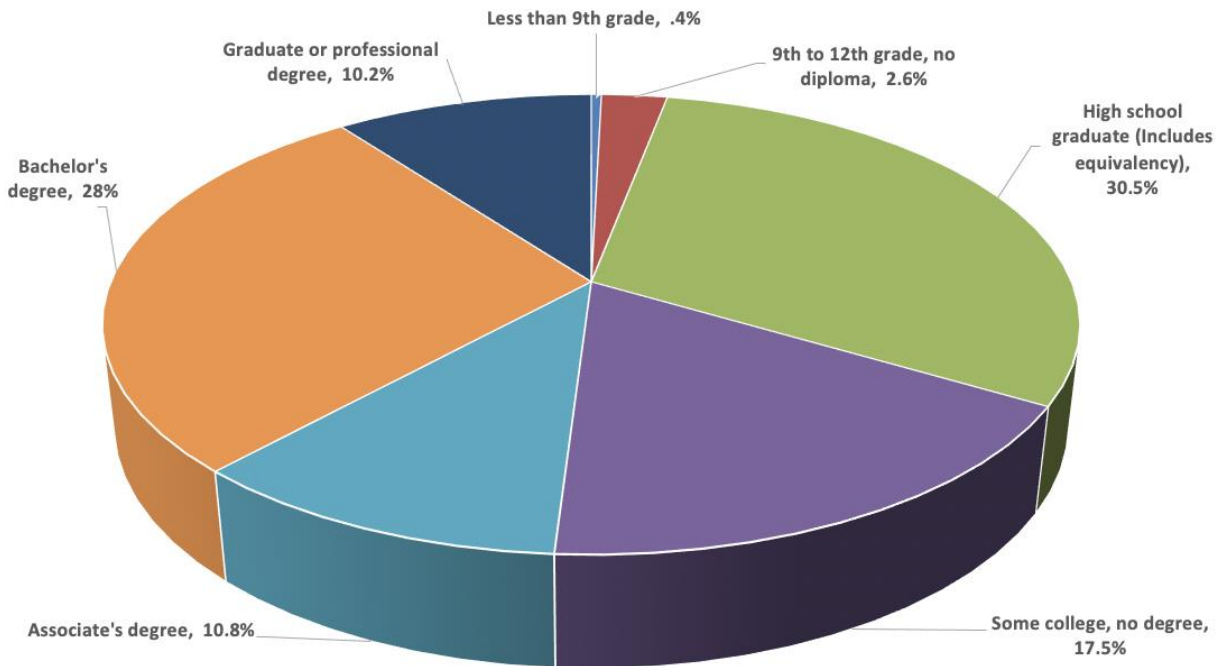
Between 2000 and 2020, the racial and ethnic composition of West Bridgewater evolved into a more diverse population. In 2010, 94.9 percent of residents self-identified as White, a decrease of 2.6 percent from 2000 (6,469, 97.5%). The 2020 Census shows a further decline in the number of residents self-identifying as White Alone (87.4%)

Table 24: West Bridgewater Race and Ethnicity, 2000 - 2020

	2000		2010		2020	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
White Alone	6469	97.5%	6564	94.9%	6739	87.4%
Black or African American Alone	87	1.3%	104	1.5%	250	3.2%
American Indian or Alaskan Native Alone	37	.6%	7	.1%	12	.1%
Asian Alone	60	.9%	75	1.1%	84	1.1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Alone	2	0%	0	0%	1	0%
Some Other Race Alone	67	.5%	67	1%	127	1.6%
Two or More Races	84	1.3%	99	1.4%	494	6.4%
Total Population	6634		6916		7707	
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	67	1%	121	1.7%	251	3.3%

Figure 21: 2020 ACS Educational Attainment

2020 ACS Educational Attainment



Residents with Disabilities

Understanding the needs of disabled residents of West Bridgewater is a crucial aspect of planning for open space and recreation needs. Disability data for West Bridgewater is available in the 2020 US Census and the 2021 American Community Survey. According to the US Census Bureau, shortly after the 2000 Census, there was growing agreement that survey questions on disability did not coincide with recent models of disability. An interagency group was formed to develop a new set of questions, which was introduced in 2008. These questions categorize a disability as one having difficulty in one of the following: hearing, vision, cognition, walking or climbing stairs (ambulatory), self-care (difficulty bathing or dressing), and independent living (difficulties doing errands alone, such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping).

Because of the changes to the questions, the US Census Bureau recommends that the new ACS disability questions not be compared to the previous ACS disability questions or the 2000 US Census disability data. As a result, this section focuses only on disability data from the 2021 ACS.

Table 25: Residents with Disabilities

POPULATION WITH DISABILITIES						
Source: 2021 ACS S1801	OCPC Region Population			West Bridgewater Population		
	Total Population	With a Disability	Percent with a Disability	Total Population	With a Disability	Percent with a Disability
Total Population	381,550	72,171	18.92%	7,486	573	7.70%
With Hearing Difficulty		12,538	3.29%		154	2.10%
With Vision Difficulty		7,051	1.85%		104	1.40%
With Cognitive Difficulty		14,672	3.85%		182	2.60%
With Ambulatory Difficulty		17,472	4.58%		284	4.00%
With Self-Care Difficulty		6,640	1.74%		115	1.60%
With Independent Living Difficulty		13,798	3.62%		195	3.30%

According to the 2021 ACS S1801, there were an estimated 573 residents (7.7%) in West Bridgewater who have been identified as having a disability. One hundred fifty-four residents experienced hearing difficulty (2.10%). The 2021 ACS indicated 104 residents with vision difficulty (1.4%) and 182 residents identified as having a cognitive disability (2.6%). The ACS estimated that 284 West Bridgewater residents experienced ambulatory difficulty (had self-care difficulty (1.6%), and 195 residents had 195 residents with independent living difficulty (3.3%).

Of the total estimated population with a disability, the most common disability reported was an ambulatory disability, which is a disability that involves serious difficulty walking or climbing stairs. The next most common disabilities are difficulties with living independently and cognitive challenges.

It is important to note that some residents experience more than one disability, which is why the values may be greater than the total number of disabled residents. In addition, this data is

based on a survey sample and is therefore subject to sampling variability, which can result in a degree of uncertainty.

Disabled residents often have unique housing, open space, and recreation needs, both in terms of physical design/accessibility of these spaces and the cost relative to a fixed or limited income. For those reasons, affordable housing, open space, and recreation plans should be sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities. They should incorporate their issues into the goals and strategies for all plans.

D. Growth and Development Patterns

The growth and development of West Bridgewater has been tied very closely to its natural resources. Recently, residential neighborhoods have sprung up where soil allowed a Title V septic system. Today, West Bridgewater's "greatest resource" may well be its aesthetic and its location near the 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 rural character. The town has been spared large-scale residential development mainly because the soil is not widely suitable for septic systems. However, installing local or regional sewer infrastructure could make land more developable. This makes it more critical to reconcile growth and preservation, as is explored in the Master Plan and the Community Development Plan. This is needed to complement or guide the desired development through the actions proposed in this Plan.

Land Uses Patterns and Trends

Development and land use in West Bridgewater have changed drastically throughout the town's history but have followed clear patterns still visible in its landscape today. The axes along which development has occurred in town are the traditional town center, dating back to West Bridgewater's founding, and the robust state highway system that crisscrossed the landscape, which opened in the twentieth century.

Beginning as a pastoral colonial settlement, West Bridgewater was incorporated as a town in 1822. Farming was the most significant land use in West Bridgewater's early days, and agriculture continues to play an essential role in the Town's identity well into the twenty-first century.

There is little multifamily or rental housing in West Bridgewater. The overall lack of housing options is an impactful issue in town, as many people who may want to stay or move here cannot do so due to few downsizing options and high housing prices. It is also tricky for residents looking to downsize. 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 primarily by limited sewage disposal capacity.

Visually, the increasing commercial development along Routes 28 and 106 is dominant even though much 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 lots

on other roads. Another new housing is found in relatively few small, large-lot subdivisions. The zoning by-law limits industrial use to the highway-served western edge of town.

There are approximately 10,032 acres in the town of West Bridgewater, of which roughly 20.84 percent are developed. Developed land includes private residential and non-residential uses, public uses, and utilities. About 79.16 percent of the land in West Bridgewater is undeveloped, although much of this land cannot be developed because of wetlands and other constraints.

Private Residential – About 852 acres, or 40.75 percent of the developed areas, are residential. This includes single-family residences as well as multi-family or other types of residences. Most of the residential development is of moderate density, with an average lot size of 0.09 acres per single-family home. Some more densely developed areas are concentrated in the northern part of town off Main Street and North Elm Street. Low to moderate-density single-family housing is prevalent throughout the rest of the town, especially in the central and eastern portions.

Private Non-Residential – About 518 acres, or 24.77 percent of the developable area, are in private non-residential use. This includes all commercial and industrial uses. Land in industrial use, comprising about 193 acres, is located primarily within the Manly Street area. A commercial development comprising about 325 acres is located along the entire lengths of Routes 28 and 106 and, to a lesser extent, along Manley Street.

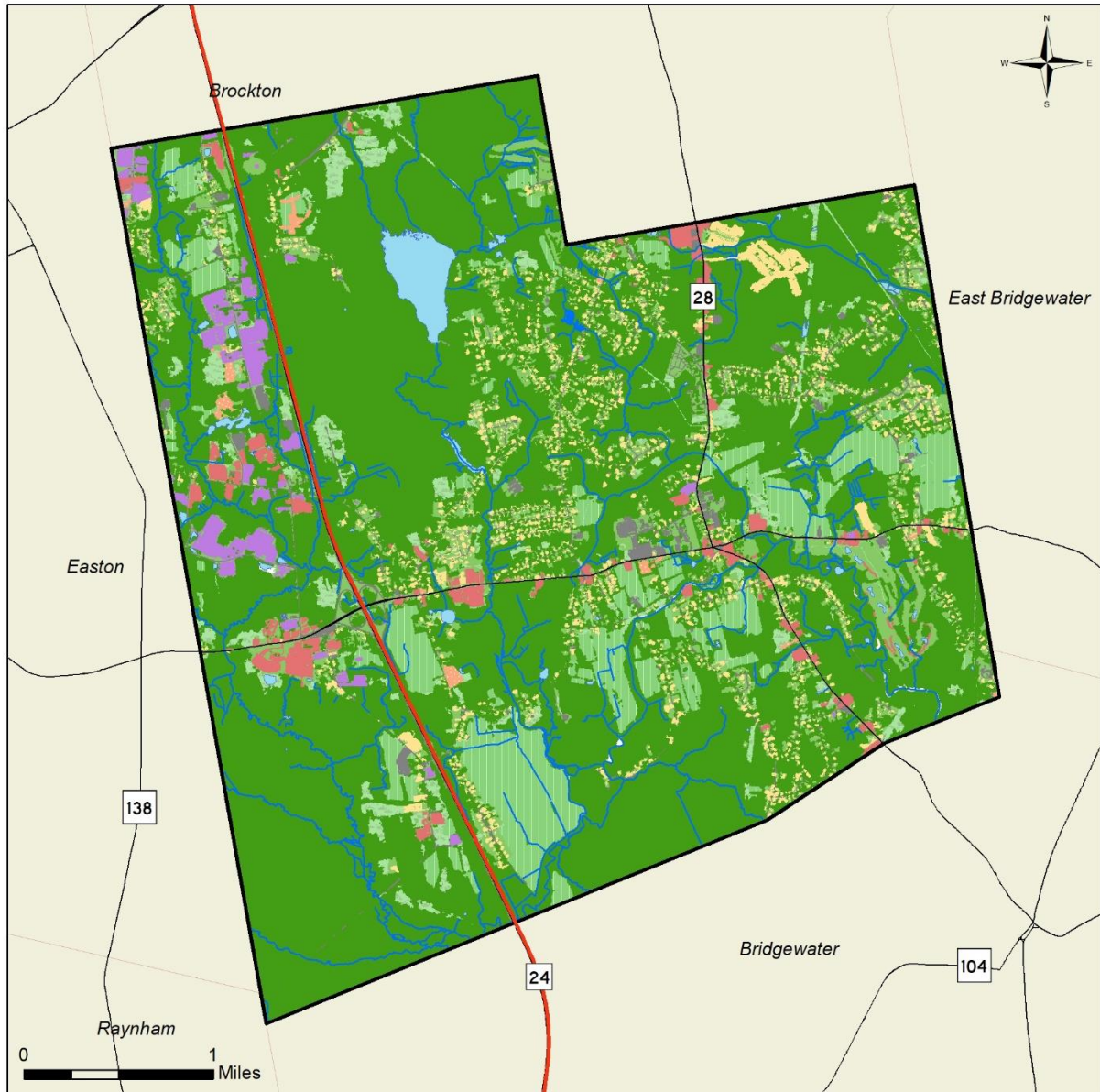
Developed Land in Public Use – This category includes land occupied by public and private recreation facilities and lands owned by public agencies (other than for conservation purposes). Land in this category consists of about 135 acres or 6.46 percent of the developed area in town. Public facilities include public buildings, storage facilities, cemeteries, and waste disposal facilities. Recreation facilities include parks, playgrounds, ball fields, and public beaches.

About 138 acres of the town's land is occupied by Route 24 and utility transmission lines that cross the town. The area of local and state roads is not accounted for separately but is included in abutting land uses.

Undeveloped land includes forested uplands, wetlands, agricultural land, and other open lands. The extensive open space in West Bridgewater, including Hockomock Swamp and West Bridgewater State Forest, conservation lands, and unprotected open land, is one of the most distinguishing features of the town's landscape. Agriculture, which covers over 841 acres, or 8.38 percent of the town, also helps to define the town's character. Land set aside as permanently protected open space in these areas occupies about 322 acres or 3.2 percent of the town's total area. Undeveloped, forested land comprises just over half of the town's area. The dominance of undeveloped open space in the town may not be immediately apparent because of roadway development.

Figure 22: Current Land Use Map

Current Land Use



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



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL

Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

www.ocpcrpa.org
Created July 2021

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

Table 26: Forest Land-Use Type

Land Use Changes Since 1951

West Bridgewater has grown significantly over the past 73 years. The most current land use inventory was compared with inventories for 1951, 1971, 1985, and 1991, which were taken from the MacConnell Land Use Surveys. The 1998 survey is based on the 2001 West Bridgewater Master Plan and planning department records.

The following table summarizes land use changes over the period, highlighting changes in the total amount of developed land and land devoted to residential and commercial/industrial uses.

FOREST LAND-USE TYPE	
	ACRES
Evergreen Forest	921.31
Scrub/Shrub	169.4
Forested Wetland	2,597.04
Non-Forested Wetland	930.69
Other Impervious	124.68
Mixed-Use - Primarily Residential	21.66
Residential - Single-Family	199.47
Residential - multi-family	44.43
Commercial	170.52
Mixed-Use - Primarily Commercial	5.45
Industrial	153.92
Right-of-Way	326.47
Bare Land	48.49
Water	134.54
Developed Open Space	1,044.82
Grassland	182.19
Deciduous Forest	2,135.24
Agricultural/Cultivated	821.28
Total Acres	10,031.6

Table 27: Land Use Change Before 2000

LAND USE CHANGE BEFORE 2000									
	1951	1971	% Change	1985	% Change	1990	% Change	1998	% Change
Total Developed Area⁷	940	1,367	45.4	1,668	22.0	2,364	41.7	2,463	4.2
Residential	877	1,121	27.8	1,294	14.4	1,5584	22.4	1,730	9.2
Commercial & Industrial	22	108	390.9	229	12.0	363	58.8	367	1.1
Population⁸	4,509	7,152	76.2	6,700	-6.3	6,411	-4.3	6,614	3.2

⁷ Some improvements in measurement techniques took place between the dates of observation, 1971 to 1998. The total town area was computed at 9,893 acres in 1951, 10,031 acres in 1971 and 1985, and it was computed at 9,632 in 1991 and 1998. To be comparable with the later date, the acreages reported for 1951, 1971, and 1985 are adjusted proportionately.

⁸ Source: US Census 1950, 1970, 1990, 2000, 2020

Table 28: Land Use Change 2001

LAND USE CHANGE 2001			
Land Use Category	Area (Acres)	% of Town Area	% of Developed Area
Residential) Single-family)	1,560.2	16.2	65.7
(Multi-family)	4.2	0.04	0.2
Commercial	169.8	1.8	7.2
Industrial	250.8	2.6	10.6
Public/Recreation	248.6	2.6	10.5
Transportation/Utilities	138.2	1.4	5.8
Total Developed	2,371.7	24.6	100.1
Agriculture	1,652.7	17.2	
Vacant	5,460.7	56.7	
Total Undeveloped	7,113.4	73.9	
Water	147.0	1.5	
Total Town Area	9,632.2	100.0	

Table 29: Land Use Change 2012

LAND USE CHANGE 2012			
Land Use Category	Percent of Town Coverage	Zoning Coverage Acres	% of Developed Area
Residential	16.2%	1,564	65.9%
Commercial	1.8%	170	7.2%
Industrial	2.6%	251	10.6%
Public/Utility	4.0%	387	16.3%
Total	24.6%	2,372	100%
Agriculture		1,653	
Vacant Land		5,461	

Figure 23: West Bridgewater Current Land Use

E. Infrastructure

Transportation

West Bridgewater has easy access to Highway 24, a significant north-south, four-lane highway 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 through the town. 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 commuter rail service, the nearest stations are in Brockton and Bridgewater, 10 minutes from the center of town.

Significant constraints on the roadway system include Route 106's limited right of way and an insufficient budget for roadway maintenance and improvement. Given these constraints, the town will need to coordinate all new developments to minimize public infrastructure costs and the impact on the quiet, suburban lifestyle desired by the residents. New growth should be directed to areas with sufficient infrastructure capacity.

Transportation System Conditions

Some roadways currently have congestion problems, particularly Route 106. Several intersections with geometric deficiencies or accidents must be better designed and redesigned for safety. The only public transit services currently offered are the bus service to the Manley Street industrial area and the Dial-A-Bat service for travel within West Bridgewater and to the surrounding towns; the latter service is for the elderly and physically challenged residents. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are limited more, and connectivity is lacking since many roadways lack sidewalks and safety lanes. Furthermore, state funding and the town's budget for the Highway Department limit maintenance and the upgrading of roads, intersections, and drainage.

Goals and Objectives

The primary transportation goals and objectives relate to creating a transportation system responsive to economic development and resource protection needs. The existing street pattern was developed in response to the needs of a rural, agricultural community which, because of many wetlands and streams, was relatively isolated from the neighboring towns.

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 houses sold must meet the Massachusetts Title V Sanitary Code within two years. Thirty-two percent of a group of septic systems assessed in the late 1990s failed, requiring repairs or replacement to meet Title V. This suggests that a sizable proportion of the town's septic systems do not meet Title V. The town has investigated a connection to the Brockton sewage treatment plant just north of the town, but DEP policies requiring "keeping water local" preclude new discharges to the Brockton plant except the now fully served towns of Abington and Whitman. A study sponsored by the Old Colony Regional Wastewater Committee explores regional solutions to wastewater management in Brockton, East and West Bridgewater, Easton, West Bridgewater, and other Upper Taunton Basin communities to the South and West. The intent of the Upper Taunton Basin Wastewater Evaluation Study is to find ways to use the expanded capacity of the Brockton treatment plant while discharging effluent in areas that recharge groundwater, 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 corner 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 function perfectly, they do little to prevent nitrogen, heavy metals, or pharmaceuticals from entering the groundwater 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 on environmental concerns in Chapter IV.

Water Supply/Use

The following figures show the water services areas and Zone II areas in West Bridgewater. The Town's water supply is obtained from five active wells:

Cyr Street

Norman Ave

Manley Street

Cyr Street

Cyr Street

According to the Project Evaluation Report (PER), West Bridgewater's WMA permit is regulated at an annual withdrawal of 1.53 MGD (increased from 1.23 MGD in 2005 according to the town's DEP Water Withdrawal Permit #9-4-25-322.01). The Town of West Bridgewater owns the former Robbery Farm located east of North Elm Street, where a new town water supply well could be located when needed.

The town has approximately 65 miles of water main and about 2,600 connections. Discussions with the Town of West Bridgewater's Water Superintendent confirm that nearly 99 percent of the developed parcels receive public water supply.⁹

A limited number of properties within the Town of West Bridgewater are sewered. The remaining developed properties rely on some form of on-site system (typically septic systems)

⁹ Town of West Bridgewater Wastewater Needs, Upper Taunton River Regional Wastewater Evaluation, CDM Smith/Weston & Sampson, October 2012

for wastewater management. According to the West Bridgewater town officials and the Brockton Sewer Department, sewer parcels in West Bridgewater are billed directly by Brockton using water meter readings provided by the West Bridgewater Water Department. Large disposal systems (greater than 2,000 GPD) can usually be found where there are commercial businesses, especially restaurants.

The town completed a 9,800 GPD Title V compliant system in 2009 to replace the Howard School System. The new system serves six buildings. An extensive septic system, similar to the one completed for the Howard School, has been installed for the Rose MacDonald School to eliminate the NPDES discharge and permit. 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.

Figure 24: Current Wastewater Management Status

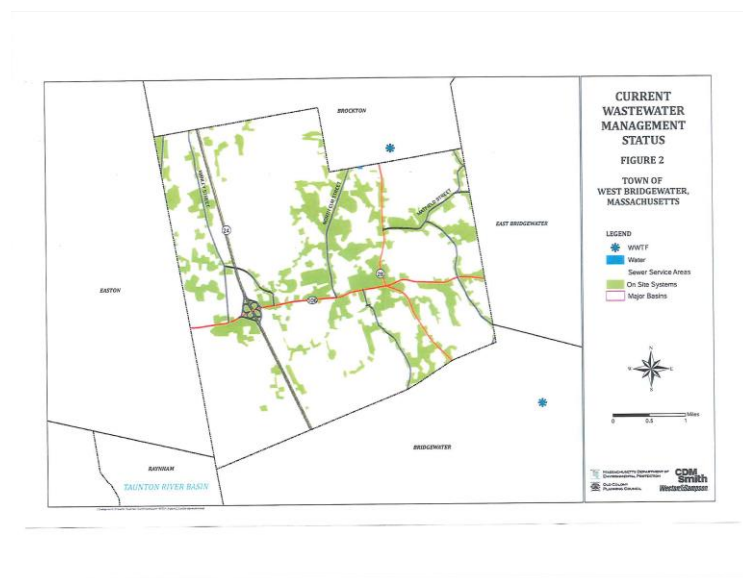
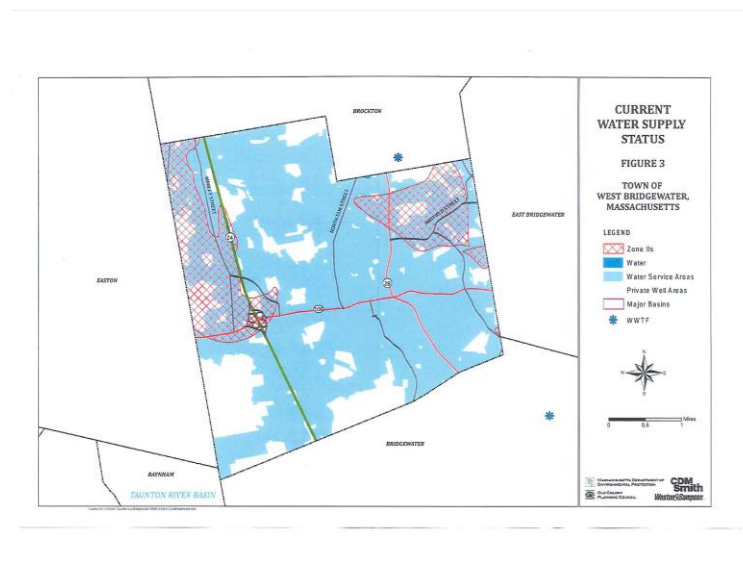


Figure 25: Current Water Supply Status



F. 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 that 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, it is 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 for wetlands. Despite the zoning, the 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 thought-out policies.

Except as provided by law, all existing and future uses of land, buildings, and structures not outlined in the Zoning Bylaws, Section 4.4., Table of Use Regulations, are expressly prohibited.

Priority Development Areas / Priority Protection Areas

Priority Development Areas (PDAs) are community areas that can accommodate increased or intensified development due to good infrastructure (water, sewer, power), good access by road and transit, minimal environmental constraints, and consistency with overall planning.

They can range from one lot to many acres and include areas designated under programs such as Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting, Chapter 40R Smart Growth Zones, or Economic Target Areas and Economic Opportunity Areas. These areas include significant downtowns, large employment centers, industrial and business parks, and other places identified as having the potential to support critical business or residential growth.

Priority Protection Areas (PPAs) are areas that deserve special protection due to environmental features, such as endangered species habitats, significance for water supply protection, scenic vistas, or historic significance. These areas include farmland, sensitive habitat, environmental resource areas, potential linkages between existing open space resources, and places of cultural or historical significance.

Within some Priority Protection Areas, there are areas of existing development. The Priority Protection designation does not imply that existing homes or businesses should be eliminated but rather that the area includes environmental and historic resources that should be prioritized for protection through proactive measures such as low-impact development provisions, conservation easements, or purchase of land or development rights (e.g., through the

Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (APR), use of the Commonwealth's Chapter 61 abatement program, involvement of land trusts, etc.). Similarly, within Priority Development Areas are many historic sites or structures that should be preserved or reused alongside new development.

A continuous problem is the need for growth and space to accommodate that growth versus protecting local natural resources. Balancing growth and protecting limited resources is challenging for communities seeking to develop for their growing population. This result can be the compromising of environmental resources to accommodate growth. This is unnecessary as many methods exist that can allow or even expand growth potential while allowing the protection and expansion of natural areas. These methods combine smaller, more efficient lot sizes, bicycle and pedestrian planning, and careful strategic land use planning to create places that connect residents to more open space than large private lots can allow.

West Bridgewater Priority Development Areas

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL OFFICE/RESEARCH AREA ABOVE WALNUT STREET AND ALONG MANLEY STREET

The area along Manley Street in the northern part of town that borders the City of Brockton is along a residentially zoned existing neighborhood. It could be zoned for commercial use as an office/research business setting. The close access to Route 24 and Brockton makes this an attractive location. The area along Manley Street is already home to numerous commercial businesses, and it is sensible to continue to cluster businesses around this area.

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL OFFICE/RESEARCH AREA NORTH OF WALNUT STREET AND EAST OF ROUTE 24

Like the location above, this area is also located near Route 24 in the northern part of the town bordering Brockton. It is an industrial zone for commercial use, such as an office/research business setting. Again, the close access to Route 24 and the City of Brockton makes this an attractive location. The area along Manley Street and some parts of Walnut Street already houses numerous commercial businesses, and it is sensible to continue to cluster businesses around this general area.

RESIDENTIALLY ZONED LAND ALONG WALNUT STREET JUST NORTH OF THE RIGHT-ANGLE BEND

This area is residentially zoned and proposed to remain residential, as there are two neighborhoods in this specific part of Walnut Street. The proximity to Route 24 and the existing neighborhood makes it attractive for housing.

WEST BRIDGEWATER VILLAGES LIFESTYLE SHOPPING CENTER ON LINCOLN STREET, EAST OF ROUTE 24 AND SOUTH OF ROUTE 106

This area was recently rezoned from residential farming to Business. It is less than one mile from Exit 16 of the Route 24 interchange and on the heavily traveled east-west Route 106. This area on Route 106 near the Route 24 interchange has seen dramatic commercial growth within

the past few years. It is a wonderful opportunity to continue to cluster businesses around this general area.

CHAPTER 61A LAND NORTH OF ROUTE 106 ON THE EAST BRIDGEWATER LINE WITH POTENTIAL TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) NEAR THE PROPOSED COMMUTER RAIL STATION

The West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen sent a letter to the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) requesting that a commuter rail station be constructed just north of Route 106 on the West Bridgewater/East Bridgewater town line. The area in question is currently categorized as Chapter 61A land. The station would be on the Old Colony Rail Line. Transit-oriented development creates a pedestrian-friendly mixed-use area and residential and commercial areas designed around a public transit system. This would bring in additional tax revenue from new businesses and residences constructed in the general area.

ROUTE 28 ON THE BRIDGEWATER TOWNLINE

This area on the heavily traveled Route 28 is near the former Miskinis Auto Dealership on the Bridgewater town line. There are businesses dotted along this section of Route 28 but not much housing, so it is logical to cluster businesses together in this area.

ROUTE 106, WEST OF ROUTE 24

This location is less than one mile from Exit 22 off Route 24 and close to the north-south Route 138 in Easton. This area on Route 106 has seen dramatic commercial growth within the past few years and has excellent potential to continue to cluster businesses and industries around this general area.

LOW-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL LAND WEST OF ROUTE 24

This residentially zoned area south of Scotland Street has close access to Route 24, which makes it an attractive place for residents.

West Bridgewater Priority Protection Areas

THREE PARCELS OF CHAPTER 61A LAND LOCATED SOUTH OF THE RAIL TRAIL

These three parcels of Chapter 61 land located south of the rail trail and east of Bedford Street could be preserved for their scenic views.

LAND WEST OF THE RICHARDSON DONATION

This wet meadow is under Chapter 61A protection and is adjacent to the Richardson donation.

ABANDONED RAILROAD TRACKS FROM CRESCENT ST. TO WEST MEADOW BROOK

Acquiring this land and the accompanying abandoned railroad tracks could create a Rail Trail extension.

PROSPECTIVE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

A prospective wildlife corridor in the northeast corner of town abuts the West Bridgewater State Forest, the White Pines Golf Course, and the Brockton Country Club.

LAND BETWEEN THE STATE FOREST AND MILL POND

Acquiring this land would fill a critical gap between the State Forest and Mill Pond area.

CHAPTER 61A RAILROAD R.O.W. THAT WOULD EXTEND THE EAST STREET R.O.W.

This former railroad right-of-way is now Chapter 61A land and extends from the recently acquired right-of-way ending at East Street. It can extend the future trail to Matfield Street and any prospective commuter rail station.

EXTENSION OF RAIL TRAIL FROM ROUTE 28 TO WEST MEADOW BROOK

This area comprises 19.42 acres of former railroad right-of-way parcels east of North Main Street, bracketing the 2.33-acre town parcel 31 (38/98). The rail trail may continue west to West Meadow Brook and West Center Street.

Table 30: Zoning District Abbreviations

ZONING DISTRICT ABBREVIATIONS	
Zoning District	Abbreviation
General, Residential, and Farming District	GRF
Business District	B
Industrial District	I
Town Center District	TC
Use is permitted as of right.	Y
Use is not permitted.	N
Use is permitted only under a special permit granted by the Board of Appeals.	SA
Use is permitted only under a special permit granted by the Planning Board.	SPB

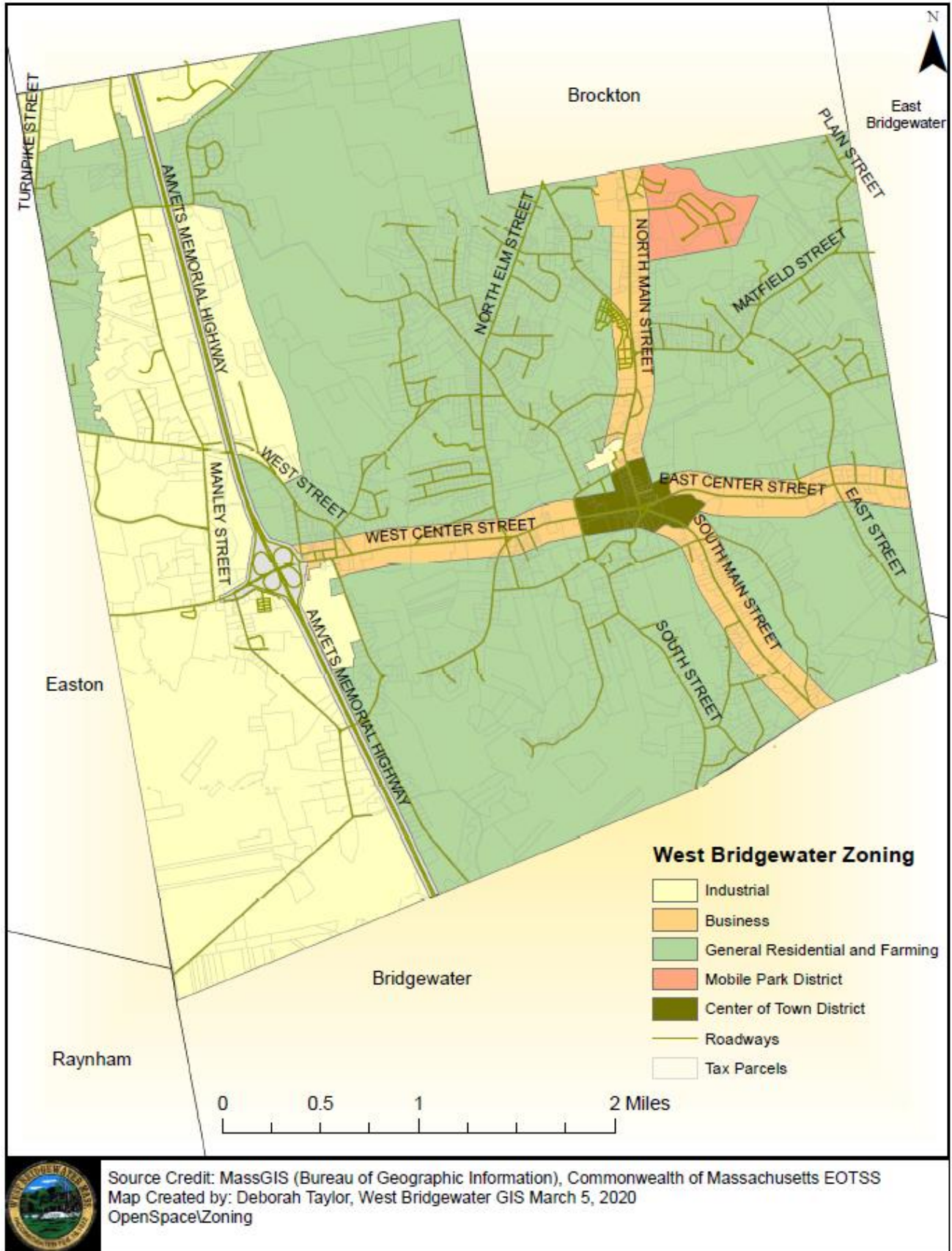
Table 31: West Bridgewater Zoning Table of Uses

WEST BRIDGEWATER ZONING TABLE OF USE REGULATIONS				
Principal Use	GRF	B	I	TC
RESIDENTIAL USES				
1. Single-family dwelling	Y	Y*	N	N
a. Single-family dwelling In a Business District, a lot containing 30,000 square feet with a minimum of 150 feet frontage that is not on West Center, East Center, North Main, or South Main Streets may be used for residential purposes (Single-family dwelling) by a special permit granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.	Y	SA	N	
2. Two-family dwelling	Y	Y*	N	Y
3. Conversion of existing owner-occupied dwelling to two-family dwelling *This zoning change will only apply to existing buildings at the time of the bylaw change (May 23, 2005).	SA	SA*	N	Y
4. Manufactured Housing Community (Mobile Home Park)	SPB	N	N	N
5. Adult Retirement Community	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB
6. Mixed Residential/Commercial (Maximum of 2 bedrooms/unit, no residential on ground floor).	N	N	N	Y
AGRICULTURAL USES				
1. Farming, dairy, nursery, market garden, greenhouse, or other agricultural, horticultural, floricultural, or viticulture uses, including the sale of natural products.	Y	Y	Y	Y
EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, INSTITUTIONAL, AND RECREATIONAL USES				
1. Educational purposes on land owned or leased by the Commonwealth or any of its agencies, subdivisions, bodies politic, religious sects or subdivisions, or non-profit educational corporations.	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Churches or other places of religious worship	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. Day Care Center	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Hospitals and outpatient clinics	N	SA	SA	SA
5. Nursing homes, convalescent homes, group homes, rest homes, residential care facilities, and other similar uses.	SA	SA	SA	SA
6. Family daycare home	SA	SA	N	SA
7. Membership clubs, private non-profit clubs, golf clubs, and country clubs.	SA	SA	SA	SA
8. Health clubs and racquet clubs	N	SA	Y	SA
9. Public Library	SA	SA	SA	SA
10. Public Parks, playgrounds, or other public recreational facilities	SA	SA	SA	SA
11. Cemetery	SA	N	N	N
GOVERNMENTAL AND PUBLIC SERVICE USES				
1. Municipal or public buildings	SA	SA	SA	SA

2. Municipal or public utilities necessary in connection with serving the town	SA	SA	SA	SA
3. Public utility buildings or yards screened from abutting lots or exterior streets by a solid landscaped screen and fence at least five (5) feet but no more than seven (7) feet in height.	N	SA	Y	SA
4. Public parking garage	N	SA	SA	SA
5. Easement for drainage, utilities, walkways, roads, and driveway	Y	Y	Y	Y
RETAIL, BUSINESS, AND CONSUMER SERVICES				
1. Adult Bookstore	N	N	SA	N
2. Adult Cabaret	N	N	SA	N
3. Adult Motion Picture Theater	N	N	SA	N
4. Adult Paraphernalia Store	N	N	SA	N
5. Adult Video Store	N	N	SA	N
6. Animal Hospital or Clinic	N	SA	SA	N
7. Bed and Breakfast	SA	Y	N	Y
8. Dry cleaning, on-site	N	N	N	N
9. Funeral homes and funeral chapels	N	N	N	SA
10. Gasoline service stations, including routine maintenance operations.	N	N	SA	N
11. Home occupation or trade with:	Y	Y	Y	Y
a. No exterior storage nor more than two non-resident employees.				
b. Home occupation or trade with exterior storage and non-resident employment.	N	SA	SA	N
12. Hotels and Motels	N	SA	SA	N
13. Kennels	SA	SA	SA	N
a. Commercial				
b. Private	SA	SA	SA	N
14. Motor vehicle sales and repair facilities, including repairing, painting, storing, or washing vehicles.	N	SA	SA	N
15. Offices	N	Y	Y	Y
16. Redemption center	N	Y	Y	N
17. Restaurant, fast food with a drive-up window, or window service.	N	SA	SA	SA
18. A Restaurant with no drive-up service, where food and beverages are consumed indoors, has a maximum gross floor area of two thousand (2,000) square feet.	N	Y	Y	SA
19. A Restaurant without drive-up service, where food and beverages are served indoors and with a gross floor area greater than two thousand (2,000) square feet.	N	SA	SA	SA
20. Retail business or service	N	Y	Y	Y
a. conducted within a structure				
b. with a drive-up or window service	N	SA	SA	SA
c. with exterior display	N	SA	SA	SA
21. Shopping center	N	SPB	SPN	N
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL USES				
1. Bottling or packaging of previously prepared products	N	SA	SA	N
2. Contractor's offices and storage yards, screened from abutting lots or exterior streets by a solid landscaped screen and fence at least five (5) feet but no more than seven (7) feet in height.	SA	SA	SA	N
3. Industrial Park	N	N	Y	N
4. Junk Yard	N	N	N	N
5. Manufacturing	N	SA	Y	N
6. Motor vehicle junkyard	N	N	N	N
7. Wireless Communications Facility	SPB	SPB	SPB	SPB
8. Recycling plant	N	N	SA	N
9. Warehouse and distribution centers, except fuel	N	N	Y	N
10. Large Scale ground-mounted Solar PV Installation > 250 kW	N	N	Y	N
11. Mid-scale ground-mounted Solar PV Installation 150 kW-250 kW	N	Y	Y	N
12. Small Scale ground-mounted Solar PV Installation up to 150kW	Y	Y	Y	N
13. Digital Message Boards: Computerized programmable electronic visual communication devices used for advertisement purposes for goods and services manufactured for the outside environment.	SA	SA	SA	SA

PERMITTED ACCESSORY USES AND STRUCTURES				
1. Uses, whether or not on the same parcel as activities permitted as a matter of right, accessory to activities permitted as a matter of right, which activities are necessary for connection with scientific research or scientific development or related production, may be allowed upon the issuance of a special permit provided the special permit granting authority finds that the proposed accessory use does not substantially derogate from the public good.	SA	SA	SA	SA
PRINCIPAL USE				
2. Accessory uses customarily incidental to a permitted residential use on the same premises, such as barns, cabanas, pools, and garages for the vehicles of the occupants, if they are not detrimental to the residential neighborhood because of traffic, noise, odor or lighting in connection with the use.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. Accessory uses customarily incidental to a permitted commercial use on the same premises, such as barns, cabanas, pools, and garages for the vehicles of the occupants, if they are not detrimental to the neighborhood because of traffic, noise, odor, or lighting in connection with the use.	N	Y	Y	SA

Figure 26: West Bridgewater Zoning Map



SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

A. Geology, Soils, and Topography

Geology

Most of the surficial materials in Massachusetts are deposits of the last two continental ice sheets that covered New England in the latter part of the Pleistocene ice age. The glacial deposits are divided into two broad categories: glacial till and moraine deposits and glacial stratified deposits. Widespread till deposits were laid down directly on bedrock on semi-consolidated coastal plain strata by glacier ice. Tills in thick-till (>15 ft thick) drumlin landforms are found throughout the State. Areas of shallow bedrock contain thin discontinuous till deposits and several bedrock outcrops and are located chiefly in rocky upland areas. Moraine deposits related to the last ice sheet's glacial ice lobes are primarily located in southeastern Massachusetts. Glacial stratified deposits concentrated in valleys and lowland areas laid down by glacial meltwater in streams, lakes, and the sea in front of the retreating ice margin during the last deglaciation. Postglacial deposits, primarily flood-plain alluvium and swamp deposits, comprise a lesser proportion of the unconsolidated materials.¹⁰

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock in West Bridgewater consists of non-marine sedimentary rock and is commonly covered with up to one hundred feet of glacial till and outwash. The bedrock formation comprises 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 surficial geology is the basis for both natural systems and human use and provides valuable information about an area's environmental potential and vulnerabilities. The glaciers that covered New England more than 20,000 years ago left their mark on the Old Bridgewater

¹⁰ Stone, J.R., Stone, B.D., DiGiacomo-Cohen, M.L., and Mabee, S.B., comps., 2018, Surficial materials of Massachusetts—A 1:24,000-scale geologic map database: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Map 3402, 189 sheets, scale 1:24,000; index map, scale 1:250,000; 58-p. pamphlet; and geodatabase files, <https://doi.org/10.3133/sim3402>.

area. As the two-mile thick layer of ice moved south, it scraped the solid rock beneath it and carried along stones and soil. A mix of material ranging from clay to boulders (glacial till) was deposited at the glacier's base as it passed over the area. About 19,000 years ago, the temperature began to rise, and the ice slowly retreated. As the ice melted, the melting water deposited sand and gravel, referred to as outwash. The Old Bridgewater region was under a large glacial lake (Glacial Lake Taunton) that existed at the end of the glacial era but has since drained, leaving extensive areas of lakebed silts and clays.¹¹

The ice front retreat formed a series of glacial lakes in low areas between the ice margin and the deglaciated terrain. The largest glacial lake in southeastern Massachusetts developed in the Taunton River valley and is commonly referred to as Glacial Lake Taunton; it covers the west-central part of Plymouth County and extends into Bristol County. The lake's surface was 55-65 feet above sea level. Deposited within this lake are fine textured sediments consisting of varied silts and clays greater than one hundred feet thick in some areas (Hartshorn, 1960). The Jones River was the outlet for the lake during its final stages before filling with sediments. The clay deposited within the lake has been mined to make bricks. Soils associated with Glacial Lake Taunton include the Scio, Raynham, Birdsall, and Enosburg series; some of the best farmland soils are mapped within this area. Extensive peatlands such as the Hockomock Swamp, the largest continuous swamp in southern New England, have formed in the low elevations of Glacial Lake Taunton.¹²

The headwaters for the Town River are an extensive complex of very poorly drained, organic soils (Swansea and Freetown muck soils). Most of the year, these soils have water ponded on their surface or groundwater. As the river flows eastward, it passes through a low-lying area of silt and clays. These sediments were deposited within the glacial lake. Soils within this area formed within these silts and clays (Scio, Raynham, and Birdsall soils) and, in many areas, have a mantle of sandy material overlying the finer sediments (Enosburg, Eldridge, and Scarborough soils). In areas where the Town River has meandered back and forth over time, it has created a floodplain by eroding from one area and depositing material in another. Soils formed within these nearly level low-lying areas (Winooski, Limerick, and Saco soils) are fine-textured and are susceptible to seasonal flooding. Within the lower reaches of the Town River, some areas about the floodplain have steep abrupt slopes, which are evidence of past and continuing erosion by the river.¹³

The surficial deposits comprise boulders, rocks, and other materials between the soil and bedrock. West Bridgewater received significant amounts of unsorted till during the last ice age. Large quantities of stones, 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 percent 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.

Another surficial geology reflects fine lacustrine (glacial lake) deposits. Being very fine, the lacustrine deposits are poorly drained. These deposits have seriously constrained the

¹¹ Bill Giezentanner, Resource Management.

¹² <http://nesoil.com/plymouth/geology.htm>

¹³ Peter Fletcher, Certified Soil Scientist.

construction of buildings or playing fields. In contrast, approximately 25% of West Bridgewater is covered by fine to coarse sand deposits, 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 percent 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 wastewater reaches the aquifer.

Soils

Table 32: Soil Map Unit Description Report

SOIL MAP UNIT DESCRIPTION REPORT	
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name
1	Water
10	Scarboro and Birdsall soils, 0 to 3 percent
31A	Walpole sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent
51	Swansea muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes
52	Freetown muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes
53	Freetown muck, ponded, 0 to 1 percent slopes
71A	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
71B	Ridgebury fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
73A	Whitman fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, extremely stony
103B	Charlton-Hollis-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 8 percent slopes
104C	Hollis-Rock outcrop-Charlton complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes
245B	Hinckley loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes
245C	Hinckley loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes
253D	Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 35 percent slopes
254B	Merrimac fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
310B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
312B	Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
315B	Scituate fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
317B	Scituate fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
420B	Canton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
422B	Canton fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
422C	Canton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
424B	Canton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely bouldery
424C	Canton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely bouldery
602	Urban land, 0 to 15 percent slopes
623C	Woodbridge-Urban land complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes
626B	Merrimac-Urban land complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes
628B	Canton-Urban land complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes
628C	Canton-Urban land complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes
653	Udorthents, sandy
654	Udorthents, loamy
655	Udorthents, wet substratum

West Bridgewater's soil is highly 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. Because of this significant variability, the resulting differing rates of

percolation, water tables, depths, and related constraints can be accurately mapped only on site-by-site.

Mucky soils are characteristically found in extensive swamps and low-lying land along streams and drainage ways concentrated in the West Meadow and the southern portion of town. These soils fall into the Hinkley-Merrimac-Muck Association, which tends to be level, deep, and poorly drained. They 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 compact, 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, annually replenished by seasonal floods. They vary in slope and are formed in sand, gravel, or silty lacustrine materials.

The sandy soils concentrated in the town center fall into the Scituate-Essex-Merrimac association, which is characteristically formed in sand and gravel and is 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

Soils are vital because they influence the ability of various parts of the town to be developed due to their suitability for on-site sewage disposal. Patterns of soil associations help to anticipate the developability of land. However, soils with distinct characteristics are sometimes found together in one association. As a result, interpretive maps of soil groups according to their limitations for septic systems can be more helpful in anticipating development than maps of soil associations. When severely limited soils are mapped, the area's typical large lots will have some usable soil. As a result, such "severely limited" areas often accommodate up to three-quarters as many units as unrestricted soils. Except for actual wetlands, the soil is a better predictor of future maintenance problems than developability. This can be seen by comparing the map of soil limitations with the Town's actual development patterns.

Septic limitations due to high water tables, tight soils, and hardpans constrain development in much of the town. Only about 20 percent of West Bridgewater is unconstrained or slightly constrained for septic systems, while approximately 5 percent of the town is moderately constrained. 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 groundwater with very limited treatment in the soil.

Another 45 percent 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 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 will likely require costly engineered solutions such as mounded systems built above ground level.

In contrast, the remaining 30 percent of West Bridgewater cannot 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 New England, the erratic glacial distribution of soils leaves pockets suited for septic systems within areas mapped as unsuitable overall. Hence, the mapped patterns of soil suitability are, at best, a general guide to developability and require evaluation of individual sites.

Much of West Bridgewater is severely constrained for house construction due to the abovementioned high-water tables and impermeable soils. 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 importantly, these conditions can make on-site sewerage impossible or very expensive.

Should West Bridgewater connect to a local or regional wastewater treatment plant, many previously restricted portions of town would become available for residential and commercial development, threatening existing open space. Given the soil limitations, the State Sanitary Code (Title V) has served as a de facto growth management tool, and the construction of sewer infrastructure has been opposed out of concern for 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.

Topography

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 soil commonly derived from slowly permeable glacial till, and the general absence of the region's drumlins, eskers, and other glacial features often found. The highest elevations, 100' above mean sea level, and the town's only hills are concentrated in the northeast corner of town, and significant steepness and erosion occur only along riverbanks.

During the most recent ice age, glaciers scoured the land north of West Bridgewater, leaving exposed bedrock and defined valleys. In contrast, West Bridgewater received glacial outwash and till from those areas. The elevations range from 80 to 100 feet above sea level. Deep soil covers 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 rivers' natural meanders is much more prevalent than erosion from steep slopes, which are virtually absent in West Bridgewater.
- Due to West Bridgewater's glacial history, the soil composition tends to be erratic and can vary tremendously over short distances. The variations require on-site sampling to obtain accurate identification of soil suitability.
- West Bridgewater's soil is well suited for agriculture but poorly drained in many places, making it unsuitable for septic systems. Despite these limitations, development

may still occur in many areas if property values are sufficient to make using alternative technologies or shared treatment systems feasible.

Landslides

Landslides include a wide range of ground movements, such as rock falls, deep failure of slopes, and shallow debris flows. Although gravity, acting on an over the steep-ended slope, is a factor in landslides, other contributing factors exist. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts classifies the local area’s landslide risk as “moderate susceptibility, low incidence,” specifically along the town’s southern boundary.

Figure 27: Soils and Geographic Features Map

Soils and Geographic Features



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



Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

www.ocpcrpa.org
Created July 2021

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

B. Landscape Character

The character of a town and how it feels to the residents and visitors is essential in how a community defines itself. The Landscape Character offers many unique habitats and recreation destinations.

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 significant ponds, three rivers, six brooks, numerous wetlands, and small ponds. Numerous wetlands separated by low hills characterize West Bridgewater. This increases in overall elevation toward the northeast. A significant area of the wooded swamp, part of the Hockomock Swamp, is in the southwestern corner of the town. Flat land, gently rolling pastures, and cultivated fields bound by dry-laid stone walls are divided by rivers, ponds, and low forested wetlands throughout town. Mill ruins, an old stone bridge, and a rich historical feature in the landscape are found along the riparian corridors that meander through such places as War Memorial Park and Reynold's Landing.

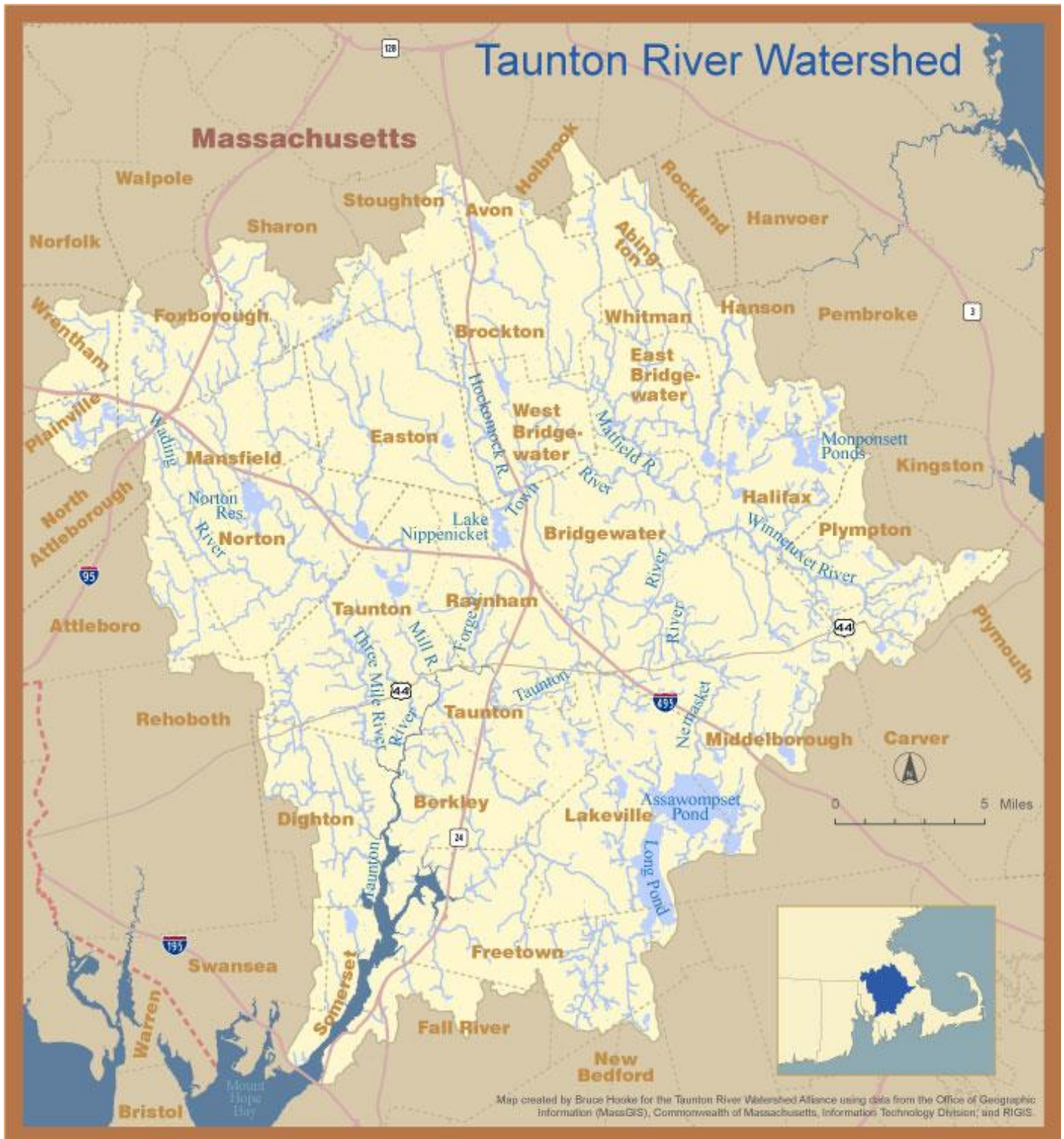
Approximately 8.38 percent (841 acres) of West Bridgewater is currently farmed based on Mass Land Use/Cover data. This is a decrease from the 1,927 acres of 1971 and the 2,073 acres of 1985, but it is still a much more significant portion of the local landscape than in most OCPC communities. The 1999 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 farming areas and 931 acres of non-forested wetland make up most of the open vistas in town. They and a handful of streamside water-powered mill ruins are all that remain of the town's history of farming and early industry.

Many of the current agricultural fields and 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 allows the town to preserve some of this land if it comes up for sale and a change of use.

Residential development previously focused on the center and spread along the two major roads, North and South Main Street (Route 28) and East and West Center Street (Route 106), and in small subdivisions off these roads and on North Elm Street. Residential growth has shifted towards larger plots, often in the areas around Walnut St and Scotland St. Scattered commercial uses are found along these roads, while more extensive commercial, distribution, and light-industrial uses are concentrated in the Manly Street corridor west of 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 are now offered for sale. Given the adaptability of innovative and alternative sewage disposal systems, all but the wettest, most unbuildable farmland in West Bridgewater is vulnerable to change by residential, commercial, or industrial development. Only lands in protective ownership, 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.

Figure 28: Taunton River Watershed



Water Resources

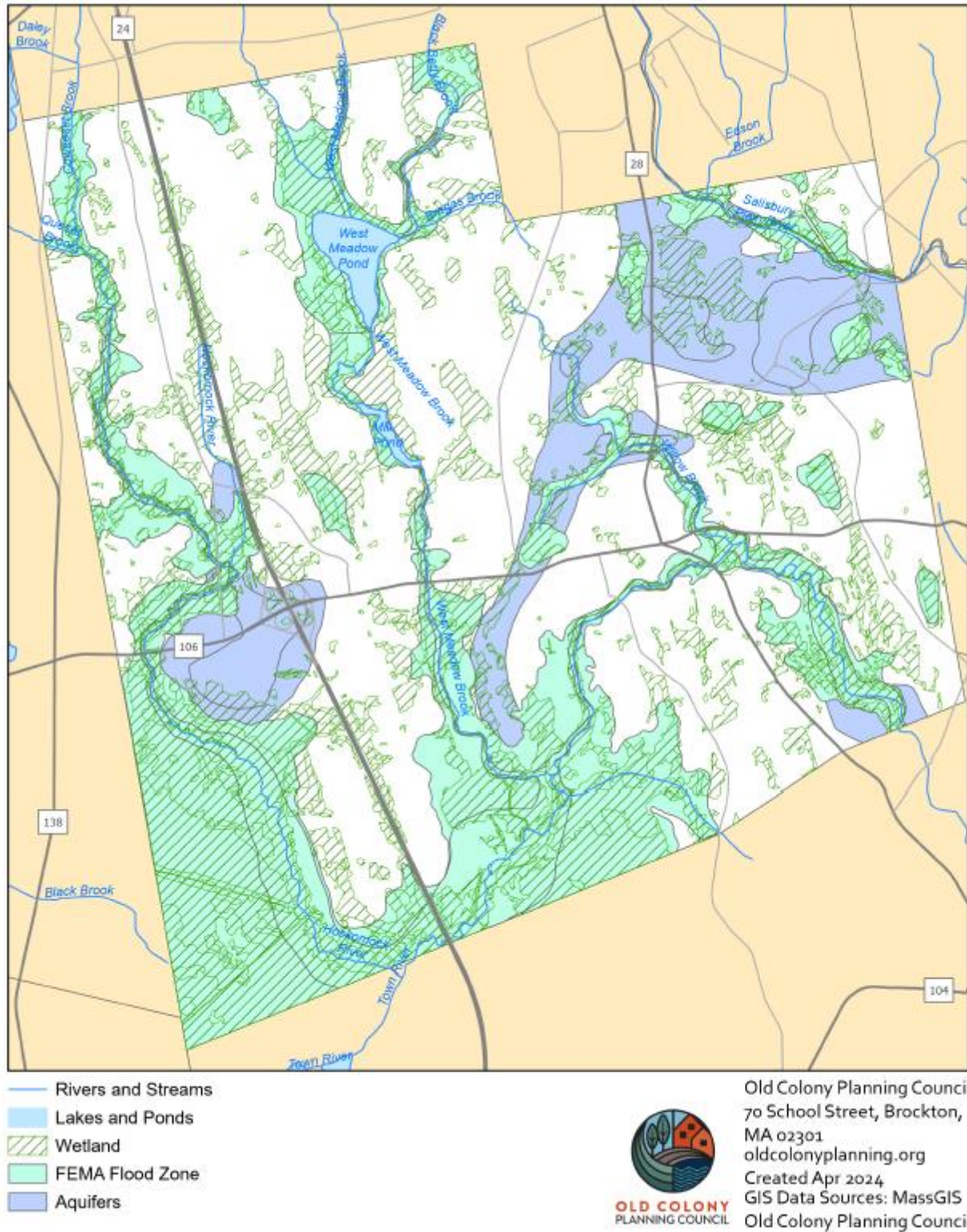


Figure 29: Water Resources Map

C. Water Resources

Watersheds, Rivers, and Brooks

West Bridgewater's water resources add aesthetic, recreational, and ecological values and critical water supplies. The West Bridgewater portion of the Taunton River watershed includes three major ponds and nine 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.

Taunton River Watershed

West Bridgewater is in the Taunton River Basin; all rivers eventually flow to the Taunton River, draining most of Southeastern Massachusetts. The perennial Nunckatessett River/ Town River begins at Lake Nippenicket in the Bridgewater portion of the Hockomock Swamp. It 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 Nunckatessett 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 regional advocacy, recently led to the River's Federal designation as a Wild and Scenic River.

Rivers and Streams

West Bridgewater is in the Taunton River watershed; its three rivers and many brooks eventually drain into the Taunton River to the south. The Massachusetts River Protection Act protects all perennial streams, brooks, and rivers with a 100- to 200-foot buffer zone. Intermittent streams are protected only if connected to a delineated wetland.

Taunton River Watershed

Three Rivers

1. The Salisbury Plain River
2. Town River
3. Hockomock River

Perennial Streams

1. Coweaset Brook
2. Willow Brook
3. West Meadow Brook
4. One Mile Brook

Intermittent Streams

1. Black Betty Brook
2. Bragas Brook

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

Three Rivers

1. ***The Salisbury Plain River*** flows through the northeastern corner of town, going from Brockton to Bridgewater, where it joins ***Beaver Brook*** to form the ***Matfield River***.
2. ***Town River***: begins at Lake Nippenicket in the Bridgewater portion of the Hockomock Swamp and flows northeasterly through West Bridgewater. 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 provides West Bridgewater with a link to the Wampanoag Canoe Passage. The river is listed as Category 4c –Impairment not caused by a pollutant – TMDL not required. - in the Draft 2022 Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the Clean Water Act 2022 Reporting Cycle November 2022. This impairment is the need of a fish ladder. This is handled through ongoing state and local projects to increase mobility for breeding fish. The High Street Dam removal and bridge replacement on the Town River in Bridgewater has been completed and opened in November of 2023. This dam removal and river restoration project will improve flow, water quality, and fish passage, reduce flood risk, reconnect 10 miles of unimpeded river access for the native and migratory fishery, and open 354 acres of river herring spawning habitat in Lake Nippenicket. The Town River is also listed as a Category 5 The 303(d) List – “Waters requiring a TMDL” for invasive plants, Benthic Micro invertebrates, and Enterococcus. Waters requiring a TMDL are dandled through MassDEP. Those on the Category 5 list in the Draft 2022 Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the Clean Water Act 2022 Reporting Cycle November 2022 will be addressed in 2024.
3. ***At separate points, Hockomock River and West Meadow Brook flow into the Town River along the town's southern boundary.*** With 1,268 acres protected by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, the ***Hockomock Swamp*** is a vast natural and scenic area with unique and irreplaceable habitat. It is the location of at least 13 rare and endangered species and several archaeological sites of enormous significance. Productive agricultural lands border the wetland and river systems. The Hockomock Swamp and the section of the Town River located within the ACEC are among the premier resource jewels of southeastern Massachusetts.

Perennial Streams

1. *Coweaset Brook*, originating in Easton, runs parallel to the town’s western boundary and flows into the Hockomock River in the southwestern part of the town. The *Coweaset 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. In addition, both Coweaset Brook and the Hockomock River are listed as Category C, which is insufficient information. At the same time, the other minor streams are not mentioned at all in the Integrated List.
2. *Willow Brook* – flows south into the Town River at various points.
3. *West Meadow Brook* flows south into the Town River at various points.
4. *One Mile Brook* flows south into the Town River at various points.

Intermittent Streams

Within *Beaverton Woods* are two intermittent streams, *Black Betty Brook* and *Bragas Brook*, which begin in Brockton and flow through the northern part of the town, into the state forest, and toward the Town River. The intermittent streams are seasonal. The seasonal pond becomes a wet meadow in the dry months of the year. The vegetation is diverse, and the wildlife is abundant if you stay in one place quietly for a short time. Red-tailed hawks use the areas as their habitat. Beaverton Woods provides a level trail for bog bridges through a mixed forest dominated by oak, maple, and white pine.

Impairments

Massachusetts Category 4c Waters “Impairment not caused by a pollutant – TMDL not required”¹⁴

Table 33: Mass Category 4c Waters "Impairment not caused by a pollutant - TMDL Not Required."

MASS CATEGORY 4C WATERS					
Name	Segment ID	Description	Size	Units	Impairment Cause
Town River	MA62-11	Headwaters, outlet Lake Nippenicket, Bridgewater to Route 28 bridge, West Bridgewater	4.50	Miles	(Fish Passage Barrier)
Town River	MA62-12	Route 28 bridge, West Bridgewater to Bridgewater WWTP (NPDES: MA0100641) discharge, Bridgewater	3.90	Miles	(Fish Passage Barrier)
West Meadow Pond	MA62208	West Bridgewater	103.81	Acres	(Non-Native Aquatic Plants)

¹⁴ Draft Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the Clean Water Act 2022 Reporting Cycle, November 2022

Table 34: Category 5 Waters 303(d) List "Waters requiring a TMDL."

CATEGORY 5 WATERS 303(D) LIST "WATERS REQUIRING A TMDL"					
Waterbody	AU_ID	Description	Size	Units	Impairment
Town River	MA62-13	From Bridgewater WWTP (NPDES: MA0100641) discharge, Bridgewater to mouth at the confluence with the Matfield River forming headwaters Taunton River, Bridgewater	2.30	Miles	(Non-Native Aquatic Plants)
					Benthic Macroinvertebrates
					Enterococcus

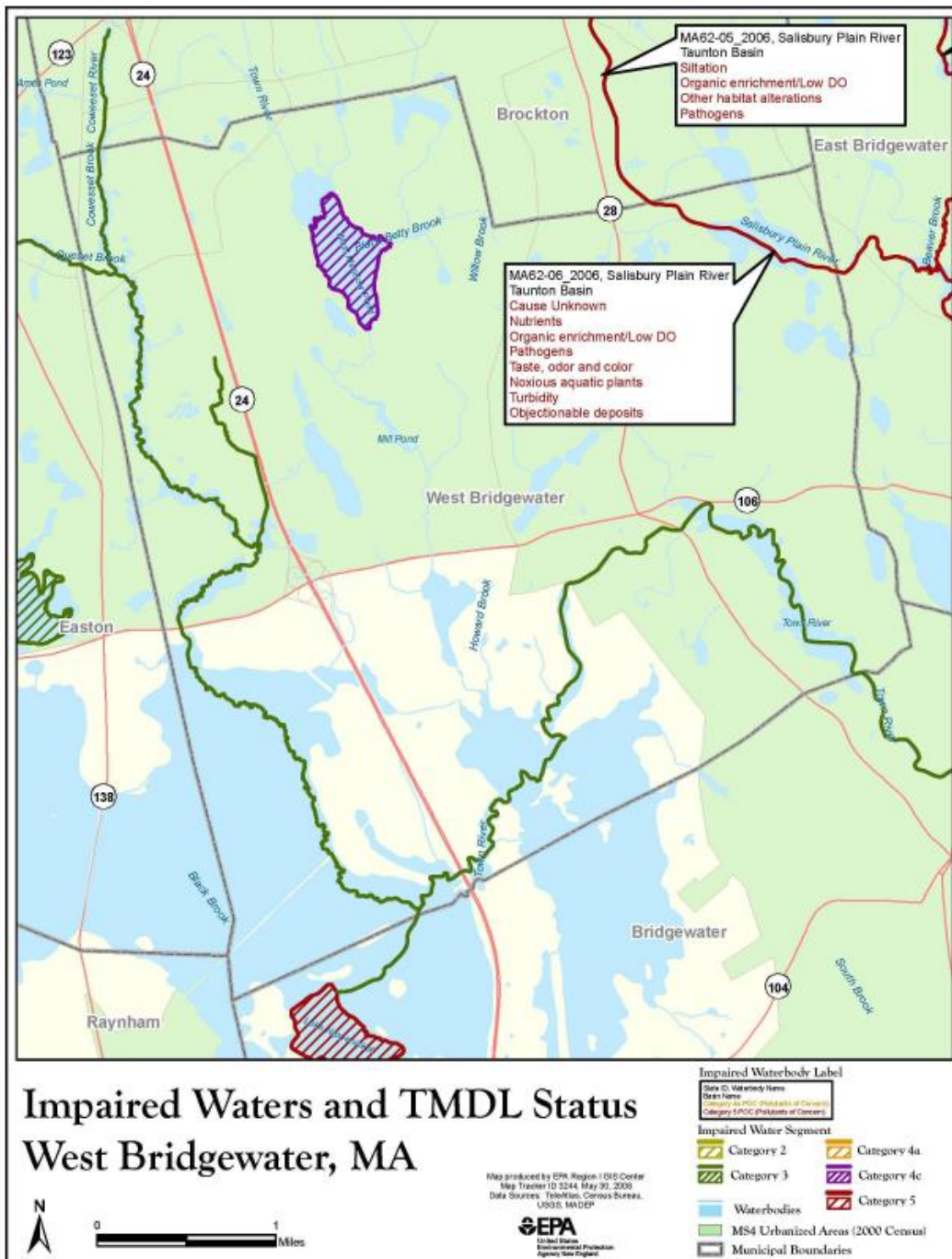
Ponds

Of the numerous ponds in West Bridgewater, the three most significant 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 103 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 Draft Massachusetts Integrated List of Waters for the Clean Water Act 2022 Reporting Cycle. Access to the dam and pond-side paths is via a dirt road from the Spring Street Neighborhood to the southwest. In 2012, the dam was classified as posing a significant hazard.

Mill Pond is north of Crescent Street and downstream of West Meadow Pond. Much of the pond is town-owned, but the former mill building, spillway, and dam area at the base are privately owned. Access is limited to one location 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.

Figure 30: Impaired Waters and TMDL Status, West Bridgewater, MA



Source:

<https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyNET.exe/P10132LT.TXT?ZyActionD=ZyDocument&Client=EPA&Index=2006+Thru+2010&DocS=&Query=&Time=&EndTime=&SearchMethod=1&ToCRestrict=n&ToC=&ToCEntry=&QField=&QFieldYear=&QFieldMonth=&QFieldDay=&IntQFieldOp=0&ExtQFieldOp=0&XmlQuery=&File=D%3A%5Czyfiles%5CIndex%20Data%5C06thru10%5CTxt%5C00000046%5CP10132LT.txt&User=ANONYMOUS&Password=anonymous&SortMethod=h%7C-&MaximumDocuments=1&FuzzyDegree=0&ImageQuality=r75g8/r75g8/x150y150g16/i425&Display=hpfr&DefSeekPage=x&SearchBack=ZyActionL&Back=ZyActionS&BackDesc=Results%20page&MaximumPages=1&ZyEntry=1&SeekPage=x&ZyPURL>

Water Contamination

PFAS are a large group of manufactured chemical compounds used worldwide in industry and consumer products since the 1950s. They are used to manufacture stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick products, are widely found in consumer products such as clothing, food packaging, and cosmetics, and are used in certain types of firefighting foam. PFAS are often called the forever chemicals because they do not readily break down and can accumulate over time. Although two of the most common PFAS have been phased out of production and are no longer used in the United States, other countries may still manufacture and use them. The largest US manufacturer completely stopped PFOA and PFOS in 2002. The PFOA Stewardship Program was launched in 2006 to work toward ending the production of PFOA and other PFAS. Due to their persistence in the environment, PFAS are found in low levels in various plants, animals, food products, and even humans.¹⁵

Aquifer, Recharge Areas, and Well Sites

West Bridgewater depends solely on groundwater for public supplies. A single aquifer lies beneath approximately 65 percent of the 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 recharge potential are primarily those with coarse soils mapped above as having “moderate to no” constraints on septic systems.

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

Town-wide water restrictions are becoming increasingly necessary during the summer months. This is due to water treatment capacity, not lack of water.

West Bridgewater's Water System

The water system consists of four pumping stations connected to seven wells: two located on Manley Street, where the water is treated to remove iron and manganese; three located on Cyr Street; and two on Norman Avenue. Three storage tanks are used to store 6.5 million gallons of water. The distribution system that delivers water to your home consists of 62 miles of water main ranging from 2 to 16 inches in diameter. Three of the pumping stations can run for prolonged periods during power outages. Water is purchased from the town of Easton for the residents of Turnpike Street. The Watershed, owned and controlled by the Water Department to protect our water sources, is approximately 220 acres.

¹⁵ https://www.westbridgewaterma.org/government/board_of_water_commissioners/pfas_information/index.php

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 enforcing protective zoning. In 1996, West Bridgewater 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. The purpose of the district is to protect existing and potential community water supplies through the preservation and maintenance of the groundwater table and quality. This is increasingly important as development increases impermeable surfaces, thus increasing runoff and lessening recharge. If the town installs a public sewer system, the recharge from leaching fields will be reduced. The district was extended to the recently acquired Robery Farm's future health site. The district protects the privately owned recharge areas by not allowing new commercial development in Zone 2 or outside fuel storage. (The Zone II areas are those drawn on by the wells during a six-month drought.) However, as zoning cannot regulate present activities, non-zoning provisions such as Board of Health regulations and non-zoning general bylaws are required. 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 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 29-gallon, 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, the well has yet to be developed.

Each well has Zone 1 of 400 feet. All the wells except 04G have a Zone II hydro geologically determined. Well #04G has an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).¹⁶ The wells are located in the Taunton River basin. They are highly vulnerable to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers (i.e., clay) that can prevent contaminant migration.

Table 35: West Bridgewater Water System

Source Name	MassDEP Source ID#	Source Type	Location of Source
Cyr St Station 1 Well #1	4322000-01G	Groundwater	Cyr St
Cyr St Station 1 Well #2	4322000-02G	Groundwater	Cyr St
Norman Ave Station 2 Well #2	4322000-02G	Groundwater	Norman Ave
Manley St Station 3 Well #1	4322000-06G	Groundwater	Manley St
Manley St Station 3 Well #2	4322000-07G	Groundwater	Manley St
Cyr St Station 4 Well #4	4322000-04G	Groundwater	Cyr St
Cyr St Station 4 Well #5	4322000-05G	Groundwater	Cyr St

Residents of Turnpike St and Renker Drive are served by Eastons Public Water Supply

¹⁶ IWPA is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well. In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified.

Wetlands

In addition to its streams and ponds, West Bridgewater has extensive wooded swamp and marsh areas, primarily on the northern edge of the Hockomock Swamp along the western and southern edges and in many locations with poorly drained soil. In all, approximately 30 percent of West Bridgewater is composed of wetlands. About 6.7 percent of 674.01 acres are “non-forested wetlands” (wet meadows, open marsh...), while the rest are in forested wetlands or swamps.

West Bridgewater’s wetland areas provide wildlife habitat, flood storage, pollution reduction, and groundwater recharge. Most of the town’s wetlands range from forested to shrub, emergent, river corridor, and vernal pool. These wetlands are of varying sizes, the most prominent being the Hockomock Swamp and the West Meadow Wildlife Area. The related natural communities are acidic graminoid fens, acidic shrub fens, coastal Atlantic white cedar swamps, kettle hole-level bogs, and visible red maple swamps.

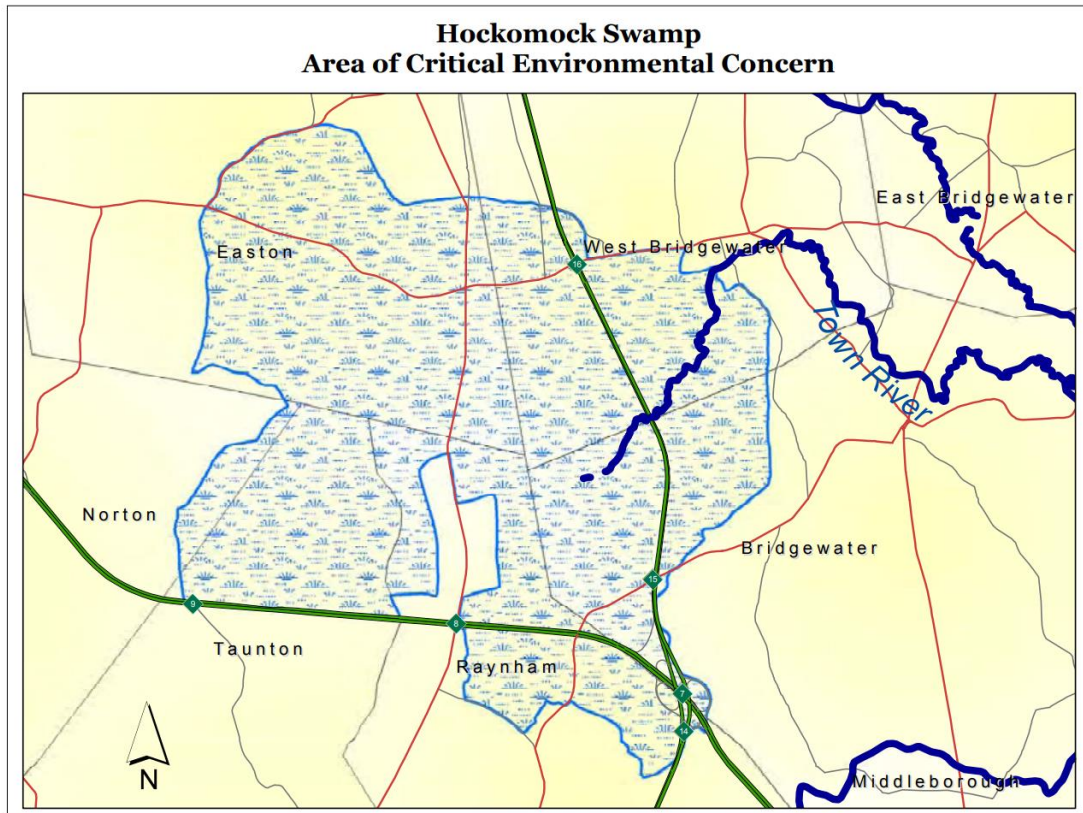
West Bridgewater has numerous vernal pools. These isolated wetlands fill with water only during the wettest times of the year. They are critical breeding habitats for frogs, salamanders, and other amphibians because their seasonal nature prevents habitation by predator fish. *There are six vernal pools certified by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; - west of Manley Street near 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’s Landing.* 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 few signs or designated parking areas adjacent to most publicly owned areas and few designated trails or boardwalks to allow easy passage.

Hockomock Swamp

In the Wampanoag language, “Hockomock” translates to ‘Place where Spirits Dwell’. The entire Hockomock Swamp, the largest swamp in New England, totals 16,900 acres and covers portions of Raynham, Easton, Bridgewater, and West Bridgewater, with approximately 1,100 acres in the southwest quadrant of the town. The Swamp is Massachusetts’s largest inland state-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Although it is zoned industrial in West Bridgewater, the Hockomock Swamp is a vital wetland 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 a critical habitat and vital water resource for wildlife. The swamp reduces flooding by storing water and partially recharges underlying aquifers, contributing to drinking water supplies. Portions of the swamp drain to Bridgewater’s Lake Nippenicket, then to the Nunckatessett River, and on through the center of West Bridgewater.

Figure 31: Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern



Taunton River Federal Wild and Scenic River

The Taunton River, designated a Federal Wild and Scenic River in 2009, was identified for its “outstandingly remarkable” values, including agriculture, ecology, and biological diversity. It is the longest undammed coastal river in New England and hosts over 154 species of birds and forty-five species of fish. The designation protects the river’s free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

D. Vegetation

As in New England, most of West Bridgewater’s Forest had been cleared for agriculture by the mid-nineteenth century. Except for some wooded swamps, most of the forest is second-growth, reclaiming these former fields. The various kinds of vegetation offer high-quality recreational opportunities, scenic value, soil stability, and varied habitats for wildlife. Today, open fields, woodlands, forested wetlands, and emergent wetlands compose approximately 52 percent of the town.

Open lands are lost as they revert to forests or are developed. At the same time, another forest is being developed. To illustrate the conflicting trends, the recovered town forests covered 5,416 acres (54%) in 1977, according to the UMASS MacConnell maps, but dropped to 4,632.4 acres (46.2%) in 1991 and to 4,567.52 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 to 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 the 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 reforest former farmland. With increasing low-density development on both forest and farmland, solid forest blocks are probably being lost more rapidly than the new forest, which replaces former farmland. Much of the forest is broken up by development along existing roads, leaving few unbroken tracts. Indeed, some mapped and tabulated forests are land behind houses and surrounded by development. Leaving gaps in such development where wildlife may cross between isolated forest blocks is essential.

Another critical factor affecting forests is whether the land has ever been tilled. According to the NHESP, Primary forests, 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, 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 that mapped lands in the forest in the 1830s, as mandated by the Legislature. The NHES Program has compared these with more recent land use maps to identify possible remaining untilled forests. Two are southwest and northeast of West Meadow Pond, another is in the northwest corner partly on Water Department Land, and the town's southwest and south-central portions are mainly along the Town River.

The NHES Program notes, "The areas of 1830s forest on private land would be good targets for conservation acquisition to maintain the town's and region's biodiversity." Such data should be used to set priorities in the Five-Year Action Plan.

Open Field Plant Community

Roads, housing developments, and farm fields fragment West Bridgewater's naturally vegetated areas. Abandoned agricultural fields are returning to forests through natural ecosystem development. Examples of plants in these open areas are junipers, goldenrod, meadowsweet, asters, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. Open fields are valued for their scenic qualities and grassland habitat, but they require maintenance to remain open. This includes mowing for hay or controlled burning once a year. This should be done in the second week of September after most field-nesting animals have nested.

Edge Plant Community

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

Wetland Plant Communities

Emergent wetland species include many rush and sedge cattail species, cowslip, phragmites, and purple loosestrife, the latter being invasive exotic plants. The edges of scrub-shrub wetland areas are vegetated with 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.

Red Maple Swamp Wetlands are usually classified by the plant communities that grow in them. Red Maple Swamp is the most common in Massachusetts. According to the Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts, Red Maple Swamps may occur in a variety of physical settings, including hillside seeps and upland drainage ways caused mainly by groundwater seepage and overland flow, seasonally flooded basin swamps in undrained basins, and alluvial swamps (Swain & Kearsley, 2001). Red maple is usually dominant in the over-story, with other plants existing alongside. Some of these other tree species include yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), white ash (*Fraxinus Americana*), and Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), and American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) to name a few. Filling, highway construction, upland development, and their conversion to agricultural land threaten the health and vitality of Red Maple Swamp communities.

Invasive Species

Invasive species are non-native species that cause or are likely to cause harm to ecosystems, economies, and public health (NISC, 2006). Although invasive species can be any organism, including marine organisms, insects, and birds, this Plan focuses on invasive terrestrial plants, as these are the most studied and managed invasive species.

West Bridgewater's native vegetation is threatened by invasive plant species such as purple loosestrife, Asian bittersweet phragmites, multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle, Japanese Knotweed, and euonymus species. For example, many of these species can be found in War Memorial Park. These invasive exotic plants provide a seed bank threatening 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. Poison Ivy, although native, is also a problem for the community.

If exotic plant species diminish wildlife habitat, recreationally hunted species will suffer. The invasive exotic species in West Bridgewater require ongoing management since they are already well established. They are already increasing in much of the town and threaten to dominate the native vegetation in West Bridgewater's landscapes. Poison Ivy, although "native," is also a problem in West Bridgewater.

The West Bridgewater DPW spends much time mechanically cutting back on invasives. Management practices to remove these invasive species require mechanical removal and targeted herbicide controls. They're along most roadsides. This management only deals with cultivated areas. The invasive species problem extends beyond roadsides and landscaping. The Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs) and Yearly Operational Plans (YOPs) of the local utilities Eversource, National Grid, and commuter rail address invasive species.

Exotic, non-native invasive plant and insect species threaten many habitats' overall and long-term health because they outcompete native species for precious resources and, in extreme cases, eliminate native species from those habitat areas. The most significant concern is the invasive species in some of the town's water bodies. These species degrade the ecological health of these systems and limit recreational use.

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 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. Changes in hydrology, lack of natural fires, and competition from the invasive exotic purple loosestrife threaten it. There is considerable concern that such invasive exotic plant species are increasing in much of the town and threaten to dominate the native vegetation in West Bridgewater's landscapes.

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

BioMap2, in the Appendix, shows the known and probable locations of rare and endangered species.

Table 36: West Bridgewater Rare and Endangered Plants

WEST BRIDGEWATER RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
Long's Bulrush	Scirpus longii	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2020
Plymouth Gentian	Sabatia kennedyana	Vascular Plant	Special Concern	1960s
Stiff Yellow Flax	Linum medium var. texanum	Vascular Plant	Threatened	2000

Source: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

Street Trees/Public Shade Trees

Public shade trees are an essential part of the community's infrastructure. Not only do large trees provide aesthetic value to a community's streets and natural areas, but they also provide value as "green infrastructure" that controls and cleanses stormwater, reduces soil erosion, absorbs carbon and air pollutants, and reduces the "heat island effect" by shading surfaces such as pavement and brick.

The Town values street trees and recognizes their contribution to the visual character and sustainable design of neighborhoods. Though street trees are not usually considered part of an open space system, they are in the public right of way, are maintained by the Forestry and Parks Department, and, most importantly, 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. 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 detailed Hazardous Tree Policy.

The trees planted are varied hardwoods with low, flowering trees used when there are overhead wires. After Elms were affected by the 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.

The town has a Tree Removal policy to protect the health of the public shade trees from inappropriate private actions. It states, "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 impervious materials, or related activity within the dripline of any public or protected tree.

Street trees typically live 10 to 15 years on average. As trees need to be replaced in Town spaces, commercial corridors, business parks, and neighborhood streets, alternative species should be planted to provide greater variety and protection against substantial losses caused by diseases prone to certain species. Additionally, new and replacement street trees should be carefully located so as not to block doorways, storefront windows, and signs. Deciduous trees are strongly encouraged over conifers to provide shade along sidewalks and parking lots and maintain storefront visibility. An exception should be made when screening is necessary. Existing street trees that are low branching should be pruned up to eight feet above the sidewalk to enhance visibility for walkers and drivers.

The broad use of street trees planted around West Bridgewater is a simple and beautiful solution to reducing heating and cooling needs for centers, corridors, and neighborhoods. When grown on buildings' south and west sides, shade trees drop their leaves during the more excellent fall season, allowing warming sunlight to reach sidewalks and buildings. Additionally, they create a lush canopy in the warmer months by providing shade to keep the sidewalk and adjacent buildings cool. This provides a low-tech, low-cost solution to reduce energy needs.

E. Fisheries and Wildlife

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

As the above discussion suggests, West Bridgewater retains a significant amount of productive wildlife habitat, primarily because of the pockets of forested shrubs and emergent wetland habitats near the streams scattered throughout the town. The mixture of wetlands, mature second-growth forests, farmland, and abandoned farmland in various regrowth stages results in many critically important "edge" habitats. 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 some fewer common ones are likely to be present since otters, gray foxes, and bobcats have been observed in neighboring towns. Most common mammal species in Massachusetts are found in West Bridgewater, and some fewer common ones are likely present since there have been recent black bear sightings. Also, fishers and beavers were directly observed in neighboring towns. Woodchucks, cottontail rabbits, gray squirrels, opossums, raccoons, deer, chipmunks, and skunks are abundant.

Habitat Fragmentation

Habitat fragmentation, the leading source of extinction of plant and animal species, occurs when development and even agriculture create isolated islands of wildlife habitat. When wildlife is confined to a specific area, competition for food and predation increases, and genetic diversity decreases as mating partners are less available.

Fragmentation is the subdivision of once large and continuous tracts of habitat into smaller patches. It results from agriculture, urbanization, and transportation or other rights-of-way). Habitat fragmentation is associated with 'edge effects' when a disturbed or developed area is created adjacent to a natural and forested area. Edge effects may include the spread of invasive species, an increase in the canopy gap, and a decrease in species dependent on core and undisturbed habitat. In general, habitat fragmentation is considered detrimental when considering original native, climax species composition and abundance, natural history, and relative ecological stability of unmanaged plant and animal populations. Habitat fragmentation increases the amount of edge relative to the amount of interior habitat. Scientific experts agree that preserving continuous forest blocks is essential to long-term biodiversity protection. However, there is considerable controversy among the scientific community as to what critical dimensions of 'unfragmented' forests are needed to protect wildlife habitat and biodiversity sufficiently.

Table 37: West Bridgewater Rare & Endangered Species

WEST BRIDGEWATER RARE & ENDANGERED SPECIES				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status	Most Recent Observation
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Bird	Endangered	1970s
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Reptile	Threatened	2017
Blue-spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma laterale</i> pop. 2	Amphibian	Threatened	2018
Chain Fern Borer	<i>Papaipema stenocelis</i>	Butterfly/Moth	Threatened	2002
Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>	Bird	Special Concern	2011
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Reptile	Special Concern	2008
Hessel's Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys hesseli</i>	Butterfly/Moth	Special Concern	1992
Kennedy's Emerald	<i>Somatochlora kennedyi</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Endangered	1989
King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	Bird	Threatened	2011
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Bird	Endangered	2020
Pale Green Pinion Moth	<i>Lithophane viridipallens</i>	Butterfly/Moth	Special Concern	1993
Ringed Boghaunter	<i>Williamsonia lintneri</i>	Dragonfly/Damselfly	Threatened	2019

Source: [Rare species viewer / Mass.gov](#)

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors can prevent habitat fragmentation by connecting habitat areas along natural connections such as riverways or fields. Such corridors are essential to wildlife and valuable for humans who engage in wilderness activities such as hiking, camping, bird watching, and canoeing.

West Bridgewater's most prominent wildlife corridors are in the Hockomock Swamp area to the West Bridgewater State Forest. The wildlife corridor between the Hockomock Swamp and West Bridgewater State Forest is vital for numerous species, facilitating movement and genetic exchange between these critical ecosystems.

The *Hockomock Swamp*, located in southeastern Massachusetts, is a 5,126-acre area in Bridgewater, Easton, Norton, Taunton, West Bridgewater, Bridgewater, and Plymouth that serves as a wildlife corridor for the region. It is one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the state and harbors a rich diversity of flora and fauna. It provides a habitat for various species, including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Meanwhile, the West Bridgewater State Forest consists of predominately forested areas, offering different habitats and wildlife.

It includes three state-owned wildlife management areas (WMA): *the Hockomock Wildlife Management Area, the Wilder Wildlife Management Area, and the West Meadows Wildlife Management Area*. This IBA provides important migratory/ stopover habitats and nesting habitats. The DCR describes the ACEC as one of the most extensive inland wildlife habitats in southeastern Massachusetts and the largest vegetated freshwater wetland system in Massachusetts. The wetland system includes the Hockomock Swamp, Dead Swamp, Titicut Swamp, and Little Cedar Swamp.

The Hockomock Swamp IBA has been reported to contain nine breeding and wintering, migrant state-listed species and at least 47 regional and five state high conservation priority species. The ACEC provides habitat for at least 12 species listed as rare, endangered, or of special concern by the NHESP and contains several different plant communities. Very abundant species are gray catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), northern waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), common

grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), and veeries (*Catharus fuscescens*). State-listed species within this IBA include grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), king rail (*Rallus elegans*), sharpshinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), and pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*).

The primary habitat types found in this IBA include oak-conifer forest, cultivated grassland, cultivated field, emergent freshwater wetland, palustrine woodland swamp, shrub-scrub wetland, lake/pond, and river/stream. The Atlantic white cedar swamp and fen wetland communities scattered throughout the ACEC are outstanding examples of these unique natural communities.

Known today as the *Town River*, the Nunckatessett River originates in the Hockomock Swamp. This meandering, 14-mile river corridor is one of the earliest colonial settlement areas, dating back to the mid-1600s. Before then, it was home to the Pokanoket Tribe and other ancient American civilizations that flourished in southern New England for thousands of years. The Town River, with several colonial-era industrial sites on the National Register of Historic Places, flows through the centers of West Bridgewater and Bridgewater before converging with the Matfield River to form the Wild & Scenic Taunton River, now federally protected under the National Park Service. The *Nunckatessett Greenway* is a shared aspirational vision of a network of trail spurs connecting the Town River and the Bay Circuit Trail to municipal and state conservation areas, historic sites, urban centers, school districts, Bridgewater State University, the Hockomock Swamp, and the Wild & Scenic Taunton River. Set aside for passive recreation by incorporating open spaces in the towns of West Bridgewater and Bridgewater.

The corridor connecting these areas likely traverses various habitats, including forested areas, wetlands, streams, and possibly some urban or agricultural land. These varied habitats offer resources such as food, shelter, and breeding sites for wildlife species, enhancing their survival and reproductive success.

Wildlife such as deer, black bears, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and smaller mammals like squirrels and rabbits may be commonly found within the corridor. Birds ranging from songbirds to raptors may utilize this corridor for migration or foraging. Additionally, amphibians and reptiles could be present, using the wetlands for breeding and foraging.

The corridor's significance extends beyond providing passage for wildlife and contributes to both ecosystems' overall health and resilience. Genetic diversity is maintained by allowing for the movement of individuals between populations, which is crucial for the long-term survival of species. Moreover, the corridor helps buffer against the impacts of habitat fragmentation, human development, and climate change by maintaining connectivity between habitats. Efforts to conserve and protect this corridor are essential to safeguarding the biodiversity and ecological integrity of both the Hockomock Swamp and the West Bridgewater State Forest, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy and benefit from these natural treasures. Conservation measures may include land preservation, habitat restoration, and wildlife-friendly land-use practices to maintain and enhance connectivity between these critical ecosystems.

Areas of Habitat Fragmentation

Habitat loss and fragmentation are two of the greatest threats to biodiversity, mainly to large species that need lots of space. Wildlife corridors reduce the adverse effects of these threats by increasing habitat connectivity while protecting natural habitats. When plant and animal populations become separated because of fragmentation, their genetic diversity is reduced, and they become more susceptible to environmental changes that they would otherwise be able to weather.

Animals can more easily survive when they can move across landscapes. In a connected landscape, biodiversity is also more resilient to climate change. As animal and plant ranges shift in a changing climate, species and populations will need to be able to relocate over years and decades. Those unable to move may die out.

The types of waterways present in West Bridgewater limit fish species. No large deep-water ponds 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 pumpkin head sunfish, and anadromous species, such as alewife, which spawn in the town's ponds.

Birds use their habitat in West Bridgewater year-round. Greater concentrations are present during the spring and fall migrations, and many breeding birds are also found. The preservation of habitats 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 admired wildlife. (The wildlife section draws on contributions by local naturalist Denise Cabral, who has observed almost all the bird species listed.)

Route 24 and Route 106 undoubtedly significantly impact the wildlife corridor between the Hockomock Swamp and the West Bridgewater State Forest, both directly and indirectly.

1. ***Habitat Fragmentation:*** Habitat fragmentation is one of the most immediate impacts of these roadways. Wildlife corridors function effectively when habitats are contiguous, allowing for the free movement of species. However, the construction of highways like Route 24 and Route 106 creates barriers that disrupt the natural flow of wildlife. This fragmentation can isolate populations, limit access to resources such as food and mates, and increase the risk of genetic isolation.
2. ***Wildlife Mortality:*** Highways pose a severe threat to wildlife through vehicle collisions. Routes 24 and 106 likely experience a significant amount of traffic, which increases the likelihood of animals being struck by vehicles as they attempt to cross the road. This can result in injury or death for various species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The mortality of critical individuals can disrupt breeding patterns and population dynamics, further impacting the corridor's viability.
3. However, highways are a formidable barrier to this movement. Many species are reluctant to cross the road due to the risk of injury or death, restricting their range and limiting their ability to disperse, forage, and breed. This can lead to reduced genetic diversity and population decline over time.
4. ***Noise and Pollution:*** Highways also introduce noise and pollution into the surrounding environment, which can indirectly impact wildlife. Loud traffic noise can disrupt communication and mating behaviors in animals, while air and water pollution from vehicle emissions can degrade habitat quality and affect the health of wildlife populations.

5. *Human Encroachment:* The construction and maintenance of highways often lead to increased human encroachment into natural areas surrounding the road. This can result in habitat destruction, disturbance, and the introduction of invasive species, further exacerbating the challenges faced by wildlife in the corridor.

Overall, the presence of Route 24 and Route 106 represents a significant challenge to the functionality and integrity of the wildlife corridor between the Hockomock Swamp and the West Bridgewater State Forest. Mitigation measures such as wildlife crossings, fencing, and reduced speed limits can help alleviate some of these impacts. Still, long-term conservation efforts are needed to ensure the viability of the corridor and the species that depend on it for survival.

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 habitats, including vernal pools. The Hockomock and West Meadow areas contain diverse plants and animals, including whitetail deer, rabbit, muskrat, salamanders, turtles, and red-winged black birds. Other ecologically significant areas include a "Quaking bog" area adjacent to the Pine Hill Cemetery and near the West Bridgewater State Forest.

Rare and Endangered Animals and Species of Special Concern

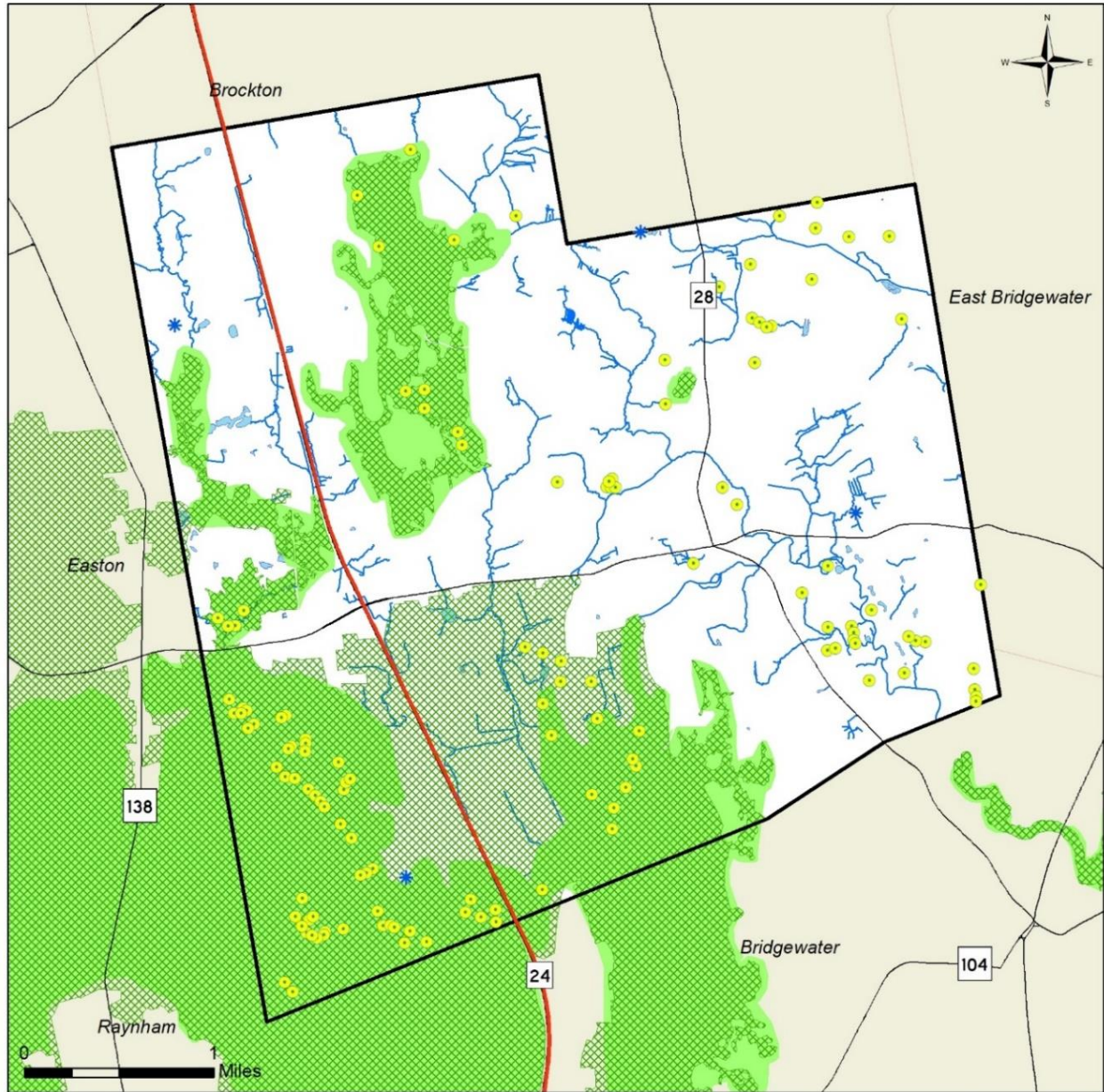
Several endangered species may inhabit parts of West Bridgewater. Informed observers have noted peregrine falcons in town. These observers also suggest that the Plymouth red-bellied turtle may use the Hockomock Swamp area and that the threatened marbled and blue-spotted salamanders may also exist locally.

The King Rail is a rare and endangered Massachusetts bird that inhabits freshwater emergent marshes. It moves from the marsh areas to forage in adjacent fields. The blue-spotted 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 their life cycles.

The following maps show the land identified as an estimated (probable) habitat for state-protected rare wildlife and certified vernal pools and the priority habitat 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." The maps are the same in West Bridgewater's case, though they often differ.

Figure 32: Plant and Wildlife Habitat

Plant and Wildlife Habitat



-  Potential Vernal Pools
-  NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
-  BioMap2 Core Habitat
-  BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape



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Created July 2021

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

Dams and Fisheries

Dams and industry built during the 1700s were a significant cause of the decline of the fisheries that had been a mainstay food source for early colonial survival. These dams obstructed the upstream migration of anadromous herring, while effluent from mills and factories killed the breeding fish population and polluted their nursery areas in the river.

With citizens becoming more aware of natural environmental components like flood plains, aquifers, water cycles, groundwater tables, stream flow, and wetlands, with a better understanding of the consequences of human disruption to these components, stricter environmental laws, and the closing of riverside industry, the river has begun to clean itself - residents have even seen otters playing in the Nunckatessett. But people living along the Town River now still remember the brightly colored river, the mounds of frothy foam, the foul odors, and the discharge water from sewer pipes, the shoe industry, paper mills, and foundries of the 1900s- it wasn't that long ago.

Today, one dam remains on the Town River, supporting a working 'fish ladder' that allows herring to access their breeding grounds in the 'Nip' and lesser tributaries. State law requires that these ladders - a series of shallow pools each 18 inches higher than the preceding one - must be in place to facilitate the seasonal migration of herring, a key bait fish within our food chain - allowing them to get over the elevation of the dam to spawn each spring, and for fry (baby herring) to return to the sea in late summer.

Founded in 1994, the Town River Fishery Committee is a joint effort between the West Bridgewater and Bridgewater municipal administrations to restore, manage, and preserve the native herring resource, allowing a controlled annual harvest of these fish. The TRFC is challenged to balance the needs of farmers wanting early spring access to riparian agricultural land while maintaining adequate water levels to ensure safe passage within the fish ladders. The committee's goals include improving safety at public viewing and catching areas and creating educational materials to enhance environmental awareness regarding the life cycle, habitat needs, and the importance of herring today.

The Town of West Bridgewater owns the dam at Arch Street near the Canoe Club and recently obtained state grant money to repair it.

Figure 33: Dam in need of repair at the Iron Works Parkland



Photo Credit: Jim Lynch

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

What is BioMap?

In 2022, the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and the Nature Conservancy's Massachusetts Program developed the BioMap update, which replaced the existing *BioMap 2* (2010). The *BioMap* plan was created to guide biodiversity conservation to protect rare and native species and their habitats. *BioMap* has two main components:

- ***Critical Natural Landscape*** identifies intact landscapes in Massachusetts that can best support ecological processes, disturbances, and an array of species and habitats over extended time frames. This *BioMap* category includes subcategories including (but not limited to):
 - ***Landscape blocks***: large areas of predominately natural vegetation, including contiguous forests, wetlands, rivers, lakes, and ponds, as well as coastal habitats.
 - ***Wetland and Aquatic Buffers***: upland habitat adjacent to wetlands and aquatic cores.
- ***Core Habitat*** identifies areas necessary to promote the long-term persistence of Species of rare species, exemplary natural communities, and intact ecosystems. This category includes (but is not limited to) the following subsets:
 - ***Rare Species Core***: combined footprint of all species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) and all mapped non-listed species in the State Wildlife Action Plan.
 - ***Forest Core***: Extensive, intact forests that are least impacted by roads and development and provide critical habitats for numerous woodland species.
 - ***Aquatic Core***: integrated and functional ecosystems for fish and other aquatic Species of Conservation Concern.
 - ***Wetland Core***: critical wetland habitat in Massachusetts.
 - ***Vernal Pool Core***: A GIS model developed by the University of Massachusetts Landscape Ecology Program that identifies the top five percent most interconnected clusters of Potential Vernal Pools within an ecoregion and a buffer area that includes the surrounding habitat.
 - ***Priority Natural Communities***: The Priority Natural Communities data set is maintained by NHESP and represents the various natural communities of biodiversity conservation interest in Massachusetts.
- ***Regional Components*** are additions to BioMap that are particularly important for conservation from the perspective of the Northeastern United States. Regional

connectivity shows areas that are particularly important for maintaining subcontinental connections among habitats, which will support the shifting ranges of native species. Regional Rare Species Areas identify habitats within the state that support highly vulnerable and imperiled species at high risk regionally, nationally, or globally due to restricted ranges, few populations or occurrences, history of decline, and high threat levels.

The NHES Program identifies and maps Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats for rare and endangered species, BioMap areas, 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. They are intended to enforce the Wetlands Protection Act. At the same time, 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.

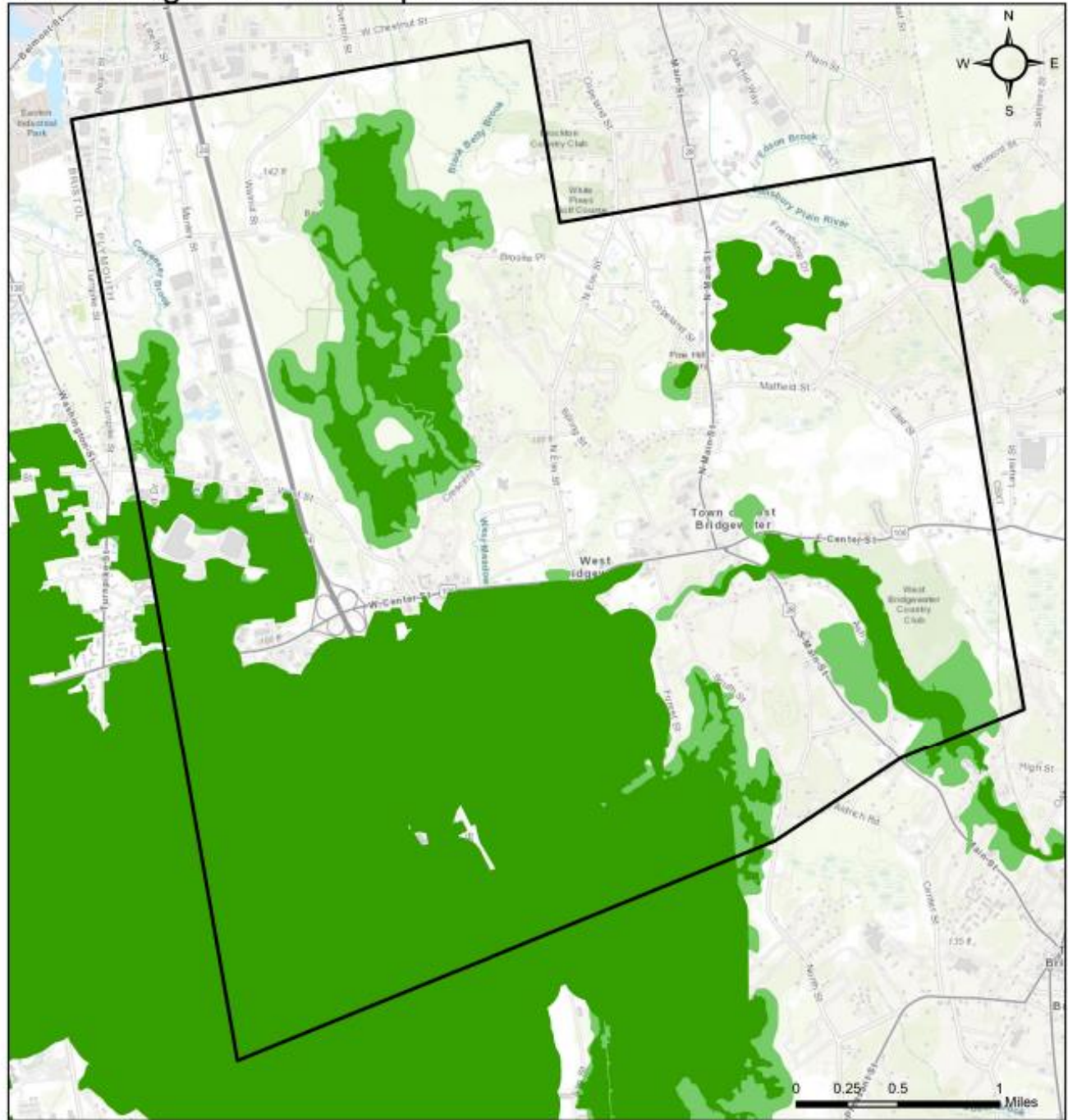
As explained by the NHESP, the more extensive BioMap and the Living Waters cores “were produced... to identify the areas of most importance for biodiversity; they are based on known locations of rare species and uncommon natural communities, and incorporate the habitats needed by rare species to maintain 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 species populations 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 critical large areas of biodiversity protection.

As can be seen in the BioMap Summary Report (Appendix C), the identified area (and “supporting the Natural Landscape”) covers much of the southwest corner of the town comparable to the Priority and Estimated Habitats areas minus developed land along Route 24 and the northern fringes of the area while covering more swamp, and the area west of North Main St. and the land north of West Meadow Pond. The Living Waters are 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.

BioMap for West Bridgewater Summary	
Total Area:	10,031.0 acres
	Total Open Space Protected in West Bridgewater: 2,365.7 acres or 23.6% of the total area.
BioMap Core Habitat:	3,792.7 acres
	Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Core Habitat: 37.8
	BioMap Core Habitat Protected in West Bridgewater: 1,694.8 acres or 16.9%.
BioMap Critical Natural Landscape:	3,600.9 acres
	Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Critical Natural Landscape: 35.9%
	BioMap Critical Natural Landscape Protected in West Bridgewater: 1,717.1 acres or 17.1%.
BioMap Local Components:	2,128.1 acres
	Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Local Components: 21.2%
	BioMap Local Components Protected in West Bridgewater: 822.7 acres or 8.2%.
BioMap Regional Components:	2,587.3 acres
	Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Regional Components: 25.8%
	BioMap Regional Components Protected in West Bridgewater: 1,213.8 acres or 12.1%.

Figure 34: West Bridgewater BioMap Elements

West Bridgewater BioMap Elements



- Core Habitat
- Critical Natural Landscape



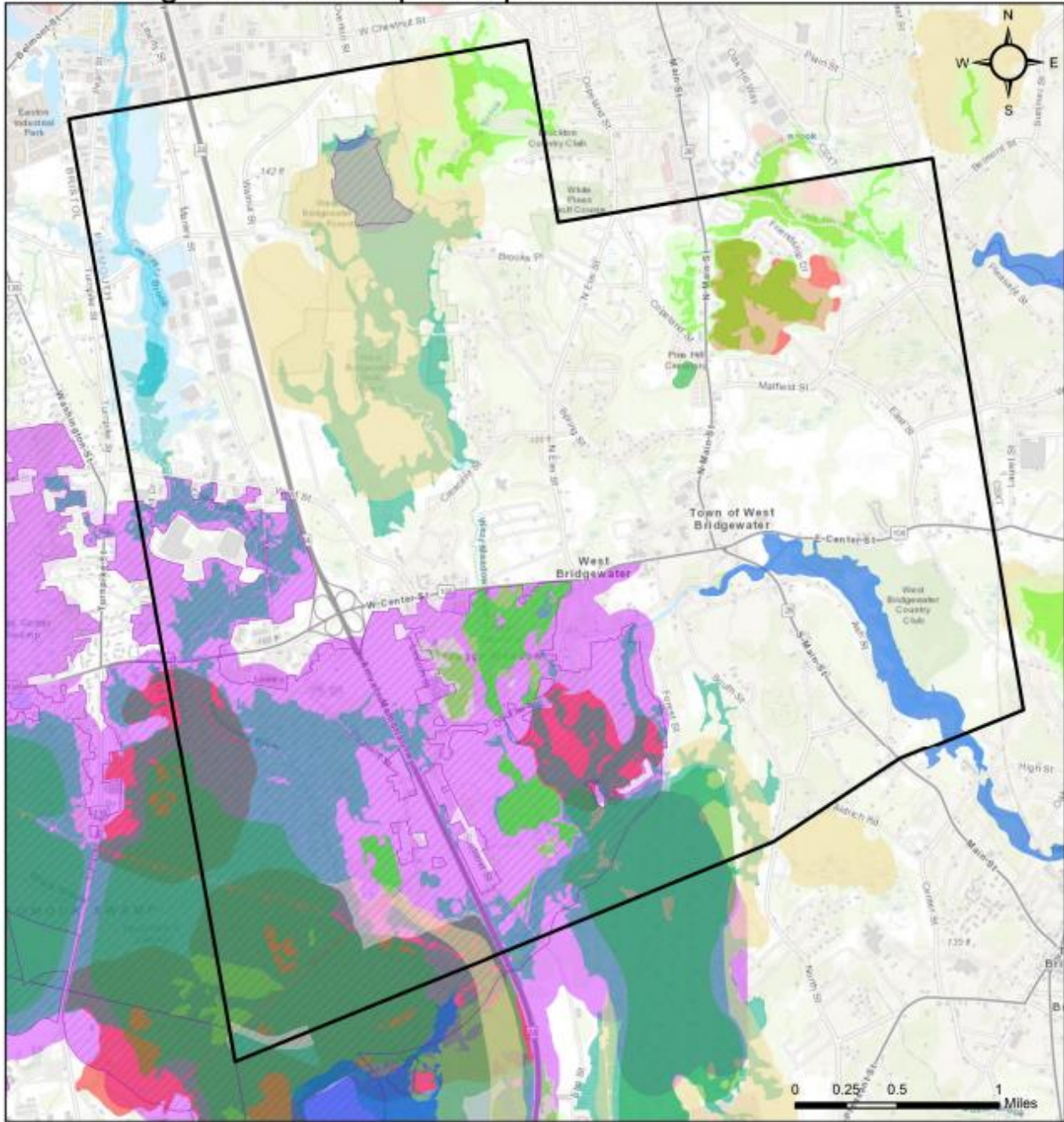
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GIS Data Sources: ESRI, MassGov,
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Figure 35: West Bridgewater BioMap Components

West Bridgewater BioMap Components



- | | |
|---|---|
|  Regional Rare Species |  Local Rare Species |
|  Local Aquatic Habitats |  Aquatic Core |
|  Local Aquatic Habitat Buffers |  Wetland Core |
|  Local Wetlands |  Priority Natural Communities Core |
|  Local Wetland Buffers |  Forest Core |
|  Local Landscapes |  Vernal Pool Core |
|  Local Vernal Pools |  Rare Species Core |



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F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

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 representing the historic abundance of natural resources in this area: water, timber, and good farmland.

Cultural, Archeological, and Historic Areas

Residents of West Bridgewater have always identified the town's historic features as a built environment and natural resources. 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. The previous Open Space and Recreation Plan results indicated that War Memorial Park was the favorite scenic and historic resource, followed by the Keith Parsonage, the Town River, and farmland. In the 2023 survey, War Memorial Park received the most satisfied remarks, with 64% of respondents saying they were delighted with the park and an additional 22.22% being satisfied.

West Bridgewater has several historic buildings. 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 1940; 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 the townspeople of the town's history. Old barns, farmhouses, and mill ruins dating back to the early 1700s regularly punctuate the landscape and stand as a testament to the historic industry of West Bridgewater.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

The Hockomock Swamp is a designated *Area of Critical Environmental Concern*. Hockomock Swamp and the Taunton River along the southern border of Bridgewater create the sizable Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife that runs across Route 28 into south-central Bridgewater.¹⁷ The ACEC designation boundary is south of Route 106 and east of the Town River. Managed by

¹⁷ Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife, 14th Edition Heritage Atlas, 2017

the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, an ACEC designation requires state environmental agencies to act, 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. In 1990, the Hockomock Swamp was first listed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), a designation by the state's Secretary of Environmental Affairs that followed a petition from the local community.¹⁸ This designation is based on the goal of a long-range management plan to help maintain and protect the resource and trigger state review of larger projects in the area.

Major Characteristic or Unusual Geologic Features and Special Landscape Features

West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, may seem unassuming at first glance, but its geological makeup holds hidden treasures and unique features that set it apart from its surroundings.

West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, is a small but historically rich town in the southeastern part of the state; it boasts a landscape shaped by ancient geological forces and more recent human activities. The town sits within the Bridgewater Triangle, an area steeped in folklore and mystery, adding an extra layer of intrigue to its geological makeup.

Within West Bridgewater lies the Hockomock Swamp, a sprawling wetland that has played a crucial role in the town's ecology for thousands of years. This ancient bog, with its labyrinth of streams and ponds, serves as a haven for diverse flora and fauna, providing a glimpse into the primordial landscapes that once covered this region and serves as a haven for diverse wildlife and plays a crucial role in the town's ecosystem. Its eerie beauty and secluded nature make it a destination for nature enthusiasts and explorers seeking to uncover its secrets.

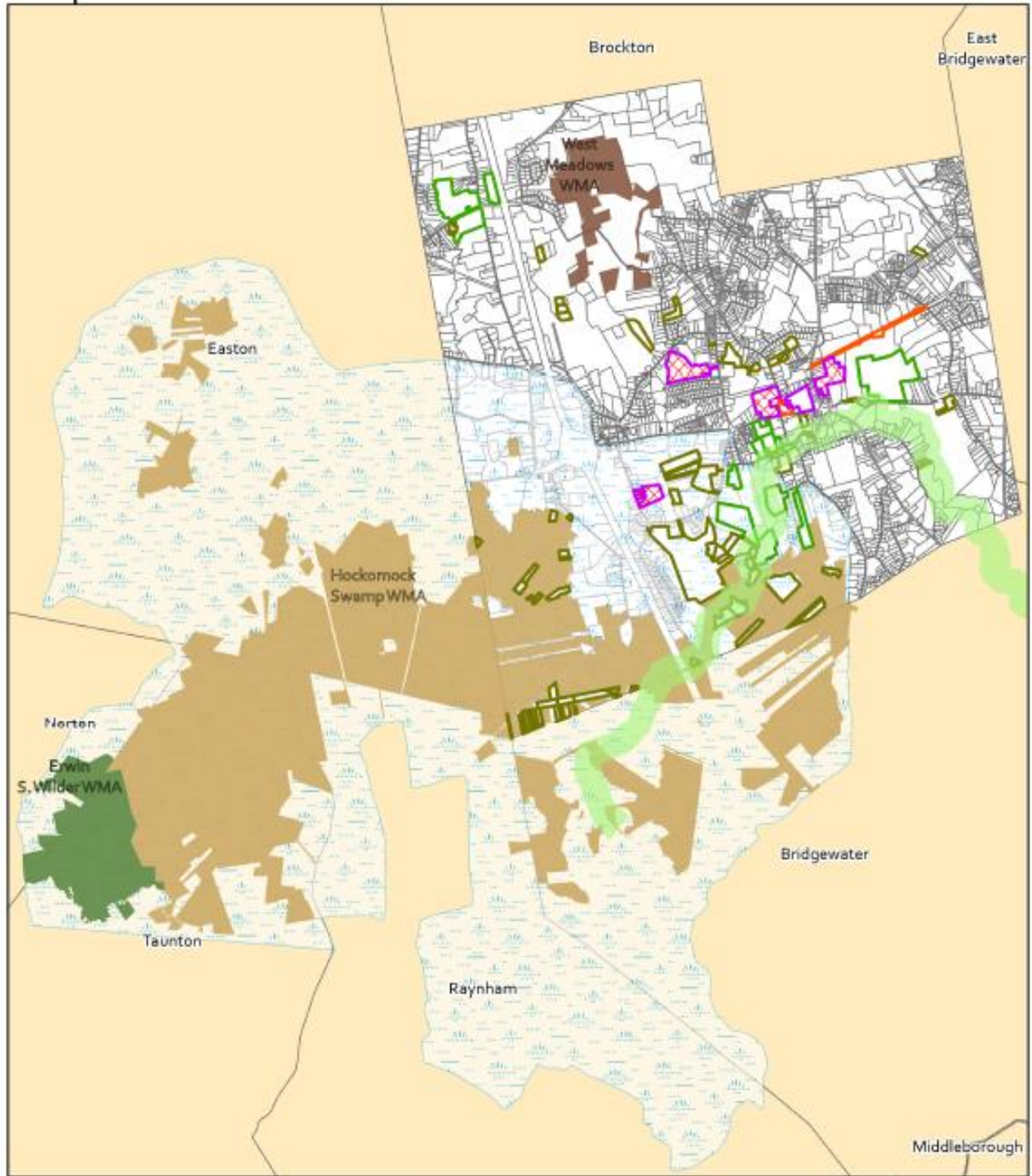
Perhaps the most striking feature of West Bridgewater's geology is its glacial past, evident in its rolling hills and fertile valleys. As the glaciers retreated millennia ago, they left behind a mosaic of moraines and drumlins, shaping the terrain in beautiful and bountiful ways. These features, shaped by the movement of glaciers during the last Ice Age, dot the landscape, creating undulating hills and valleys that add texture and character to the terrain. Some of the most prominent examples can be found in the northern part of the town, where the land rises and falls in a series of gentle slopes and ridges. Today, these glacial remnants provide fertile soils for agriculture, supporting the town's rich tradition of farming and horticulture.

Overall, West Bridgewater's geological features and special landscape elements combine to create a place of beauty, mystery, and natural wonder. From its ancient swamps to its glacial formations, the town's landscape tells a story of the forces that have shaped it over millennia, inviting exploration and discovery at every turn.

¹⁸ "Designation of the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern" available at <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/vh/hock-des.pdf>. Accessed January 4, 2021.

Figure 36: Unique Features Map

Unique Features



- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Hockomock Swamp | Town Owned Playgrounds and Fields |
| Agricultural Preservation Restriction Properties | Town Owned Canoe Landings |
| Town Owned Conservation Lands | Town Owned Landmarks |
| Town Owned Recreation Parcels | Nuncketsetts Greenway |



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West Bridgewater State Forest

The *West Meadows Wildlife Management Area (WMA)* is associated with the Forest. This Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (Mass Wildlife) property surrounds much of the State Forest, and portions of the WMA are inholdings within the Forest. These two properties are interconnected both physically and from a management perspective. West Bridgewater State Forest is in West Bridgewater, south of the Brockton town line and east of Route 24. It is approximately 11 miles east of F. Gilbert Hills State Forest.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation established West Bridgewater State Forest in the mid-1930s. At that time, the Department was the Commonwealth’s forestry, parks, wildlife, and animal industry agency. In the 1950s, lands around the Forest were acquired, and West Meadows WMA was created; it expanded significantly in the 1960s. During this time, Forest and WMA were jointly managed by personnel from different divisions of the same agency.

In 1975, responsibility for managing state forests and wildlife management areas was placed under two separate agencies (i.e., the Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Recreational Vehicles, respectively). For the first time in their history, West Bridgewater State Forest and West Meadows WMA were administratively distinct. Despite this formal separation, the management of these two properties remains informally linked.

West Bridgewater State Forest is not as well-known as *West Meadows WMA*. This is likely due to two factors. First, West Meadow has been used for centuries to refer to this section of West Bridgewater. Second, two of these properties' most popular recreational activities are hunting and fishing, commonly associated with WMAs.

The Forest’s physical, political, and regulatory attributes are summarized in Table 33.

Table 38: Physical, Political, and Regulatory Settings of West Bridgewater State Forest

PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, AND REGULATORY SETTINGS OF WB STATE FOREST	
Setting	Name or Metric
Location	West Bridgewater
Area (acres)	245.98
Perimeter (miles)	6.95
Landscape Designation	Parkland
Legislative Districts:	
House	10 th Plymouth
Senate	Norfolk, Bristol, and Plymouth
Regulatory Designations:	Priority Habitat

Associated Properties: There is one associated property DCR does not own; it is:

- West Meadows Wildlife Management Area. This approximately 244-acre property is contiguous with West Bridgewater State Forest. Mass Wildlife owns and manages it. The two properties share resources and infrastructure.

The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills State Forest manages several DCR properties, as time and resources permit, including F. Gilbert Hills State Forest (Section 6), Bristol

Blake State Reservation (Section 7), Franklin State Forest (Section 8), Wrentham State Forest (Section 9), Rehoboth State Forest (Section 10), West Bridgewater State Forest, and Bridgewater State Forest (Section 12). They also oversee the DCR’s interests in the Angle Tree Monument Reservation (Section 1).

Natural Resources

Physical Features

The Forest is irregularly shaped, with numerous straight lines and sharp angles along its borders. Mass Wildlife property fills the gaps between disjunct portions of the Forest. The elevation is approximately 90 feet at West Meadow Pond. It gently rises to the west and east, reaching maximum elevations of 108 feet near Pearl Road to the west and 118 feet along Stoney Road to the east. Downstream of the dam, the elevation is at its lowest, 79 feet.

Water Resources

The Forest’s most notable features are its water resources, which run north to south through the Forest. More than half of the Forest’s area (56.35%) is associated with these wetlands. Waters from West Meadow Brook and Black Betty Brook enter West Meadow Pond from the north and northeast, travel southward through the pond, and exit through a spillway in West Meadow Pond Dam. These waters flow southward through West Meadow Brook until they exit the property. These and other water resources are summarized in Table 34.

Table 39: Water Resources of West Bridgewater State Forest

WATER RESOURCES OF WEST BRIDGEWATER STATE FOREST	
Water Resource	Name or Metric
Watershed	Taunton
Aquifer	
Medium Yield (acres)	0.00
High Yield (acres)	0.00
Rivers and Streams (miles)	0.00
Vernal Pools	
Certified	0
Potential	2
Wetlands (acres)	138.62
Lakes and Ponds (acres)	0.10

Over half of the Forest is susceptible to floods (Table 40). Affected areas are adjacent to West Meadow Brook, Black Betty Brook, and West Meadow Pond. Infrastructure within this area includes West Meadow Pond Dam, a boat ramp, approximately one-half of the Forest’s parking lot, and approximately 0.50 miles of unpaved forest roads.

Table 40: Potential Impacts of Flooding on West Bridgewater State Forest

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF FLOODING ON WEST BRIDGEWATER STATE FOREST		
Type of Impact	Acres	Percent
Flooding		
100-year Storm	132.64	53.92
500-year Storm	132.64	53.92

Natural Communities

Little information is available on the Forest’s natural communities; only three community types, all Palustrine, have been identified.

Table 41: Known Natural Communities of West Bridgewater State Forest

KNOWN NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF WEST BRIDGEWATER STATE FOREST			
Community Type	System	State Rank	Source
Deep Emergent Marsh	P	S4	1
Red Maple Swamp	P	S5	1
Shrub Swamp	P	S5	1

P = Palustrine, Rank: The NHESP ranks communities from the rarest (S1) to the most common (S5).

The DEP Wetlands data layer indicates the presence of “Shallow Emerging Marsh, Meadow, or Fen” throughout West Meadow Pond. This category could apply to multiple natural community types in the State’s classification system (Swain and Kearsley 2011).

Forests

Most of the Forest is either forested wetland or emergent wetland; upland forest accounts for only 107.06 acres (43.52%). Mason (n.d.) identified the following nine “forest types:”

- White pine, with oaks and hardwoods
- Red maple
- American beech with oak, birch, maple, and tupelo
- White pine, with scattered hardwoods
- Mature oaks and hardwoods
- White pine with more extensive hardwoods
- Large diameter white pine, with more minor hardwoods
- White pine overstory with hardwood sawlog, pole stand, and white pine saplings.
- Oak and hardwoods in wet soils

Wildlife

The wildlife of West Bridgewater State Forest is undocumented. The wildlife of the adjacent WMA is better known and includes “aquatic furbearers, deer, raccoon, fox, rabbits, squirrels, grouse, ducks, and geese” (MassWildlife 1992). West Meadows WMA is a birding “hotspot,” and as of July 2016, 133 species of birds have been recorded (www.ebird.org). This included ducks,

herons, rails, shorebirds, and species common to thickets and pine forests. West Meadow Pond contains shallow, warm waters; largemouth bass and pickerel are present (FBA n.d.).

Cultural Resources

This section describes the known and potential cultural resource areas, including pre-Contact and post-Contact archaeological resources and historic landscapes, buildings, structures, and objects. Table 37 overviews significant events in West Bridgewater State Forest's history. Cultural Resources are identified in Table 38.

The MHC lists five archaeological resources as being in or adjacent to the forest. Because the MHC does not make information on archaeological resources available to the public, most resources are not included in Table 38.

Table 42: Significant Events in the History of West Bridgewater State Forest

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF WEST BRIDGEWATER STATE FOREST	
Years	Events
1935-1936	The Department of Conservation acquires approximately 250 acres in the West Meadow area of West Bridgewater, establishing West Bridgewater State Forest.
1949-1954	The Department of Conservation identifies and begins acquiring land adjacent to the Forest, establishing West Meadows WMA.
1963-1965	West Meadows WMA has expanded by more than 200 acres.
1964-1965	The dam and spillway were replaced, and the existing dike was expanded to create a "water control structure" to "facilitate water level manipulation" to develop "an impoundment for waterfowl production and management" (Bridges 1963). This water control structure is West Meadow Pond Dam (MA01072).
2010	Mass Wildlife expands West Meadows WMA by six acres.

Table 43: Cultural Resources of West Bridgewater State Forest

CULTURAL RESOURCES OF WEST BRIDGEWATER STATE FOREST								
Location and Resource	Type	Date	Condition	Integrity	In Use	Utilities	MHC	Guidance
Old Colony Railroad	LA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ephraim Howard Sawmill	AR	Ca. 1727	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ephraim Howard House	AR	Ca. 1742	-	-	-	-	-	1
James Keith Jr. House	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

a. Resource types include the following: AR = Archaeological; BU = Building; CM = Cemetery; LA = Landscape; LHD = Local Historic District; NRHD = National Register Historic District; OB = Object; and ST = Structure.

b. The date of construction is provided when it is known.

c. Preliminary condition assessment using the building system and equipment condition codes used in the Massachusetts Capital Asset Management Information System (CAMIS). The following codes are used: 1 = Excellent-easily restorable to like new condition; 2 = Good-routine maintenance required; 3 = Adequate-some corrective and preventative maintenance required; 4 = Fair-excessive corrective maintenance and repair required; 5 = Poor-renovation needed; and 6 = Fail.

- d. Integrity is a relative assessment of the condition of a resource's retention of its historic character-defining features: H = High; L = Low; M = Medium; and U = Unknown.
- e. Use categories include N = No, the building is not in use; S = Building is used on a seasonal basis; and Y = Yes, the building is used year-round.
- f. The following codes are used to identify utilities associated with buildings: E = Electric, H = Heat, I = Internet, S = Septic system, T = Telephone, W = Water, and W(S) = Water is available on a seasonal basis. This information is included for all buildings.
- g. Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory number; does not include Historic Archaeology numbers.
- h. The following guidance is offered for the ongoing maintenance of these cultural resources:
 - 1. Refer to Archaeological Features BMP (DCR).
- i. Reported in Conant (n.d.), but not field verified.

Archaeological Resources

No archaeological surveys have been conducted in the forest, and no recorded pre-contact resources are documented. Eleven pre-contact sites are recorded within a one-mile radius of the forest and from the Late Archaic Period (6,000 BP) to the Woodland Period (450 BP). Records indicate that sites range from individual "find spots" to a Village Site. The forest has a high archaeological potential for pre-contact sites, and the DCR Archaeologist must review any proposed below-ground impacts.

Post Contact Resources

There are no documented historic archaeological sites in the forest. Background research will determine if the forest is sensitive for locating historic archaeological sites. Conant (n.d.) identified three post-contact resources within the Forest: the Ephraim Howard sawmill, the Ephraim Howard house, and the James Keith, Jr. house. All these resources have yet to be verified.

Historic Resources

The Forest is in a section of West Bridgewater known historically as West Meadow. This meadow contained large areas of native grasses used in the early 18th century to feed livestock. In the mid-18th century, West Meadow Brook was dammed to create a sawmill (Conant n.d.)

During this early colonial period, roadways were established throughout what is now the State Forest; the area has seen little development since. The only other cultural resource is a railroad track located on the western part of the forest that was installed and operated by the Old Colony Railroad.

Historic Landscapes

Old Colony Railroad. A portion of the former Old Colony Railroad is between Old West Street and the southwest portion of the Forest. Approximately 400 feet of the railroad abuts the forest. The ties and rails are gone, but the graded bed remains. A similar, isolated section of railroad bed is located immediately north of West Bridgewater Town Hall, approximately two miles east of the Forest.

Buildings

There are no historic buildings.

Structures

There are no historic structures.

Objects

There are no known historic objects.

Recreation Resources

Recreation at West Bridgewater State Forest is associated with either West Meadow Pond or the Forest's roads. The following activities are known to take place:

- Bicycling, mountain
- Boating, power
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Dog walking, on leash
- Fishing
- Geocaching
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Hunting
- Nature study/Photography

The unauthorized use of OHVs is a chronic management issue that has damaged road surfaces, natural resources, and the West Meadow Pond Dam. The only recreation infrastructure is a gravel boat ramp located at the south end of West Meadow Pond. It has one lane and is in Fair condition (FBA n.d.).

Property Boundary

The Forest and West Meadows WMA constitute a block of approximately 489.9 acres of permanently protected state-owned land. An additional 17.5 acres of municipal open space directly abuts these lands. To the northeast and southwest, these conservation lands are bordered by undeveloped private lands. To the northwest and southeast, there is low-density residential development.

A question exists whether one or more abutters have a deeded right of way through the Forest. The deed for 0 Stoney Way (Book 2649; Page 333) identifies "a right of way to and from lot numbered 6 to the road passing through lots two (2), three (3), and four (4)" as indicated "on a plan drawn by Fred Copeland, March 29, 1864." One abutter, who does not own the property involved, asserts that the right of way passes through the Forest along an unnamed forest road that intersects with Stoney Way. This assertion could not be verified during the preparation of this RMP. The Forest and Park Supervisor has elected not to gate this road until the issue is resolved.

Buildings and Structures

There are no buildings and only one structure, the West Meadow Pond Dam (MA01072). (Table 39) Construction of the current dam began in November 1964 and continued through the spring of 1965. It was formally dedicated on July 8, 1966. An earthen dam with a granite block spillway formerly occupied the same site. The new dam was higher, and its associated dikes were

longer than the previous dam. This resulted in more water being impounded, expanding the area of West Meadow Pond.

Table 44: Non-Historic Buildings and Structures of WB State Forest

NON-HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES OF WB STATE FOREST				
Location and Infrastructure	Date	Condition	In Use	Utilities
West Meadow Pond Dam (MA01072)	1965	5	-	-

- a. Geographic sub-regions as identified in DCR (2011).
- b. Preliminary condition assessment using the building system and equipment condition codes used in the Massachusetts Capital Asset Management Information System (CAMIS). The following codes are used: 1 = Excellent-easily restorable to like new condition; 2 = Good-routine maintenance required; 3 = Adequate-some corrective and preventative maintenance required; 4 = Fair-excessive corrective maintenance and repair required; 5 = Poor-renovation needed; and 6 = Fail.
- c. The date of construction is provided when it is known.
- d. Use categories include N = No, the building is not in use; S = The Building is used on a seasonal basis; and Y = Yes, the building is used year-round.
- e. The following codes are used to identify utilities associated with buildings: E = Electric, H = Heat; I = Internet; S = Septic system, T = Telephone, W = Water, and W(S) = Water is available on a seasonal basis. This information is included for all buildings.

The dam is classified as an intermediate dam with a significant hazard potential and is in poor condition. The most recent Phase 1 Inspection/Evaluation report identified 12 deficiencies. It recommended seven studies and analyses, three recurring maintenance activities, five minor repairs, and four remedial modifications to the dam (GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. 2011b). Among the deficiencies were problems with the right abutment, eroded areas, bush, and tree growth, standing water across the toe of the dam, standing water across submerged stop logs, deterioration of the spillway, emergent aquatic vegetation obstructing the upstream left side of the spillway; and corrosion/deterioration of the outlet pipe. Follow-up inspections/evaluations restated the deficiencies, recommended implementation of previously identified recommendations, and added a recommendation for continued six-month follow-up inspections of the dam (GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. 2012). Vegetation management practices intended to reduce the illegal use of OHVs have contributed to these deficiencies.

Roads

The Forest’s only public road passes through the parking area. There are no administrative roads. Forest roads, classified as trails, are discussed elsewhere in this section. The public road into the Forest (i.e., Spring Street) is believed to be maintained by the West Bridgewater Highway/Vehicle Maintenance Department (Zimmer 2015).

Parking

There is a formal parking area off Spring Street on the east side of the Forest. This lot is used by visitors to the State Forest and West Meadow WMA, including vehicles associated with the adjacent boat ramp. The Office of Fishing and Boating Access indicates the lot’s capacity as 20 vehicles with trailers (FBA n.d.); this does not reflect actual conditions. The DCR and Mass Wildlife jointly maintain the parking area. Neither agency plows snow.

The parking area and dam reconstruction were constructed in 1964 and 1965 using Federal aid Accelerated Public Works funds (Bridges 1963, Anonymous 1964). At that time, specifications

called for a 200 x 100-foot parking lot “in the field at the east end of the dam” (Anonymous 1964). It is unclear if the parking area ever reached these dimensions.

There is parking for two vehicles off Stoney Road, south of the Forest’s Main Identification Sign. There is no formal lot at this location.

Trails

Within the forest and adjacent WMA, roads are jointly maintained by DCR and Mass Wildlife on an as-needed basis. Neither agency plows snow. There are 1.16 miles of official trails and 0.67 miles of user-created trails. Forest roads are the primary travel corridors and serve as the trail system. The longest trail segment follows a portion of Spring Street, a road that once extended from downtown West Bridgewater to a point near where Walnut Street crosses Route 24 (Conant n.d.). The Forest’s creation resulted in this segment being closed to the public. Other forest roads that once provided local landowner access are also elements of the trail system. All are officially closed to vehicles, but unauthorized four-wheel-drive vehicles and OHV use are standard. This illegal use has damaged the trails’ surfaces.

Kiosks and Signs

A Main Identification Sign is located along Stoney Road, near the Forest’s southern boundary. There is no sign at the Forest’s main entrance (i.e., Spring Street) or parking area to identify the property as a State Forest or to identify regulations. The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills State Forest installed the sign and is responsible for its maintenance.

Memorials and Markers

A memorial to Alex Gureckis, a sportsman from West Bridgewater, was created in 2015 on the downslope of West Meadow Dam to the west of the spillway. Mass Wildlife owns this portion of the dam. The memorial consists of a granite marker and an ornamental garden surrounded by a ring of stones. During a November 2015 site visit, a pumpkin, artificial flowers, and a mylar balloon were also present. Neither the DCR nor Mass Wildlife authorized the creation of this memorial.

Management Resources

Staffing

DCR Personnel

This property is unstaffed. The Forest and Park Supervisor from F. Gilbert Hills is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this Forest.

Partnerships and Volunteers

DCR and Mass Wildlife employees work cooperatively to manage the joint Forest and WMA. There are no other partnerships or ongoing volunteer efforts.

Safety

The West Bridgewater Fire Department provides fire response and emergency services. Fire District 2 personnel based at Myles Standish State Forest provide additional support. The West

Bridgewater Police Department, Massachusetts State Police (Station D-4, Middleborough), and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (Region C-7) provide law enforcement.

Funding

Conservation Trust Fund

There are no Conservation Trust Fund revenues dedicated to West Bridgewater State Forest.

Retained Revenue

The Forest does not generate or retain revenue.

Other Revenues

There are no other revenues.

Management Practices

Various regulations, policies, BMPs, legal agreements, and institutional knowledge guide the management of DCR properties. This section describes those practices unique to the management of West Bridgewater State Forest.

No key legal agreements were identified for this property. DCR and Mass Wildlife cooperate to manage the forest and WMA without a formal contract.

Annual Maintenance

There are no regular activities; all maintenance is performed as needed.

Natural Resources

Water Resources

The DCR Office of Dam Safety identifies the DCR as the dam's owner and operator. As such, it regulates the water level in West Meadow Pond. Mass Wildlife may also regulate the water level. Occasionally, public members remove stop logs, resulting in changes to the water level.

Rare Species

There are no rare species monitoring or management activities.

Invasive Species

Vegetation

There are no CFI plots. A Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) cut was performed in 1977 on a 10.3-acre stand of white pine off Stoney Road (Mason n.d.). It is unknown if additional TSI cuts or harvests have been conducted since.

Frequent illegal use of ORVs has resulted in soil erosion at the dam's crest. Efforts to block ORV access to the dam resulted in ORVs riding through the pond shore and adjacent pond. Property managers deliberated letting vegetation along the dam grow to form a barrier to ORVs when this occurred. Although this approach to vegetation management has limited ORV access to the dam, it has also resulted in deficiencies in the dam's condition.

Wildlife

Under DCRs Forest and Park Regulations (302 CMR 12.11), fishing and hunting are allowed in the forest. Mass Wildlife does not stock fish in West Meadow Pond; waterfowl are banded every few years (Zimmer, 2015).

Management Recommendations

Four priority management recommendations were developed for Bridgewater State Forest. For a recommendation to be considered a priority, it must address one or more of the following criteria:

- Regulatory compliance or compliance with legal agreements.
- Threats to the health and safety of park visitors and employees.
- The imminent loss of a natural, cultural, or recreation resource.

This plan does not include additional maintenance and management needs observed during the preparation of this OSRP that do not meet one or more of the above criteria.

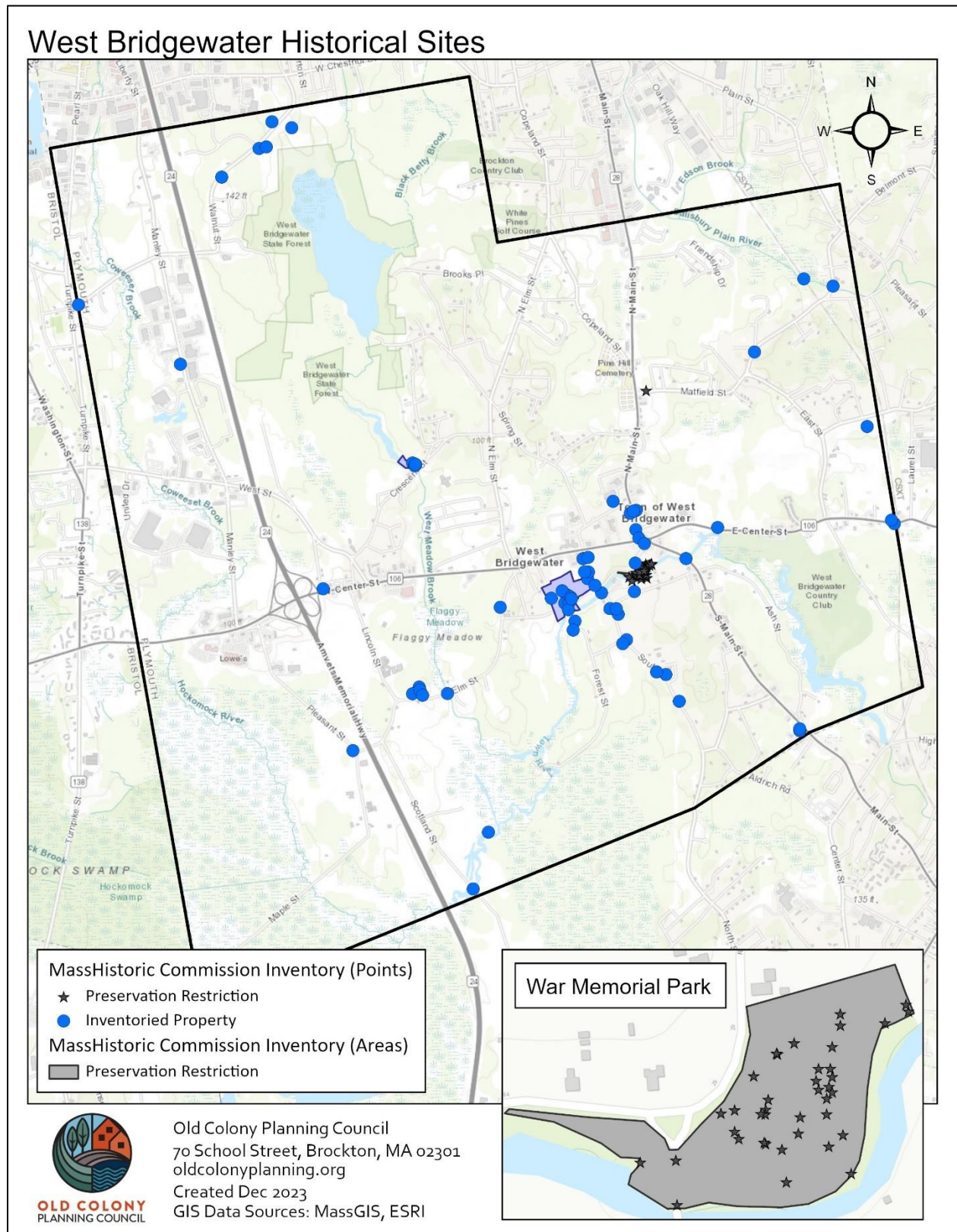
All recommendations are of equal priority.

Table 45: Priority Recommendations for West Bridgewater State Forest

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WEST BRIDGEWATER STATE FOREST	
Recommendation	Implementation
Address dam deficiencies identified in GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (2012b).	C, D, R, V
Create barricades across the dam's upstream and downstream slopes to prohibit ORV access while allowing for ongoing vegetation management.	D, R, V
Gate or otherwise block access points to stop illegal access by four-wheel drive vehicles and ORVs.	R
Conduct deed research to determine if the deeded right of way held by abutters at 0 Stoney Road includes parcels within the Forest.	C, P, L

The following codes identify the party or parties responsible for implementing the recommendations: B = Bureau of Ranger Services; C = Contractor; D = Office of Dam Safety; E = Division of Engineering; F = Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry; L = Legal Services; O = Other; P = Bureau of Planning, Design & Resource Protection; R = Regional and district staff; S = Park Support Operations; U = Universal Access Program; V = Volunteer or partner; and X = Office of External Affairs and Partnerships.

Figure 37: West Bridgewater Historical Sites



Massachusetts Historical Commission

Properties

The town's inventory of historic sites is listed below and shown below. A more comprehensive inventory from the Massachusetts Historical Commission follows.

1. The Mill Pond and Porter Mill Dam off Crescent Street are publicly owned ponds and privately owned dams of colonial, 18th, and 19th-century importance. ID# WBR.B on <https://mhc-macris.net/>
2. The Skim Milk Bridge: A stone block and slab bridge at an idyllic spot on the Nunckatessett River, east of Scotland Street. The bridge reputedly was part of a legendary "Old Trail." A historic structure needing better foot access. Efforts are currently underway to have it designated as a Structure of Historical Significance
3. Pete Cook's Place II: An archeological site on the edge of the Great Cedar Swamp where artifacts were found. Pete Cook's house was off Maple St. and was a Raynham Stage stop.
4. Keith Parsonage: A saltbox 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 and given to the Old Bridgewater Historical Society by M/M Howard Anderson.
5. Stockade Hill: Off Forest Street, the site of the first stockade built by settlers for protection during King Phillip's (Metacomet's) War. The Solitude Stone off Forest Street, in a mini park along the Nunckatessett 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 Nuckatessett Stream, love not him who hummed this lay, Cheerful to the parting beam, But the Beauty that he wooed, in this quiet Solitude."
6. Fish ladders, dams, and sluiceways in War Memorial Park off Arch Street. Initially built in colonial times, it has been rebuilt several times since. A historic complex needs an interpretive center.
7. The Carey Monument: South and Bryant Streets, in memory of John Carey, the town's original proprietor in 1654. In 1656, he was chosen as constable, the town's first elected office, and was Town Clerk until he died in 1681.
8. South Street Cemetery: This is the oldest inland (non-coastal) cemetery, with interments dating back to 1692, including the Reverend James Keith, who died in 1710.
9. 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 the spot.
10. The Quaking Bog in the Pine Hill Cemetery is on North Main Street. It is a historic site, but it is hard to find.

11. The 1801 First Congregational/ Unitarian Church on Howard St. 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.
12. The 1894 Town Hall building is known as the “West Bridgewater Grange.”
13. The GAR monument in Central Square memorializes the dead from the Civil War.
14. War Memorial Park River Street. With its extensive vestigial waterpower 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 a historic district and could be used as an interpretive center.
15. The Triple Arch Stone Bridge Arch Street upstream of the War Memorial Park, built in the colonial period in a design like one in Bridgewater, England, by an unknown artisan, is a rare dry (un-mortared) stone bridge.
16. 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. A historic artifact and site.
17. The Brick Kiln: Ash Street. This early kiln supplied bricks for the Keith Parsonage and the Samuel Edson House and possibly served potters.
18. (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.
19. The Salt Works Cooper site. Old Spring Street. The foundation of the house of Burr the Salt Works Cooper. c. 1750.
20. The Forge Site. South Elm and Scotland Streets. The site of an old iron forge.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) inventory of West Bridgewater properties that have obtained Historic Designation is depicted in the following table. This table also identifies which properties have a preservation restriction (PR), the use type, and historical significance.

Code Keys for the following Massachusetts Historic Commission Table:

Table 46: Legal Historic Designation Codes

LEGAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION CODES	
LHD	Local Historical District
LL	Local Landmark
MA/HL	Massachusetts Archaeological/Historic Landmark
NHL	National Historic Landmark
NRDIS	National Register District
NRDOE	National Register Determination of Eligibility
NRIND	National Register Individual Property
NRMPS	National Register Multiple Resource Area
NRTRA	National Register Thematic Resource Area
PR	Preservation Restriction

Table 47: Massachusetts Historical Designated Places

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL DESIGNATED PLACES													
MHC Unique ID	Resource Type	Legal Historic Designation	Designation Date	Legend Category	Historic Name	Common Name	Address	City/Town	Construction Date	Architectural Style	Architect or Designer	Use Type	Significance
WBR.929	Structure			Inventoried Property	Porter Mill Pond		Crescent St	West Bridgewater	1736			Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Other Industrial;	Engineering; Industry;
WBR.955	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Stone Slab Bridge		Arch St	West Bridgewater	1832			Other Engineering; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.943	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Triphammer Anvils		River St	West Bridgewater	1850			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Industry; Recreation;
WBR.4	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, Maj. Edward House		161 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1711	Colonial;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.15	Building			Inventoried Property	Ames, Jonathan - Ames, Lewis House	Wheeler, Eli House	210 South St	West Bridgewater	1757	No style;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.926	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Terrace Steps and Wall	War Memorial Park - Annex Stage	River St	West Bridgewater	1937			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Engineering; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.933	Structure			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf Agricultural Fields	Anderson Farm Hay and Corn Fields	223 River St	West Bridgewater	1850			Agricultural Field;	Agriculture;
WBR.919	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Octagonal Kiosk		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Abandoned or Vacant; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.947	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Ames Dam		River St	West Bridgewater	2001			Other Engineering; Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Engineering; Industry;
WBR.801	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	The Old Graveyard	South Street Cemetery	South St	West Bridgewater	1692		Colonial Stone;	Burial Ground;	Art; Community Planning; Exploration Settlement; Religion;
WBR.38	Building			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf Milk Room		223 River St	West Bridgewater	1955	No style;		Agricultural; Dairy; Out Building;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.902	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Edson, Dea. Samuel Plaque		River St	West Bridgewater	1958			Other Governmental or Civic; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Industry;
WBR.5	Building			Inventoried Property	Ames, John Double House		51 River St	West Bridgewater	1743	No style;		Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.12	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, Judge Daniel House	Baylies, William House	58 South St	West Bridgewater	1795	Colonial;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.24	Building			Inventoried Property	Packard, Nathaniel House	Dunbar, Simeon House - Old Colonial Acres	69 South Elm St	West Bridgewater	1700	No style;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.937	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Northern Foundry Foundation #2		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Archaeology, Historic; Industry; Recreation;

WBR.941	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Perimeter Fence System		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture;
WBR.938	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Old Foundry Foundation		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Archaeology, Historic; Industry; Recreation;
WBR.932	Structure			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf Wood Stave Silos		223 River St	West Bridgewater	1976			Agricultural; Dairy;	Agriculture;
WBR.916	Structure			Inventoried Property	Belmont Street Bridge over Salisbury Plain River		Belmont St	West Bridgewater	1873			Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.918	Structure			Inventoried Property	South Street Bridge over Town River		South St	West Bridgewater	1978			Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.28	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, William House		20 Forest St	West Bridgewater	1847	No style;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.9	Building			Inventoried Property	Hayward, Daniel House, and Dairy Farm		151 East Center St	West Bridgewater	1775	Colonial;		Agricultural; Dairy; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.946	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Underground Water Channels		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Engineering; Industry;
WBR.13	Building			Inventoried Property	Hooper, Apollos Jr. House		111 South St	West Bridgewater	1845	No style;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.930	Structure			Inventoried Property	Porter Mill Dam		171 Crescent St	West Bridgewater				Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Other Industrial;	Engineering; Industry;
WBR.936	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Northern Foundry Foundation #1		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Archaeology, Historic; Industry; Recreation;
WBR.33	Building			Inventoried Property			457 South Main St	West Bridgewater	1780	No style;		Agricultural; Out Building;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.909	Object			Inventoried Property	Center Tree Stone	West Bridgewater - East Bridgewater Boundary Stone	500 East Center St	West Bridgewater	1827			Other Governmental or Civic;	Politics Government;
WBR.6	Building			Inventoried Property	Memorial Building	Old Bridgewater Historical Society Building	162 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1901	Colonial Revival;	Cooper and Bailey; Crowell and Briggs;	Art Gallery; Business Office; Library; Meeting Hall; Museum; Other Governmental or Civic;	Architecture; Community Planning; Education;
WBR.951	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Covered Bridge		River St	West Bridgewater	1991			Other Engineering; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Landscape Architecture; Transportation;
WBR.942	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Benches		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Other Park Structure;	Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.939	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Ames Machine Shop Foundation		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Archaeology, Historic; Industry; Recreation;

WBR.910	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	Arch Street Bridge over Town River Canal	War Memorial Park Stone Slab Bridge	Arch St	West Bridgewater	1829			Other Engineering; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.944	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Pedestrian Path System		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Other Transportation;	Landscape Architecture; Recreation; Transportation;
WBR.935	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Southern Foundry Foundation		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Archaeology, Historic; Industry; Recreation;
WBR.803	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	Jerusalem Cemetery	Howard - Hayward Cemetery	Manley St	West Bridgewater	1749			Burial Ground;	Art; Community Planning; Religion;
WBR.920	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park – Open- Sided Picnic Pavilion		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Picnic Shelter Or Pavilion;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.19	Building			Inventoried Property	West Bridgewater Town Hall	West Bridgewater Grange #156	65 North Main St	West Bridgewater	1894	Classical Revival; Victorian Eclectic;		Auditorium; Grange; Town Hall;	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning; Politics Government;
WBR.948	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Interior Cedar Fencing		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Other Park Structure;	Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.2	Building			Inventoried Property	Perkins, Rev. Daniel House	First Congregational Church Parsonage	8 Arch St	West Bridgewater	1740	No style;		Parsonage; Restaurant; Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture; Commerce; Religion;
WBR.921	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Outdoor Kitchen		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.900	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park		River St	West Bridgewater	1662		Johnson, Eveline D.; Works Progress Administration;	Park;	Archaeology, Historic; Community Planning; Engineering; Industry; Landscape Architecture; Politics Government; Recreation;
WBR.915	Structure			Inventoried Property	Salisbury Plain River Bridge	Old Colony Railroad Bridge (Milepost #23.57)	Salisbury Plain River	West Bridgewater	1924			Other Rail Related; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.37	Building			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf Main Barn		223 River St	West Bridgewater	1925	No style;		Agricultural; Dairy; Out Building;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.21	Building			Inventoried Property	Wade, David - Dunbar, John House		451 Walnut St	West Bridgewater	1768	No style;	Wade, David;	Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.42	Building			Inventoried Property			231 River St	West Bridgewater	1925	Colonial Revival; Four- square;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.928	Structure			Inventoried Property	New Skim Milk Bridge	Scotland Street Bridge over Town River	Scotland St	West Bridgewater	1947			Other Engineering; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.14	Building			Inventoried Property	Ames, Charles House		203 South St	West Bridgewater	1829	No style;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;

WBR.32	Building			Inventoried Property	Alger, James Otis Carriage House		325-345 South Elm St	West Bridgewater	1880	No style;		Agricultural; Out Building; Warehouse;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.27	Building			Inventoried Property	Alger, Joseph III Show Pony Stable	Hockomock Farm Maids House - Alger, Joseph IV House	258 Pleasant St	West Bridgewater	1790	No style;		Agricultural; Out Building; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.1	Building			Inventoried Property	First Congregational Church Parsonage	Keith, Rev. James-Pratt, George M. House	229 River St	West Bridgewater	1662	First Period;		Agricultural; Dairy; Museum; Orchard; Parsonage; Poultry Farm; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture; Exploration Settlement; Religion;
WBR.29	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, Charles House		45 Forest St	West Bridgewater	1815	Federal;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.908	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	Arch Street Bridge over Town River	War Memorial Park Stone Slab Bridge	Arch St	West Bridgewater				Other Engineering; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.940	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Canal System		River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Engineering; Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Engineering; Industry; Transportation;
WBR.924	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Cogswell, Peter Monument		River St	West Bridgewater	1975			Other Governmental or Civic;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture;
WBR.16	Building			Inventoried Property	First Congregational Unitarian Church		33 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1801	Federal;		Church; Meeting House;	Architecture; Community Planning; Politics Government; Religion;
WBR.7	Building			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf House	Nuncketeset Dairy	201 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1911	Colonial Revival; Craftsman;		Agricultural; Dairy; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.35	Building			Inventoried Property	Johnson, Isaac House		495 East Center St	West Bridgewater	1705	Colonial;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.18	Building			Inventoried Property	West Bridgewater Building Company House	Town Mill Worker Housing	62 North Main St	West Bridgewater	1775	No style;		Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing;	Architecture; Industry;
WBR.903	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Triphammer Block	Ames, John Shovel Factory Monument	River St	West Bridgewater	1774			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Industry;
WBR.904	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - World War II Monument		River St	West Bridgewater	1962			Military Other; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Military;
WBR.10	Building			Inventoried Property	Fobes, Dwelley House		35 South St	West Bridgewater		No style;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.26	Building			Inventoried Property	Alger, James - Drury, Otis House		345 South Elm St	West Bridgewater	1748	Altered beyond recognition; Colonial;	Alger, James;	Agricultural; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture; Art; Industry; Recreation;
WBR.954	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Sunken Garden		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Arboretum or Botanical Garden;	Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.949	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Keith, Rev. James Plaque		River St	West Bridgewater	1958			Other Governmental or Civic; Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Politics Government; Religion;
WBR.906	Object			Inventoried Property	Center of Travel Monument		187 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1890			Other Commercial; Other Religious; Other Transportation;	Commerce; Community Planning; Religion;

WBR.956	Structure			Inventoried Property	Skim Milk Bridge	Scotland Street Bridge over Town River	Scotland St	West Bridgewater	1800			Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.917	Structure			Inventoried Property	South Main Street Bridge over Town River	Route 28 Bridge over Town River	South Main St	West Bridgewater	1926			Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.800	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	Thayer Family Cemetery		Union St	West Bridgewater	1818			Burial Ground;	Art; Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Religion;
WBR.31	Building			Inventoried Property	Alger, James Otis Farrier Shop		325-345 South Elm St	West Bridgewater	1880	No style;		Blacksmith Shop; Out Building; Warehouse;	Architecture; Industry;
WBR.802	Burial Ground	PR	06/06/2013;	PR	Powder House Cemetery	Powder House Graveyard	Matfield St	West Bridgewater	1747			Burial Ground;	Archaeology, Historic; Art; Community Planning; Ethnic Heritage; Military; Religion;
WBR.34	Building	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park Stone Storage Building	War Memorial Park Stone Comfort Station	River St	West Bridgewater	1936	No style;		Other Park Structure; Warehouse;	Architecture; Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.8	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, Benjamin House		216 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1850	Greek Revival;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.907	Object			Inventoried Property	West Bridgewater World War I Monument		Main St	West Bridgewater	1921			Military Other; Other Governmental or Civic;	Community Planning; Military;
WBR.912	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Undershot Water Wheel		River St	West Bridgewater	1976			Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Other Park Structure;	Engineering; Industry;
WBR.41	Building			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf Free Stall Barn	Anderson Farm Loafing Barn	223 River St	West Bridgewater	1985	No style;		Agricultural; Dairy; Out Building;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.20	Building			Inventoried Property	West Bridgewater Building Company House	Ames Mills Worker Housing	28 North Main St	West Bridgewater	1830	No style;		Multiple Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing;	Architecture; Industry;
WBR.36	Building			Inventoried Property	Porter Mill		171 Crescent St	West Bridgewater		No style;		Mill Unspecified; Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture; Industry;
WBR.807	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	Ames, Lewis Family Burial Ground		South St	West Bridgewater	1832			Burial Ground;	Art; Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Religion;
WBR.953	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Urn Planters		River St	West Bridgewater	1965			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.23	Building			Inventoried Property	Copeland, Lyman Elmer House	West Meadow Farms	541 Walnut St	West Bridgewater	1910	Italianate;		Agricultural; Dairy; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.17	Building			Inventoried Property	Alger, Joseph House		457 South Main St	West Bridgewater	1869	Greek Revival;	Wilbur, Arrad;	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.3	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, Francis E. House		187 Howard St	West Bridgewater	1893	Colonial Revival;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;

WBR.925	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Bronze Sundial		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture;
WBR.922	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Johnson, Eveline D. Marker		River St	West Bridgewater	1938			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.43	Building			Inventoried Property	Baker and Williams Dry Goods Store	Drake, George R. Dry Goods Store	1 West Center St	West Bridgewater	1831	Altered beyond recognition; Greek Revival;		Abandoned or Vacant; Apartment House; Commercial Block; Hardware Store; Market or Grocery Store; Pharmacy;	Architecture; Commerce;
WBR.806	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	Hayward Cemetery		Walnut St	West Bridgewater	1818			Burial Ground;	Art; Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Religion;
WBR.923	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Estabrook Monument		River St	West Bridgewater	1995			Other Governmental or Civic;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture;
WBR.905	Object			Inventoried Property	Central Square - West Bridgewater Soldier's Monument		North Main St	West Bridgewater	1879			Military Other; Other Governmental or Civic;	Art; Community Planning; Military;
WBR.22	Building			Inventoried Property	Dunbar, David House	Copeland, Pardon, and Nathan House	551 Walnut St	West Bridgewater	1742	No style;		Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.805	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	Cochesett Graveyard	West Bridgewater Methodist Church Cemetery	West Center St	West Bridgewater	1803			Burial Ground;	Art; Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Religion;
WBR.934	Structure			Inventoried Property	Pratt's Bridge	River Street Bridge Over Town River	River St	West Bridgewater	1855			Other Engineering; Other Road-Related; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.39	Building			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf Young Cow Barn		223 River St	West Bridgewater	1935	No style;		Agricultural; Dairy; Out Building;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.901	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Pulpit Rock		River St	West Bridgewater	1663			Other Park Structure; Other Religious;	Community Planning; Religion;
WBR.931	Structure			Inventoried Property	Porter Mill Raceways		171 Crescent St	West Bridgewater				Abandoned or Vacant; Other Engineering; Other Industrial;	Engineering; Industry;
WBR.950	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Tool Shed - Parade Float		River St	West Bridgewater	1985			Other Park Structure; Out Building;	Community Planning; Recreation;
WBR.945	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Sunken Garden		River St	West Bridgewater	1936			Arboretum or Botanical Garden;	Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.804	Burial Ground			Inventoried Property	Dunbar Family Cemetery		585 Walnut St	West Bridgewater	1749			Burial Ground;	Community Planning; Religion;
WBR.11	Building			Inventoried Property	Howard, John Edward House		48 South St	West Bridgewater	1854	Greek Revival;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.40	Building			Inventoried Property	Anderson, Gustaf Adolf New Barn	Nuncketeset Dairy Barn	223 River St	West Bridgewater	1958	No style;		Agricultural; Dairy; Out Building;	Agriculture; Architecture;
WBR.911	Object	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Millstones		River St	West Bridgewater	1750			Other Industrial; Other Park Structure;	Engineering; Industry;

WBR.952	Structure	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park - Wishing Well		River St	West Bridgewater	1991			Other Park Structure;	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
WBR.914	Structure			Inventoried Property	Flaggy Meadow Bridge	South Elm Street Bridge over Flaggy Meadow Brook	South Elm St	West Bridgewater	1852			Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.30	Building			Inventoried Property	Churchill, Charles House		269 Matfield St	West Bridgewater	1780	No style;		Single Family Dwelling House;	Architecture;
WBR.25	Building			Inventoried Property	Alger, Abiezer Jr. House		325 South Elm St	West Bridgewater	1812	Federal;	Alger, Abiezer Jr.;	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry;
WBR.913	Structure			Inventoried Property	Jerusalem Bridge		Walnut St	West Bridgewater	1825			Abandoned or Vacant; Other Transportation;	Engineering; Transportation;
WBR.A	Area	NRIND PR	05/21/2008; 10/12/2012;	PR	War Memorial Park			West Bridgewater	0		Johnson, Eveline D.; Works Progress Administration;	Other Governmental or Civic; Other Industrial; Park;	Archaeology, Historic; Commerce; Community Planning; Engineering; Industry; Landscape Architecture; Military; Politics Government; Recreation; Transportation;
WBR.B	Area			Inventoried Property	Porter Mill and Dam			West Bridgewater	0			Abandoned or Vacant; Industrial Complex or District;	Architecture; Conservation; Engineering; Industry;
WBR.C	Area			Inventoried Property	Anderson Farm			West Bridgewater	0			Agricultural; Dairy; Single Family Dwelling House;	Agriculture; Architecture; Exploration Settlement;

Source : <https://maps.mhc-macris.net/>

G. Environmental Challenges

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. Development is the direct or indirect source of these ecological problems to various degrees.

Challenges with Development Impact in West Bridgewater

Like many towns, West Bridgewater faces various environmental challenges associated with development. Some of the key issues include:

1. ***Loss of Natural Habitat:*** As development expands, wildlife often loses its natural habitat. Wetlands, forests, and other ecosystems may be fragmented or destroyed, leading to a decline in biodiversity and potentially disrupting the balance of local ecosystems.
2. ***Water Pollution:*** Runoff from roads, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces can carry pollutants such as oil, chemicals, and sediment into nearby water bodies, including the Taunton River. This pollution can degrade water quality, harm aquatic life, and impact recreational activities like fishing and swimming.
3. ***Stormwater Management:*** Increased development can lead to more significant runoff during rain events, overwhelming stormwater management systems and increasing the risk of flooding. Poorly managed stormwater can also exacerbate erosion and sedimentation, degrading water quality.
4. ***Traffic Congestion and Air Quality:*** As development brings more people and businesses to the area, traffic congestion can worsen, increasing emissions of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. This can negatively affect air quality and public health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children and older people.
5. ***Loss of Agricultural Land:*** West Bridgewater has a rich agricultural history, but development pressure can lead to farmland conversion into residential or commercial use. This loss of agricultural land affects the town's rural character and contributes to broader issues such as food security and the preservation of local food systems.
6. ***Climate Change Vulnerability:*** Like many coastal communities, West Bridgewater is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, more frequent and intense storms, and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. These changes can exacerbate existing environmental challenges and increase the risk of flooding, erosion, and other hazards.

Addressing these environmental challenges requires careful planning and management to balance development needs with the protection of natural resources and the resilience of local communities. Strategies may include implementing green infrastructure to manage stormwater, preserving critical habitat areas through land conservation measures, promoting sustainable development practices, and enhancing resilience to climate change impacts through adaptation

planning and infrastructure improvements. Collaboration between local government, community stakeholders, and environmental organizations will be essential to effectively address these challenges and ensure a sustainable future for West Bridgewater.

Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation

Another significant impact of development is the fragmentation of habitat. Because so much of West Bridgewater has already been altered by development, West Bridgewater will focus conservation efforts on the conservation land, as those remaining areas can produce additional public water supply. For more details, see Section 4, Habitat Fragmentation and Wildlife Corridors.

Water Resources

Water, its abundance or its lack, its protection and management, defines the landscape and character of West Bridgewater and, in the past, has also represented one of the Town's primary challenges. Whether there is no or lots of water determines the type of vegetation that characterizes the town. The protection of drinking water quality is of utmost concern. Groundwater or surface water, or both, connects West Bridgewater to its borders regarding effects on its water supplies or theirs. These same water corridors and their vegetation are life-sustaining to the Town's wildlife.

Stormwater Management

West Bridgewater's land development inspection program, carried out for two decades, has demonstrated that stormwater pollution is one of the town's most significant sources of water pollution today. When it rains or snow melts, the stormwater picks up or dissolves pollutants and washes them into stormwater conveyance systems. Polluted stormwater runoff is often discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. Common pollutants include oil, grease, and metals from cars and commercial vehicles and deposited onto roadways; pesticides and fertilizers from lawn maintenance activities; nutrients leaching from residential yard lawn clippings and leaves dumped into wetlands, streams and drainage swales; bacteria-rich and nutrient-rich pet waste thrown in wetlands, dumped into catch basins or just left on lawns which wash into the storm drains; soil sediment deposited by stormwater runoff from construction sites; and litter including cigarette butts, paper wrappers and plastic bottles from the improper disposal of trash. Contaminated stormwater from all these sources can impair waterways, degrade animal habitat, pollute drinking water, increase flooding, cause erosion of streambeds or siltation of waterways, and decrease the amount of water recharged to aquifers.

The Conservation Commission is the Town of West Bridgewater regulatory authority for the illicit discharge detection and elimination program and the stormwater management plan. However, the various West Bridgewater departments, boards, commissions, and town staff will participate in complying with the Bylaws and Regulations.

Stormwater Management Bylaw

The Town of West Bridgewater adopted a bylaw, the purpose of which is to protect, maintain, and enhance the public health, safety, environment, and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post-development stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution associated with new development, redevelopment, and land uses with potential for increased nonpoint source pollution. It has been determined that proper management of post-development stormwater runoff will minimize damage to public and private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the public, protect water and aquatic resources, and promote groundwater recharge to protect surface and groundwater drinking supplies.

Stormwater Management Plan

This Plan was developed based on an EPA stormwater literature review and built upon the knowledge gained from the extensive field inspections and investigations concerning the design and construction of stormwater management projects throughout West Bridgewater. In addition, the “Massachusetts Year 2014 Integrated List of Waters Final Listing of Massachusetts' Waters Under Sections 305(b), 314 and 303(d) of the Clean Water Act”, Taunton River Watershed Alliance Water Quality Report Cards, town ordinances, town regulations, town policies, stormwater-related plans, MA GIS maps, Southeastern Regional Stormwater Coalition training sessions, and other regional stormwater documents were reviewed. In addition, meetings and discussions with various town departments, representatives of regional stormwater coalitions, attendees at environmental conferences, and members of other organizations were consulted. These varied and comprehensive resources were used in the development of this plan.

Area Subject to the Plan

The NPDES Phase II program applies to separate municipal stormwater systems. West Bridgewater’s stormwater collection system was built to handle stormwater and has no combined stormwater/ sewer system infrastructure. The NPDES Phase II program applies only to those areas of the Town that are separated and convey stormwater to waterways. West Bridgewater’s 15.68 square miles is not entirely regulated by the EPA's 2016 MA Small MS4 General Permit for the town. The regulated area of West Bridgewater can be found at the following link: <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma/ram/west-bridgewater.pdf> The regulated area map was based on the 2010 Census and will most likely change with the next census. Due to the unregulated area of town having grown in population with recent land development, this area most likely will be added. West Bridgewater’s separate stormwater system discharges stormwater to the Salisbury Plain River, Town River, Willow Brook, West Meadow Brook, Hockomock River, and Coweaset Brook. Since the separated areas are spread throughout the town, many of the BMPs developed for this plan will be applied town-wide, especially those related to public education, outreach, and public participation.

MS4 Operator

The operator of the MS4 is the Town of West Bridgewater. The Town of West Bridgewater is a public entity in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Town of West Bridgewater covers an area of approximately 15.68 square miles, located in Southeastern Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) operates an MS4 on state highways in West Bridgewater. This system is regulated under the MA DOT's MS4 permit. Implementing the BMPs identified in this plan will be coordinated between West Bridgewater and MA DOT whenever possible.

MA Small MS4 2016 General Permit

Where this Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) refers to Appendices, Part, permit requirements, and section numbers unrelated to this SWMP, please refer to the MA Small MS4 2016 General Permit found at the following link: https://www.westbridgewaterma.org/departments/stormwater_illicit_discharge_program/the_epa_s_ma_small_ms4_2016_general_permit.php

Abbreviations & Definitions

All abbreviations & Definitions related to this SWMP and the MA Small MS4 2016 General Permit can be found at the following link: <https://www.westbridgewaterma.org/appendix-a-2016-ma-sms4-gp.pdf>.

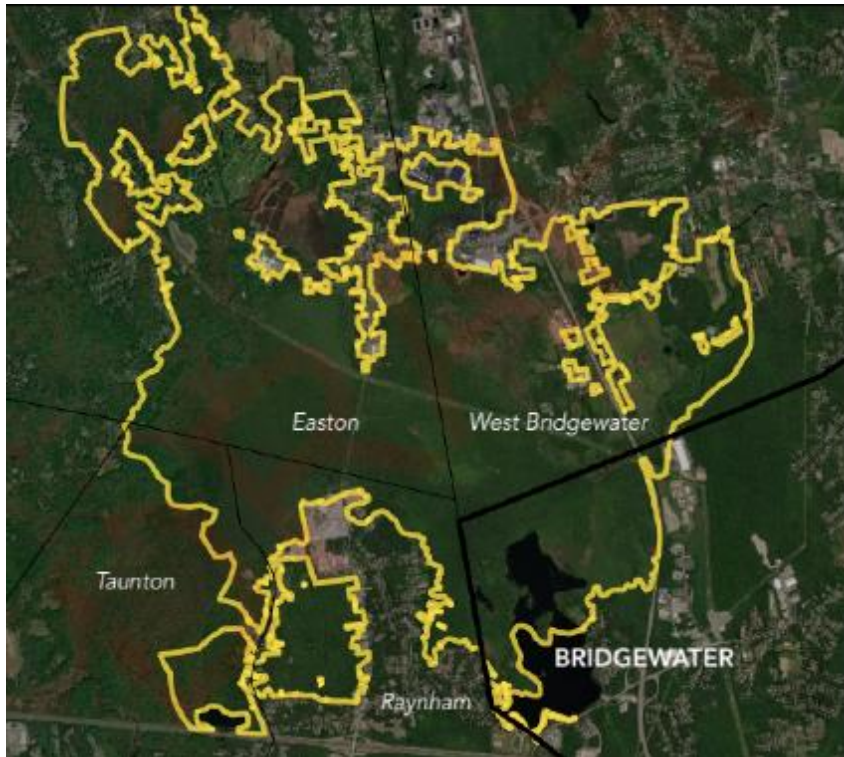
Surface Water Quality

In the past, surface water contamination has been a problem for West Bridgewater due to agricultural runoff in the Hockomock River, the Town River, and Coweaset Brook and inadequate disposal systems along the Town River and Coweaset Brook. However, improved farming practices, upgraded disposal systems, and, unfortunately, the decline of agriculture are reducing this.

Groundwater Quality

Even when functioning perfectly, Title V-compliant septic systems do little to prevent nitrogen, heavy metals, viruses, and other pathogens in wastewater from entering the aquifer, West Bridgewater's sole water source. When septic systems fail, the waste enters the ground and aquifer without sufficient treatment in the soil. Eutrophication can occur when nitrogen (and phosphorous) reaches the many surface water bodies in West Bridgewater in the proper proportions. 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 animals, including humans, and pathogens, by definition, can induce diseases.

Figure 38: Hockomock Swamp as an Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife



Source: *Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, 14th Edition Heritage Atlas (2017)*

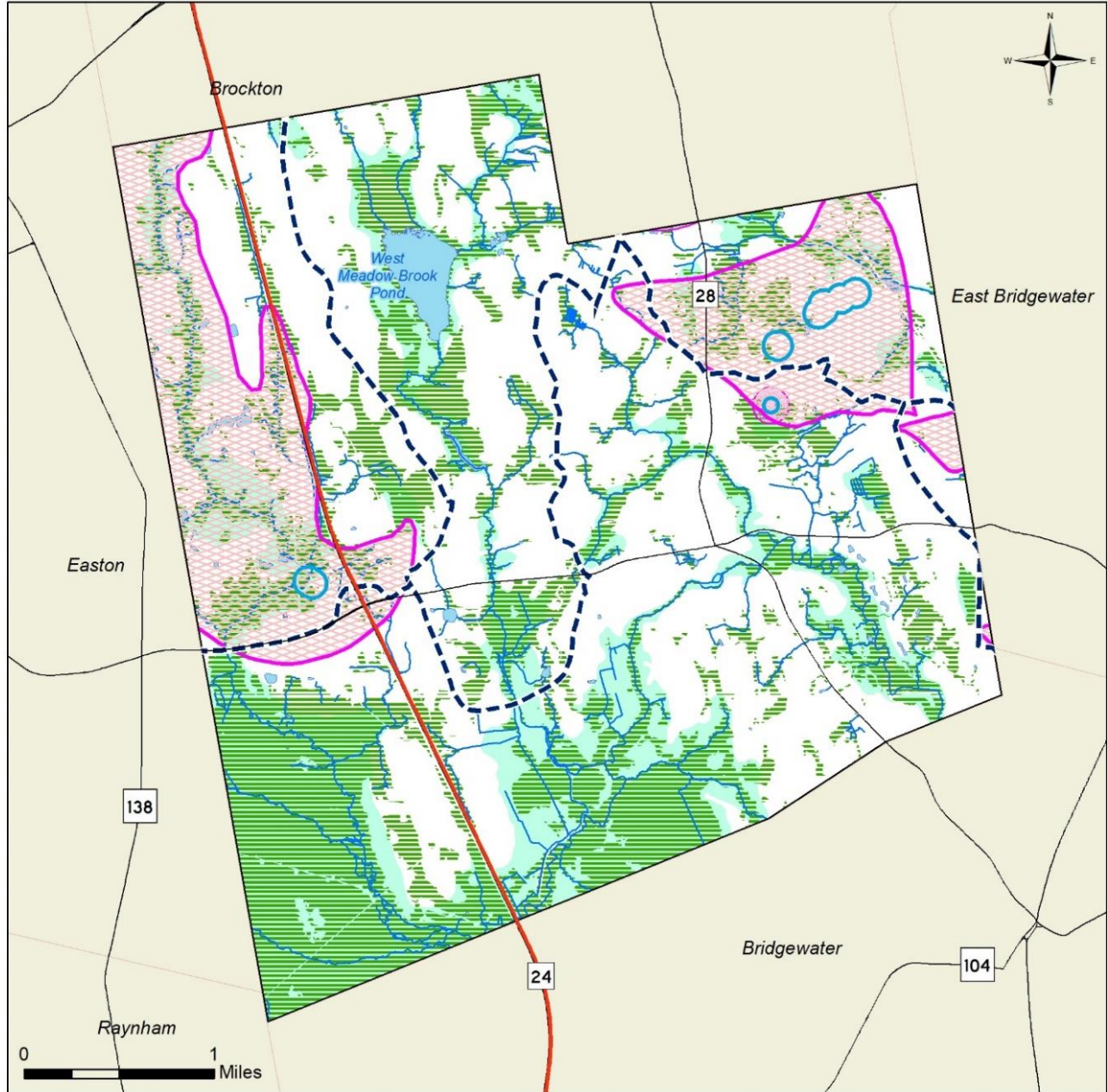
In addition, the pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides used by homeowners and farmers outside are primarily made up of nutrients and heavy metal compounds, which are hazardous to aquatic plant and animal species and contribute to the eutrophication of surface water. When these materials reach the groundwater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

Road salt is a groundwater and surface contaminant that can harm many aquatic plants, animals, and humans when sodium levels exceed 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 this is too low a standard, given the small amount of sodium in most water systems and the considerably more significant amount many people take in from other sources.)

The town's Water Resource Protection Overlay Zoning District prohibits outdoor storage of salt and deicing chemicals to protect the groundwater and surface waters. However, 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.

Figure 39: Water Resources

Water Resources



-  Sub-Basin Boundaries
-  DEP Approved Zone I
-  DEP Approved Zone II
-  IWPA
-  Lakes and Ponds
-  Wetlands
-  FEMA Flood Zones



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL

Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

www.ocpcrpa.org
Created July 2021

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

Landfills can host 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 is considerably far from the wells. It has been capped and lined, which should prevent groundwater contamination unless the liner ruptures. In principle, testing the ground around the landfill site for toxic materials would help to protect and preserve the town's water supply. Still, 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 of pollution in rivers upstream from West Bridgewater up to 1988. The result was elevated nutrient and heavy metal levels and 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 the previously mentioned environmental problems reflect development. New houses on individual septic systems, development that fragments habitats, and using agricultural and home gardening chemicals can degrade West Bridgewater's natural resources. Preventing or mitigating such impacts is one of the goals of open space planning and town master planning generally.

Hazardous Materials

There are no other known contaminated former industrial sites, closed landfills, or other sources of hazardous materials located in West Bridgewater. There were no identified brownfield sites within West Bridgewater.

Waste Site Reportable Releases

In the Town of West Bridgewater, there are concerns about hazardous waste due to potential impacts on the drinking water supply, the threat of surface contamination, and groundwater pollution.

While a challenge, Brownfields also presents opportunities for redevelopment in areas that already have the infrastructure in place. In addition, these sites can save the development of "green sites" that would otherwise be developed.

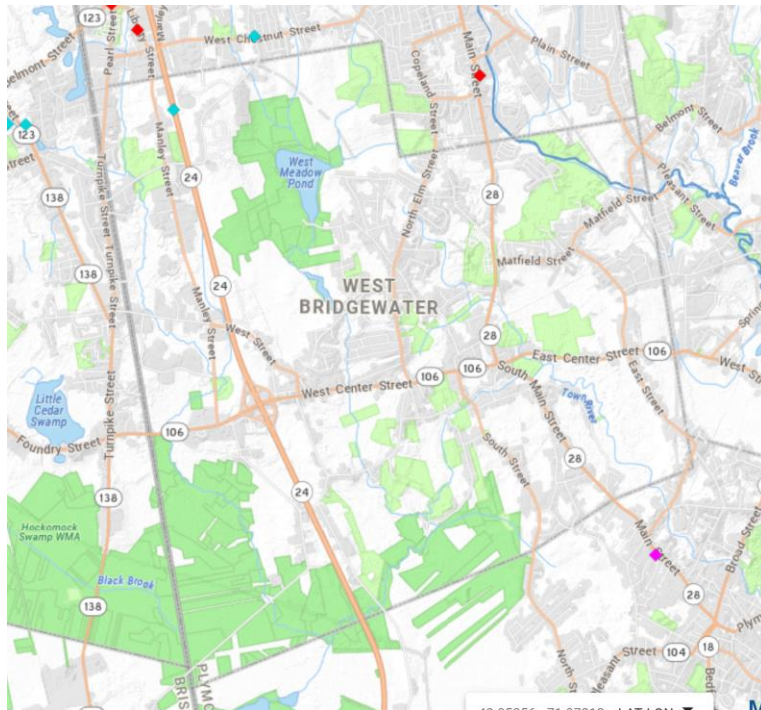
DEP maintains detailed records of contaminated sites in the Commonwealth and charts the progress of cleaning efforts at each site under the state's waste site cleanup regulations, the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. The progress of the cleanup efforts and the compliance status of these sites are available for public information on the DEP searchable waste site list weblink: <http://public.dep.state.ma.us>.

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Waste Site and Reportable Releases for West Bridgewater indicates one site on Route 24 at mile marker 30.2 which has undergone some level of petroleum or hazardous material cleanup as reported in the MassDEP 21E Reportable Release database.

Figure 38 shows a map of the Waste Site and Reportable Releases for the Town of West Bridgewater. Open Sites are indicated in red dots, Closed Sites are shown in blue dots, and Closed Sites with Use Limitations are depicted in green dots.

THERE ARE ZERO OPEN SITES IN WEST BRIDGEWATER, INDICATED IN THE FIGURE DEPICTED IN RED FONT, AND ONE CLOSED SITE, DEPICTED IN BLUE DOT, LOCATED ON ROUTE 24 AT MILE MARKER 30.2.

Figure 40: Waste Sites and Reportable Releases



Erosion and Sedimentation

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

While all waterways in West Bridgewater are subject to threats of erosion and sedimentation, some waters experience ecological degradation due to the increased presence of organic material and sedimentation. The DPW actively engages in a program to remove sediment from deep sump catch basins in the entire street drainage system. Catch basins and street cleaning are done regularly, along with routine inspections by the Department. Maintaining and cleaning these systems is essential to prevent water pollution and street flooding.

Currently, the Conservation Commission enforces erosion and sedimentation control requirements for construction projects within 100 feet of wetlands or when work negatively impacts Wetland Resource Areas.

The Board of Health has the regulatory responsibility to prevent stormwater sheet flow, resulting in ponding on abutting properties in all new construction projects. Erosion and sedimentation control are provided by the installation of sediment control barriers, including straw wattles secured by wood stakes, geotextile silt fencing embedded in the ground, secured

hay bale rows, TRMs (Turf reinforcement mats), wood chips, composted berms, temporary settling basins, fractionalization tanks, polymerization of untreated effluent, filtered dewatering, and a host of others. All construction sites that disturb 1 acre or greater must obtain coverage under an EPA NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit for surface-generated stormwater discharges. This includes implementing a site Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), specifying site erosion control and non-structural Best Management Practices, such as operation and routine maintenance procedures and record-keeping obligations. There is also a catch basin adoption program in place.

Flood Hazards

Many areas along 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 significant streams and wetlands such as Coweaset 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. The flood plains and flood storage areas retain stormwater 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 severe 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.

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

Various weather events, including hurricanes, extreme precipitation, thunderstorms, nor'easters, and winter storms can cause flooding. Flooding can be riverine (topping the banks of streams, rivers, and ponds) and stormwater not infiltrated adequately into the ground. While West Bridgewater experiences these events, the impacts of climate change will lead to increasingly severe storms and, therefore, increasingly severe consequences. The effects of flooding include injury or death, property damage, and traffic disruption. Areas within FEMA flood zones, repetitive loss sites, and local areas identified as flood-prone are more vulnerable to the impacts of flooding.

Flood hazards are also linked to erosion, which can compromise receiving water quality, slope stability, and the stability of building foundations. These impacts put current and future structures and populations near steep embankments at risk. Erosion can also undercut streambeds and scour around stream crossing, creating a severe roadway risk.

Locally Identified Areas of Flooding

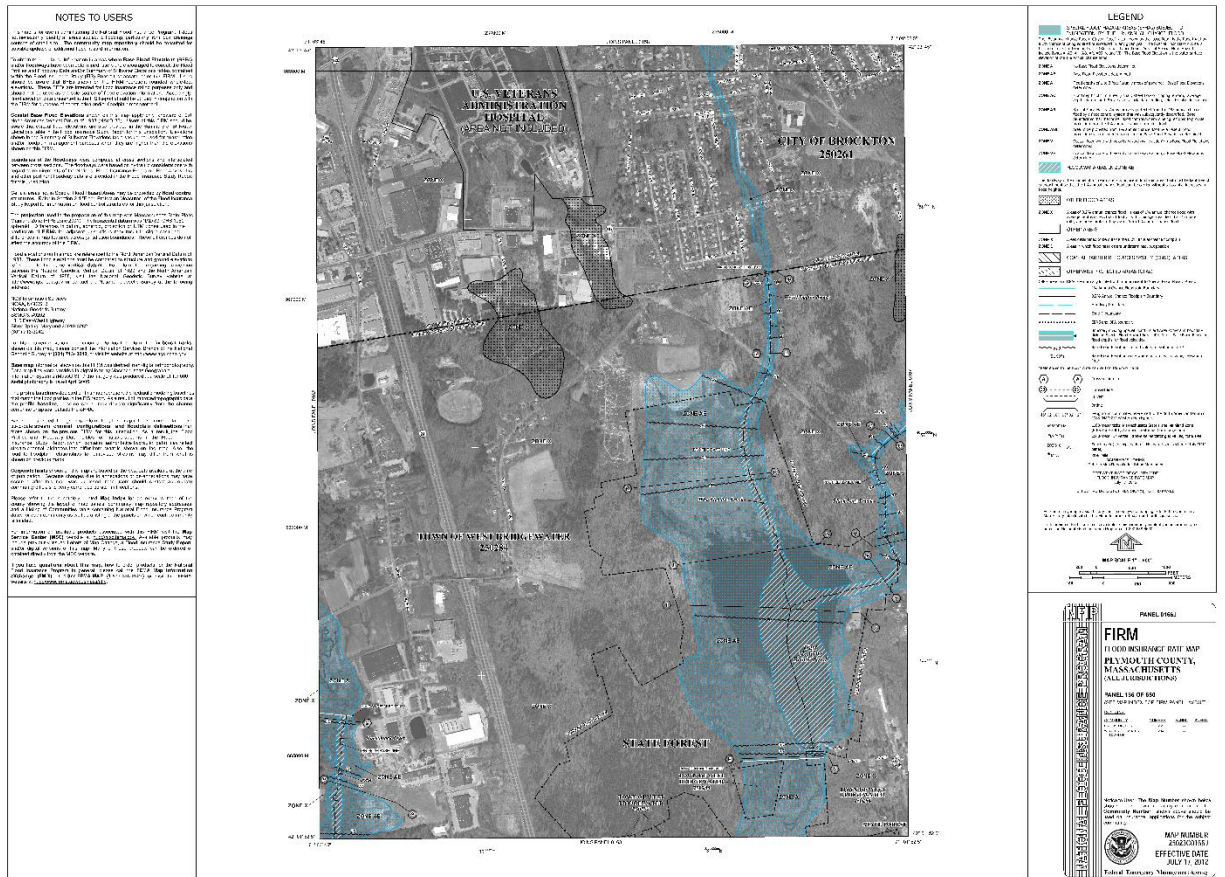
The areas identified as most vulnerable to flooding are within the 100-year floodplain. According to FIRM maps, areas most susceptible to flooding in West Bridgewater are areas in the Forest Street, Clinton Road area on the Town River downstream of the Hockomock Swamp

Wildlife Management Areas and of the Forest Street Bridge, and along the edge of the Salisbury Plain River near Edson Brook at the West Bridge Mobile Home Park on the Brockton line.

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

The mobile home park is low, close to the river, the Brook, and two small tributaries, and it has frequented 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.

Figure 41: FIRM Panel 25023C0166J



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

Table 48: West Bridgewater Land Use Table

FOREST LAND-USE TYPE	
	ACRES
Agricultural	840.52
Commercial	545.14
Forest	86.60
Industrial	493.65
Mixed-use, other	359.56
Mixed-use, primarily commercial	163.95
Mixed-use, primarily residential	290.43
Open land	2255.05
Recreation	86.21
Residential - multi-family	234.20
Residential - other	76.55
Residential - single-family	2156.27
Right-of-way	562.735
Tax-exempt	1852.05
Unknown	28.61
Total Acres	10,031.6

As elsewhere, the breaking up of contiguous blocks of forest limits wildlife movement and habitat integrity. However, the large contiguous blocks of state wildlife management holdings and townlands in the southwestern corner of the town and the West Meadow State Forest in the northwest corner reduce this threat.

As listed in the previous table, approximately 36.8 percent of total acreage consists of Evergreen Forests, Scrub/Shrub, and Forested and Non-Forested Wetlands in 2023. Deciduous Forest is roughly 21.3 percent of total acreage. As conservation land, these more extensive tracts of forested areas are protected from future development. Unprotected areas are also of interest to

the Town, particularly those adjacent to these lands for conservation, wildlife habitat protection, and drinking water protection.

Climate Change

Climate change will exacerbate many of West Bridgewater's environmental challenges, including flooding and invasive species. The impacts are already being felt. In the last five years, Massachusetts has experienced increasingly frequent and severe weather events. Some examples are the record-breaking snowfall in 2015, the widespread and severe drought in 2016, and the warmest years on record.

To avert the most catastrophic impacts of climate change, the global community must cut emissions in half within the next ten years. In comparison, if emissions continue at current rates, scientists expect devastating impacts, including severe heat waves affecting more than one-third of the world population. This severe drought will affect more than four hundred million urban residents, and nearly all the world's coral reefs will die.¹⁹

These most catastrophic impacts can be averted with emissions reductions and natural carbon sequestration, such as wetlands restoration and afforestation. However, even if emissions are dramatically reduced within the next ten years, a certain amount of climate change is inevitable due to the already emitted gases. The US Environmental Protection Agency projects that climate change will continue to result in increasing temperature and changes in precipitation patterns; sea-level rise, wetland loss, and coastal flooding; threats to ecosystems and natural resources; and public health hazards.

However, effective strategies exist for reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the Town and becoming resilient to climate change's impacts. Open space and recreation planning can mitigate flooding, invasive species, and extreme temperatures.

West Bridgewater has been working with a consultant to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change through an update to its Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2022. Planning participants were asked to discuss the effects of natural hazards and climate change on West Bridgewater. Discussion centered around several significant natural hazards in the Town: flooding, extreme temperatures, hurricanes, winter storms, wind, and drought. Participants were asked to identify the four top hazards/climate change impacts that West Bridgewater faces. This plan will soon be available for public review and comment.

Environmental Justice / Open Space Equity

In the context of open space and recreation planning, environmental equity refers to differences in access to open space and recreational opportunities based on demographics and geography. In Massachusetts, a community is identified as an "Environmental Justice" based on median household income, race, and English-language proficiency.

¹⁹ International Panel on Climate Change, *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5 Celsius Summary for Policymakers*.

In addition, specific environmental challenges affect vulnerable populations more than other populations. According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the factors that lead to vulnerable population health impacts are:

- **Exposure:** Exposure is contact between a person and one or more biological, psychosocial, chemical, or physical stressors, including stressors affected by climate change.
- **Sensitivity:** Sensitivity is the degree to which people or communities are affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate variability or change.
- **Adaptive capacity:** Adaptive capacity is the ability of communities, institutions, or people to adjust to potential hazards, take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences.

As climate change will affect different people differently, environmental equity is essential in becoming more resilient to extreme weather. For example, due to their increased sensitivity, older residents are more vulnerable to hot temperatures from climate change. Low-income residents who cannot afford air conditioning are more susceptible to heat due to increased exposure and lack of adaptive capacity.

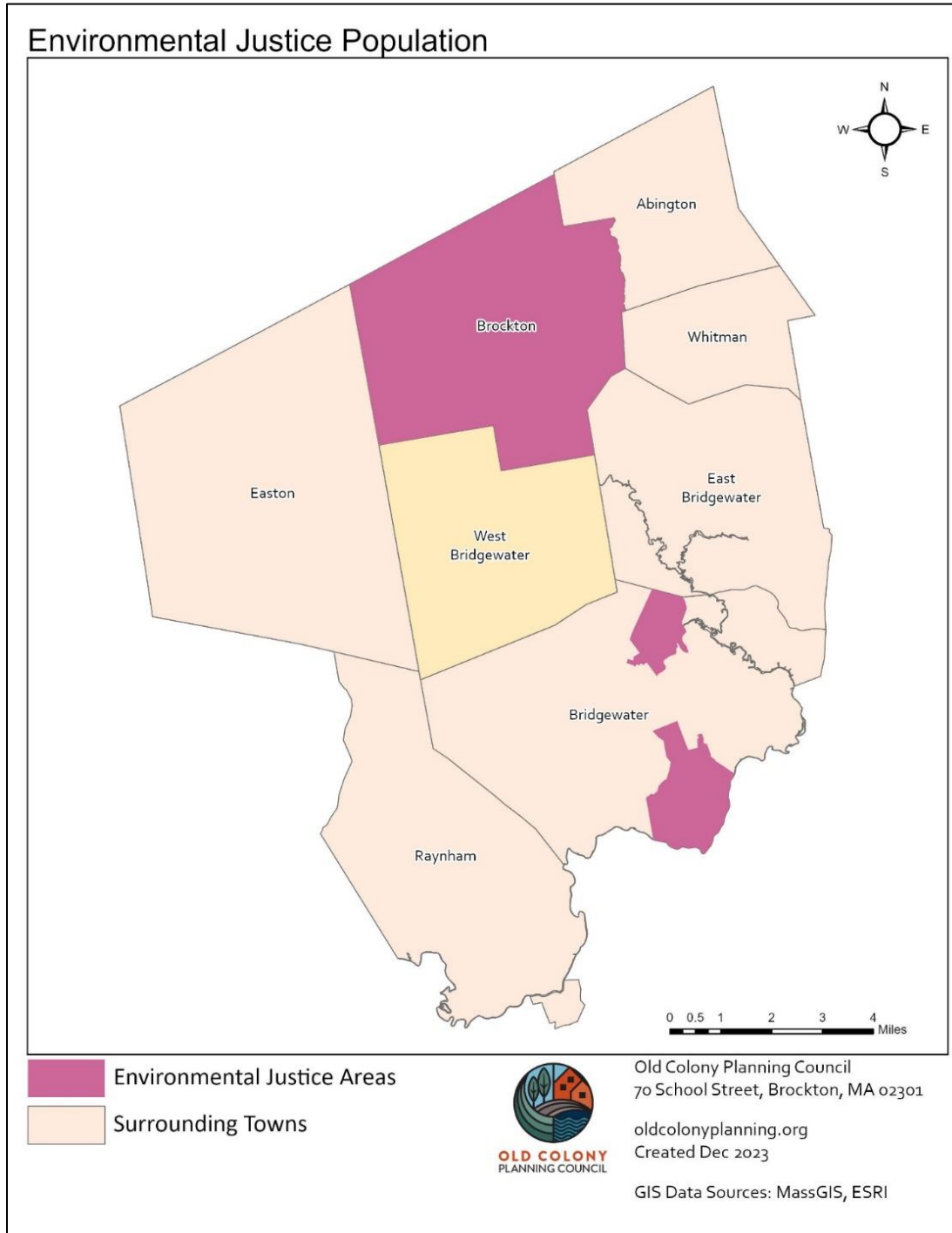
These are two aspects of Environmental Justice: the idea that no population should have a disproportional exposure to adverse environmental features like an uncapped landfill (Environmental Equity), nor should any neighborhood lack positive features like parks and playgrounds that more privileged neighborhoods 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. In contrast, such neighborhoods lacked playgrounds, parks, or other amenities in more affluent areas. These equity concerns apply to all citizens but are most strongly felt regarding vulnerable low-income/minority “Environmental Justice” communities.

The following map of the Environmental Justice Areas (Figure 45) shows no such low-income or minority areas in the relatively homogeneous town of West Bridgewater. Nor does the town have significant areas with a degraded environment like an open landfill or hazardous waste site, and the land along Route 24 is mainly 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. The most significant areas of the Environmental Justice population reside in the abutting communities of the City of Brockton, which has a large Environmental Justice population (71,966, 75%), and the Town of Bridgewater (3,847, 16%). The public survey for this OSRP Update and draft plans for public comment were provided to representatives of these communities through their delegates with the Old Colony Planning Council. Thus, there are no major Environmental Equity Issues.

Regarding Open Space Equity, Figure 45 Open Space Map shows significant state and town-owned natural areas in the town's southwestern, south-central, and northernmost parts. There are also partially protected schools and recreation lands in the more populated town center and extensive water resource lands in the northeast corner abutting Brockton. The open space land and the proposed actions in the Seven-Year Action Plan (Figure 48) depict locations where recreational resources are available. Most recreational resources are located near the town center. The more prominent developers should be encouraged to include local facilities for their residents.

THUS, THERE ARE NO OPEN SPACE EQUITY ISSUES. While there are no Environmental Justice Areas in West Bridgewater, such areas are 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 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 serve regional Environmental Justice and Open Space Equity.

Figure 47: Environmental Justice Populations



SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

A. Importance of Open Space Protection

The town of West Bridgewater's natural resources and open spaces help make it an attractive and exciting place to live. Protecting these areas is critical for safe drinking water, clean air, and outdoor recreation.

Government agencies, landowners, non-profits, and local land trusts all play a role in preserving open space to benefit current and future populations. Land conservation, especially on a permanent landscape scale, provides numerous community benefits: protecting diverse landscapes, preserving habitat for rare or endangered species, maintaining species diversity, ensuring water quality, facilitating wildlife adaptation to climate change, and enhancing recreational access.

Open space also plays a critical role in the fight against climate change and efforts to build resilience to its impacts. Lands that best support wildlife, absorb pollutants, and filter stormwater should be prioritized for protection. Climate-resilient open spaces and conservation lands protect wildlife and provide natural defenses against floods, droughts, and other risks to people.

Protected open space serves several valuable functions. Depending on the type (e.g., forest, meadow, wetlands, farmland), open space can provide valuable habitat for plants and wildlife, help replenish and protect aquifers, reduce and absorb stormwater runoff, provide a sustainable and wide range of resources, and absorb and treat pollutants. Open space also offers numerous active and passive recreational opportunities, adding scenic views to the landscape. "Protected" open space is land that is preserved because it is under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, Water Commission, or Park and Recreation, is subject to a Conservation Restriction (CR) or other deed restriction, is owned by a nonprofit organization whose purpose is the preservation of open space; is dedicated as park land' or is otherwise protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution.

Establishing criteria to prioritize open space parcels for protection would help the town and regional conservation partners be strategic about which lands to acquire. Such a strategy can focus on developing a network of large, connected parcels of open space with higher ecological

value. Because natural systems do not necessarily adhere to political boundaries, natural resource protection is best achieved through regional collaboration. This approach emphasizes connections between natural habitat areas and corridors, studies, and collecting inventory information for unique sites of particular importance, such as vernal pools or endangered or rare habitats and species. This work will often reach beyond municipal limits.

B. Inventory

The open space and recreation areas in the Town of West Bridgewater encompass both land and water sites, which are publicly and privately owned. This inventory aims to identify areas of conservation and recreation interest in the town and evaluate current and future open space planning needs. Areas of interest include open spaces valued for one or more of the following factors: recreation opportunities, protection of natural resources, and historic and scenic character.

The inventory is divided into public or non-profit land and private open space. Within these sections, land has a range of protection, preventing or restricting land use and development. Protected open spaces are private or public parcels permanently committed to conservation or recreation by deed restriction or easement. Unprotected open spaces are areas of conservation or recreational interest to the Town but are not permanently protected as open spaces. Partially or limited protected open spaces are areas with a partial or short-term restriction on development but are not protected forever.

The inventory of conservation and recreation-interest lands describes ownership, management agency, lot size, primary use, public access, and type of public grant accepted for each parcel (if applicable). Further details on current use, zoning, condition, and recreation potential (potential future interventions that could broaden recreational opportunities on a site) are provided for all town-owned conservation and recreation parcels. The degree of protection from destruction or degradation afforded to various parcels of land owned by private, public, and nonprofit owners is also evaluated.

- Private lands can be protected in perpetuity through deed restrictions or conservation easements, known in Massachusetts as Conservation Restrictions (some non-statutory restrictions may only run for 30 years, and those lands are therefore not permanently protected open space).
- Lands under taxation programs Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B are actively managed by their owners for forestry, agricultural, horticultural, or recreational use. The Town has the right of first refusal should the property owner decide to sell and change their land use. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize these lands, track their status, and consider steps the community should take to protect these properties permanently when the opportunity arises.
- Land acquired for watershed and aquifer protection is often permanently protected in open space.
- Public recreation and conservation lands may be permanently protected open spaces if dedicated to conservation or recreational use by deed.

Degree of Protection

This section explores the degree of protection afforded to various parcels of West Bridgewater owned by private, public, and non-profit organizations. Based on the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services definitions, from the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.

- A. **Legally Protected Lands** are private, public, or semi-public parcels permanently committed for conservation purposes (which is not valid for all public lands). Public land dedicated to open space or recreation falls under the protection of Article 97 of the State Constitution, having been acquired expressly for natural resource purposes, meaning it cannot be converted to any other use without a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting, plus a 2/3 vote of the Massachusetts Legislature, unanimous approval of the Conservation Commission and the Governor. Conservation Restrictions and other land protection methods can protect private and semi-public land.
- B. **Unprotected Lands** are a mixture of town-owned and other public and private lands (including all land enrolled in MA General Law Ch. 61, 61A, and 61B). The unprotected lands are divided into five sub-categories: park and recreation, multi-purpose open space land, Chapter 61B recreation land, Chapter 61 forest and wooded land, and Chapter 61A agricultural land. It is essential to remember private landowners can withdraw their properties from Chapter 61 programs at any time. If the property goes up for sale, the town has the right of first refusal, but the window of opportunity is a very short 120 days. Therefore, inventory and prioritize these properties before that situation arises.
- C. **Tools for Land Conservation**

1. **Outright Acquisition**

Outright Acquisition provides the highest amount of protection for a piece of land. In addition, the group that purchases the property can control how it is used or managed. However, outright acquisition is often the most expensive technique. Funding mechanisms for outright acquisitions include:

- a. Town funding from a one-time appropriation, an annual contribution to a land protection fund, an open space bond, or the Community Preservation Act.
- b. Grant funding: For example, it can be funded through the state's LAND grant program, which the Division of Conservation Services administers.
- c. Private conservation organizations.
- d. Donations or 'bargain sales' from landowners seeking to conserve their land or gain income tax benefits.

2. **Restrictions and Easements**

Restrictions and easements limit the future use of land by restricting or prohibiting development. However, the land continues to be owned and operated by a private owner. Suppose the restriction on development is in perpetuity. In that case, this mechanism provides as much protection for land as outright acquisition, offers more flexibility to meet the landowner's needs, and allows the property to stay on the tax

rolls. For example, a restriction could be negotiated that allows a landowner to continue to farm the land, live on the land, or even build another house on the property. Funding can come from the exact mechanisms for outright acquisition. In addition, grant funding is available through various state programs, including the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program, which purchases easements from farmers to restrict future development.

3. *Temporary Protections*

The State's Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B programs offer tax incentives for landowners to keep their property in active forestry, agricultural, and recreational use, respectively. However, these programs do not provide long-term protection for the land.

4. *Other Tools*

Other land conservation tools take advantage of the economics of land development to protect open spaces as part of new development projects (usually residential). If the open space is protected with a suitable conservation restriction, this form of open space protection is as good as outright acquisition.

- a. Conservation Cluster Developments, Natural Resource Protection Development Bylaws
- b. Other zoning tools
- c. Limited Development Projects

These land protection techniques should be used appropriately to help protect part or all key unprotected open spaces in West Bridgewater.

Private Parcels

In addition to the private non-profit lands, West Bridgewater has privately owned open space. While some of this land is partially protected from development or otherwise considered undevelopable, much of it is not currently protected or restricted, although it is vacant. Realizing that some parcels will play vital roles in creating open space and recreation opportunities in West Bridgewater is essential. In some cases, unprotected open spaces may be the missing links in connecting protected open spaces. In other cases, some of these parcels might be acquired by the Town to meet the growing demand for recreation lands.

Private Restriction

The 117.56-acre Anderson Farm was protected through an Agricultural Preservation restriction with funds from CPA, state, and private funds raised by the Wildlands Trust of SE MA. Anderson Farm is listed on the Massachusetts Historical Designated Property Table. These parcels are also reflected in the total Agricultural Protection Restriction Table.

Table 49: Town River Limited Partnership Agricultural Restriction

TOWN RIVER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP AGRICULTURAL RESTRICTION					
Parcel ID#	Map Lot Block ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager
89	45 045	223 River St	5.78	073	Town River Limited Partnership
93	45 049	0 River St	8.81	073	Town River Limited Partnership
111	52 028	121 Forest St	17.5	073	Town River Limited Partnership
2	59 008	0 South Elm St	31.8	713	Town River Limited Partnership
17	59 016	0 Forest St	18.75	713	Town River Limited Partnership
86	52 040	0 River St	7.87	713	Town River Limited Partnership
92	45 118	0 River St	2.25	713	Town River Limited Partnership
95	46 082	158 River St	1.9	713	Town River Limited Partnership
114	53 025	0 Cross St	14.98	713	Town River Limited Partnership
151	45 117	0 West Center St	7.92	713	Town River Limited Partnership
			117.56	TOTAL TOWN RIVER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP	

Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B

Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B are voluntary programs designed by the Massachusetts Legislature to tax real property in the Commonwealth at its timber resources, agricultural, or recreational value rather than its highest and best use (development) value. Landowners who enroll their land in the program receive property tax reductions in exchange for a lien on their property. The lien terms require that enrolled land remain undeveloped and be managed for forest production, agricultural production, or recreation. Furthermore, the lien provides the municipal government of the City/town where the enrolled property is located a right of first refusal should the landowner put the land up for sale. At the same time, it is enrolled in the program. Towns may assign their right of first refusal to a state agency or a non-profit land trust. Landowners who develop their land while enrolled in the program or for a period after withdrawing from the program may be required to pay penalties.

According to the Board of Assessors, the Town has roughly 1,043.13 acres of land protected under the state's tax abatement programs: Chapter 61 (forest), 61A (agricultural), and 61B (recreation). *The five most prominent properties protected under these tax abatement programs are:*

1. Bertarelli, William & Paul - 126.32 Acres Protected.
2. Town River Limited Partnership – 117.56 Acres Protected.
3. Bertarelli Brothers Inc. – 96.63 Acres Protected.
4. Demolles, Edward & Marilyn – 72.99 Acres Protected.
5. Howard, Clinton P. Jr. – 62.67 Acres Protected

Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)

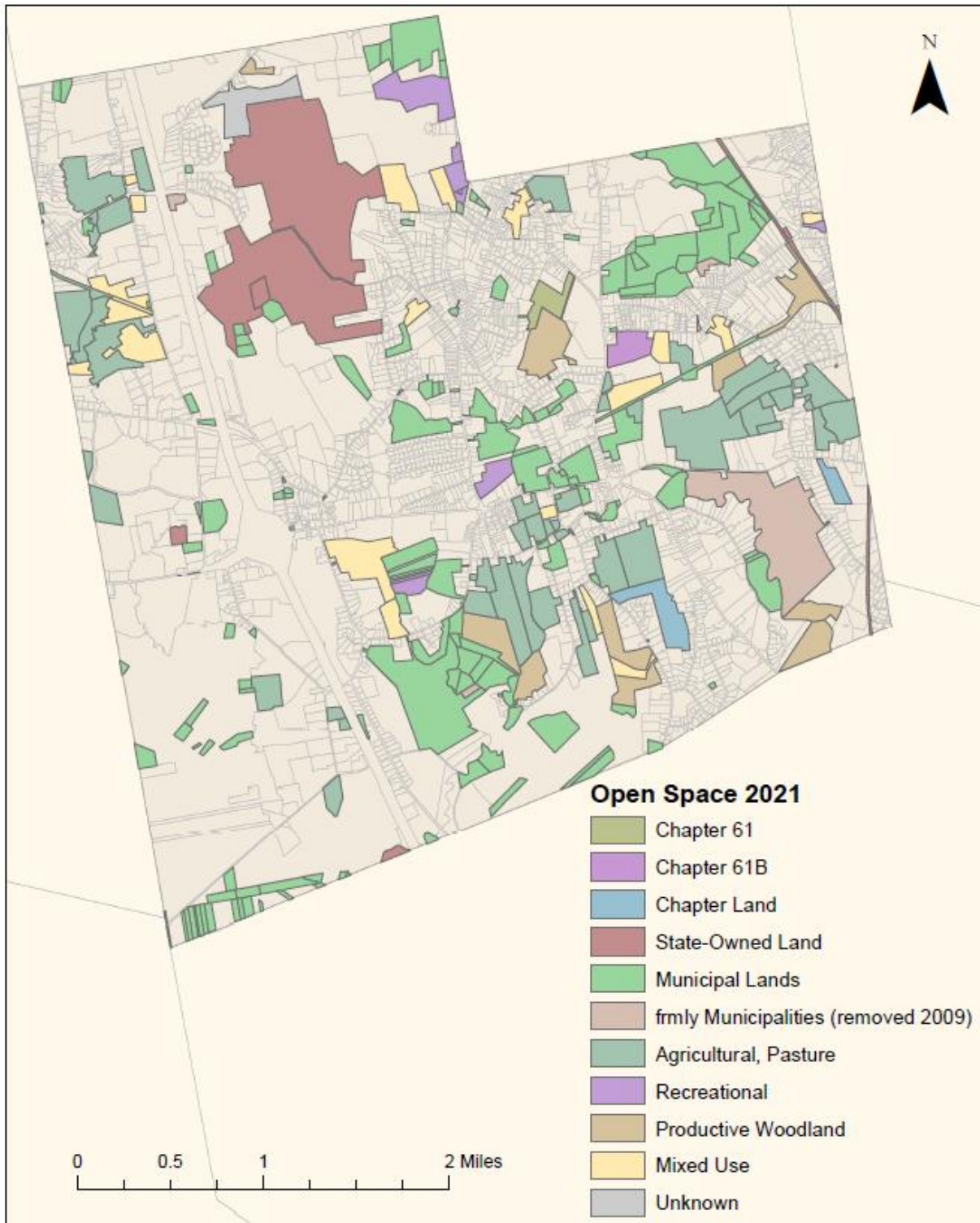
According to town records, 268.44 acres are currently subject to a private conservation restriction, enrolled in the state’s agricultural preservation restriction program, or held by land trusts or non-profits.

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction program is a voluntary program that offers a non-development alternative to farmland owners for their agricultural lands who are faced with a decision regarding the future use and disposition of their farms. The program gives farmers a payment up to the difference between the “fair market value” and the “fair market agricultural value” of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, which precludes any use of the property that will hurt its agricultural viability. (MA DAR, 2013) More recent APRs also include an ‘Option to Purchase Premises at Agricultural Value,’ ensuring that protected farmland is not sold at prices beyond the reach of working farmers.

Table 50: West Bridgewater Agricultural Protection Restriction Properties

WEST BRIDGEWATER AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION RESTRICTION (APR) PROPERTIES					
Parcel ID#	Map Lot Block ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager
89	45 045	223 River St	5.78	073	Town River Limited Partnership
93	45 049	0 River St	8.81	073	Town River Limited Partnership
111	52 028	121 Forest St	17.5	073	Town River Limited Partnership
195	40 008	175 East Center St	73.92	073	C & C Reading Farm LLC
284	07 031	0 Manley St.	36.14	073	Demolles, Edward C & Marilyn
2	59 008	0 South Elm St	31.8	713	Town River Limited Partnership
17	59 016	0 Forest St	18.75	713	Town River Limited Partnership
86	52 040	0 River St	7.87	713	Town River Limited Partnership
92	45 118	0 River St	2.25	713	Town River Limited Partnership
95	46 082	158 River St	1.9	713	Town River Limited Partnership
114	53 025	0 Cross St	14.98	713	Town River Limited Partnership
151	45 117	0 West Center St	7.92	713	Town River Limited Partnership
246	14 023	0 Manley St	20.32	713	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn
273	08 004	0 Walnut St	10.25	713	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn
273	08 004	0 Walnut St	10.25	713	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn
TOTAL APR PROPERTIES			268.44		

Figure 48: Open Space Map



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS

Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS May 7, 2021
OpenSpace\Open_Space

Chapter 61 Forest Lands

Table 51: Chapter 61 Forest Lands

CHAPTER 61 FOREST LANDS						
Parcel ID#	Map Lot Block ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager	Land Use Code Description
206	25 040	0 Copeland St	21.27	061	Howard John D	Mixed Use (Primarily Forest, some Residential)
			21.27	TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED UNDER CHAPTER 61 FOREST LANDS		

Chapter 61A Agricultural Production Lands

Table 52: Chapter 61A Agricultural Production Lands

CHAPTER 61A AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION LANDS						
Parcel ID#	Map Lot Block ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager	Land Use Code Description
14	60 041	235 South St	8.5	017	Hay, Jill C & Timothy J	101 1 Family & 717 Woodland
88	45 043	187 Howard St	3.65	017	Howell, Marlene, A Trustee	Mixed Use (Primarily Residential, some Agriculture)
96	51 012	60 Lincoln St	45.37	017	Urban, Stanley B + Stefanie A	101 1 Family & 717 Woodland
118	51 021	325 South Elm St.	12.14	017	Alexander, Naomi Trustee	101 1 Family & 713 Hay/Grain & 718 Pasture & 720 Non-Prod
171	32 046	11 Willow St	17.75	017	Leonard, Ann Noreen	101 1 Family & 713 Hay/Grain
177	33 002	107 Matfield St	8.32	017	Forbes, Richard M Jr + Robin L	101 1 Family & 714 Orchard
182	28 002	1 Soares Farm Rd	5	017	Soares, Kurt A & Betty A	101 1 Family & 716 Related
222	24 014	398 Spring St	6.85	017	Smith Craig R & Susan	101 1 Family & 713 Hay/Grain
231	26 147	223 Matfield St	8.4	017	Sigren, David R. & Diane M	Mixed Use (Primarily Residential, some Agriculture)
235	07 049	463 Manley St	2.01	017	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn	101 1 Family & 713 Hay/Grain
239	18 130	39 Copeland St	11.6	017	Couite, Ruth E & William A	104 2 Family & 713 Hay/Grain & 720 Non-Prod
244	14 049	425 Manley St	4.27	017	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn	103 Mobile Home & 713 Hay/Grain
288	10 012	87 Brooks Pl	11.2	017	Voelker, Christopher R	104 2 Family & 713 Hay/Grain & 714 Orchard
292	04 015	0 Walnut St	40.48	0173	Kaminsky, Louise	101 1 Family & 717 Woodland & 332 AutoRep

248	20 035	108 Belmont St	3.45	018	Smith, Robert	101 1 Family & 806 61B Horse
202	21 010	208 Manley St	25.24	047	Onyx Development Co LLC	400 Factory & 717 Woodland & 718 Pasture & 716 Related
216	21 015	0 Manley St	14.4	047	Bertarelli Brothers Inc	410 Sand & Gravel & 713 Hay/Grain
218	21 012	0 Manley St	10.49	047	Bertarelli Brothers Inc	410 Sand & Gravel & 713 Hay/Grain
227	21 014	294 Manley St	2.32	047	Bertarelli Brothers Inc	442 Undev Ind & 713 Hay/Grain
107	52 021	284 River St	35.17	073	Howard, Clinton P Jr	713 Hay/Grain & 393 Agricultural
183	34 048	0 East St	19.7	073	Bertarelli, William + Paul	712 Vegetable & 393 Agricultural
221	21 009	0 Soares Farm Rd	27.6	073	Soares, Kurt A	713 Hay/Grain & 393 Agricultural
237	11 022	0 Copeland St.	20.1	073	Couite, William A + Ruth E	716 Related & 713 Hay/Grain & 720 Non-Prod
290	45 044	0 Howard St	1.3	073	Anderson, Emily P	713 Hay/Grain & 393 Agricultural
291	52 039	0 South Elm St	0.79	073	Anderson, Howard A + Carolyn M	716 Related & 393 Agricultural
94	46 057	0 Bryant St	38.35	076	Adga Realty LLC	713 Hay/Grain & 720 Non-Prod & 601 Woodland
110	53 048	166 South St	33.9	0137	Asack, Louise Revocable Trust	101 1 Family & 317 Farm Bldg & 713 Hay/Grain & 717 Woodland
140	41 036	426 East Center St	11.7	0137	Wood, Stephen P. Trustee	101 1 Family & 316 Comm Whs & 717 Woodland
176	32 051	221 N Main St	11.43	0138	Jay's Cafe Inc	101 1 Family & 325 Store & 803 61B Nature
121	53 054	0 Bryant St	23.68	712	Gibson, Marion L	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
166	41 020	0 East Center St	11.26	712	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
184	33 021	0 East St	19.84	712	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
186	34 051	0 East St	2.53	712	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
190	34 003	0 East St	7.4	712	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
194	34 054	0 Rear East St	0.49	712	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
199	34 055	0 Rear East St	1.5	712	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Truck Crops - vegetables (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
47	71 002	0 Maple St	9.02	713	Bertarelli Brothers Inc	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
105	52 038	0 River St	27.5	713	Howard, Clinton P Jr	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A,

						not classified as Open Space)
112	53 058	0 Deerfield Way	5.08	713	Chubbuck David Trustee	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
115	52 016	0 South Elm St	11.5	713	Alexander, Naomi Trustee	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
130	35 002	0 United Dr	3.63	713	Wilbur, Edward E	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
144	42 001	0 West St	17.09	713	Wilbur, Edward E	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
149	46 015	0 Howard St	7.62	713	Howell, Marlene, A Trustee	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
170	32 048	0 N Main St	2.39	713	Leonard, Ann Noreen Trustee	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
180	33 020	0 East St	20.74	713	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
193	32 045	0 N Main St	3	713	Leonard, Ann Noreen Trustee	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
198	39 081	0 N Main St	4.86	713	Leonard, Ann Noreen Trustee	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
203	21 005	0 Manley St	4.99	713	Bertarelli, Brothers Inc	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
270	17 123	0 Brooks Pl	1.22	713	Voelker, Christopher R	Field Crops - hay, wheat, tillable forage, cropland, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
159	33 004	0 Matfield St	10.09	714	Forbes Richard M Jr + Robin L	Orchards - pears, apples, grape vineyards, etc... (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
197	41 025	0 East Center St	20.84	716	Bertarelli, William + Paul	Necessary related land-farm roads, ponds, land under farm buildings (Ch.

						61A, not classified as Open Space)
234	21 022	0 Soares Farm Rd	23.23	716	Soares, Kurt A	Necessary related land-farm roads, ponds, land under farm buildings (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
3	60 042	0 South St	17.5	717	Metcalf Ronald E + June C	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
4	62 002	460 South Main St	23.31	717	Flaherty Michael F Iii & Emily	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
117	55 023	0 East St	14.62	717	Bertarelli Brothers Inc	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
122	53 035	0 South St	26	717	Donahue, Anne P	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
179	33 019	0 East St	14.59	717	Sigren, Harold H + David R	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
228	32 059	0 Rear Harvestwood Dr	40.79	717	Bertarelli Brothers Inc	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
267	27 073	0 Matfield St	26.89	717	Bertarelli, James W + Paul H	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
279	05 007	0 Walnut St	13.74	717	Kaminsky, Louis R + Louise	Productive Woodland (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space, with a Forest Management Plan); woodlots
138	40 001	0 East St	4.09	718	Bertarelli William + Paul	Pasture (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
191	34 002	0 East St	3.21	718	Bertarelli William + Paul	Pasture (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
196	34 001	0 East St	14.72	718	Bertarelli William + Paul	Pasture (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
233	21 023	0 Manley St	32.94	718	Topaz Development Co LLC	Pasture (Ch. 61A, not classified as Open Space)
			913.38	TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED UNDER CHAPTER 61A AGRICULTURAL LANDS		

Chapter 61B Recreation Lands

Table 53: Chapter 61B Recreation Lands

CHAPTER 61B RECREATION LANDS						
Parcel ID#	Map Lot Block ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager	Land Use Code Description
286	10 014	153 Brooks Pl	22.21	018	Couite, Paul H	Hiking - trails or paths (Ch. 61B, not classified as OS)
258	20 037	0 Belmont St	2.73	083	Smith, Robert L	Hiking - trails or paths (Ch. 61B, not classified as OS)
81	51 023	0 West Center St	2.15	801	Howard, John	Hiking - trails or paths (Ch. 61B, not classified as OS)
82	51 024	0 West Center St	2.26	801	Howard, John	Hiking - trails or paths (Ch. 61B, not classified as OS)
85	51 017	0 West Center St	8.47	801	Howard, John	Golfing - areas of land arranged as a golf course (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
126	38 076	0 North Elm St	14.82	801	AAMD. LLC	Golfing - areas of land arranged as a golf course (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
241	10 010	0 Roosevelt Ave.	2.33	805	Brockton Golf Realty LTD INC	Golfing - areas of land arranged as a golf course (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
242	10 011	0 Roosevelt Av	0.32	805	Brockton Golf Realty LTD INC	Golfing - areas of land arranged as a golf course (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
272	10 005	0 Brooks Pl	2.91	805	Brockton Golf Realty LTD INC	Golfing - areas of land arranged as a golf course (Ch. 61B, not classified as Open Space)
277	06 002	0 Samuel Av	41.55	805	Brockton Country Club	Hiking - trails or paths (Ch. 61B, not classified as OS)
285	10 006	0 Rear North Elm St	8.73	805	Brockton Golf Realty LTD INC	Hiking - trails or paths (Ch. 61B, not classified as OS)
			108.48	TOTAL ACRES PROTECTED UNDER CHAPTER 61B RECREATION LANDS		

Chapter and APR Lands

Table 54: Total Chapter Lands

TOTAL TEMPORARY PROTECTED CHAPTER AND AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION LANDS	
CHAPTER LANDS	ACRES
TOTAL CHAPTER 61 FOREST LANDS	21.27
TOTAL CHAPTER 61A AGRICULTURAL LANDS	913.38
TOTAL CHAPTER 61B RECREATION LANDS	108.48
TOTAL TEMPORARILY PROTECTED CHAPTER LANDS	1,043.13
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION RESTRICTION (APR) LANDS	268.44
TOTAL CHAPTER AND APR LANDS	1,311.57

C. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

Permanently Protected Open Space

Table 55: Permanently Protected Open Spaces

PERMANENTLY PROTECTED OPEN SPACES	
TEMPORARILY AND PERMANENTLY PROTECTED LAND	ACRES
<i>Temporarily Protected Under Chapter 61 Land Forestry</i>	21.27
<i>Temporarily Protected Under Chapter 61A</i>	913.38
<i>Temporarily Protected Under Chapter 61B</i>	108.48
Total Temporarily Protected Chapter Acres	1,043.13
<i>Town-Owned Municipal Land under Conservation Commission Management</i>	411.31
<i>Private Properties with Agricultural Preservation Restrictions</i>	268.44
<i>Town-Owned Municipal Land under Water Department Management</i>	183.64
<i>Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Land</i>	1,678.49
Total Permanently Protected Acres	2,541.88
Total Temporarily and Permanently Protected Land in West Bridgewater	3,585.01

Inventory of Open Space in West Bridgewater

Open Space and Recreational resources are listed on the following pages in Figure 46: Open Space Map and Tables 44 through 53. Individual parcels are broken down into ten significant groups: Town-Owned Land Under Conservation Commission Management, Agricultural Preservation Restriction Properties, Town-owned Municipal Land Under Water Department Management, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Properties, Open Space Trails and Nature Areas, Town Owned Canoe Landings, playgrounds and athletic fields, West Bridgewater Cemeteries, Town-owned landmarks, and Town-owned municipal parcels.

Land Owned by Non-Profit Groups, Federal Lands, Land Under Current Use Taxation Programs (Chapter 61, A & B), and Miscellaneous.

Town-Owned Municipal Land Under Conservation Commission Management

Table 56: Town-Owned Municipal Land Under Conservation Commission Management

TOWN-OWNED MUNICIPAL LAND UNDER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MANAGEMENT													
Map ID#	Map Lot ID#	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
102	54 044	Reynolds Canoe Landing - 0 Ash St	930	Conservation Commission	Canoe Landing, nature viewing.	1.42	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Crushed gravel, natural parking lot. Limited parking for less than ten cars. Tree roots and overgrowth partially obstruct the pathway to the landing.	Consider opportunities to make the outdoor space inviting and welcoming, like a natural space, with seating areas, kiosks, and visual markers. There is no accessible parking. Expand and clear the trail's pathway to make it more accessible. This could be a good volunteer opportunity for the community.
163	39 038	0 Commonwealth Ave	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land-locked parcel	1.36	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Wooded marsh, FEMA A: 1% Annual Chance of Flooding	Potential passive recreation, hiking.
181	30 003	0 Crescent St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant parcel wetlands	10	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Wooded marsh, riverfront	Fishing and canoe activities
141	41 044	0 East Center St	930	Conservation Commission	The corner lot contains wooded marsh and marsh/bog soils.	5.53	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Business	Wooded marsh and marsh/bog soils. Vacant land in its natural state.	The location does not make it suitable for recreational uses.
142	40 012	Trucchi's Landing - 0 East Center Street	930	Conservation Commission	Canoe landing, nature viewing	5.03	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Business	You must travel across a field and down a steep, winding embankment to reach the landing.	Due to the terrain, compliance with the landing is impractical. However, the grassy area could be enhanced to include other sensory amenities. The parking area is challenging to access by wheelchair.
99	53 016	Holmes Hill - 0 Forest St	930	Conservation Commission	Passive recreation, hiking, ATV riding.	7.87	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Signed area but no defined path for travel or defined parking.	Identify and define parking areas with accessible space. There is no defined path for travel and no defined parking. Clear and define a path for travel.
41	66 016	0 Maple St – adjacent to parcel 59 016	930	Conservation Commission	A small parcel adjacent to a larger parcel is protected under the Town River Limited Partnership.	0.19	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state.	Potential for passive recreation, hiking.
187	32 036	0 Harvestwood Dr	930	Conservation Commission	A large area of wooded marsh	6.33	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Landlocked parcel in its natural state consisting entirely of wooded marsh, marsh/bog, and FEMA Zone A 1% chance of flooding.	Location and soil conditions do not make it suitable for additional recreational uses.

174	22 011	0 Manley St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state without facilities.	2.54	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	Landlocked parcel in its natural state. Partially wooded marsh. South of the West Bridgewater State Forest.	Location does not make it suitable for recreation.
23	59 015	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state without facilities.	4.71	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Tidal flats and wooded marsh	Potential for passive recreation and hiking.
41	66 006	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state without facilities containing tidal flats and wooded marsh.	7.85	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	A landlocked parcel containing tidal flats and wooded marsh.	The location does not make it suitable for recreational uses.
32	66 008	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state without facilities containing marsh/bog and wooded marsh.	4.35	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The parcel contains marsh /bog soils and wooded marsh.	Potential for passive recreation, bird watching.
33	66 028	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	21	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The parcel is landlocked and is entirely wooded marsh.	The location does not make it suitable for recreational uses.
42	67 007	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	4.24	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The parcel is landlocked and contains a wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
44	67 008	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	8.33	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
48	72 004	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	5.99	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
57	74 005	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.78	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
64	74 006	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	4.49	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
61	75 004	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is	8.12	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.

					in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.							facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	
60	75 005	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	2.02	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
59	75 008	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.76	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
77	77 005	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.24	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
78	77 006	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.49	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
75	77 011	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	2.41	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
73	77 013	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.98	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
72	77 014	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	2.96	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
71	77 015	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.21	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.

68	77 019	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	2.41	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
66	77 021	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.4	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
69	78 002	0 Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.58	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
208	20 005	0 Matfield St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant parcel without facilities on Matfield St.	2.5	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant parcel in its natural state.	Potential for neighborhood playground, passive recreation, hiking, or open space preservation.
161	31 047	0 North Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel between North Elm St. and Francis Ave. may contain a drainage pond for stormwater management.	0.43	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant parcel may contain a drainage pond for stormwater management.	Maintain current use for stormwater management.
160	31 061	Woodcock Chase Land - 0 North Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	Passive recreation, hiking without facilities – a large area of wooded marsh.	9.41	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	This is a large area of wooded marsh. There is no marked access or parking, no signage, and the parcel is hidden.	Identify parking areas with proper signage and access.
20	56 003	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	1.18	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
6	57 008	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	2.41	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
7	57 014	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.76	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
24	57 018	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised	2.1	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.

					of the wooded marsh.								
29	63 006	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.58	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
13	63 008	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.25	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
38	64 003	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	1.97	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
35	64 006	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	4.34	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
27	64 010	0 Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	1.02	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
90	46 075	0 River St	930	Town of West Bridgewater Park Department	FEMA AE: Regulatory Floodway, 1% Annual Change of Flooding, with BFE, Open Water	0.91	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state contains open water, floodways, and floodplains.	Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.
55	76 002	0 Scotland St	930	Conservation Commission	Town River and tidal flats	1.81	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state containing the Town River and tidal flats.	Maintain its current use as a nature-based support to stormwater management.
116	51 020	0 South Elm St	932	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state containing tidal flats and wooded marsh.	4.07	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state containing tidal flats and wooded marsh.	Maintain its current use as a nature-based support to stormwater management.
22	58 023	0 South Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state containing the West Meadow Brook, tidal flats, FEMA AE Zone, and AE Regulatory floodway.	110	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state contains West Meadow Brook, tidal flats, the FEMA AE Zone, and the AE Regulatory floodway.	Maintain its current use as a nature-based support to stormwater management.
18	59 013	0 South Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state containing the West Meadow Brook,	5.39	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state containing the West Meadow Brook, tidal flats, FEMA AE	Maintain its current use as a nature-based support to stormwater management.

					tidal flats, FEMA AE Zone, and AE Regulatory floodway.							Zone, and AE Regulatory floodway.	
19	59 014	0 South Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land in its natural state contains West Meadow Brook, tidal flats, the FEMA AE Zone, and the AE Regulatory floodway.	11.24	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land in its natural state contains West Meadow Brook, tidal flats, the FEMA AE Zone, and the AE Regulatory floodway.	Maintain its current use as a nature-based support to stormwater management.
108	51 018	Flaggy Meadows - Forest Street South Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	Hiking and ATV riding – Signed access but no defined path.	17.4	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Signed access but no defined path, mostly wetlands and marsh.	Increase recreational opportunities by creating pathways and signage or informational kiosks.
12	59 011	0 South Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	Vacant land containing wooded marsh and marsh bog with a small pond.	4.12	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant land containing wooded marsh and marsh bog with a small pond.	The location may prevent recreational opportunities.
21	59 012	0 South Elm St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state, containing a wooded marsh and marsh bog.	4.32	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state, containing a wooded marsh and marsh bog.	The location may prevent recreational opportunities.
31	67 004	0 South St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state, containing a wooded marsh.	3.51	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state, containing a wooded marsh.	The location within a wooded marsh prohibits other recreational opportunities.
205	15 007	0 Spring St	930	Conservation Commission	This vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state adjacent to the West Bridgewater State Forest (Lot #15 012, owned by the Comm of MA).	3.53	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state adjacent to the West Bridgewater State Forest (15 012 owned by the Commonwealth of MA).	The location may prohibit other recreational opportunities.
135	38 094	0 Spring St	930	Conservation Commission	A vacant landlocked parcel containing FEMA A Zone and a wooded marsh.	2.84	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	A vacant landlocked parcel containing FEMA A Zone and a wooded marsh.	The location may prohibit other recreational opportunities. Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.
164	39 037	0 Spring St	930	Conservation Commission	The parcel is mainly comprised of wooded swamps and FEMA A Zone.	2.72	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The parcel is mainly comprised of wooded swamps and FEMA A Zone.	The parcel is not suitable for other recreational opportunities. Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.
173	24 016	0 Stoney Road	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is located behind Mill Pond Road and Jewel Drive.	4.55	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is located behind Mill Pond Road and Jewel Drive.	The parcel might be suitable for passive recreation, hiking, or a neighborhood playground.
255	14 026	0 Walnut St	930	Conservation Commission	The parcel is mainly comprised of wooded swamps and FEMA A Zone.	2.68	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The parcel is mainly comprised of wooded swamps and FEMA A Zone.	The parcel is not suitable for other recreational opportunities. Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.

97	44 045	0 West Center St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is comprised of wooded swamps and marsh/bog.	15.62	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is comprised of wooded swamps and marsh/bog.	The parcel is not suitable for other recreational opportunities. Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.
104	51 015	0 West Center St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is comprised of wooded swamps and marsh/bog.	7.15	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is comprised of wooded swamps and marsh/bog.	The parcel is not suitable for other recreational opportunities. Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.
83	51 016	0 West Center St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is comprised of wooded swamps and marsh/bog.	2.21	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The vacant parcel without facilities in its natural state is comprised of wooded swamps and marsh/bog.	The parcel is not suitable for other recreational opportunities. Maintain current use as a nature-based support for stormwater management.
178	29 006	0 West St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel is accessible through a ROW off Old West Street containing a solar field.	3.55	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant parcel is accessible through a ROW off Old West Street containing a solar field.	The location is adjacent to a solar field and is not conducive to additional recreational uses.
168	29 007	0 Rear Manley St	930	Conservation Commission	A vacant landlocked parcel without facilities in its natural state containing wooded swamps.	3.03	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	A vacant landlocked parcel without facilities in its natural state containing wooded swamps.	The lack of suitable access and the large number of wooded swamps make this parcel unsuitable for additional recreational uses.
46	72 001	0 Rear Maple St – parcel is one of four parcels that make up the Skim Milk Bridge. The other parcels are 66-05, 72-02, 72-07, – across the Town River. A dry-stone slab bridge crossing the Town River marks the route of an old road toward Taunton. The exact age has not been pinpointed, but historical records indicate it dates to around 1800.	930	Conservation Commission	Historic landmark bridge with no parking, signage, or canoe landing.	7.2	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	Yes. The CPC appropriated \$17,500 to preserve the Skim Milk Bridge and Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.	General Residential and Farming	The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings, adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and the Bay Circuit Trail, and accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street.	One of the oldest standing bridges and trails is next to Scotland St. Bridge, over the Town River and down a trail. This project received funding from CPC for a structural analysis assessment and nomination to the Register of Historic Places, which are still in progress. Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 https://cms1files.revize.com/westbridgewater/document_center/CPC/Applications/Skim_Milk_Bridge_CPA_Proposal_FULL_03.06.20%20%281%29.pdf
63	74 007	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised	4	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.

					of the wooded marsh.								
58	75 007	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities and is entirely comprised of marsh/bog.	0.28	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities and is entirely comprised of marsh/bog.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
62	75 011	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.94	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
76	77 010	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	1.48	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
74	77 012	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.13	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
70	77 016	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	3.49	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
67	77 020	0 Rear Maple St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	1.85	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
39	63 010	0 Rear Pleasant St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	0.42	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel is in its natural state without facilities entirely comprised of the wooded marsh.	The location within or adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp is unsuitable for recreational uses.
103	54 043	200 Ash St	930	Conservation Commission	Adjacent to Reynolds Landing Canoe landing	1.2	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Adjacent to Reynolds Landing Canoe Launch site.	Consider opportunities to make the outdoor space inviting and welcoming, like a natural space, with seating areas, kiosks, and visual markers.
98	45 046	204 River St	930	Conservation Commission	Installed canoe landing, natural landscape including the Town River, reservoir, FEMA AE Zone, FEMA AE Regulatory Floodway	1.35	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The pathway to the ramp is uneven and covered with grass and dirt. It is difficult to find, and the signage is faded and hard to see. No site parking is available—street parking only. You must cross over the grass to get to the dam.	The Conservation Commission plans to develop the site further to include parking and expand its use. Consider proposed ADA recommendations to provide an opportunity to make the space more welcoming to all abilities. Although canoe landings may seem unlikely to be used by people in wheelchairs, consider ways to make the outdoor space inviting and welcoming as a natural space with sensory exploration and seating areas. Adding kiosks, visual markers, and public art can create a sense of place and provide a welcoming experience for all abilities. Adding accessible

												bathrooms is another way to welcome the community and make the space more universally usable.	
145	46 009	48 West Center St	930	Conservation Commission	The vacant parcel without facilities is comprised of a wooded swamp.	3.15	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Center of Town District/Residential and Farming	The vacant parcel without facilities is comprised of a wooded swamp.	The parcel may be suitable for passive recreation, hiking, and bird watching.
28	6613	40 Clinton Road	931	Conservation Commission	Vacant parcel without facilities	0.18	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Vacant parcel without facilities	The parcel is not suitable for additional recreational opportunities.
						409.96	TOTAL TOWN-OWNED MUNICIPAL LAND UNDER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MANAGEMENT ACRES						

Agricultural Preservation Restriction Parcels

Table 57: Agricultural Preservation Restriction Parcels

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION PARCELS						
Parcel ID#	Map Lot Block ID	Site Address	Lot Size (Acres)	Land Use Code	Fee Owner Manager	Degree of Protection - Agricultural Restriction Reference
89	45 045	223 River St	5.78	073	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
93	45 049	0 River St	8.81	073	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity -Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
111	52 028	121 Forest St	17.5	073	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
195	40 008	175 East Center St	73.92	073	C & C Reading Farm LLC	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 44071 Pg: 12 (02/12/2014) – USA Natural Resources Conservation Service Restriction
284	07 031	0 Manley St.	36.14	073	Demolles, Edward C & Marilyn	Perpetuity – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 49939 Pg 160 (07/06/2010) USA Natural Resources Conservation Service Restriction
2	59 008	0 South Elm St	31.8	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
17	59 016	0 Forest St	18.75	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
86	52 040	0 River St	7.87	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
92	45 118	0 River St	2.25	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
95	46 082	158 River St	1.9	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
114	53 025	0 Cross St	14.98	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
151	45 117	0 West Center St	7.92	713	Town River Limited Partnership	Perpetuity - Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 38703 Pg: 132 (07/06/2010)
246	14 023	0 Manley St	20.32	713	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn	Perpetuity – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 49939 Pg: 160 (07/06/2010) USA Natural Resources Conservation Service Restriction
273	08 004	0 Walnut St	10.25	713	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn	Perpetuity – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 49939 Pg: 160 (07/06/2010) USA Natural Resources Conservation Service Restriction
273	08 004	0 Walnut St	10.25	713	Demolles, Edward C + Marilyn	Perpetuity – Commonwealth of Massachusetts Agricultural Preservation Restriction Bk: 49939 Pg: 160 (07/06/2010) USA Natural Resources Conservation Service Restriction
			268.44	TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTION PARCELS PROTECTED ACRES		

Town-Owned Municipal Land Under Water Department Management

Table 58: Town-Owned Municipal Land Under Water Department Management

TOWN-OWNED MUNICIPAL LAND UNDER WATER DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT													
MAP ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
214	25 044	0 Copeland St	930	Water Dept.	Water Dept. (Municipal)	0.6	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A long, narrow parcel that may contain stormwater management infrastructure.	Passive recreation, hiking
230	25 026	0 Kenneth St	930	Water Dept.	Water Dept. (Municipal)	0.3	No Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	The rear of the parcel consists of a wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
157	43 003	0 Manley St	930	Water Dept.	Water Dept. (Municipal)	0.9	No Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	Industrial	The parcel abuts Manley Street, containing a wooded marsh, FIRM Zone AE Regulatory Floodway, and a 1% annual chance of flooding.	Location and environment prevent additional recreational uses.
253	19 011	0 Matfield St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	4.38	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	Mobile Park District Residential and Farming	A landlocked parcel behind Friendship Drive that contains a wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
251	20 014	0 Matfield St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	3.08	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A landlocked parcel with a small, wooded marsh area and FEMA Zone AE 1% annual chance of flooding.	Passive recreation, hiking
249	20 015	0 Matfield St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	2.86	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A landlocked riverfront parcel with a large area of wooded marsh and FEMA Zone AE 1% annual chance of flooding along the Salisbury River.	Passive recreation, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and birdwatching.
245	20 016	0 Matfield St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	1.25	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	This landlocked riverfront parcel has a large area of wooded marsh and a FEMA Zone AE 1% annual chance of flooding along the Salisbury River.	Passive recreation, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and birdwatching.
271	12 010	0 N Main St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	41.35	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large riverfront parcel with wooded marsh and a regulatory floodway FEMA Zone AE 1% annual chance of flooding along the Salisbury River.	Passive recreation, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and birdwatching.
265	19 003	0 N Main St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	1.7	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	The entire parcel is Wooded Marsh	The landlocked location and wooded marsh prevent additional recreational uses.
209	19 005	0 N Main St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	3.26	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A landlocked parcel containing a large area of wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
210	19 008	0 N Main St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	5.95	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A landlocked parcel entirely wooded marsh.	The landlocked location and wooded marsh prevent additional recreational uses.
136	38 082	0 North Elm St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	20.7	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large parcel half-covered with wooded marsh and FEMA Zone AE.	Passive recreation, hiking
219	26 160	0 Pinecrest Rd	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	5.61	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large landlocked parcel behind Pinecrest Road, 50% of which is a wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
226	26 161	0 Pinecrest Rd	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	1.05	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large landlocked parcel behind Pinecrest Road, 50% of which is a wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
212	26 158	0 Victoria Ln	903	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	3.83		NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large landlocked parcel containing wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking

236	13 001	0 Rear Belmont St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	6.17		NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	The area between the Conrail tracks and the Salisbury River contains wooded marsh and FEMA Zone AE.	The land is not conducive to recreational uses due to the location of the rail, but the river can be used for canoeing.
261	19 007	0 Rear N Main St	930	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	38.7	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large landlocked parcel contains a wooded marsh.	Location and soil composition prevent additional uses.
224	24 071	0 Sunset Av	931	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	1.25		NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	Provides nature-based stormwater management.	Passive recreation, hiking
213	26 078	0 Rear Matfield St	931	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	15.1	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	A large area with a wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
250	19 010	7 Cyr St	931	Water Dept	Water Dept. (Municipal)	25.6	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 – Water	NO	General Residential and Farming	Contains wooded marsh and FEMA Zone AE.	Passive recreation, hiking
						183.64	TOTAL TOWN-OWNED MUNICIPAL LAND UNDER WATER DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT						

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Properties

Table 59: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Protected Properties

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS PROTECTED PROPERTIES													
Map ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
5	66 999	Hockomock Swamp - Bay Circuit Trail, Maple Street - 0 Scotland St.	911	Commonwealth of Mass. Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife	Passive recreation, hiking – Pathways are woods.	1,266.47	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	No signage or trailhead marker. Dirt/gravel road. Adjacent to private property. Marked parking for four cars, no accessible parking. The large metal gate is closed. Signage is limited and obscured by vegetative growth. Many downed trees, including across the path at eye level.	Passive recreation and hiking potential. Identify the responsible party for path clearing, vegetation management, and tree removal. Put a system in place for reporting. Add signage or trailhead marker. Add accessible parking space.
34	66 003	0 Maple Street	901	Commonwealth of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	7.85	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	FEMA Zone AE Regulatory Floodway and marsh bog cover most parcels.	The site is not conducive to additional recreational use.
36	66 004	0 Maple Street	901	Commonwealth of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	7.77	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	FEMA Zone AE Regulatory Floodway and marsh bog cover most parcels.	The site is not conducive to additional recreational use.
43	66 005	Skim Milk Bridge – lies across the Town River. A dry-stone slab bridge crossing the Town River marks the route of an old road toward Taunton. The exact age has not been pinpointed, but historical records	901	Commonwealth of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	5	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and the Bay Circuit Trail. It is accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street.	Skim Milk Bridge is one of the oldest standing bridges over the Town River. This project received funding from CPC for a structural analysis assessment and nomination to the Register of Historic Places, which are still in progress. Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 https://cms1files.revize.com/westbridgewater/document_center/CPC/Applicat

		indicate it dates to around 1800.											ions/Skim Milk Bridge CPA Proposal FULL_03.06.20%20%281%29.pdf
46	72 001	Skim Milk Bridge – across the Town River. A dry-stone slab bridge crossing the Town River marks the route of an old road toward Taunton. The exact age has not been pinpointed, but historical records indicate it dates to around 1800.	930	Town of West Bridgewater Conservation Commission	Passive recreation, hiking	7.27	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings, adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and the Bay Circuit Trail, and accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street.	One of the oldest standing bridges, the Skim Milk Bridge, lies over the Town River. This project received funding from CPC for a structural analysis assessment and nomination to the Register of Historic Places, which are still in progress. Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 https://cms1files.revize.com/westbridgewater/document_center/CPC/Applications/Skim_Milk_Bridge_CPA_Proposal_FULL_03.06.20%20%281%29.pdf
	72 002, 72 007,	Skim Milk Bridge – across the Town River. A dry-stone slab bridge crossing the Town River marks the route of an old road toward Taunton. The exact age has not been pinpointed, but historical records indicate it dates to around 1800.		Town of West Bridgewater	Historic landmark bridge with no parking, signage, or canoe landing.	110	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - The Conservation Commission sponsored a CPC application in 2020 to perform a structural evaluation and recommend stabilization. Ensure that accessibility is considered during this project.	General Residential and Farming	The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings, adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and the Bay Circuit Trail, and accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street.	One of the oldest standing bridges, the Skim Milk Bridge, lies over the Town River. This project received funding from CPC for a structural analysis assessment and nomination to the Register of Historic Places, which are still in progress. Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 https://cms1files.revize.com/westbridgewater/document_center/CPC/Applications/Skim_Milk_Bridge_CPA_Proposal_FULL_03.06.20%20%281%29.pdf
45	70 010	0 Pleasant St	901	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	19.95	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	The parcel contains a large area of wooded marsh.	The vacant landlocked location and unsuitable soil are a detriment to additional recreational uses.
49	70 003	0 Maple St	901	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	4.23	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked parcel without facilities consists of marsh/bog and wooded swamps.	The vacant landlocked location and unsuitable soil are a detriment to additional recreational uses.
50	70 008	0 Maple St	901	Comm of Mass	The vacant parcel without site facilities contains a wooded marsh, FEMA AE Regulatory Floodway.	4.37	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	The vacant parcel without site facilities contains a wooded marsh, FEMA AE Regulatory Floodway.	The vacant parcel, which lacks site facilities and contains a wooded marsh, is a detriment to additional recreational uses. Maintain current use.
51	71 007	0 Scotland St.	901	Comm of Mass – owner owns 97 abutting parcels	Passive recreation, hiking	11.37	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	The entire site contains FEMA AE Regulatory Floodway	The site is not conducive to additional recreational opportunities. Maintain current use.
52	71 008	0 Scotland St.	901	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	3.21	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	The entire site contains FEMA AE Regulatory Floodway	The site is not conducive to additional recreational opportunities. Maintain current use.
53	75 001	0 Rear Maple St	901	Comm of Mass Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife	Passive recreation, hiking	8.6	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	A large portion of the parcel contains wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
54	76 004	0 Scotland St.	901	Comm of Mass	A vacant landlocked parcel containing a large area of wooded marsh.	2.12	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	The property abuts Route 24 and contains a large area of wooded marsh.	The location of the property adjacent to Route 24 and the large area of wooded march prevent additional recreational opportunities.
56	76 005	0 Scotland St	924	Comm of Mass	The vacant landlocked property includes the Town River, marsh bog, and wooded bog.	3.75	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	The vacant landlocked property includes the Town River, marsh bog, and wooded bog.	The location of the property adjacent to the Town River and the areas of marsh bog and wooded bog prevent additional recreational opportunities.

79	42 006	0 West Center St.	929	Comm of Mass	A vacant landlocked parcel without site facilities contains a large, wooded marsh area.	5.11	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	A vacant landlocked parcel without site facilities contains a large, wooded marsh area.	The property's location and the wooded march areas prevent additional recreational opportunities.
87	55 015	0 East St	929	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	3	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Utility easement	Passive recreation, hiking
146	48 025	0 Rear East St	929	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	3.27	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Utility easement	Passive recreation, hiking
204	22 007	0 Rear Spring St	911	Comm of Mass - Division of Fish and Game Wildlife, Environmental Law Enforcement	Passive recreation, hiking	6	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	A landlocked parcel with a wooded marsh.	Passive recreation, hiking
259	15 012	0 Spring St	920	Comm of Mass West Bridgewater State Forest	Passive recreation, hiking	161.25	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming Industrial	West Bridgewater State Forest	Passive recreation, hiking
260	20 017	0 Matfield St	929	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	0.99	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	The site abuts Conrail Track and contains a reservoir and wooded marsh.	The location next to the rail is not conducive to additional recreational uses.
264	27 072	0 Matfield St	929	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	4.5	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Conrail Track	The location next to the rail is not conducive to additional recreational uses.
282	13 002	0 Rear Matfield St	929	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	9.06	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Conrail Track	The location next to the rail is not conducive to additional recreational uses.
289	05 005	West Meadowbrook Pond 0 Rear Samuel Av	929	Comm of Mass	Passive recreation, hiking	133.35	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	West Bridgewater State Forest	Maintain Current Use
						1,678.49	TOTAL ACRES OF COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS PROTECTED PROPERTIES						

Open Space, Trails, and Nature Areas

Table 60: Open Space, Trails, and Nature Areas

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, AND NATURE AREAS													
Map ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
5	66 999	Hockomock Swamp - Bay Circuit Trail, Maple Street	911	Dept of Fisheries and Wildlife	Passive recreation, hiking – Pathways are woods. Pathways are in a natural state, uneven. Several fallen trees block the path.	1,266.47	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Open Space	NO	General Residential and Farming	There is no signage or trailhead marker. Dirt/gravel road. Adjacent to private property. Marked parking for four cars, no accessible parking. The large metal gate is closed. Signage is limited and obscured by vegetative growth. Many downed trees, including across the path at eye level.	Passive recreation and hiking potential. Identify the responsible party for path clearing, vegetation management, and tree removal. Put a system in place for reporting. Add signage or trailhead marker. Add accessible parking space.
131	39 003	Howe Memorial Skating Rink at Veterans Park, aka 911 Park - 99 West Center St	931	Town of West Bridgewater Parks Dept.	Recreation, ice skating – Skating rink, benches, fireplace.	5.1	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Open Space	NO	Center of Town District Residential and Farming	The benches are old and wooden, and they are on the grass. The police and fire departments share parking lots.	If accessible parking spots were designated in the adjacent Police/Fire station parking lot, the area could be made accessible for persons with disabilities. It could then be used as a viewing drop-off area for the skating rink. Consider adding accessible benches.
169	33 022	West Bridgewater Rail Trail	930	Town of West Bridgewater	Passive recreation, hiking - uneven dirt surface with rails in some areas. There are no accessible parking spaces or ramps. No accessible path of travel.	11.62	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Open Space	NO	General Residential Farming and Business	There is an uneven dirt surface with rails in some areas. There are no accessible parking spaces or ramps, and there is no accessible path of travel.	Update, level, and widen trails. Create accessible parking. The Open Space Committee is looking to add an interpretive kiosk. Explore MassTrails grants https://bit.ly/40E1yo4
						1,283.19	TOTAL WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE, TRAILS, AND NATURE AREAS						

Town-Owned Canoe Landings

Table 61: Town-Owned Canoe Landings

WEST BRIDGEWATER TOWN-OWNED CANOE LANDINGS													
Map ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
98	45 046	Pratt's Landing – 204 River St.	930	Town of West Bridgewater	Installed canoe landing, natural landscape	1.35	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	The pathway to the ramp is uneven and covered with grass and dirt. It is difficult to find, and the signage is faded and hard to see. No site parking is available—street parking only. You must cross over the grass to get to the embankment.	The Conservation Commission plans to develop the site further to include parking and expand its use. Consider proposed ADA recommendations to provide an opportunity to make the space more welcoming to all abilities. Although canoe landings may seem unlikely to be used by people in wheelchairs, consider ways to make the outdoor space inviting and

													welcoming as a natural space with sensory exploration and seating areas. Adding kiosks, visual markers, and public art can create a sense of place and provide a welcoming experience for all abilities. Adding accessible bathrooms is another way to welcome the community and make the space more universally usable.
102	54 044	Reynolds Landing Ash Street	930	Town of West Bridgewater Conservation Commission	Canoe Landing, nature viewing. - No accessible parking is available. Expand and clear the pathway of the trail to make it more accessible. This could be a good volunteer opportunity for the community.	1.42	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	General Residential and Farming	Crushed gravel, natural parking lot. Limited parking for less than ten cars. Tree roots and overgrowth partially obstruct the pathway to the landing.	Consider opportunities to make the outdoor space inviting and welcoming, like a natural space, with seating areas, kiosks, and visual markers.
195	40 012	Trucchi's Landing East Center Street	930	Town of West Bridgewater Conservation Commission	Canoe Landing, nature viewing – The parking area is challenging to access by wheelchair. You must travel across a field and down a steep, winding embankment to reach the landing.	5.03	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Conservation	NO	Business	Natural landscape	Due to the terrain, compliance with the landing is impractical. However, the grassy area could be enhanced to include other sensory amenities.
						7.8	TOTAL TOWN-OWNED CANOE LANDINGS						

Playgrounds and Athletic Fields

Table 62: Playgrounds and Athletic Fields

WEST BRIDGEWATER PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS													
Map ID	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
129	38 099	155 West Center St. High Middle School Complex	931	School Dept.	Athletic Fields Stadium seating – The fields are relatively new, with proper handicapped and van-accessible accessible parking.	21.12	Full Public Access	YES	Article 97 Parkland ²⁰	NO	Business Residential and Farming	The recently redesigned Middle-Senior High School campus includes the Robert M. Dwyer Jr. Memorial Field for football, soccer, field hockey, a running track, and a baseball field.	The High School and Middle School Athletic Fields were recently redesigned.
139	39 007	70 Howard St.	931	Town of West Bridgewater - School Dept.	Soccer Field bleacher seating	15.9	Full Public Access	Varies	Article 97 Parkland	NO	Center of Town District Residential and Farming	There are concerns about the unauthorized use of ATVs and graffiti.	The Seating is not accessible. The town is considering developing a recreation center with updated facilities on this site. The next step is to fund and prepare a feasibility study.
167	39 063	Town Hall	931	Town of West Bridgewater	The baseball and softball fields have step-ups, and the one in the clubhouse has one, but it is not wheelchair accessible. Spectator seating is old and	19.84	Full Public Access	Varies	Article 97 Parkland	NO	General Residential and Farming Center of Town	The West Bridgewater Youth Athletic Association uses these fields.	It is currently used as a baseball and softball athletic complex. The Town should consider the following corrective action: Create accessible pathways, line parking spaces, update

²⁰ The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court recently decided that a public playground is parkland protected by Article 97.

					wooden and not accessible. Not all benches have arms or backrests. Picnic tables are not accessible and are not located in a shaded area.									bathrooms, remediate the steps to the clubhouse, and update spectator seating, benches, and picnic tables. Locate some seating and tables in shade areas.
132	39 006	Lot adjacent to Howard School – 0 Howard St.	930	Town of West Bridgewater	Vacant parcel adjacent to the Howard School parcel	0.98	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Parkland	NO	Center of Town District	Lot adjacent to Howard School – 0 Howard St.	The recreation potential could be improved by moving the picnic table to a flat surface for accessibility. Seating opportunities could be provided in shaded areas. Signs could be updated to have sound and braille.	
139	39 007	Friendship Park Playground Howard Street – Howard School	931	Parks Dept	Playground, picnic tables. Parking is not adequate when large groups are using the playground. There are no accessible pathways to many of the picnic tables. Signs could be more accessible.	15.9	Full Public Access	Varies	Article 97 Parkland	YES - This park received \$320,000 in CPA funding to update the playground equipment, install rubber surfaces to improve accessibility, and replace aging structures.		Friendship Park is newer, well-used, and well-maintained. The Friends of Friendship Park have done an excellent job fundraising to update and refresh the structures and the space.	The recreation potential could be improved by moving the picnic table to a flat surface for accessibility. Seating opportunities could be provided in shaded areas. Signs could be updated to have sound and braille.	
200	37 019	MacDonald School Playground – Steppingstone Drive	931	Town of West Bridgewater School Dept.	The playground is aging, with uneven and untidy woodchips and grass surfacing. The equipment is old and has no accessible features, and there is no shaded area.	27.41	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Parkland	NO	General Residential and Farming	The elementary schools are aging, as are the playgrounds. If the town is considering constructing new schools, playground updates will be a part of the plan.	The school committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities. Playgrounds in a school setting are now modernized to include outdoor learning and exploring spaces.	
129	38 099	Torrie's Place Playground – At Spring Street School, 2 Spring Street – rear of the High School Campus	931	School Dept.	Playground—The woodchip base is uneven and not packed tightly. The equipment is aging, and there are no accessible play units. Access through the school requires a step-down.	21.12	Not open to the public.	NO	Article 97 Parkland	NO	Business Residential and Farming	Located behind a locked gate inside the school courtyard.	The school committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities. Playgrounds in a school setting are now modernized to include outdoor learning and exploring spaces.	
113	51 005	Former Russo Property 134 Lincoln Street	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Former commercial greenhouses	11.23	Full Public Access	NO	Protected	Additional information on the design and construction costs is expected, and further funding will be required to redevelop the site for its intended uses.	General Residential and Farming	Previously disturbed, former commercial greenhouse use	Formerly the site of commercial greenhouses, ATM 2020 approved the purchase of the Russo Property. A new sports complex is proposed on the 16-acre site to address the need for additional athletic fields. Initial plans include a multipurpose field for football, baseball, lacrosse, and field hockey, a soccer field, a basketball court, and walking trails through the adjacent wetland area.	
294	51 028	Former Russo Property 134 Lincoln Street	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Former commercial greenhouses	1.38	Full Public Access	NO	Protected	Additional information on the design and construction costs is expected, and further funding will be required to redevelop the site for its intended uses.	General Residential and Farming	Previously disturbed, former commercial greenhouse use	Formerly the site of commercial greenhouses, ATM 2020 approved the purchase of the Russo Property. A new sports complex is proposed on the 16-acre site to address the need for additional athletic fields. Initial plans include a multipurpose field for football, baseball, lacrosse, and field hockey, a soccer field, a basketball court, and walking trails through the adjacent wetland area.	
295	51 027	Former Russo Property 134 Lincoln Street	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Former commercial greenhouses	1.38	Full Public Access	NO	Protected	Additional information on the design and construction costs is expected, and further funding will be required to redevelop the site for its intended uses.	General Residential and Farming	Previously disturbed, former commercial greenhouse use	Formerly the site of commercial greenhouses, ATM 2020 approved the purchase of the Russo Property. A new sports complex is proposed on the 16-acre site to address the need for additional athletic fields. Initial plans include a multipurpose field for football, baseball, lacrosse, and field	

														hockey, a soccer field, a basketball court, and walking trails through the adjacent wetland area.
296	51 029	Former Russo Property 134 Lincoln Street	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Former commercial greenhouses	1.38	Full Public Access	NO	Protected	Additional information on the design and construction costs is expected, and further funding will be required to redevelop the site for its intended uses.	General Residential and Farming	Previously disturbed, former commercial greenhouse use	Formerly the site of commercial greenhouses, ATM 2020 approved the purchase of the Russo Property. A new sports complex is proposed on the 16-acre site to address the need for additional athletic fields. Initial plans include a multipurpose field for football, baseball, lacrosse, and field hockey, a soccer field, a basketball court, and walking trails through the adjacent wetland area.	
						137.64	TOTAL WEST BRIDGEWATER PLAYGROUNDS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS							

West Bridgewater Cemeteries

Table 63: West Bridgewater Cemeteries

WEST BRIDGEWATER CEMETERIES													
MAP ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Type of Public Grant Accepted	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
80	43 056	0 West Center St.	930	Town of West Bridgewater	West Bridgewater Cemetery	0.25	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - CPA funding for \$21,600 to repair headstones.	Business	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
84	50 028	0 West Center St.	953	Town of West Bridgewater	Pleasant Hill Cemetery	3.09	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Industrial	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
172	25 042	0 Rear N Main St	953	Pine Hill Cemetery Association	Pine Hill Cemetery	3.09	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
215	25 043	0 N Main St	953	Pine Hill Cemetery Assoc	Pine Hill Cemetery	1.7	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	Business Residential and Farming	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
11	60 031	0 South St	930	Ames Family Private Cemetery	Ames Family Private Cemetery	36.5	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - CPA funding for \$14,500 to reconstruct the wall at Ames Family Cemetery	General Residential and Farming	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
119	52 011	0 South Elm St	930	Alger Family Private Cemetery	Alger Family Private Cemetery	0.05	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
109	53 050	South Street/Cross Street Intersection	930	Old Graveyard	Old Graveyard Cemetery	1.27	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - CPA funding of \$44,012 will repair headstones, prevent erosion in the crypt, reconstruct the wall, and reset top stones.	General Residential and Farming	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
175	25 064	Matfield St.	930	Powder House Graveyard	Powder House Cemetery	0.46	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - CPA funding of \$8,800 to repair headstones.	Business	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
266	14 009	Walnut Street	930	Hayward Family Graveyard	Hayward Family Cemetery	0.08	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - CPA funding is \$800 to repair headstones.	General Residential and Farming	Cemetery	Maintain current use.
						46.49	TOTAL WEST BRIDGEWATER CEMETERIES						

Town-Owned Landmarks

Table 64: West Bridgewater Town-Owned Landmarks

WEST BRIDGEWATER TOWN-OWNED LANDMARKS													
Map ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
167	39 063	Gazebo at Town Hall – 65 North Main Street	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Outdoor performance and gathering space. There is no way to get onto the structure with a wheelchair. There is no handicapped ramp or pathway from the parking lot to the structure.	19.84	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming Center of Town	The gazebo needs repair. The steps are rotted and without railings. There are flagstones and pavers on the grass. A small plaque is on a rock but is not easily identifiable. Parking is shared with Ballfield and Town Hall.	Per 4-1-23, The town has created a statement of work and a request for proposals and is awaiting responses.
43	66-05, 72-02, 72-07	Skim Milk Bridge – across the Town River. A dry-stone slab bridge crossing the Town River marks the route of an old road toward Taunton. The exact age has not been pinpointed, but historical records indicate it dates to around 1800.	901	Town of West Bridgewater	Historic landmark bridge with no parking, signage, or canoe landing.	5	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - The Conservation Commission sponsored a CPC application in 2020 to perform a structural evaluation and recommend stabilization. Ensure that accessibility is considered during this project.	General Residential and Farming	The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings, adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and the Bay Circuit Trail, and accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street.	One of the oldest standing bridges and trails is next to Scotland St. Bridge, over the Town River and down a trail. This project received funding from CPC for a structural analysis assessment and nomination to the Register of Historic Places, which are still in progress. Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 https://cms1files.revize.com/westbridgewater/document_center/CPC/Applications/Skim_Milk_Bridge_CPA_Proposal_FULL_03.06.20%20%281%29.pdf
46	72-01	Skim Milk Bridge – across the Town River. A dry-stone slab bridge crossing the Town River marks the route of an old road toward Taunton. The exact age has not been pinpointed, but historical records indicate it dates to around 1800.	930	Town of West Bridgewater	Historic landmark bridge with no parking, signage, or canoe landing.	7.27	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - The CPC provided funding to perform a structural evaluation and recommend stabilization. Ensure that accessibility is considered during this project.	General Residential and Farming	The bridge is in undeveloped, wooded surroundings, adjacent to the Hockomock Swamp WMA and the Bay Circuit Trail, and accessible from a trailhead on Scotland Street.	One of the oldest standing bridges and trails is next to Scotland St. Bridge, over the Town River and down a trail. This project received funding from CPC for a structural analysis assessment and nomination to the Register of Historic Places, which are still in progress. Skim Milk Bridge CPA Application Draft 03.03.20 https://cms1files.revize.com/westbridgewater/document_center/CPC/Applications/Skim_Milk_Bridge_CPA_Proposal_FULL_03.06.20%20%281%29.pdf
131	39 003	Veteran's Park, aka 911 Park	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Monument viewing – Shares parking with the fire station with two accessible spaces, 1 of which is van accessible. Wheelchair accessible.	5.1	Full Public Access	Yes	Protected	NO	Center of Town District Residential and Farming	Parking is available at the fire station.	Currently, it is a memorial viewing and reflecting site. No actions are required.
91	Map 46, Lots 38, 39, 74	War Memorial Park – River Street	930	Town of West Bridgewater Parks Dept.	Passive recreation, picnicking—There are no defined parking spaces, no accessible parking spaces, and no defined path of travel; the path is uneven and not wide enough, and	4.42	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97	YES - CPA funds were used to complete stonework restoration at the park. In 2018, CPC approved \$10,000 for	General Residential and Farming	No defined parking spaces, accessible parking spaces, no defined path of travel.	Identify accessible parking spaces. Define the path of travel, widen it, and level it. Move ADA tables to a shaded area. Move trash barrels closer to the path.

					the picnic tables and stairs are inaccessible for wheelchairs. Two ADA-compliant picnic tables are not in a shaded area, and one non-ADA wooden picnic table is in a shaded area. Trash barrels are located off the path in the grass and are not wheelchair accessible.						a Fish Passage Improvement Study.			
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Town-Owned Improved Municipal Parcels

Table 65: Town-Owned Improved Municipal Parcels

TOWN-OWNED IMPROVED MUNICIPAL PARCELS													
MAP ID#	Map Lot ID	Site Address	Land Use Code	Management Agency	Site Facilities – Current Use	Lot Size (Acres)	Public Access	ADA Access	Level of Protection	Public Grant Accepted Y/N	Zoning District	Condition	Recreation Potential
100	45 047	199 River St	931	Keith House Old Bridgewater Historical Society	Keith House – Colonial House	0.12	Full Public Access	Partial	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming	Historical Society Headquarters Colonial House	Maintain current use managed by the Historical Society.
101	49 006	8 Manley St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Water Dept Building	3.33	Full Public Access	No	Protected	NO	Industrial	Concrete structure – pumping station	Maintain current use
129	38 099	0 Spring St	931	Town of West Bridgewater High School	High School	21.12	Full Public Access	Yes	Protected	NO	Business Residential and Farming	The High School/Middle School is new and appeared compliant in all the areas we checked.	Maintain current use
131	39 003	Veterans Park, aka 911 Park - 99 West Center St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Police Fire DPW	5.1	Full Public Access	Partial	Protected	NO	Center of Town District Residential and Farming	The public spaces of both police and fire are primarily lobby spaces. Bathrooms are accessible with proper signage. Parking for police has five spaces plus one handicapped van space. The dispatch area has a raised floor with no wheelchair access. Although not open to the public, the Chief indicated his desire to lower the floor to create opportunities for civilian dispatch personnel.	Maintain current use.
139	39 007	70 Howard St	931	Town of West Bridgewater – School Dept.	Soccer Fields bleacher seating – Seating is not accessible.	15.9	Full Public Access	No	Protected	NO	Center of Town District Residential and Farming	There are concerns about the unauthorized use of ATVs and graffiti.	The Town is considering developing a recreation center with updated facilities on this site. The next step is to fund and prepare a feasibility study.
153	46 014	162 Howard St	931	Old Bridgewater	Historical Society Old School House	0.96	Full Public Access	No	Protected Municipal	NO	Center of Town District	Historical Society School House	Maintain current use
155	43 002	0 Manley St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Along Manley St contains the Hockomock River	12	Full Public Access	No	Protected Municipal	NO	Industrial	The parcel contains large areas of wooded marsh and FEMA AE-regulated floodway.	Maintain current use.
158	46 092	97 West Center St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Council on Aging	1.41	Full Public Access	Yes	Municipal	NO	Center of Town District	The Council on Aging building has 35 parking spaces, including four handicap spaces. Its amenities support accessibility, including large-print books and open areas for meals and gatherings. Behind the building is an accessible shaded outdoor	Maintain current use.

												patio with accessible tables. The COA offers wheelchairs, portable toilets, and shower seats for those with disabilities at no cost.	
167	39 063	65 N Main St Town Hall Complex	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Town Hall – Baseball and Softball Fields - The path of travel is inaccessible from the parking lot; the surface is grass and asphalt and not evenly paved. The side of the field closest to the clubhouse and highway dept parking is not striped, and two bathrooms are inaccessible; one in the new snack bar has a step-up, and the other in the clubhouse has a step-up, not wheelchair accessible. Spectator seating is old, wooden, and not accessible. Not all benches have arms or backrests. Picnic tables are not accessible and are not located in a shaded area.	19.84	Full Public Access	Partial	Article 97	NO	General Residential and Farming Center of Town	There are four accessible restrooms in the building, with two on each floor, two for men and two for women. There are two entrances to the building. The rear entrance is at the basement level and opens to an elevator that serves the first and second floors. The front entrance is at the top of a flight of concrete stairs. To the right of the front entrance, another entrance is not used or is not open to the public. Old photos show a ramp at the front of the building leading to the front door; therefore, at one time, this entrance was accessible. The DPW and the Town Museum share ample parking, including three appropriate handicapped spaces, each with van access.	The park is currently used as a baseball and softball athletic complex. The Town should consider the following corrective action: Create accessible pathways, line parking spaces, update bathrooms, remediate the steps to the clubhouse, and update spectator seating, benches, and picnic tables. Locate some seating and tables in shade areas.
200	37 019	0 Crescent St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Playground – This is an aging playground with woodchips and uneven grass surfacing that is not tightly packed. The equipment is old and has no accessible features. There is no shaded area.	27.41	Full Public Access	NO	Article 97 Playground	NO	General Residential and Farming	The elementary schools and playgrounds are aging. If the town is considering constructing new schools, playground updates will be part of the plan.	The school committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities. Playgrounds in a school setting are now modernized to include outdoor learning and exploring spaces.
240	20 078	29 Cyr St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Water Dept - Most residents needing the water department's services can be served at the front reception desk. There is a public space inside where the Water Commissioners meet two times a month, and those meetings are open to the public. There is limited office	38.1	Full Public Access	Partial	Municipal	NO	General Residential and Farming Mobile Park	The walkway in front of the entrance is not level. The counter at the reception area is 40". The men's and women's bathroom door frames are 29" wide. Both bathrooms are not large enough for handicap accessibility. Bathroom signs should be updated to include braille.	Maintain current use

					space and two restrooms, one for men and one for women. There is one public entrance to the building. While there is a large parking area with ample parking places, no painted lines indicate parking spaces and no designation for handicapped parking.								
120	52 015	218 South Elm St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	DPW - One modular building on the site is used for staff attendants and contains a small area for a desk, storage, and one toilet. The building is in deteriorated condition due to mold and water damage and is not currently handicap accessible.	5.25	Full Public Access	NO	Municipal	YES - On May 9, 2022, the Town Meeting voted to fund a new building, including Site Work, Septic, and related accessory items.	General Residential and Farming	The new building will be larger than the existing structure, with heating and cooling, handicap accessibility, and appropriate signage. Attendants and volunteers typically use the building, which is also available to the public. The project went out for bid in early 2023 and is expected to be built and completed during the spring/summer of 2023.	Maintain current use.
287	08 017	359 Walnut St	931	Town of West Bridgewater	Municipal lot	0.91	Full Public Access	Partial	Municipal	NO	General Residential and Farming	Corner lot	Maintain current use
						152.45	TOTAL TOWN-OWNED IMPROVED MUNICIPAL PARCELS						

OPEN SPACE PROTECTED BY OWNERSHIP AND PURPOSE.

The protected and recreational open space section contains conservation lands and outdoor recreational facilities in West Bridgewater. This includes relevant information about each parcel, including ownership, level of protection, public accessibility, assessor's map and lot numbers, and related legal interests held on the land, including conservation restrictions. Conservation and outdoor recreational facilities owned by federal, state, county, municipal, and non-profit enterprises are included. Not all lands are protected in perpetuity, though nearly all have at least some levels of protection. Conserving land requires careful consideration. Each landowner has a unique vision for the future of their property that involves financial, legal, and land planning matters.

Traveling downstream from the Nippenickett on the Town River, in addition to the Hockomock Swamp ACEC and the many acres of protected Open Space owned either by the Mass Division of Fish & Wildlife or the Town of West Bridgewater Conservation Commission, other unique places on the Historic and Cultural Landscape of the Town River include Skim Milk Bridge, and Solitude Stone.

“Solitude Stone”

The boulder was once part of a bridge or stone culvert and became obliterated as Forest Street widened. In 1970, the West Bridgewater Conservation Commission, the Select Board, and the Highway and Forestry Departments initiated a preservation project. The boulder was moved several feet off Forest Street, enclosed by a cedar-rail fence, and beautified by shrubbery to make it a mini-park. Via a Ford Grant, a routed sign noted the historical impact of “Solitude Stone.”²¹

From Notes of Edgar P. Howard ... ca. 1900 'In ancient days, the trail or path between Old Bridgewater and Taunton was now Forest Street in West Bridgewater. It crossed the Nunckatessett or Town River at the old bridge just above where the Canoe Club House is now and again at a ford where 'Comfort' or 'Pine Hill Bridge is now.' It crossed again at 'Skim Milk Bridge,' Nippenickett, and the Village of Taunton.

'This old road had been abandoned for many years as a public highway and is now only a cart path, used by the campers on the upper river and for getting out wood and hay from the meadows, and it is of the ancient bridge called 'Comfort Bridge' though no one in the present day seems to know why, that is the occasion for this article. This path and bridge were the scene of the first elopement of the Old Colony.

'In the year 1689, young Ephraim Howard on his gallant steed swung Mary Keith up upon a pillion behind him, and with her arms around his waist like young Lockavar galloped madly through the woods, hotly pursued by her angry parent, the Rev. James Keith, the first minister in

²¹ Old Bridgewater Historical Society

the Old Town of Bridgewater; who, however, did not catch up with them until they had reached Providence, where they were married.

'The old bridge is composed of three immense flat stones, the larger one in the center and forms the roadway, while the other two at each side are somewhat smaller. The stream that used to flow under the bridge had been diverted perhaps 100 feet to the westward and now flows under a rude plank bridge (the one under which the body of Miss Evelyn Packard was found). The old bridge now carries off the surplus water in case of a surge.

'While sitting upon the bridge, resting after a day of arduous searching for the girl, the writer's attention was arrested by an inscription chiseled upon the flat stone forming the south side of the bridge. The stone is oblong and perhaps five or six feet across. Curiosity was aroused, and an attempt was made to decipher the ancient inscription, which comprised six lines extending across the face of the stone and which had almost been obliterated by time and the elements. The words could be deciphered only by clearing the tangled vines and filling the letters with black chalk.

'The verse reads as follows:

All ye, who in future days,
Walk by Nunckatessett stream.
Love not him who hummed his lay
Cheerful to the parting beam,
But the Beauty that he wooed.
In this quiet solitude.

'After some inquiry among the older residents of West Bridgewater, some of whom attributed the work to William Cullen Bryant who once lived in the vicinity, authentic information was obtained as to the identity of the practical stone cutter...'

Rev. Timothy Otis Paine, L.L.D., was the preacher, poet, sculptor, and scholar who inscribed the poem on the boulder. A native of Winslow, Maine, he studied to become a sculptor, studied Oriental languages, and was credited (at the time) as the most learned Egyptologist in America. He published a volume of poems in 1897, over 40 years after he chiseled the above poem.²²

'...The beauty of the scene may well have inspired the lines. To the south stretches Eagles Nest Meadows toward Hockomock, with the winding Nunckatessett and the woods beyond. At the bridge, the stream makes a sharp turn to the right before it reaches the Pine Hill ridge, crowned by whispering pines. It flows under the old bridge, with its riot of vines and elders almost hiding it from view.

The old bridge has been ignorantly called Suicide Bridge, and there is a tradition of suicide from this place. I'm afraid that's not right, however. In the year 1880, John Crane, a young man who fell in love, committed suicide by shooting in the woods some distance from the bridge. The proper and ancient name is Comfort Bridge, though why 'Comfort' is no longer known than why the next bridge below has always been called 'Skim Milk Bridge.'²³

²² Paragraph insert from the writings of Marjorie MacDonald, courtesy of OBHS.

²³ Courtesy of Old Bridgewater Historical Society

Skim Milk Bridge

Skim Milk Bridge was found on the maps before 1831 and was the original crossing of the Town River before the extension of Scotland Street. West Bridgewater was connected to Elm Street, Bridgewater. Hiking trails intersect near here. Skim Milk Bridge is currently under consideration for federal listing as a “structure of historical significance.”

Figure 49: Skim Milk Bridge



Anderson Farm

Anderson Farm has been recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Agriculture has always been a significant part of West Bridgewater’s history. In 1865, there were 145 working farms, with extensive strawberry cultivation, dairy, and poultry farming as the mainstays. In 2002, the Anderson Farm on River and Howard Streets was the only remaining dairy farm. The Massachusetts Historical Commission recommends listing it in the National Register of Historic Places.

Established in 1952 as the Nuncketeset Dairy, this farm was created by joining two adjacent, centuries-old farmsteads with other dwellings, a collection of outbuildings, and additional agricultural land. The farm has a long history that extends back to the oldest surviving house in town – ca. 1662 – built for the first minister in Old Bridgewater, the Reverend James Keith. The National Register of Historic Places 2002 Criteria Statement reads as follows:

‘The Anderson Farm is no longer a dairy farm; in 2021, it received an APR. The farm retains evidence of a long and continuous farming tradition in its dwellings, agricultural fields, and

remnants of the farm buildings, all situated overlooking the Town River. The farm retains the integrity of location and setting. The sense of rural design responsive to farming use is maintained. While some materials and evidence of workmanship have been changed in some resources, there is an overall sense of original materials and workmanship. The farm retains the integrity of feeling and association as well.²⁴

Rev. James Keith House

This ca. 1662 saltbox with a large central brick chimney and three fireplaces was built for the Scottish immigrant preacher, the Reverend James Keith. For 56 years, housing, plus acreage for subsistence farming, was part of the annual contract between the parish and the parson. Rev. Keith raised a large family in the parsonage; today, his descendants are numerous, living throughout the country.

At the end of King Phillip's War in 1676, Rev. Keith intervened on behalf of the slain Wampanoag Chief's widow and young son when these two were to be executed. He managed to persuade the authorities to send them out of the country – presumed into slavery in Bermuda.

The church and its incumbent parsons constituted an excellent force for government, education, religion, and social development – church and state in the Puritan system worked hand in hand in all these matters.

The late 19th-century owner of the Keith House and the property was George Pratt; his associated farmland then extended to the south side of River Street. The ca. 1850 stone arch bridge crossing the Town River at Forest Street is known as Pratt's Bridge. Pratt Farm, including this historic Keith home, was part of one of the farms combined to create the Anderson Farm. In 1961, the Howard Anderson Family donated the Rev. James Keith House and the land it sits on to the Old Bridgewater Historical Society. It was restored in the 1970s and is now open to the public through the OBHS.²⁵

Today, photographers and artists often capture the idyllic farm scene from Pratt Bridge at the corner of Forest and River Streets.

Reynold's Landing

Located on Ash Street, this one-acre piece of conservation land provides one of three West Bridgewater access points to the Town River for canoeing. It is the smallest of West Bridgewater's conservation properties but the most heavily used.

Just a few yards downstream from Reynold's Landing, the Old Bridgewater Historical Society has documented the existence of a brick kiln from 1725 highway records. Renovation of a nearby 1703 house with similar bricks suggests using a kiln near that period; there is also some indication that pottery was made here. This is one of two areas in West Bridgewater known to have clay pits. An old ramp to the Town River suggests river transport of bricks.²⁶

²⁴ DEM – 2002 Heritage Landscape Inventory

²⁵ Source: Form B- Building Massachusetts Historical Commission

²⁶ Source: MHS Historical Resources Survey, Historical Archeological Sites 1986

The Town is trying to trace the remains of Comfort Willis Bridge from the 1700s at this location. Additionally, removing the High Street Dam in Bridgewater will significantly impact this location and must be monitored.

War Memorial Park

In 1933, West Bridgewater town officials created this memorial park (4.8 acres) to commemorate the site's history as the earliest industrial mill park in the Old Bridgewater settlement. These industries included a grist mill, fulling and carding mill, oil mill, iron foundry, tannery, sawmill, shingle mill, dye house, saddler's shop, shovel-making shop, and even weathervanes. Early maps refer to this area as the Town Mills or the Mill Pasture. The town bought the property from the Ames family, and Works Progress Administration funds supplied workers and volunteers, with Evaline Johnson as the Landscape architect. A dozen small industries with waterways to turn wheels, dams to control water, and bridges for transport were built, thus creating an accurate industrial park replica, and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

Features of War Memorial Park

Pulpit Rock

Traditional records indicate that in 1663, the Rev. James Keith, a Scottish immigrant and the first permanent minister of the First Church of Bridgewater, preached his first sermon on this rock in what would become centuries later the West Bridgewater 'Town Park' and War Memorial Park. With its brass plaque, this monument is prominently featured in the West Bridgewater Town Seal.²⁷ Pulpit Rock is a feature of War Memorial Park.

Edson Monument

In memory of Samuel Edson, a deacon in the Puritan church and a prominent leader in community affairs, the plaque on this granite boulder describes him as the original proprietor of Old Bridgewater. With courage and foresight, Deacon Edison built the first gristmill in the new colony on this site. The mill greatly impacted the quality of life for all the settlers, enabling them to grind their grain -so vital to their diet. It was also significant as the first industry to be introduced into this first inland settlement from Plymouth, creating what became an industrial park.²⁸

Triphammer Stone

The land of this park was allotted to John Ames, an original shareholder and settler. Before the Revolutionary War, the 4th inheritor, Captain John Ames, began manufacturing shovels with a triphammer set on this large granite stone. The community recognized it as the first inland industrial park in North America by including this triphammer stone in the park. The flourishing firm moved to Easton, MA, in 1803 and supplied most of the essential tools for the nation's expansion in mining, canal-building, railroad extension, and dozens of other operations.

²⁷ Source: Form C – Monuments, Massachusetts Historical Commission

²⁸ Source: Form C – Monuments, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Arch Bridge/Canal Bridge

Made of native stone, this triple-arch bridge built over the Town River during the colonial period has served the community for over 200 years, initially providing more accessible access to the mills and saving at least a mile of travel between the center of the community and outlying areas. Measuring 24 ft. wide and 33 ft. long, the bridge was built by a skilled stonemason from Bridgewater, England, a replica of that city's ancient 3-arch stone bridge dating back to 1201; unique for its architecture and traprock dry masonry, the bridge structure is now deemed unsafe for vehicle traffic and permanently closed.²⁹

Ancient Millstones/Replica of a Colonial Water Wheel

17th-century, hand-hewn granite; these mill stones were significant to the people of Old Bridgewater and nearby communities. Without this service, farmers would have been obliged to carry their grain (sometimes on their backs or pack horses) 13 miles over wretched trails to the nearest mill in Taunton. Also, Indians readily accepted corn meal in the fur trade, which figured highly in early commerce. Debts were paid in this commodity; even half the Parson's salary, per contact, was paid in corn. With an established mill, the community flourished and grew.

The newly constructed water wheel is a copy of the wheel placed in the park at the time of its opening in 1936. Vandals destroyed that wheel, a replica of the wheel used in the original industrial park. This is an example of the several wheels used in the park – one for each shop or mill. The original industrial complex used waterpower in its active life as a hive of industry.³⁰

²⁹ Source: Form F – Structure, Massachusetts Historical Commission 1980

³⁰ Source: Form F – Structure, Massachusetts Historical Commission

SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

A. Description of Process

The vision, goals, and objectives for this 2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update were derived from thorough reviews of existing open space and recreation studies, including the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan, a series of meetings with Town staff, and ample opportunities for public input.

As described in Section 2 Introduction, various methods were undertaken throughout developing the vision and goals. A working group was created at the onset of the planning process. The working group comprised the Town's Conservation Agent, DPW Director, Assistant Town Administrator, Chair of the Open Space Committee, and the Taunton River Watershed Alliance. The working group met on June 15, 2021, and July 29, 2021. Topics of discussion include a review of the 2010 OSRP goals, a review of the public participation plan, a review of the project timeline, a review of a list of new potential goals, a review of a survey before making it public, and a plan for a public listening session.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan update was presented to a broader public audience via the West Bridgewater Conservation Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 3, 2021. Furthermore, the public outreach included a Public Listening Session hosted by the Open Space Committee, held the following week on August 12, 2021. Between the two sessions, representatives from West Bridgewater schools and the public attended in addition to the host boards.

From July 2021 through December 2023, three surveys were conducted with residents of the Town of West Bridgewater to determine their views about Open Space and Recreation Planning and Preservation. These surveys were distributed to residents as online surveys from Survey Monkey. The OSRP survey was distributed with printed fliers with information and QR codes to reach the study online through the town staff emails, school department emails, and word of mouth. Between the three surveys, 225 people responded.

This plan follows a highly structured format prescribed by the State Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Once this plan is accepted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Town may apply for State grants through the Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovation for Communities (PARC) programs which provide reimbursement for the purchase and renovation of open space recreation facilities. The Open Space and Recreation Plan provides data and focus for proactive community discussion and planning. We urge West Bridgewater residents to take this opportunity to review the past, examine the present, and plan for the future of our community.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

Community Vision for West Bridgewater

In envisioning the future of West Bridgewater, we embrace a community that cherishes its natural beauty, fosters inclusivity, and promotes active, healthy lifestyles for all residents. Our Community Vision is guided by a deep understanding of our evolving demographics, the changing needs of our residents, and the imperative to preserve and enhance our precious natural resources.

Embracing Diversity and Inclusivity

We are committed to meeting every resident's diverse recreational desires and needs, irrespective of age or socioeconomic status. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, we ensure that every community member has equitable access to recreational opportunities that promote physical well-being and social cohesion.

Stewardship of Natural Resources

We recognize the invaluable richness of West Bridgewater's natural landscape and are dedicated to its preservation and protection. Through education and advocacy, we empower citizens to become stewards of our conservation areas, safeguarding them from fragmentation and invasive species. Private property owners are encouraged to manage their land in a manner that enhances natural resources and supports critical ecological functions.

Promoting Health and Sustainability

Our vision embraces a future where residents are empowered to lead healthy, active lifestyles while minimizing their carbon footprint. We prioritize the creation of connective networks, such as walking and bike paths, to encourage alternative modes of transportation and reduce carbon emissions. These efforts improve respiratory health and contribute to our fight against climate change.

Meeting Diverse Recreational Needs

West Bridgewater provides various recreational opportunities that cater to our residents' varied interests and abilities. From organized sports programs for youth and adults to leisurely activities like gardening and hiking, we strive to offer something for everyone. Our accessible playgrounds, athletic fields, walking trails, and bike paths are vibrant community engagement and vitality hubs.

Nurturing Community Engagement

Community involvement is critical to realizing our vision for West Bridgewater. We harness our residents' collective wisdom and creativity through collaboration and dialog to shape our town's future. We build a physically healthy, environmentally conscious, socially vibrant, and resilient community.

In pursuit of this Community Vision, West Bridgewater remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents, now and future generations. With dedication,

innovation, and a shared sense of purpose, we journey towards a brighter, more sustainable future for our beloved town.

This update, informed by the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan (2010 – 2017) and the Open Space Public Forum, aims to improve the Town’s current Open Space and Recreation resources and identify opportunities to enhance the community’s quality of life.

Resource Protection & Enhancement Goals

1. Protect and improve the Town’s natural environment for the benefit of the Town’s current and future citizens, optimizing resources for water and habitat protection, invasive species management, and climate resilience.
2. Prioritize the preservation of open space in the context of managing the Town’s growth through various means, including bylaws, articulated zoning, managing the impacts of state and federal mandates, adopting Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques whenever possible, and consistent enforcement of established protections.
3. Plan for the future of the Town’s existing water structures, including dams, stone bridges, and fish ladder.
4. Establish a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission to create management plans for the Town’s open space holdings, including conservation areas, trails, landings, waterways, and new acquisitions that support their protection, maintenance, and optimize appropriate public access to them, with the further possibility of forming associated Friends Groups.
5. Task all designated stakeholders of this 2024 Open Space Plan to track their progress in meeting their agreed-upon goals; on a 3-year basis, report those findings to the Open Space Committee when invited. The Open Space Committee will collate and make those findings public and use the acquired information to prepare incrementally for the 2031 Open Space Plan.
6. Promote increased awareness and passive use of the Town’s trails and landings, utilizing digital maps, kiosks, the Town’s website, and community engagement opportunities.
7. Promote safe pedestrian and bike access outdoors by supporting sidewalk construction, bike lanes, riding loops, and greenway connectivity between the Town’s open spaces.
8. Pursue the acquisition and protection of valuable open space assets for recreation, conservation, and resource protection in a manner that addresses the town's identified needs.
9. Establish a resource hub that makes available information on relevant programs, including land stewardship and trusts, tax incentives, and conservation easement opportunities for Town landowners interested in protecting the undeveloped, forested, farmed, river-accessible, scenic, or historic property for the future.

Section 7: Analysis of Needs

West Bridgewater is fortunate to have a wide range of natural and recreational resources. Due to many citizens' long-term generosity and diligent work, several large tracts of woods, fields, wetlands, and streams provide a variety of wildlife habitats and environments for West Bridgewater residents to enjoy. Playing fields and playgrounds, some with newly built facilities, provide improved play and team sports opportunities. If West Bridgewater continues to benefit from these, its officials and citizens must be vigilant in protecting and enhancing these resources for a growing and changing population. This section presents an updated analysis of these needs.

A. *Summary of Resource Protection Needs*

Rivers and Wildlife Habitat Protection

The *Hockomock Swamp*, the largest fresh-water swamp in Massachusetts, is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and comprises 16,800 acres located in the towns of Bridgewater, Easton, Norton, Raynham, Taunton, and West Bridgewater.

Hockomock River and *West Meadow Brook* flow into the Town River along the town's southern boundary at separate points. With 1,268 acres protected by the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, the *Hockomock Swamp* is a vast natural and scenic area with unique and irreplaceable habitat. It is the location of at least 13 rare and endangered species and several archaeological sites of enormous significance. Productive agricultural lands border the wetland and river systems. The Hockomock Swamp and the section of the Town River located within the ACEC are among the premier resource jewels of southeastern Massachusetts.

Town River: This river begins at Lake Nippenicket in the Bridgewater portion of the Hockomock Swamp and flows northeasterly through West Bridgewater. It drains most of the town, and its adjacent meadows provide some of its most handsome and characteristic landscapes. The Town River also provides West Bridgewater with a link to the Wampanoag Canoe Passage.

Unique Habitats and Development Impacts

The *Taunton River Basin* is unusually flat, with only a 20-foot drop over its 40-mile main stem. It is characterized by low permeability glacial till soils and less frequent very coarse and gravel outwash soils, shallow depths to groundwater, and many wetlands. These features provide unique aquatic and upland wildlife habitats, significantly constrain conventional on-site wastewater disposal, and may exacerbate stormwater runoff issues. As sea levels rise in the face of climate change, the Taunton River will be increasingly vulnerable to storm surge flooding. The level and pattern of development of open space cause increased concerns for water quality, water supply, and management of stormwater and wastewater.

Waterbodies Valued as Community Assets

West Bridgewater's ponds and streams are ecological, recreational, and historic assets. They provide critical wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities including fishing, boating, and skating,

and historical resources with particular significance for Native American, Colonial, and industrial history. However, non-native aquatic plants and pollutants impair the water quality of multiple West Bridgewater water bodies. These issues should be addressed to improve the water quality of these critical assets.

Scenic Vistas and Agricultural Land

West Bridgewater's most compelling landscapes are its open fields and water bodies, which provide scenic vistas that contribute to its open space character. Low-density suburban growth in West Bridgewater, which consumes open space and agricultural land, contributes to the significant decline of local agriculture and scenic vistas.

B. Summary of Community Needs

The Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services conducted an Outdoor Needs Survey for its 2017 SCORP update. Respondents explained what motivates them to participate in outdoor recreation. The number one response was for physical fitness, followed closely by mental well-being and being close to nature. The proximity of an outdoor recreation facility to the home was the top reason it was visited most frequently.

These state-level survey responses provide an essential reference point for the input gathered during West Bridgewater's OSRP update process. Like state-wide preferences, West Bridgewater survey responses indicate that they seek to improve neighborhood walkability, expand the range and connectivity of the off-road trail network, and broaden access to nature within their community.

Survey data indicates that the top three outdoor activities are:

1. Walking/Jogging/Running
2. Off-Road Biking
3. Gardening

Over 58% of survey respondents said they performed these activities 2-4 times weekly. Fifty-three percent of survey respondents indicated a park, trail, or conservation area within a ten-minute walk from home. Sixty-six percent indicated that they drove to the recreation destination. Survey respondents stated that the top three recreational facilities that they feel are needed include bike trails, conservation areas, and a skate park. When conducting personal interviews with residents 35 years of age and over, the most requested recreational facility is a pickleball court.

Outside of locational accessibility, recreational opportunities must be provided for all age groups. West Bridgewater's generally aging population may no longer be well served by walking trails or sports facilities and will need additional recreational outlets. Gardening and swimming are increasingly popular among West Bridgewater's older residents. Community gardens, whether operated through town boards, civic organizations, or privately, also add a social aspect to gardening. Most of West Bridgewater's municipal recreational areas are not easily accessible to people with disabilities, regardless of age, though older people are more proportionally affected. Access to recreational areas in West Bridgewater's passive and active recreational areas

for people with mobility limitations is lacking and needs to be incorporated into new projects and facility upgrades.

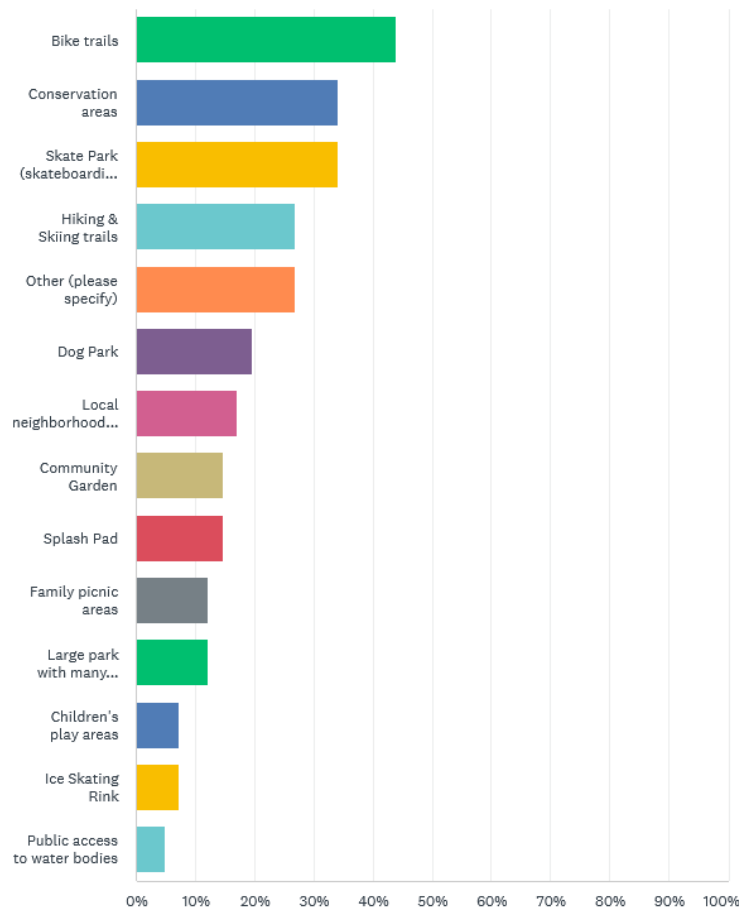
Public and private youth programs, whose focuses range from sports to fine arts, commonly provide recreational opportunities for West Bridgewater's youth and adolescent populations. Accessibility must be considered for all residents regardless of socioeconomic status. The town's lower-income residents rely significantly on these programs for recreational opportunities and often need to have program fees waived.

The goals outlined in this report hope to create inclusive recreational spaces that provide for all West Bridgewater residents, regardless of individual location, age, disability, or other factors. These spaces include recreational opportunities on conservation lands and preserved open spaces, allowing both the ecological health of the environment and the mental spirit of West Bridgewater residents to flourish better.

Figure 50: Survey Response to Top Three Recreational Facilities Needed

Please check the TOP THREE recreational facilities you feel are needed:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



Who Responded to the Latest Survey?

In 2023, 113 people identified themselves as living, working, or owning property within the Town of West Bridgewater and were qualified to complete the survey. Most respondents have been in town for a long time, as approximately three-fourths of respondents have lived, worked, or owned property in town for ten or more years. Among these respondents, more than half were aged 55+, and more than half identified as women. Although the survey received a diverse mix of town stakeholders, results may be skewed toward these demographics.

When surveyed, West Bridgewater residents indicated that walking and hiking were the top outdoor activities, followed by kayaking/canoeing and fishing. Most respondents (62.5%) visit open spaces within town at least a few times a week, and all respondents stated that open space is at least somewhat important to a good quality of life in the community.

Survey participants were asked to evaluate their satisfaction with various open spaces in town. Respondents indicated the most excellent satisfaction with the following:

1. War Memorial Park
2. Friendship Park
3. Town River

When asked about using state facilities, 31.71 percent of respondents said they used them a few times a year. When asked about using local facilities, 41.46 percent of respondents said they used them weekly.

Respondents were then asked to check the outdoor amenities they feel the town needs more. Respondents indicated:

1. Paved paths for walking or running.
2. Farms and community food-growing gardens.
3. Swimming areas.

Respondents were then asked to check the top three athletic facilities needed. Respondents indicated:

1. Pickleball Courts.
2. Soccer Fields.
3. Basketball Courts.

Respondents were then asked to check the open space-related programs they feel the town needs more. Respondents indicated:

1. Agricultural/Gardening Programs.
2. Nature/Wildlife Educational Programs.
3. Outdoor Community Events.

Respondents were then asked whether the town should take various actions. Responses indicated:

1. Improve communication about open spaces in town, providing information and maps.
2. Use civic organizations or associations to help maintain open spaces.
3. Work with landowners on deeds or conservation restrictions to limit future land development.

Respondents were then asked to reflect on the importance of various actions for the town. Respondents placed the most significant importance on the following:

1. Using open space to help protect drinking water supplies.
2. Leaving open space alone to preserve/restore wildlife habitat and natural functions.
3. Using open space to reduce flooding in the community.

Respondents were asked: Does our town have enough open spaces for each age group? Respondents expressed the most significant concern for those aged 13-17 and 60+.

Respondents were asked: Do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in town are accessible to those in the community with disabilities? Those stating these spaces were inaccessible (30.9%) cited concerns with uneven terrain, insufficient paths, signage, parking, and seating.

Respondents were asked: If anything prevents you from enjoying open space in our town, please tell us below. Responses included:

- Maintenance of trails and signage (20.0%)
- Limited parking (15.6%)
- Safety (13.3%)

Toward the end of the survey, people were asked for their ideas and input on open space. A summary of the responses is below:

- Limit development.
- Increase recreational amenities.
- Increase safety precautions for pedestrians.
- Increase the output of information from the Town.

The total responses to each survey set (2021, 2022, 2023) can be found in the appendix.

Access and Accessibility

West Bridgewater does not have an existing EJ community. It is adjacent to towns with large EJ communities and needs to support those communities by providing access to open spaces. From a regional perspective, the town must maintain its parks system.

Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative reports that residents 60+ in West Bridgewater are almost equivalent to state estimates. However, the town and state have fewer seniors meeting physical activity guidelines.

Table 66: Healthy Aging Indicators for West Bridgewater

HEALTHY AGING INDICATORS FOR WEST BRIDGEWATER		
source: Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative	Community Estimate	State Estimate
% 60+ with any physical activity within the last month	74.5%	73.3%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for muscle-strengthening activity	26.0%	27.7%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for aerobic physical activity	59.6%	56.8%
% 60+ met CDC guidelines for both types of physical activities	20.2%	20.8%

All new construction and renovation of public facilities since 1968 must be accessible to people with disabilities. This plan identifies several measures the Town can take to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and needs of disabled residents for equal access to open space and recreational facilities. Demographic trends also show the possible need for programming for aging adults. Those over 65 were 14.5 percent of the town in 1990 and grew to 17.8 percent by 2000. In 2010, residents over 65 decreased slightly to 16.5 percent of the total population. In 2021, the population aged 65 and over was estimated to be 16.4 percent.³¹ This trend is essential when planning for all West Bridgewater residents' open space and recreation needs. Recreational resources that meet the needs and accommodate the abilities of these older residents will be an essential component of this plan. A copy of the ADA Transition Plan can be downloaded at <https://oldcolonyplanning.org/document/west-bridgewater-ada-self-assessment/>.

The results of the ADA self-assessment Transition Plan were prepared for Town officials to outline infrastructure investments to improve accessibility and how to program for disabled youths and adults, as well as aging adults with mobility challenges. The table below depicts specific needs.

The town has improved many trails, recreation spaces, and public buildings but recognizes the gaps in accessibility and will continue to strive for safe, accessible spaces throughout the town.

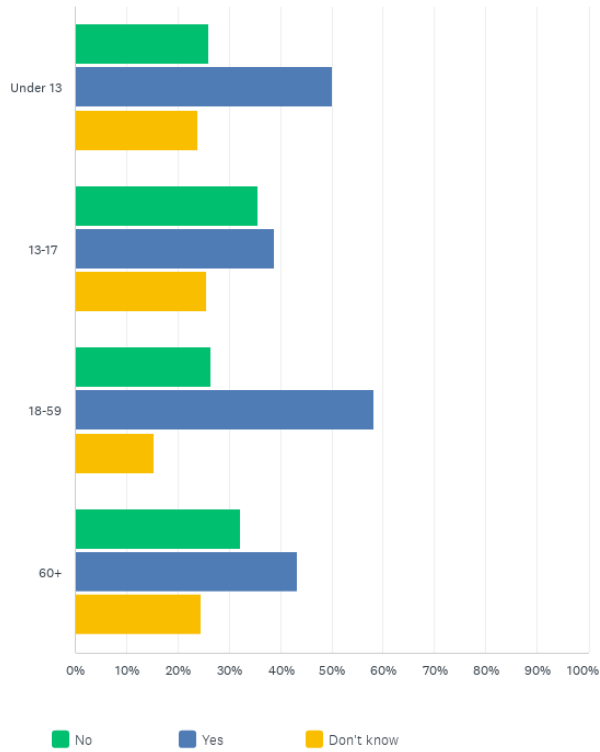
Teenagers have been identified as a group in need of improved access to recreational spaces. This was echoed in the survey results. More respondents said there were not enough open spaces for the age group. The town has limited community spaces, especially for those aged 13-17. The town does not have a community center but lacks park and recreation spaces appropriate to this age category, such as an indoor community space or a skate park. Another concern the survey highlighted that impacts this age category directly is the challenge of traveling to recreation spaces.

³¹ 2010, 2021 ACS DP05

Table 67: Facilities with Identified Needed Accessibility Improvements

FACILITIES WITH IDENTIFIED NEEDED ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS		
Facility Name	Owner/Manager	Corrective Action
Howard School Soccer Field	School Department	Provide Accessible Seating
Softball & Baseball Fields – Town Hall	Department of Public Works/ Youth Athletic Association	Create accessible pathways, line parking spaces, update bathrooms, remediate the steps to the clubhouse, and update spectator seating, benches, and picnic tables. Locate some seating and tables in shade areas.
Friendship Park	Department of Public Works	Move the picnic table to a flat surface for accessibility (no cost) or consider installing pathways or walkway access mats (moderate cost). Provide seating opportunities in shaded areas. Signs could be updated to have sound and braille.
MacDonald School Playground	School Department	The playground is aging, and the ground is uneven, with no accessibility features and shade. A committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities.
Torrie’s Place Playground	School Department	Not open to the public. The playground is aging, the ground is uneven, and there are no accessibility features. There is no flat path from the school to the playground. A committee has been tasked with evaluating all school recreational facilities.
Pratt’s Landing	Conservation Commission	The Conservation Commission plans to develop the site further to create appropriate parking for handicap accessibility and improve signage.
Reynold’s Landing	Conservation Commission	Expand and clear the trail’s pathway to make it more accessible. Identify accessible parking spaces with signage.
Trucchi’s Landing	Conservation Commission	Due to the terrain, compliance with the landing is impractical; however, the grassy area could be enhanced to include other sensory amenities.
Comfort Bridge & Solitude Rock	Conservation Commission	Consider adding accessible signage and an accessible marker or informational kiosk.
Gazebo at Town Hall	Department of Public Works	Per 4-1-23, The town has created a statement of work and a request for proposals and is awaiting responses.
Skim Milk Bridge	Conservation Commission	The Conservation Commission sponsored a CPC application in 2020 to perform a structural evaluation and recommend stabilization. Ensure that accessibility is considered during this project.
Veteran’s Park	Department of Public Works	Create parking spots on the shoulder near the fence. Create accessible pathways in the park.
Flaggy Meadows	Conservation Commission	Create pathways and signage or informational kiosks.
Forest Street Fish and Game Area	Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife	Identify the party responsible for path clearing, vegetation management, and tree removal. Put a system in place for reporting.
Hockomock Swamp/Bay Circuit Trail	Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife	Identify the party responsible for path clearing, vegetation management, and tree removal. Establish a reporting system. Add signage or a trailhead marker. Add an accessible parking space.
Holmes Hill	Conservation Commission	Identify and define parking areas with accessible space. Clear and define a path for travel.
Howe Memorial Skating Rink	Department of Public Works	If accessible parking spots were designated in the adjacent Fire/Police Station parking lot, the area could be made accessible for persons with disabilities. It could then be used as a viewing/drop-off area for the skating rink. Consider adding accessible benches.
War Memorial Park	Department of Public Works	Identify accessible parking spaces. Define the path of travel and widen and level it. Move ADA tables to a shaded area. Move trash barrels closer to the path.
West Bridgewater Rail Trail	Conservation Commission	Update, level, and widen trails. Create accessible parking and consider an interpretive kiosk.
Woodcock Chase Land	Conservation Commission	Identify parking areas with proper signage and access.
Please view the complete ADA self-assessment Checklist in the appendix.		

Q8 Do you think our town has enough suitable open spaces for the each of the following age groups to enjoy?



C. Summary of Recreation Needs

Among athletic fields, survey respondents noted the greatest need for more pickleball courts, soccer fields, and basketball courts. However, many survey respondents (19.75%) also stated that no new athletic fields were needed in town. Many athletic fields already exist throughout town, and priority should be given to other recreational facilities.

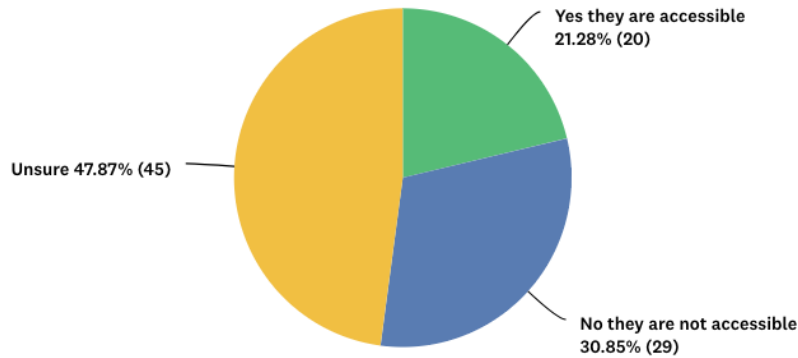
1. Access for underserved populations.

While West Bridgewater does not have any Environmental Justice communities within town, it is vital from a regional perspective to prioritize open spaces that serve Environmental Justice communities in neighboring jurisdictions, such as Brockton and Bridgewater.

Among those with an opinion on the accessibility of open spaces and recreational facilities (i.e., answering the following question with a definitive yes or no), 59.18% of respondents noted that these spaces are not currently accessible. Respondents reported a need for improvements to the uneven terrain, pathways, signage, parking, and seating at these facilities.

Do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in town are accessible to those in the community with disabilities? (i.e. mobility, seeing, hearing impairments)

Answered: 94 Skipped: 26



2. Support the statewide MassTrails Program.

Walking/hiking is an essential outdoor activity for residents. Nearly all respondents to the survey (88.66%) listed it as one of their top three outdoor activities. It is vital to continue to support this popular activity through the maintenance and production of recreation areas.

Residents' main concern about the inaccessibility of open spaces and recreation in town was that trails were uneven and muddy. Maintaining and improving the existing trails in town should be a high priority. Survey respondents noted the most significant dissatisfaction with the West Bridgewater Rail Trail and West Bridgewater State Forest.

Many survey respondents also noted a need for increased trails throughout town. Nearly two-thirds of residents (62.50%) expressed a need for paved paths, and over one-third (35.23%) expressed a need for paved trails for walking, hiking, and running. Further, 26.14% expressed a need for off-road bicycle trails.

3. Increase the availability of water-based recreation.

Kayaking/canoeing and fishing are popular recreational activities among residents, with 36.08% and 23.71% of survey respondents listing these activities among their top three outdoor activities, respectively. It is essential to continue supporting recreation areas by maintaining and improving existing spaces, particularly in the West Meadows Pond, as 12.91% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with this space.

Additionally, nearly half of survey respondents (43.18%) expressed a need for outdoor swimming areas. West Bridgewater's water facilities do not allow public swimming, but there is significant interest in building a public swimming pool.

4. Support the creation and renovation of neighborhood parks.

War Memorial Park is a popular community park located centrally within the town. Nearly all survey respondents (85.11%) have visited this outdoor space and were satisfied/very satisfied with the park.

A neighborhood park is like a community park but is smaller in area and serves a smaller geographic area within walking or biking distance of the park. The town should support the creation of neighborhood parks to provide water, forest, and landscaped settings within development areas.

Nearly half (48.86%) of survey respondents needed farms and community food-growing gardens. Community gardens promote sustainable agriculture, improve nutrition and physical activity, and provide a positive social space for the community.

D. Summary of Management Needs and Use Change

Management and maintenance of the town's open space and recreation facilities are critical to these resources' safe functioning and continued operation. Maintaining safe and secure access by residents, maintaining grounds and fields, maintaining equipment, and protecting against vandalism are a few of the many issues that must be addressed on a routine schedule by the Town. Funding for managing and maintaining open space and recreation facilities must be evaluated when acquiring future resources. It is essential for an Open Space and Recreation Plan to outline specific recommendations that will help the Town meet its open space and recreation goals strategically. The Town must have the tools and policies to implement the plan's recommendations. These include:

- Working with existing staff to develop plans for improved trail maintenance.
- Working with existing staff to determine grants best suited for trail maintenance, markings, wayfinding signs, and park advertisements.

Survey question: Most respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with War Memorial Park (85.11%), Friendship Park (67.39%), the Town River (62.63%), West Bridgewater Rail Trail (58.07%), and Pratt's Landing (53.76%).

The survey determined that many parks were being used, and many were satisfied with the parks. The most significant identified concern for parks was parking. War Memorial Park is heavily used and enjoyed by those in town, but it is not within walking distance for many, and the ability to park your car near the park is limited. Town staff should consider opportunities to

improve accessibility to the park through traditional parking spaces or alternative transportation improvements such as shuttles, improved neighborhood sidewalks, or bicycle lanes.

Based on survey results and town volunteer feedback, better management of trails and recreational spaces in town is needed. Creating a subcommittee of the conservation commission dedicated to trail management will allow the town to improve trail paths and track progress more closely on accessibility concerns. The subcommittee can also serve as a space for avid town hikers to voice concerns and volunteer on initiatives to improve trail systems.

The town previously had a more substantial commitment to operating a webpage dedicated to conservation, open space, and recreation. Revamping digital information regarding West Bridgewater recreation should be an additional priority for this group.

Table 68: Town Managed Recreation Space

TOWN MANAGED RECREATION SPACE	
Facility Name	Owner/Manager
Friendship Park	Department of Public Works
Pratt's Landing	Conservation Commission
Reynold's Landing	Conservation Commission
Trucchi's Landing	Conservation Commission
Comfort Bridge & Solitude Rock	Conservation Commission
Skim Milk Bridge	Conservation Commission
Veteran's Park	Department of Public Works
Flaggy Meadows	Conservation Commission
Forest Street Fish and Game Area	Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife
Hockomock Swamp/Bay Circuit Trail	Massachusetts Department of Fish & Wildlife
Holmes Hill	Conservation Commission
War Memorial Park	Department of Public Works
West Bridgewater Rail Trail	Conservation Commission
Woodcock Chase Land	Conservation Commission

SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The goals and objectives in this Plan Update are to balance recreation and conservation. The following list of goals and objectives reflects a collective vision shared by the community members, the Open Space Committee, and various town departments.

Vision

In envisioning the future of West Bridgewater, our Community Vision is centered on cherishing natural beauty, fostering inclusivity, and promoting active, healthy lifestyles for all residents. Guided by an understanding of evolving demographics and changing needs, we prioritize equitable access to recreational opportunities, stewardship of natural resources through education and advocacy, and promoting health and sustainability through connective networks and diverse recreational offerings. Nurturing community engagement and collaboration, we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations, striving towards a brighter, more sustainable future for our town.

Goals and Objectives

1. Protect and improve the Town's natural environment for the benefit of the Town's current and future citizens, optimizing resources for water and habitat protection, invasive species management, and climate resilience.
2. Prioritize the preservation of open space in the context of managing the Town's growth through various means, including bylaws, articulated zoning, managing the impacts of state and federal mandates, adopting Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques whenever possible, and consistent enforcement of established protections.
3. Plan for the future of the Town's existing water structures, including dams, stone bridges, and fish ladder.
4. Establish a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission to create management plans for the Town's open space holdings, including conservation areas, trails, landings, waterways, and new acquisitions that support their protection, maintenance, and optimize appropriate public access to them, with the further possibility of forming associated Friends Groups.
5. Task all designated stakeholders of this 2024 Open Space Plan to track their progress in meeting their agreed-upon goals; on a 3-year basis, report those findings to the Open Space Committee when invited. The Open Space Committee will collate and make those

findings public and use the acquired information to prepare incrementally for the 2031 Open Space Plan.

6. Promote increased awareness and passive use of the Town's trails and landings, utilizing digital maps, kiosks, the Town's website, and community engagement opportunities.
7. Promote safe pedestrian and bike access outdoors by supporting sidewalk construction, bike lanes, riding loops, and greenway connectivity between the Town's open spaces.
8. Pursue the acquisition and protection of valuable open space assets for recreation, conservation, and resource protection in a manner that addresses the town's identified needs.
9. Establish a resource hub that makes available information on relevant programs, including land stewardship and trusts, tax incentives, and conservation easement opportunities for Town landowners interested in protecting the undeveloped, forested, farmed, river-accessible, scenic, or historic property for the future.

2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan Outcomes

Open Space Related

1. To retain or provide some significant open space and recreation land in and around all neighborhoods to serve as the neighborhood focus or backdrop.

Outcome Partly Realized: 110 acres of open space on Scotland St (Haseotis) are protected and associated with a 112-unit 40 B housing development currently under construction.

Not realized, but still possible: Acquisition of 21.27 acres of Ch 61 woodlands (M25 L 40) with frontage on Copeland St. (Map 42.034790, -71.011746) and abuts a central Ch 61 holding. This site was ranked highest (55) by the Manomet Center, shown as Supporting Natural Landscape on the BioMap, offering a permanent wooded backdrop to surrounding neighborhoods.

2. Create a town-wide, regionally oriented network of related open spaces and habitat areas.
 - a. ***Objective:*** Identify opportunities to tie together conservation lands, agricultural lands, wildlands, and other resources along the Coweaset Brook and Hockamock River Corridor, as suggested in the 1999 Open Space Plan.

Figure 51: Cowseaset Brook and Hockomock River Corridor



Outcome Partly Realized: Acquisition of Snell's landing on Manley Street. Continue pursuing this goal.

b. **Objective:** Continue exploring opportunities to jointly manage Town River Pond in cooperation with the Town of Bridgewater and the owners of the Stanley Mill Dam.

Outcome Partly Realized, in progress: Bridgewater's High Street Dam is being removed, which will no longer be a Town River Pond to manage cooperatively.

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, with the potential to create a needed wildlife corridor.

Outcome: Not realized as there are currently proposed developments on several parcels; however, the opportunity to coordinate to preserve open space and encourage enhanced site usage may remain.

3. Enhancement and protection of major public holdings by acquiring key in-holdings and abutting properties.

a. **Objective:** State or Town acquisition of parcels M15 Lots 8 & 9 (u-10) and parcel M22 L7 (U-3). The first two parcels hold 6.97 acres of mixed woods between the town holding C-11 and the State Forest, while the second is a wooded in-holding surrounded by State Forest or townland.

Outcome: Parcels 6.97 acres (3.53 ac and 3.44 ac) are privately held, and the second parcel is still privately held.

- b. **Objective** -Town or State acquisition of 21.96 acres on parcel M30 L20 between State Forest, the Mill Pond (C-2), and the Stoney Road neighborhood to expand, connect, and improve access to these holdings (U-7).
Outcome: The parcel is still privately held.

- c. **Objective** -Cooperative acquisition of 71.15 acres of 61A pasture and woods between the northwest corner of the State Forest and Walnut St., thereby expanding the northern edge of the Forest near Environmental Justice neighborhoods in Brockton and protecting habitats and meadows. (U-13)

Outcome Not realized, only 41.18 acres left after the land was sold off for “The Farm.” housing development, but it is worth working with the owner to preserve as much remaining land as possible as open space.

Water Related

4. To continue identifying and protecting essential water resources and recharge areas.
- a. **Objective:** Acquisition of land-locked 4.38-acre wooded private parcel 19/11 (U-17) east of Matfield Woods housing development.
Outcome: Accomplished, now owned by the Town.
- b. **Objective:** Confirmation/revision of present Zone II recharge areas.
Outcome: Accomplished, completed by the Town.
- c. **Objective:** Land acquisition directly west of Manley Street wells to further protect them.
Outcome: Partly realized with the acquisition of Snell’s Landing, more acquisitions may be possible.
5. To protect environmentally sensitive areas, including the quality and capacity of the public drinking water supply.
- a. **Objective:** Adopt and implement local regulations supporting the new State Stormwater Regulations, PFAS removal, and encouraging Low Impact Development (LID).
Outcome: Partly realized, Stormwater Bylaw and Regulations passed and are in progress; LID will be introduced in 2023. Work is ongoing and needs to continue.
6. To protect the riparian areas of the Town River and various ponds and streams.
- a. **Objective:** Acquisition of two 61A parcels M14 L24; 84 acres and M14 L25 2.56 acres along the Coweaset Brook between the present M14 L45 streamside conservation holding (C-1) and 0.69-acre Town holding M14 L45 recommended for transfer to the Conservation Commission (U-50).
Outcome: 2018 APR, part of DeMolles Farm.
- b. **Objective:** Transfer the parcel M14 L45 above to the Conservation Commission (U-24).

- Outcome:** This parcel may already be sold or be at risk of being sold to an abutter, but it should be retained to form a connection from Walnut St. parcel M14 L26 in conjunction with an agreement with the APR owners.
- c. **Objective:** Support continued improvements to the Skim Milk Bridge holdings.
Outcome: Needs to be continued.
 - d. **Objective:** Seek access to the Coweaset Brook along a portion of Ch61, 61A, and 61B parcels M14 L25, M14 L26, M14 L30, and M14 L36.
Outcome: M14 L26 is now town-owned; additional recommended acquisitions must continue.
 - e. **Objective:** Examine the proposed gift from Supervalu Inc. (owners of Shaw’s Market) of an estimated 30 acres of wetlands and woods along the Hocomock River, south of Route 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.
Outcome: Acquisition needs to be pursued.

Habitat Related

- 7. To identify and protect critical habitat, particularly for endangered and threatened species.
 - a. **Objective:** Acquisition of parcels M51 Lots 14, 17, 23, and 24 for 14.83 acres of estimated woodland and wetland habitat within and south of the Flaggy Meadow holdings and incorporation of them into the area (U-16).
Outcome: The property is privately owned.
 - b. **Objective:** Enhancement of Habitat connectivity by adjoining town woodland (M2 Lots 1, 3, 4, and M6 L3) in the northeast corner of West Bridgewater with the State Forest by acquiring 34.64 acres of woodlands (a large portion of the 1830 Primary Forest) on parcels M5 Lots 2, 3, 4, 6, and M6 L1 and a portion of the 132.79-acre M5 L2 in cooperation with the MA Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Outcome: Parcels M2 Lots 1, 3, 4, and M6 L3 are in the preliminary stages of development for residential housing. Three different groups own parcel 6.001, which is wet and could connect with M2 L1.
- 8. To protect various forests, wetlands, edge, and increasingly endangered grasslands and pond shore habitats.
 - a. **Objective:** acquisition of parcel M46 L15 offering 7.62 acres of wet meadow under C61 and next to the Richards donation (C-16) just to the west of Beaverton Woods.
Outcome: The property is privately owned.

- b. **Objective:** Acquisition of parcel M40 L8 with 72.97 acres of scenic wet meadows and fields (“Tedeschi Land”) backing onto significant wetlands that abut the Rail Trail. Use for open space, grassland habitat, and leased farming (U-14).
 - c. **Outcome:** This is now C&C Reading Farm LLC Deed Book 44071, page 6.
 - d. **Objective:** Establish nesting-friendly mowing practices in significant grassland holdings.
9. To establish a greenbelt, even if discontinuous, along West Bridgewater’s portion of the joint West Bridgewater/Bridgewater Town River Greenway as proposed by the Town of Bridgewater.
- a. **Objective:** Acquisition of parcel M54 L42, offering 28.05 acres of low-lying land along the Town River just downstream from Reynolds Landing on Ash St. and across from the River Bend Golf Course, incorporating the adjacent 1.42-acre upstream town parcel, if appropriate (U-15) and (U-2).
Outcome: This property is now town-owned.
 - b. **Objective:** Integration of adjacent 1.42-acre town-owned parcel to the north (M54 L44) with Reynolds Landing.
Outcome: This property is now town-owned.
10. To seek to meet traditional recreational needs and exploit unique local or regional opportunities.
- a. **Objective:** Acquisition of 26.89-acre parcel M27 L73, former railroad right of way now under Ch. 61A is running in a deep cut from the rail trail end at East St to the tracks and potentially to Matfield Street. Design and implement appropriate connections and grading (U-4).
Outcome: This parcel is privately owned.
 - b. **Objective:** Explore creating appropriate authorized sites for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road motorcycle (dirt bike) usage. Consider M32 L59.
 - c. **Objective:** Expansion of state park and establishment of simple tenting areas.
Outcome: Not realized.
 - d. **Objective:** Designation/establishment of community gardens for people with small shaded or rocky yards.
Outcome: *Not realized, but it could be possible at Pratts Landing or another town-owned site.*
11. To increase access to water activities.
- Outcomes:** Acquisitions and improvements: Pratt’s Landing with Canoe launch; Snell’s Landing.
- a. **Objective:** Improve access to West Meadows Pond and improve trails around the pond.

SECTION 9: SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Action Plan guides future planning efforts to protect natural resources, improve recreational opportunities, and make West Bridgewater a more climate-resilient community over the next seven years (2030). It is designed to implement the goals and objectives outlined in Section 8 and to address the needs identified in Section 7. The Action Plan is also intended to be consistent with other local plans, specifically those outlined in Section 6, and to the extent practical, the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The following West Bridgewater Action Plan map highlights places in West Bridgewater that link to selected OSRP objectives.

The Open Space Committee oversees the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the numerous Town departments, boards, and committees, private and non-profit entities, and regional, state, and federal agencies with ownership and management responsibilities.

The Action Plan prioritizes strategies based on a targeted completion timeframe as follows:

- Highest priority actions will be accomplished in the short term (2024 – 2026).
- Actions that meet intermediate needs will be accomplished in the mid-term (2027 – 2029).
- Lower priority actions will be accomplished in the long-term (2030 – 2031).
- Ongoing actions occur during the entire seven-year period.

Potential funding sources are identified for each action item, ranging from available municipal budgets to applying for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds or pursuing state or federal grant opportunities. An acronym key is provided. Each action item also has one or more responsible parties listed to champion its implementation.

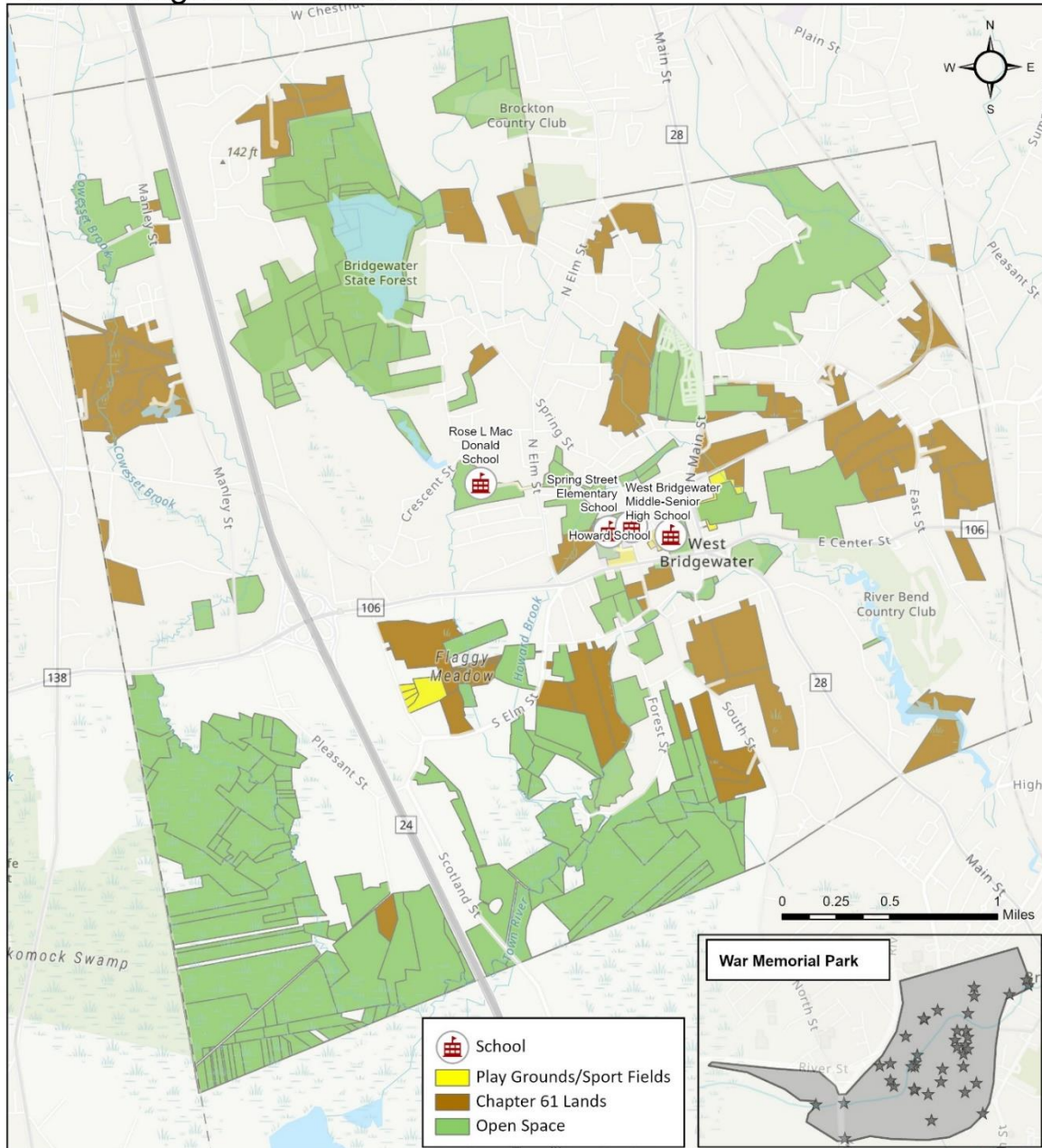
Implementation

Implementing the Action Plan will take the coordinated effort of all responsible parties. As the entity responsible for the OSRP, the Open Space Committee will ask all participants in the Action Plan to report annually the status of their respective action items. Timeframes are established; however, it is recognized that circumstances may change and impact resource availability, which may cause actions to move up or down in priority. As leading parties report to the Open Space Committee, they should discuss why actions could not be completed, or others rose to the top. This will help the Town prepare for the next OSRP update and other open space and recreational planning efforts. As supporting documents, reports, and studies used to develop the OSRP are revised, updated, and implemented, these activities should also be reported to the Open Space Committee and documented for future OSRP updates.

All this work will be guided by the Town of West Bridgewater’s overriding community goal: **West Bridgewater values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.**

Figure 52: West Bridgewater Action Plan

West Bridgewater Action Plan



1. Schools: Work with local schools to create programming around environmental concerns relevant to West Bridgewater.
2. Playgrounds and Sports Fields: Evaluate current playgrounds and sports fields and create a capital improvement plan.
3. Chapter 61 Lands: Work with Chapter 61 land owners to determine long-term conservation plans.
4. War Memorial Park: Conduct outreach to find the most appropriate parking alternatives for War Memorial Park to increase use.


 Old Colony Planning Council
 70 School Street, Brockton,
 MA 02301
oldcolonyplanning.org
 Created Feb 2024
 GIS Data Sources: MassGIS, ESRI,
 Old Colony Planning Council

SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN TABLE

Acronym Key

The Action Plan prioritizes strategies based on a targeted completion timeframe as follows:

- Highest priority actions will be ranked number 1, and anticipated completion will be in the short term 2024-2026.
- Actions that meet intermediate needs will be ranked two and accomplished in a later term (2027 – 2030).
- Ongoing actions occur during the entire seven-year period and are ranked 3. Many of these tasks will live the life of this document. These tasks are no less critical and require more extended periods.

AARP- The American Association of Retired Persons

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act (federal)

ADACC- Americans with Disabilities Compliance Committee (town)

AGRI – Agricultural Commission (town)

APR – Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program (state & Federal)

BLDG – Building Inspector (town)

BOA – Board of Appeals (town)

BOH – Board of Health (town)

CIP – Capital Improvement Plan (town)

COA – Council on Aging

CONCOM – Conservation Commission (town)

CPA – Community Preservation Act (town)

CPC – Community Planning Committee (town)

DCR – Department of Conservation and Recreation (state)

DOER – Department of Energy Resources (state)

DPW – Department of Public Works (town)

EAA – Economic Adjustments Assistance Act (federal)

EDA – Economic Development Administration (federal)

EEG – Environmental Education Grants

EOEEA – Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (state)
FG – Forest Stewardship Planning Grants or Urban and Community Forestry Challenge
F&P – Forestry & Parks
GC – Green Communities Program (state)
HIST – Historical Commission (town)
LAND – Land Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Grant Program (state)
LIP – Landowner Incentive Program (state)
LWCF – Land and Water Conservation Fund (state)
MACRIS – Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System
MADAR – Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (state)
MADCR – Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (state)
MassDOT Complete Streets Program (state)
Mass Trails (state)
MassWorks – MassWorks Infrastructure Program (state)
MET – Mass Environmental Trust (state)

MPPF – MA Preservation Projects Fund (state)
MVP – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness – (state)
NEMBA – New England Mountain Biking Association
OCPC - Old Colony Planning Council (RPA)
OS&RC – Open Space & Recreational Committee (town)
PARC – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program – MA DCR (state)
PB – Planning Board (town)
WBWC – West Bridgewater Water Commission (town)
RSC – Recreational Space Committee (town)
Safe Routes to School - (State)
SD – School Department
SB – Select Board (town)
Town Department Committee budgets (town)
TP – Town Planner
TGW – Town Grant Writer (town)
Town Meeting (town)
TRFC- Town River Fisheries Committee (town)

WATER – Water Department (town)

WT – Wildlands Trust (non-profit)
ZBA - Zoning Board of Appeals (town)

Table 69: West Bridgewater Seven-Year Action Plan

WEST BRIDGEWATER SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN						
Goal	Objective	Priority	Actions	Responsible Party	Time	Funding Source
Protect and improve the Town's natural environment for the benefit of its current and future citizens, optimizing resources for water and habitat protection, invasive species management, and climate resilience.	A Conservation Restriction Policy protects land with conservation and resource values.	2	Formalize a Conservation Restriction Policy to encourage Conservation Restrictions on non-traditional parcels.	<i>Conservation Commission</i>	2025-2027	TOWN
		3	Encourage conservation restrictions for land with significant conservation value even when public access is not an option.	<i>Conservation Commission</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
		3	Ensure that conservation restrictions are considered during large-scale planning processes.	<i>Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Dept., Agricultural Commission</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
	Provide environmental stewardship and climate resilience information to help users protect the Town's natural environment and properties.	1	Expand and formalize educational programs on sustainability for residents, such as native plant gardening, pollinator pathways, and water conservation strategies, to block, district, or town scale.	<i>Open Space Committee</i>	2025-2028	TOWN
		1	Continue to upgrade and expand wayfinding, interpretive signage, and other materials integrated into historic sites, conservation areas, and other natural places. Ensure materials are accessible to people with diverse abilities and language needs, including translation, tactile, braille, and larger print options.	<i>Open Space Committee, Town Administrator, DPW</i>	Ongoing	TOWN

	Agricultural land, including fields, meadows, and orchards, is protected.	1	Monitor the status and develop plans for protecting high-impact parcels (Chapter 61 properties, other non-protected parcels).	<i>Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, DPW, Agriculture Commission,</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
		1	Work with landowners to monitor the status and develop plans for protecting high-impact parcels (Chapter 61 properties, other non-protected parcels).	<i>Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, DPW, Agriculture Commission,</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
		1	Work with the committee established in the Action Item above to establish an outreach protocol for private property owners.	<i>Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, DPW, Agriculture Commission,</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
	The Open Space Committee will highlight efforts in town—by the town and its residents—to advance open space protection and interests.	1	Actively advocate for implementing OSRP goals, objectives, and priorities in conjunction with other Town Plans and policies supporting open space and recreation planning.	<i>Open Space Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission</i>	2025-2028	TOWN
		1	Work with all responsible parties to develop metrics and other methods to measure progress and document accomplishments on all OSRP goals, objectives, and action items.	<i>Open Space Committee, Planning Board</i>	2025-2028	TOWN
		1	Continue to hold town events like River Day to engage and educate residents about local environmental issues and projects.	<i>Open Space Committee, DPW, Planning Board</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
		1	Work with local youth groups, churches, schools, scout groups, and other organizations to promote awareness about	<i>Open Space Committee, Parks, Community Groups</i>	Ongoing	TOWN

			the Town's open space, recreation facilities, and activities.			
	Increase public awareness and encourage using the Town's natural areas, recreational facilities, and other public spaces.	1	Coordinate and support community events and educational programming at Town facilities to increase awareness and promote their use. Prioritize using sites in different parts of town to reach all residents.	<i>Open Space Committee, Parks, Community Groups</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
Prioritize the preservation of open space in the context of managing the Town's growth through various means, including bylaws, articulated zoning, managing the impacts of state and federal mandates, adopting Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques whenever possible, and consistent enforcement of established protections.	Open communication channels with the Town Planner and Planning Department to ensure better protection of open space and green features in the context of development and town planning efforts.	1	Work with the permitting boards to review opportunities for additional protections.	<i>Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals.</i>	2024-2026	TOWN
	Expand and enhance opportunities to utilize nontraditional open spaces.	1	Promote the availability of public spaces, outdoor restaurant seating, and other opportunities to enjoy small, landscaped areas along streets and sidewalks.	<i>Open Space Committee, Local Businesses, Planning Board</i>	2025-2027	TOWN
		1	Provide information about small, little-known open spaces such as conservation parcels, rain gardens, other green infrastructure, and community gardens.	<i>Open Space Committee, Local Businesses, Planning Board</i>	2025-2027	TOWN
	When addressing affordable housing construction, consider using overlay districts, buffer zones, and cluster zoning to protect open space.	2	Modify the Zoning Bylaws to require projects over a certain size to meet specific goals using standardized tools such as the US Green Building Council's Sustainable Sites rating system.	<i>Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Building Dept.</i>	2027-2030	TOWN, One Stop Funding

	Modify the Zoning by-laws to encourage protecting or creating open space, trees, and green features.	2	Modify the Zoning Bylaws to require projects over a certain size to meet specific goals using standardized tools such as the US Green Building Council's Sustainable Sites rating system.	<i>Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Building Dept.</i>	2027-2030	TOWN, One Stop Funding
Plan for the future of the Town's existing water structures, including dams, stone bridges, and fish ladders.	Work with partner stakeholders to ensure structures meet current safety standards and operate appropriately to protect water quality.	3	Continue to maintain a relationship with Bridgewater to review the quality of dams.	<i>Conservation Commission, Planning Board, DPW, Building Dept., Select Board, Open Space Committee, TRFC</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
Establish a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission to create management plans for the Town's open space holdings, including conservation areas, trails, landings, waterways, and new acquisitions that support their protection, maintenance, and optimize appropriate public access to them, with the further possibility of forming associated Friends Groups.	The trail management system will rely on both volunteers and grant cycles to improve the safety of trails and accessibility for those with disabilities.	1	Find applicable grants to identified needs specified in ADA Self-Evaluation.	<i>Conservation Commission, Forestry and Parks Department, Open Space Committee, Town Grant Writer, ADA Compliance Committee</i>	2024-2026	MassTrails, AARP
		1	Encourage varied uses at existing parks and playing fields, including unprogrammed and unstructured sports and nontraditional recreational activities.	<i>Open Space Committee, CPA, Select Board, Parks Department</i>	Ongoing	TOWN, CPA, MassTrails
	Support volunteer groups involved with recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.	1	Identify information and training needs for volunteer groups and Friends organizations to help maintain and build capacity and to ensure a large enough pool of volunteers to minimize burnout and retain local experience. Activities can be site-specific or broad enough to cover needs across properties. Topics might include using native plants, sustainable control of invasive plants,	<i>Open Space Committee, Planning Board, Parks,</i>	Ongoing	TOWN, CPA

			and trail maintenance best practices.			
		1	Encourage the involvement and coordination of youth groups, including scouts, community service high school students, sports teams, and other users in caring for all open spaces.	<i>Open Space Committee, DPW, Parks, Conservation Commission</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
		1	Encourage residents to participate actively in various town committees and Friend groups to advocate for investing in and maintaining the town's natural resources.	<i>Open Space Committee, DPW, Parks, Conservation Commission, Planning Board</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
Task all designated stakeholders of this 2024 Open Space Plan to track their progress in meeting their agreed-upon goals and report those findings to the Open Space Committee when invited on a 3-year basis. The Open Space Committee will collate and make those findings public and use the acquired information to prepare incrementally for the 2031 Open Space Plan.	The committee will work with town partners and OCPC to find grant and funding opportunities to implement the plan.	2	Create management plans addressing the needs of various user groups, including age cohorts, varying disabilities, families, and new residents.	<i>Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, ADA Compliance Committee, DPW</i>	2027-2030	TOWN
		3	Using the timeline to appropriately source and apply for grants that help the town meet its goals.	<i>Open Space Committee, Conservation Committee, Town Grant Writer</i>	Ongoing	One Stop, DLTA
Promote increased awareness and passive use of the	The trail management system will rely on both volunteers and grant cycles	1	Find applicable grants to identified needs specified in ADA Self-Evaluation.	<i>Conservation Commission, Forestry and Parks Department,</i>	2024-2026	MassTrails, AARP

Town's trails and landings, utilizing digital maps, kiosks, the Town's website, and community engagement opportunities.	to improve the safety of trails and accessibility for those with disabilities.			<i>Open Space Committee, Town Grant Writer, ADA Compliance Committee</i>		
		3	Engage volunteer groups in open space and trail work.	<i>Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Forestry and Parks Department, School Dept</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
	Increase wayfinding signs and information kiosks.	2	Identify where signs and kiosks are needed and where they exist but must be updated.	<i>Conservation Commission, Forestry and Parks Department, Open Space Committee</i>	2027-2030	TOWN
	Increased awareness of hiking and other recreation opportunities in town through website updates and digital advertising.	1	Assign volunteers to create material for the website and advertise ongoing improvements and recreation opportunities.	<i>Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee</i>	2024-2026	TOWN
		1	Provide up-to-date information about open space areas and recreational facilities on the town's website, social media, and print publications. Ensure that all materials are accessible to all users.	<i>Open Space Committee, DPW, Town Meeting, IT</i>	Ongoing	TOWN
Promote safe pedestrian and bike access outdoors by supporting sidewalk construction, bike lanes, riding loops, and greenway connectivity between the Town's open spaces.	Improve the Town's sidewalks, streets, and recreational corridors to make them safer and more accessible for all users regardless of ability.	1	Continue implementing the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to increase multimodal opportunities in town and address safety, access, and efficiency of walking, biking, and transit use, particularly around Town public spaces and recreational areas.	<i>Planning Board, DPW, Town Administrator, Open Space Committee</i>	Ongoing	TOWN, MassDOT Complete Streets Program, MassTrails
		1	Continue to identify and implement projects around local schools to improve students' walking and biking safety.	<i>Planning Board, School Dept. Open Space Committee, DPW</i>	Ongoing	Town, MassDOT Complete Streets Program

		1	Fund Opportunities to create Green Streets – trees, landscaping, and infrastructure, in consultation with the Town’s Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.	<i>DPW, Select Board, Town Administrator</i>	Ongoing	Town, MassDOT Complete Streets Program
		1	Identify a network of corridors connecting the Town’s recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces. People and wildlife can use these corridors. Consider connections with Town-owned properties, public rights-of-way, and possible private easements to fill gaps.	<i>Planning Board, Open Space Committee, DPW, Select Board, Town Administrator</i>	Ongoing	CPA, Mass Trails
Pursue the acquisition and protection of valuable open space assets for recreation, conservation, and resource protection to address the town’s identified needs.	Protect privately held open space through acquisition, conservation, easements, and other means.	3	Identify additional measures, approaches, or incentives to protect priority, unprotected open spaces.	<i>Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals</i>	Ongoing	LAND, LWCF
	Additional parcels with significant open space value are identified and prioritized.	1	Identify parcels with substantial open space value.	<i>Select Board, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, DPW, School Dept., Agricultural Commission, Water Dept., Town River Fisheries Commission</i>	2024-2026	TOWN
		2	Investigate establishing a “recreation and open space gift fund” for specific open space and recreational areas to capture payments or in-kind contributions to invest in nearby resources to build natural system function and capacity or enhance recreational amenities.	<i>Open Space Committee, Select Board</i>	2025-2027	TOWN

		2	Develop a list of high-impact parcels that will be considered for protection.	<i>Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Water Dept.</i>	2027-2030	TOWN
		3	Review the Tax Title list for land protection opportunities. Research all town-owned open space and recreation properties to confirm ownership and management status and update records to comply with state land use and protection guidelines.	<i>Conservation Commission, Select Board, Assessors, Agriculture Commission</i>	2024-2029	TOWN
		1	Establish a committee to create a specific review process, including a decision tree.	<i>Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Select Board</i>	2024-2027	TOWN
Establish a resource hub that provides information on relevant programs, including land stewardship and trusts, tax incentives, and conservation easement opportunities for Town landowners interested in protecting the undeveloped, forested, farmed, river-accessible, scenic, or historic property for the future.	Formalize procedures to determine whether parcels available for acquisition are significant to open space interests, including designating who will decide and how the decision will be made.					

SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

Table 70: West Bridgewater OSRP Survey Public Comments

WEST BRIDGEWATER OSRP SURVEY PUBLIC COMMENTS		
Q7: If there is anything preventing you from enjoying open space in our town, please tell us below:		
Answered	45	
Skipped	75	
	Response Date	Responses
	Dec 19, 2023, 07:25 PM	Wheelchair accessibility should be better. Parking
	Dec 19, 2023, 07:16 PM	There is a lot of trash in the woods at the one or two places I've been near my house with the brown signs.
	Dec 19, 2023, 10:18 AM	Better trails and signage
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:52 AM	Traffic is too much. Enjoying open space while cars are rushing by you is unsafe. Open space should be quiet and relaxing.
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:34 AM	There's nothing around the outdoor space to enjoy afterward. Once you hit one of those spots, that's it. There's nothing to keep you there.
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:16 AM	There are not enough sports fields. The ones we have can't accommodate the influx of people that the town is experiencing.
	Dec 18, 2023, 03:16 PM	Lack of free time and weather.
	Dec 11, 2023, 12:50 PM	I only work here, but I am intrigued now.
	Dec 11, 2023, 11:56 AM	Handicap Accessibility
	Dec 11, 2023, 11:38 AM	None
	Dec 08, 2023, 08:55 PM	I love being in the woods, but I feel nervous about hunters, tick-borne illnesses, and the wildlife expanding to include bears in our region.
	Nov 29, 2023, 04:35 PM	n/a
	Nov 26, 2023, 10:56 PM	Poor or limited parking. I always went to War Memorial Park but it's constantly under construction.

	Nov 19, 2023, 08:20 AM	Able to walk the dog off-leash
	Nov 19, 2023, 07:59 AM	The rail trail has a significant amount of trash, litter, and other issues.
	Nov 18, 2023, 04:06 PM	Beautiful town- beautiful places- open places - beautiful people
	Nov 15, 2023, 07:30 AM	I didn't know about them, and this resource.
	Nov 12, 2023, 08:53 PM	Stop allowing people to build enormous warehouses in our town!!!
	Nov 12, 2023, 08:29 PM	Trash, dog poop
	Nov 12, 2023, 08:11 PM	There are always many photographers in War Memorial Park each fall, and they take up all the parking and the space in the park. Would it be possible to have them get permits? Monetize the use of the park for business to decrease traffic and earn revenue.
	Nov 12, 2023, 09:07 AM	The town isn't very walkable, so you have to drive to many parks. If you get in the car to drive to a park with the kids, you might as well consider going further afield for larger/better parks.
	Nov 11, 2023, 02:54 PM	Age
	Nov 10, 2023, 01:13 PM	War Memorial Park is overrun with photographers and their clients taking up all available parking. It makes it difficult for residents to enjoy their public park.
	Nov 10, 2023, 05:55 AM	Friendship Park has no shade in the warmer weather.
	Nov 09, 2023, 08:41 PM	There is no access to the mill pond. Access to flaggy meadow is often very wet, and it would be much better if there were an elevated vantage point down there (if my memory from 20 years ago is correct)
	Nov 09, 2023, 07:49 PM	I live on Ash Street and often walk down to Reynolds Landing with my grandchildren.
	Nov 09, 2023, 07:47 PM	More ATV/ dirt bike trails
	Nov 09, 2023, 07:39 PM	Rail trail graffiti and ADA compliance
	Nov 09, 2023, 04:23 PM	Nothing, just need more free time.
	Nov 08, 2023, 06:54 AM	Good morning there are two things from me enjoying your open space. They are trash and trail maintenance.
	Nov 07, 2023, 06:47 PM	Nothing
	Nov 07, 2023, 01:28 PM	There is too much development!
	Nov 06, 2023, 06:07 PM	Lighting in the parks, more even ground on trails to prevent injuries, evening police patrolling of trails and parks, and Local Sculpture and art landscaping.

	Nov 06, 2023, 08:06 AM	Time, lack of user-friendly egress/access, way-finding signage
	Nov 02, 2023, 07:40 PM	They are building more houses on every inch of land. Leave open space.
	Nov 02, 2023, 06:54 PM	I would love a path around West Meadow
	Oct 20, 2023, 07:30 PM	I enjoy bicycling in most of the open spaces mentioned. The traffic is by far my most significant fear.
	Oct 18, 2023, 10:58 AM	Parking
	Oct 17, 2023, 11:30 AM	I am never really sure if the trails will be easy to follow, and since they are not used often, they feel very secluded.
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:37 PM	Lack of parking, hunting
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:02 PM	Safety on rail trail running alone
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:02 PM	Access, directions, and awareness
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:01 PM	Lack of parking! The reconfiguration of War Memorial Park has resulted in fewer parking spots. River St is narrow, and the park could be utilized better if more parking!
	Oct 16, 2023, 05:09 PM	I'm not sure where most of these places are. Rail Trail is creepy and needs an exit. One way in and one way out makes you feel trapped.
	Oct 11, 2023, 04:34 PM	The State of Massachusetts needs to be a better partner for the use of their lands in West Bridgewater. DCR and DF&G own enough land to have a better trail system.
Q:10 If you answered no, please tell us why and provide additional feedback		
Answered	19	
Skipped	101	
	Response Date	Responses
	Dec 19, 2023, 07:30 PM	Some have no access; paths are not easy to navigate in a wheelchair. Should have trail signs for the blind. Should have information kiosks.
	Dec 19, 2023, 10:23 AM	Signage, parking, walking, and general accessibility.
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:46 AM	There is not enough information on the open space areas (how to access them, where to park, the condition of the area, etc.). Most areas do not seem to be maintained either.
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:34 AM	Other than the Playground, I don't see much accessibility
	Dec 18, 2023, 03:42 PM	N

	Dec 08, 2023, 09:00 PM	Perhaps I am not familiar with enough of the town's open spaces, so I may be incorrect about this, but my sense is that most trails have uneven terrain that may be difficult for people with mobility issues. Admittedly, I realized in taking this survey that there are many town open spaces that I have not visited and of which I was even unaware.
	Dec 03, 2023, 09:37 AM	There are too many barriers, both natural and manmade, for those with mobility issues to enjoy many locations, even using mobility assistance.
	Nov 29, 2023, 04:38 PM	don't have access for people with difficulties maneuvering with handicaps (walkers, wheelchairs, etc.)
	Nov 26, 2023, 10:58 PM	More seating is needed. Better walkways. Need to avoid steps (all the bridges at the war memorial have steps)
	Nov 19, 2023, 08:00 AM	Trails are muddy and not accessible for those with mobility issues.
	Nov 13, 2023, 04:22 PM	Similar to my previous response, many of the open spaces have terrain that is difficult to navigate for those of older age, limited mobility issues, etc.
	Nov 13, 2023, 06:29 AM	Some parks aren't accessible for wheelchairs or strollers. Sidewalks near Friendship Park are old and hard to maneuver using a wheelchair or stroller. There is no sidewalk connecting to War Memorial Park, making it unsafe to walk or use a stroller.
	Nov 12, 2023, 06:24 AM	There could be an improvement in accessibility.
	Nov 08, 2023, 07:13 AM	I only know of one part that a person with disabilities could use for personal time.
	Nov 06, 2023, 06:10 PM	Uneven ground, inadequate lighting, a safer environment
	Nov 06, 2023, 08:09 AM	We need to define the trails better, have better signage, and places to sit down - with a view
	Nov 02, 2023, 07:01 PM	Some spaces are, but many paths are not
	Oct 31, 2023, 10:24 AM	Trails are uneven and nothing for blind.
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:04 PM	Lack of handicapped parking spaces at town parks/open spaces

Q11: Which, if any, of the following outdoor amenities does our town need more of? Please check one or more boxes.

Other:		
	Response Date	Responses
	Dec 19, 2023, 07:17 PM	Off-leash dog hikes
	Dec 19, 2023, 10:25 AM	river/pond access areas (Mill Pond & Town River)
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:39 AM	Rec sites.
	Dec 19, 2023, 09:18 AM	athletic fields

	Dec 07, 2023, 03:11 PM	Sidewalks on River Street!!!
	Nov 19, 2023, 08:22 AM	Dog park
	Nov 10, 2023, 06:45 PM	Sports fields
	Nov 09, 2023, 08:43 PM	Sitting areas in open spaces would be nice. West meadows, foggy meadows, Reynolds landing, skim milk bridge, etc.
	Nov 09, 2023, 07:51 PM	Public Pool would be nice!
	Nov 08, 2023, 07:17 AM	Skills park for all ages
	Nov 06, 2023, 08:12 AM	more canoe & kayaking access
Q:12 Which, if any, of the following athletic fields does our town need more of? Please check one or more boxes.		
Other:	Response Date	Responses
	Dec 19, 2023, 10:25 AM	Lacrosse/Field Hockey
	Nov 18, 2023, 04:10 PM	Public swimming pool or YMCA
	Nov 13, 2023, 04:22 PM	Volleyball
	Nov 12, 2023, 01:30 PM	Softball fields
	Nov 10, 2023, 07:31 PM	tennis courts
	Nov 10, 2023, 06:45 PM	Football
	Nov 08, 2023, 07:17 AM	Skill Park (Pump-track)
	Nov 07, 2023, 06:52 PM	An area where all of these are possible
	Nov 06, 2023, 06:22 PM	Dog park
	Nov 06, 2023, 08:12 AM	don't know about these
	Oct 16, 2023, 08:23 PM	Dog parks
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:41 PM	Adult workout circuit
	Oct 11, 2023, 04:38 PM	Lacrosse, rugby, field hockey

Q13 Which, if any, of the following open space-related programs does our town need more of? Please check one or more boxes.		
Response Date	Other (please specify):	
Nov 10, 2023, 06:45 PM	Events for younger kids	
Nov 06, 2023, 06:22 PM	Evening availability to parks	
21		
99		
Q16 Is there something else related to open space that we should be doing, either as the Town of West Bridgewater or as a community?		
Answered	14	
Skipped	106	
Response Date	Responses	
Dec 19, 2023, 07:21 PM	It would be best if you mailed all of this stuff to residents. I would have never even seen this if I hadn't looked to see if the dump would take storm debris. Or get a texting system like Nixle for town messaging. I've been here for years and never gotten a message about anything that always says check social media, but I don't have social media. My old town used Nixle, and I still know what's going on there.	
Dec 19, 2023, 10:32 AM	We are using all the tools in our toolbox for the good of all the inhabitants of West Bridgewater.	
Dec 08, 2023, 09:41 PM	<p>Absolutely, yes. I believe the town must halt commercial and residential building and land development in WB. The number of houses being built and the number and outrageous size of commercial buildings being constructed is mind-boggling and negatively affects our community. Plots of land that once housed one residence are now populated with 3 and 4 houses in addition to the construction of numerous housing developments and enormous commercial buildings. Most are stuffed on lands where deforestation has been done to accommodate them. I cannot conceive of how this is being allowed. Deforestation is pushing more and more displaced wildlife into our back yards, and placing monstrous structures, such as behind the West Bridge Vet Clinic, in a low-lying area is likely to directly affect increased flooding. Also, how is sewerage being handled at these immense commercial buildings in a way that does not impact our ecosystem, given we do not have town sewerage services? Additionally, how is it possible the new jr./sr. High school has already been outgrown if not for the massive influx of residential housing. While it may not be possible to maintain a time capsule environment with virtually no change, it does very much feel like our town has swung in the opposite direction, and the beauty and sweetness of our small idyllic town is being lost to the greed of wanting more and more places to tax. All this and our taxes continue to increase, and we haven't had safe drinking water for years. I don't understand how the town can receive more and more money from all the new commercial and residential construction it's allowing and be unable to remedy the problems with our water supply. The town must stop further construction and focus on maintaining existing open spaces, reforesting, community agriculture, and other programs to save our town. We're well on our way to becoming the next Brockton.</p>	
Nov 29, 2023, 05:14 PM	Maintain open space, especially wetlands, as open space. It is disturbing to understand that wetlands are being approved for permitting building.	
Nov 14, 2023, 12:34 PM	Policing walking trails, dog walkers poop scoop, wearing Hi-vis clothing during hunting season. When out exploring, respect property boundaries.	

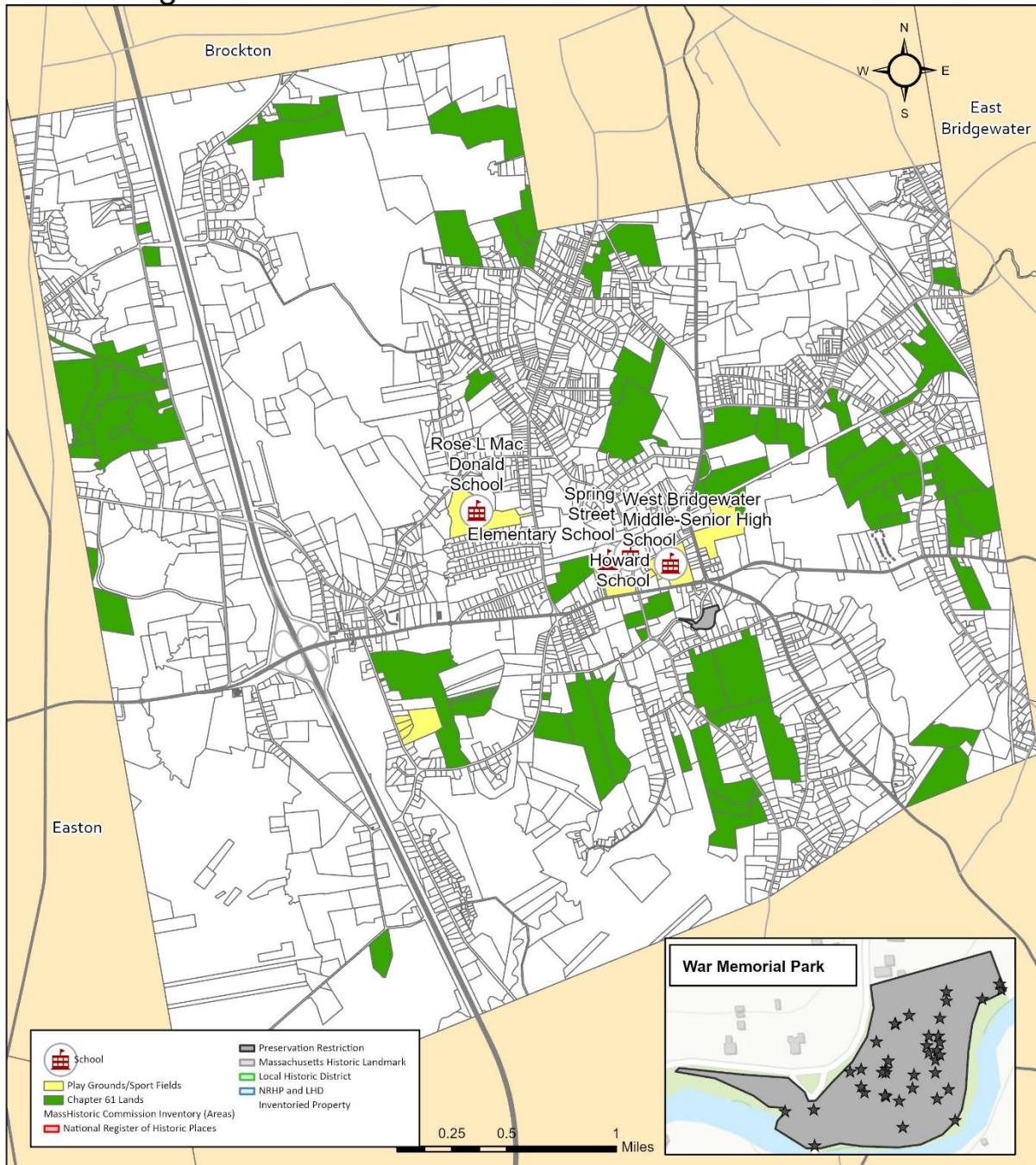
	Nov 12, 2023, 08:58 PM	Town-wide speeding limits. Maybe 30mph. Dog park. Sidewalks on main busy streets.
	Nov 12, 2023, 01:36 PM	What happened to the land on Lincoln Street where Russo's garden center I thought the ton was going to build a Recreational center
	Nov 12, 2023, 12:26 PM	I come from a conservative perspective of eco-justice in which we act in ways that 'Save Earth's Soil, Preserve West Bridgewater Land.'
	Nov 09, 2023, 08:47 PM	Probably
	Nov 09, 2023, 08:00 PM	Jack up the CPA surcharge to 2%
	Nov 08, 2023, 07:26 AM	We need more of it, and we need more public use of it. That does not mean using open space to make sports fields. Open space should be open space.
	Nov 07, 2023, 07:16 PM	Yes. I know that development in our town is essential but so are open spaces. We need a balance between the 2
	Nov 06, 2023, 06:41 PM	Strategically, efficiently, and environmentally place local or state art sculptures and/or interactive, visually stimulating medians and mediums.
	Nov 06, 2023, 08:16 AM	Promote the economic benefit of having a balanced community open space/development plan and include the rivers in the open space inventory.
	Oct 20, 2023, 07:45 PM	We need to emphasize safe pedestrian traffic.
	Oct 16, 2023, 08:28 PM	We are keeping our wildlife safe. Too much land is being taken over by humans, displacing innocent animals.
	Oct 16, 2023, 07:25 PM	A dog park and pickleball courts for town residents only would be awesome.
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:43 PM	Smart development
	Oct 16, 2023, 06:08 PM	The town should be stricter and Limit housing projects to protect open space in our town!
	Oct 16, 2023, 05:15 PM	More walking trails / better maps of existing trails.
	Oct 11, 2023, 04:43 PM	Tree replacement program, low Impact Development Plan, and increased Climate Change Resilience.
Q24 Your time and input are valuable to us. If there's anything else you'd like to share about open space and recreation in our community, please do so in the space below:		
Answered	81	
Skipped	39	
	Response Date	Responses
	Dec 19, 2023, 07:23 PM	The previous page mentioned direct text messaging and direct phone calls. How do you sign up for those services in West Bridgewater?

	Dec 19, 2023, 10:00 AM	Celebrate the town's history. Certain walking trails and various locations in town hold a lot of historic value. It would be nice to have the history of these locations available to help people understand the area's significance.
	Dec 18, 2023, 03:24 PM	West Bridgewater RULES
	Nov 19, 2023, 08:05 AM	There aren't any safe spaces for kids to play sports. The WBYAA fields flood and are run down. The HS basketball courts are tennis courts. The Howard soccer field is just an open field not intended for soccer—the field at the HS floods.
	Nov 12, 2023, 06:27 AM	I think it's essential to preserve the space.
	Nov 09, 2023, 09:43 PM	Opportunities to come together as a community. River Walk is a tremendous event! I very much enjoyed the Bicentennial celebration. Anyway, I want to network and meet others in the community. We need to focus more on the 25-55 demographic. There seem to be lots of programs in town through various organizations for school-age kids and seniors, but having opportunities for activities and events for those not in that range would be great! Thank you for taking the time to get our feedback!
	Nov 09, 2023, 08:50 PM	Y'all should make it clearer that the River Walk is an open space committee event. People don't even know the open space committee exists, and the River Walk is your best chance to change that.
	Nov 09, 2023, 07:54 PM	A small park for senior citizens with benches and shade trees is located near the senior center or library, making it a great place to socialize in the warm weather.
	Nov 09, 2023, 04:34 PM	I think WB does a great job with the space we have. Having more would be nice, but we need to augment the cost somehow. WB is growing, and that is good, but there is a tipping point, and we don't want to cross that.
	Nov 08, 2023, 07:30 AM	Litter trash in open spaces and recreational areas. Trash pickup. It should be looked at more closely.
	Nov 06, 2023, 06:49 PM	Help people keep their properties looking nice by volunteering or organizing. Many veterans, elderly, and first-time homeowners struggle to keep their homes updated and cared for. As a community, we can assist those hanging gutters, rotted porches, overgrown vegetation, etc.... Everyone has a talent, and they can volunteer to help. The town is starting to look shabby because people are giving up trying.
	Nov 06, 2023, 08:21 AM	The town needs to continue to set aside and protect natural resources to ensure a healthy society and appropriately use these resources.
	Nov 02, 2023, 07:13 PM	Accessible rest areas would be helpful.
	Oct 11, 2023, 04:45 PM	Keep up the excellent work. River Walk is GREAT.

APPENDIX A: MAPS

Action Plan

West Bridgewater Action Plan



The action map represents the goals of the plan including Chapter 61, 61A and 61B land, surveying playground and field space for improvements, and creating educational programs with local schools.



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Created Dec 2023
GIS Data Sources: MassGIS, ESRI

BEAVERTON WOODS

Beaverton Woods



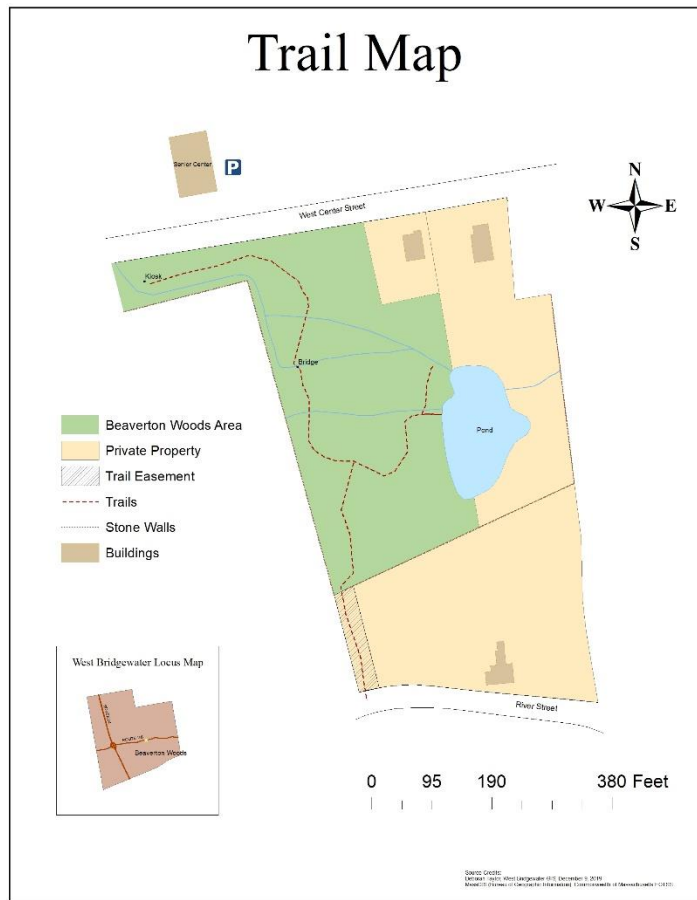
Quick Facts

Trail Length:
 Approximately .15 mile to pond edge
 Approximately .20 mile to River Street

Parcel Area:
 3.15 acres

Parking:
 None dedicated
 Public parking available at
 Senior Center, West Crescent Street

Gift of:
 Albert F. Richards
 May 11, 2007



Description

Beaverton Woods provides a level trail with a small foot bridge that crosses an intermittent stream and leads to a seasonal pond. The trail also leads out to River Street, thereby making a connection to the Bay Circuit Trail.

The area is used as an outdoor classroom for local high school and Bridgewater State University students to study the diverse natural vegetation and wildlife present during the dry months when the pond becomes a wet meadow.

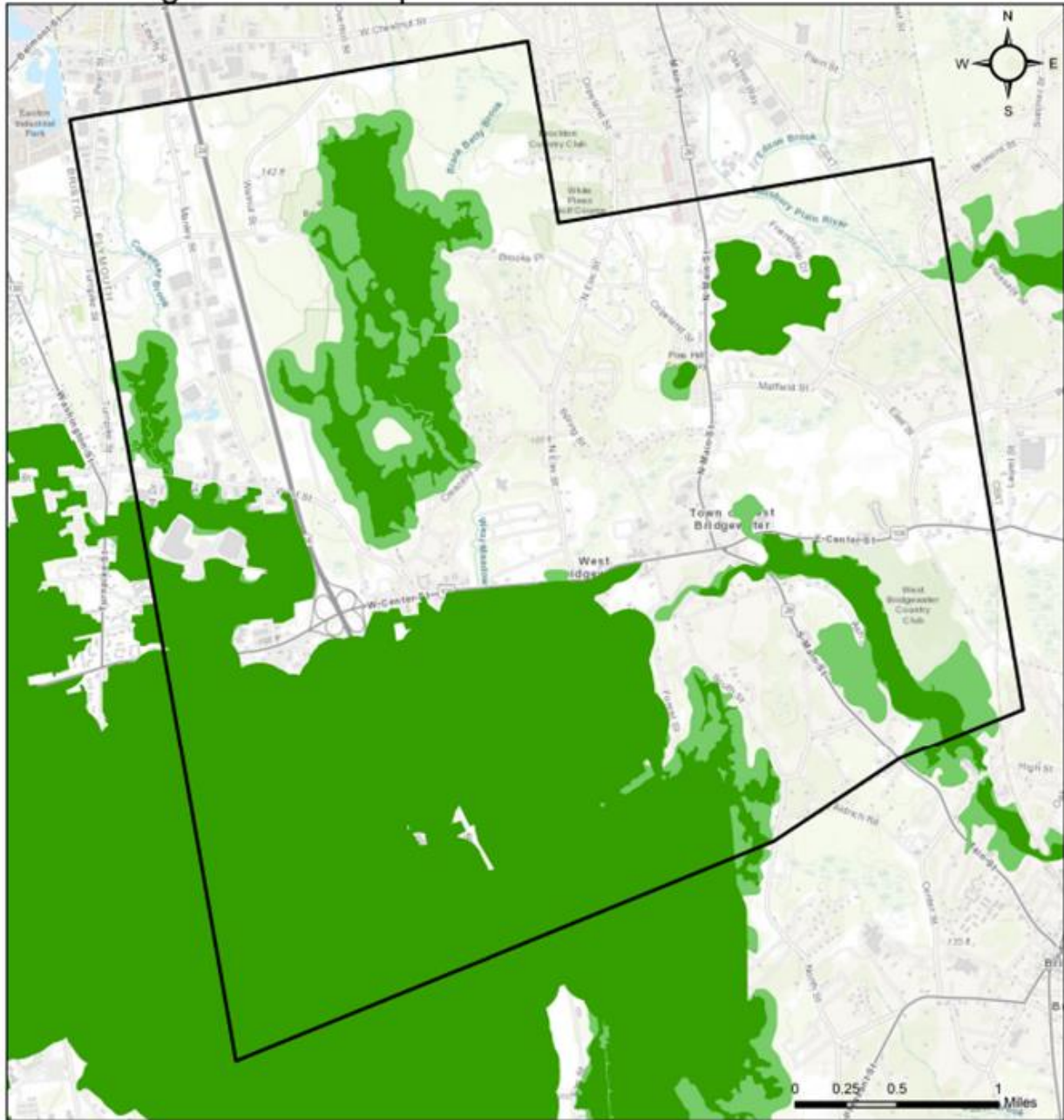
The land was given to the Town of West Bridgewater by Albert F. Richards in 2007. Mr. Richards was the former owner of the Beaver Nursery and Garden Center in East Bridgewater. Beaverton Woods was the name selected for this area at the suggestion of then high school student, Amelia Tych, who created the name to honor Mr. Richards' endeavors to promote natural resources and incorporate Thoreau's notions of learning outside the brick and mortar classrooms.

The area is maintained by volunteers of the West Bridgewater Open Space and



BIO MAPS

West Bridgewater BioMap Elements



- Core Habitat
- Critical Natural Landscape

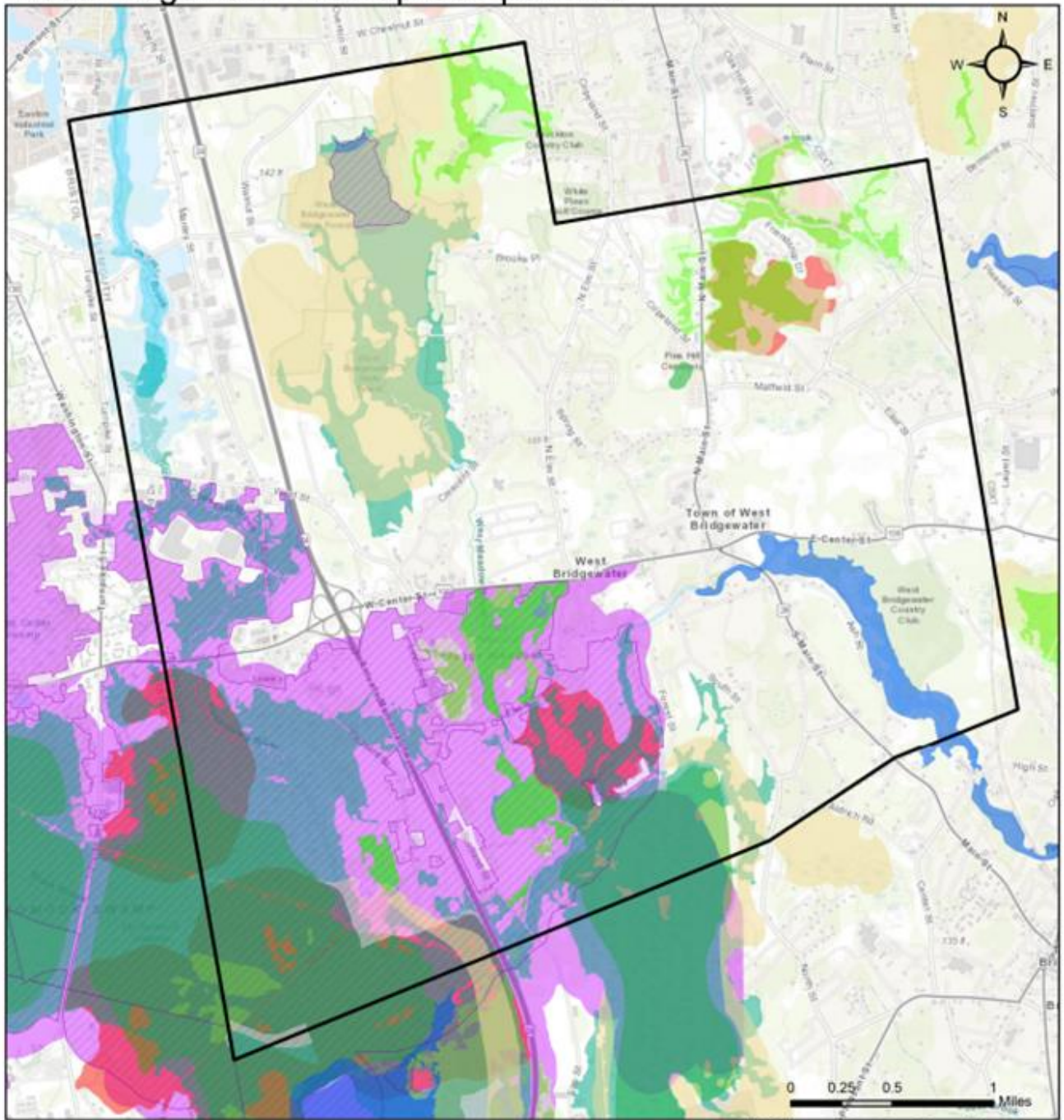


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GIS Data Sources: ESRI, MassGov,
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West Bridgewater BioMap Components



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Regional Rare Species | Local Rare Species |
| Local Aquatic Habitats | Aquatic Core |
| Local Aquatic Habitat Buffers | Wetland Core |
| Local Wetlands | Priority Natural Communities Core |
| Local Wetland Buffers | Forest Core |
| Local Landscapes | Vernal Pool Core |
| Local Vernal Pools | Rare Species Core |



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL

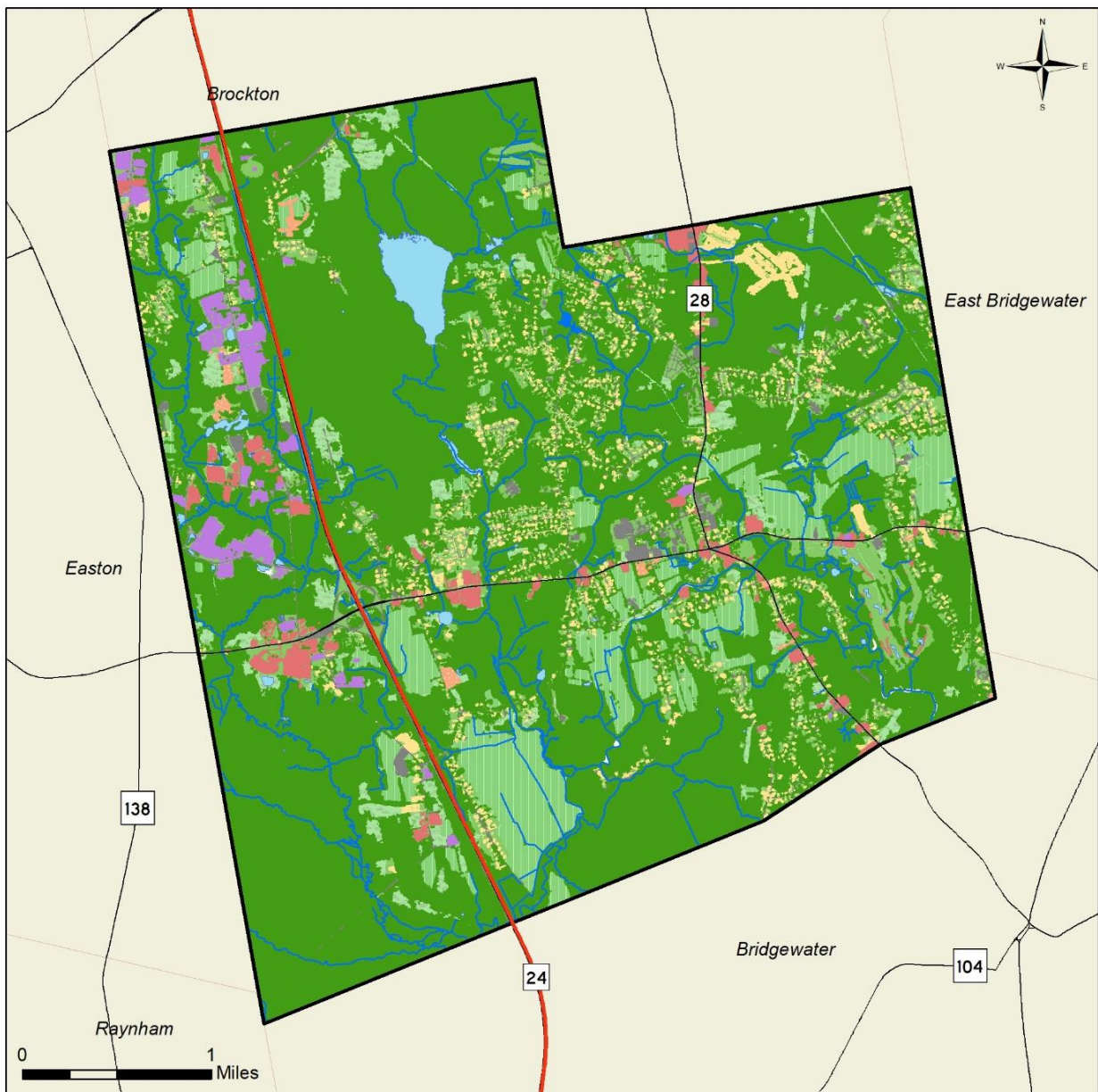
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Old Colony Planning Council

CURRENT LAND USE MAP

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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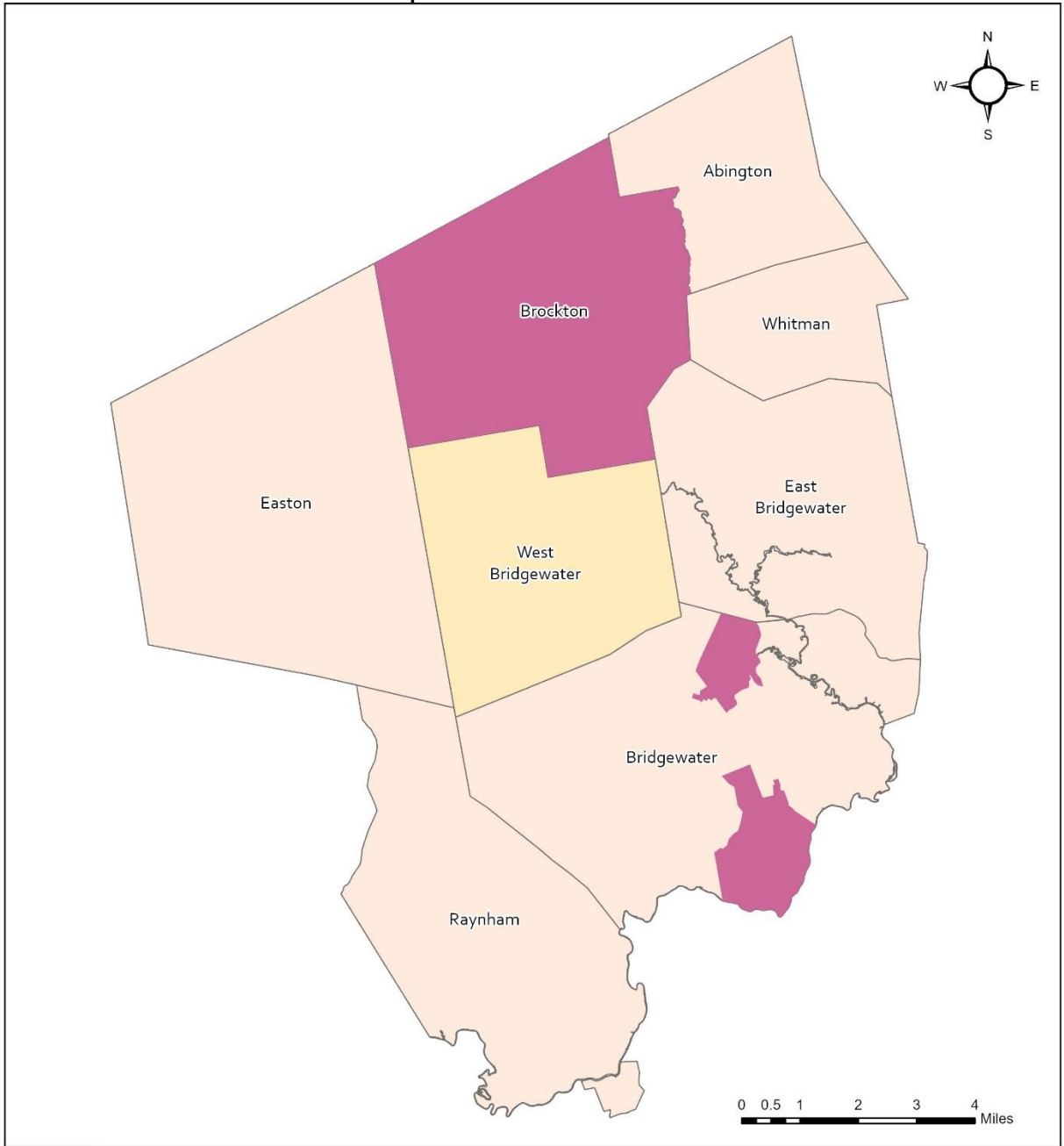
www.ocpcrpa.org
Created July 2021



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

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAP

Environmental Justice Areas are designated by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to address the disproportionate burden of industrial pollution experienced by lower-income people and communities.

Environmental Justice Population



-  Environmental Justice Areas
-  Surrounding Towns

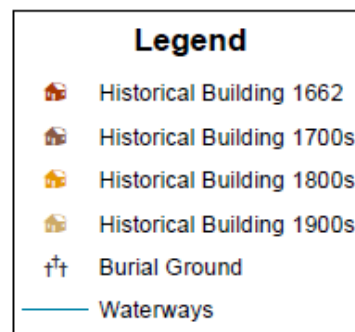
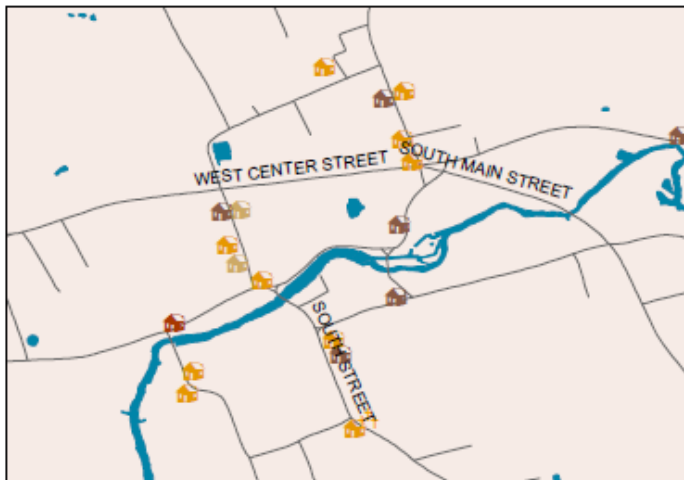
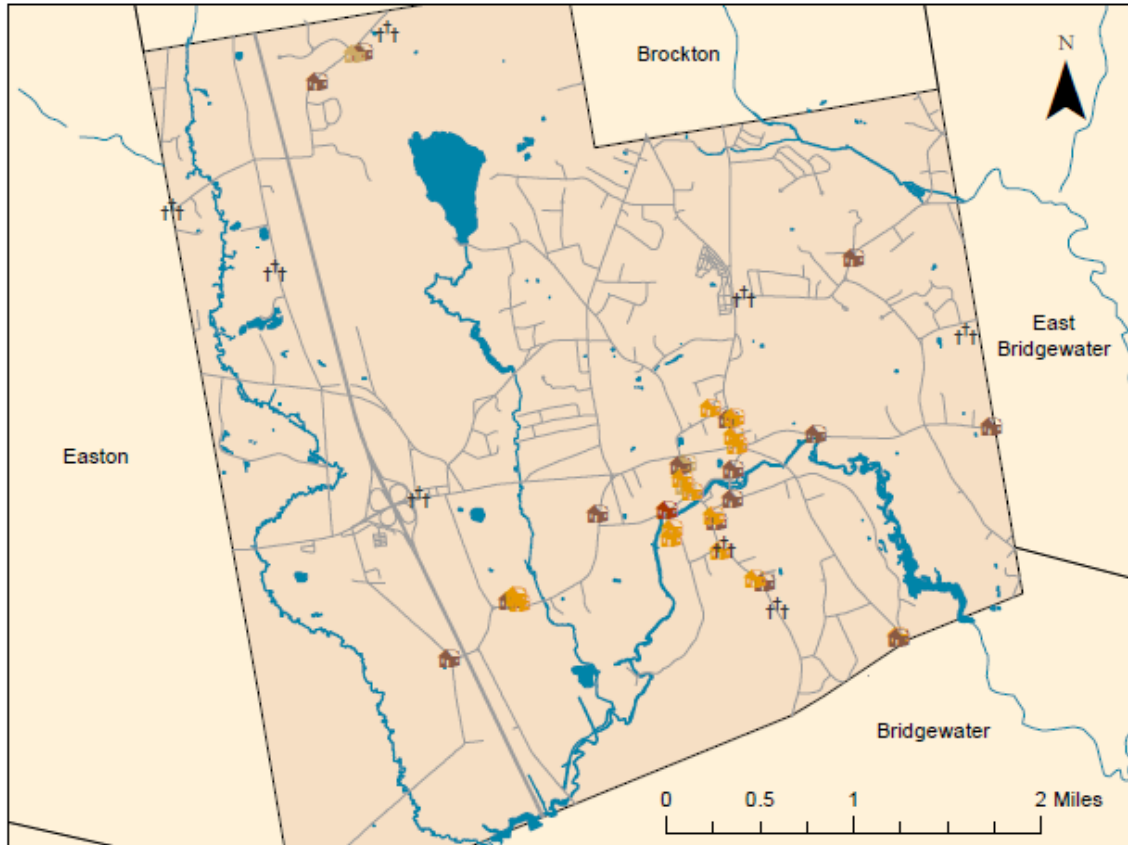


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GIS Data Sources: MassGIS, ESRI

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS & BURIAL GROUNDS MAP

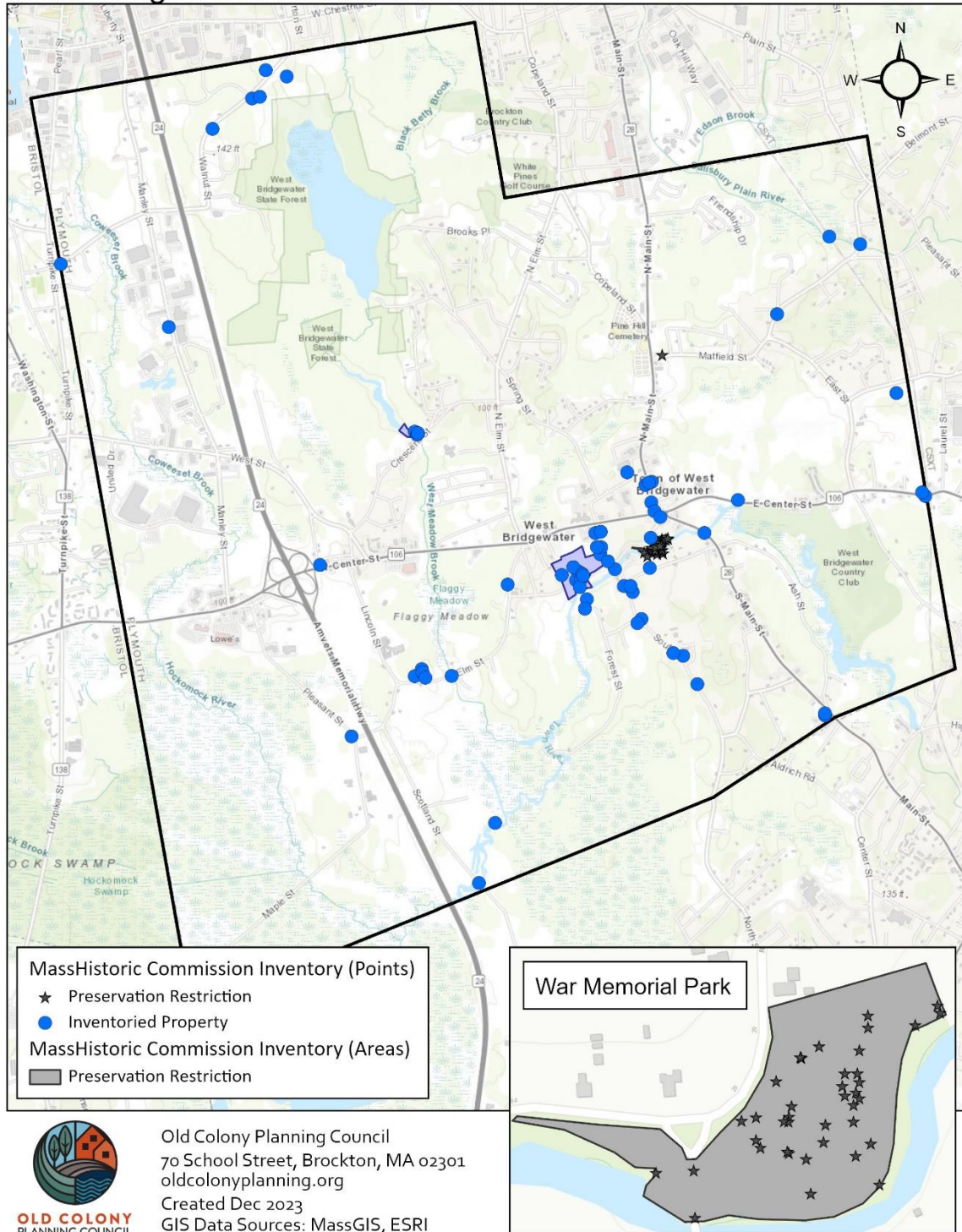


Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS, Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS May 3, 2021
 OpenSpace\Historic

a

HISTORICAL SITES

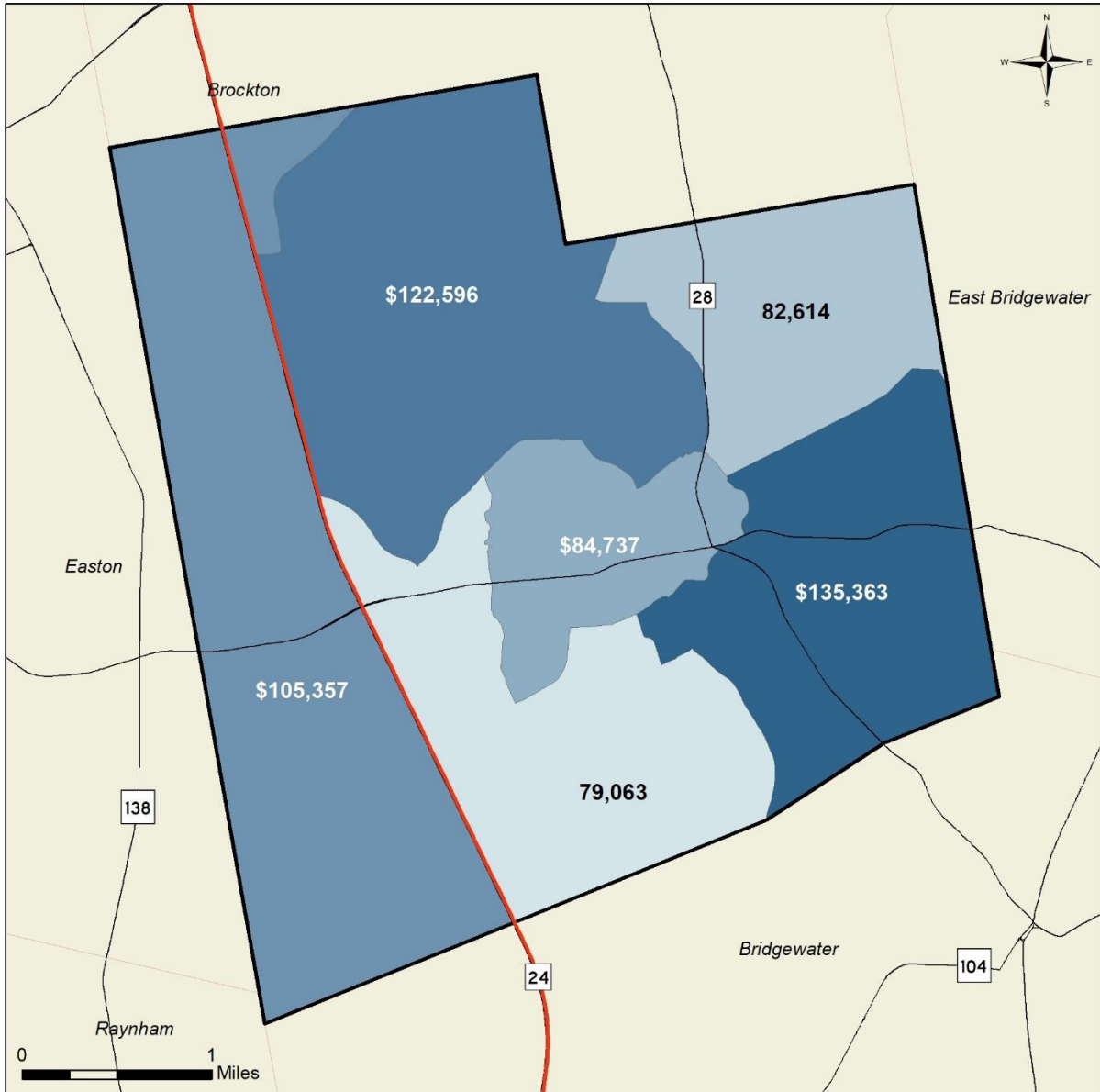
West Bridgewater Historical Sites



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 Created Dec 2023
 GIS Data Sources: MassGIS, ESRI

MEDIAN INCOME MAP

Median Household Income



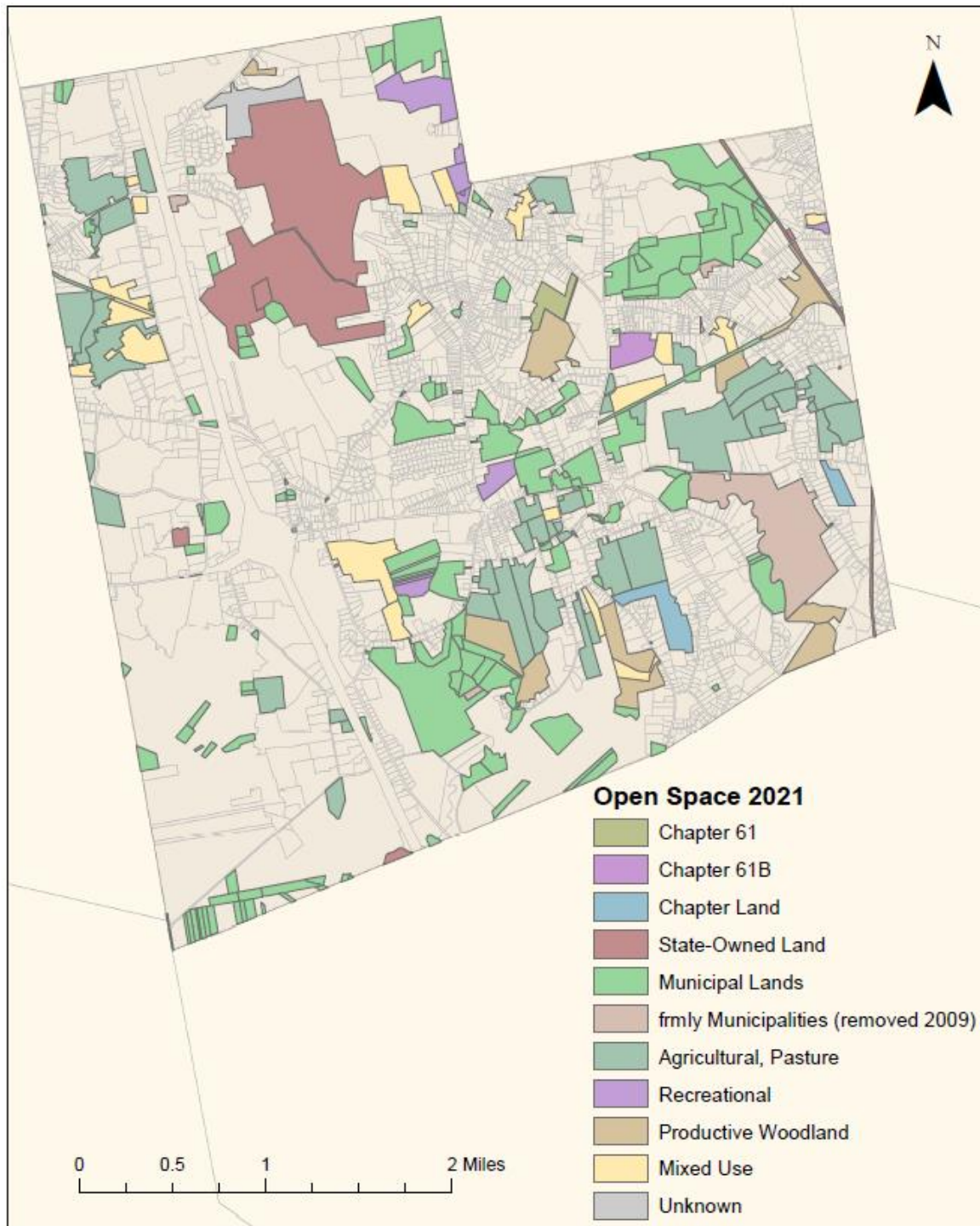
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Created July 2021

GIS Data Sources:
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT),
Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS),
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OPEN SPACE MAP

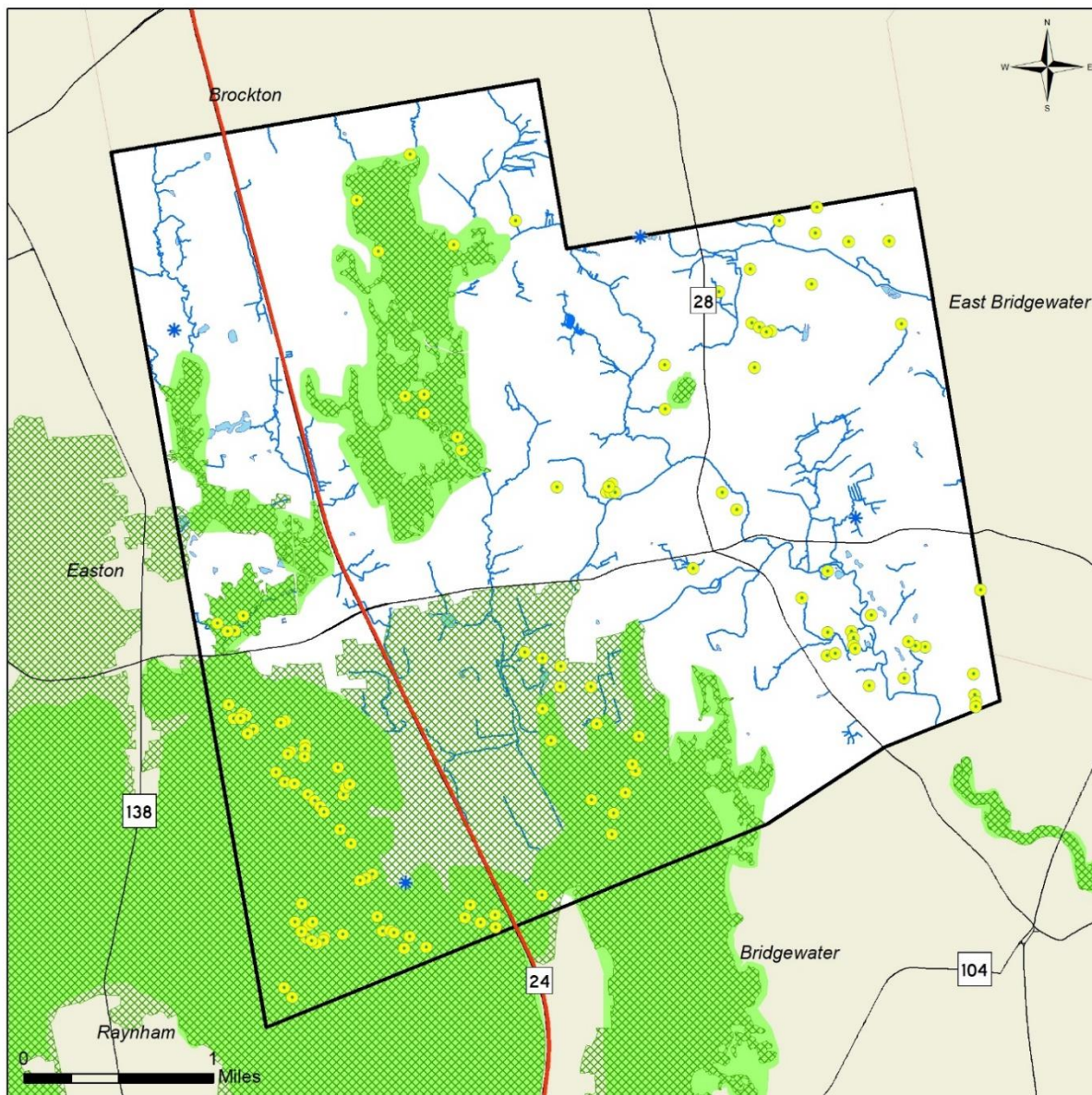


Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS

Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS May 7, 2021
OpenSpace\Open_Space

PLANT & WILDLIFE HABITATION MAP

Plant and Wildlife Habitat



- Potential Vernal Pools
- ★ NHESP Certified Vernal Pools
- ▨ BioMap2 Core Habitat
- BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape

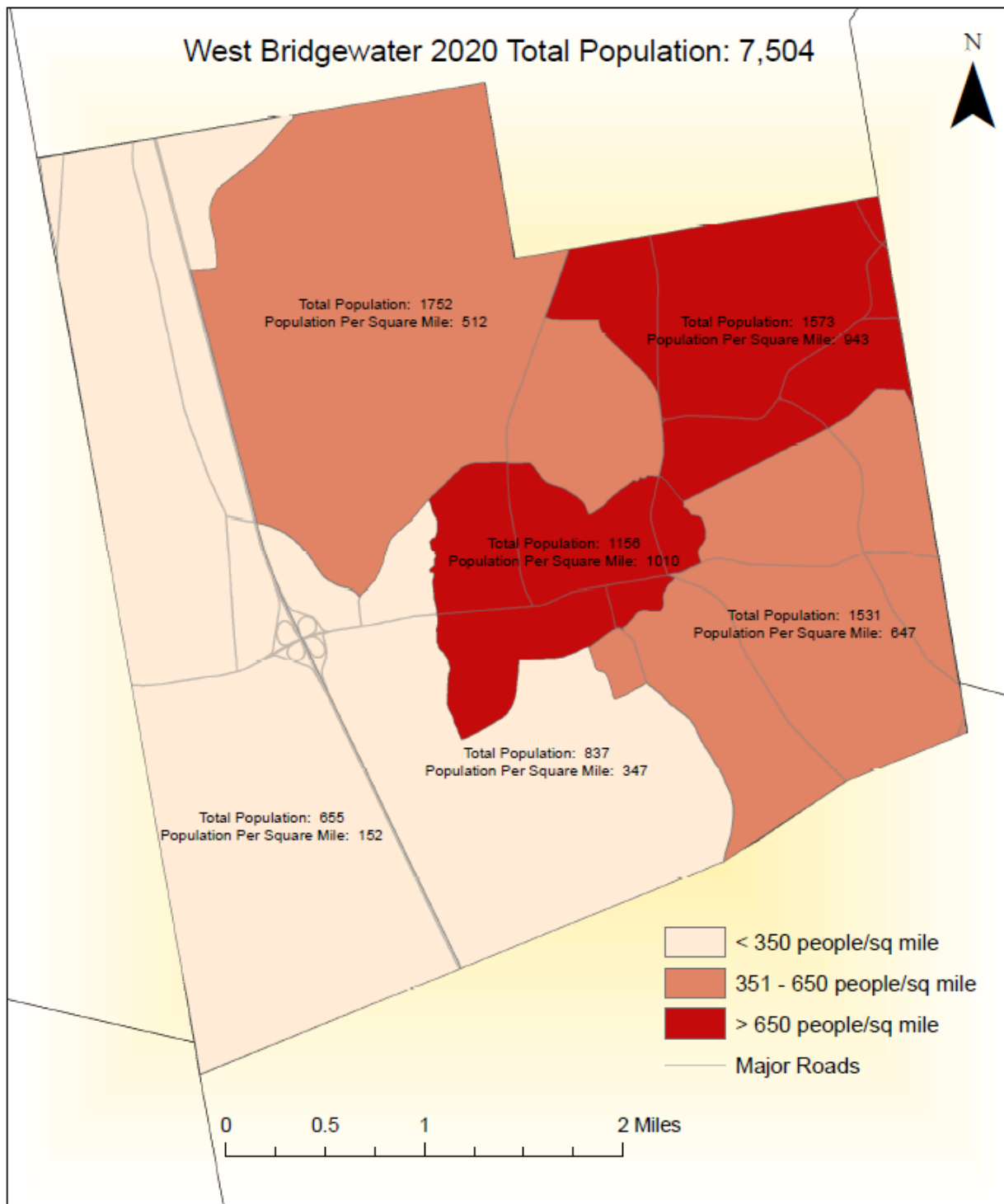


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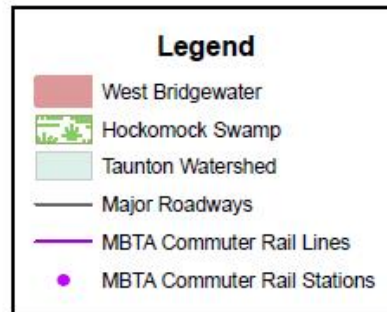
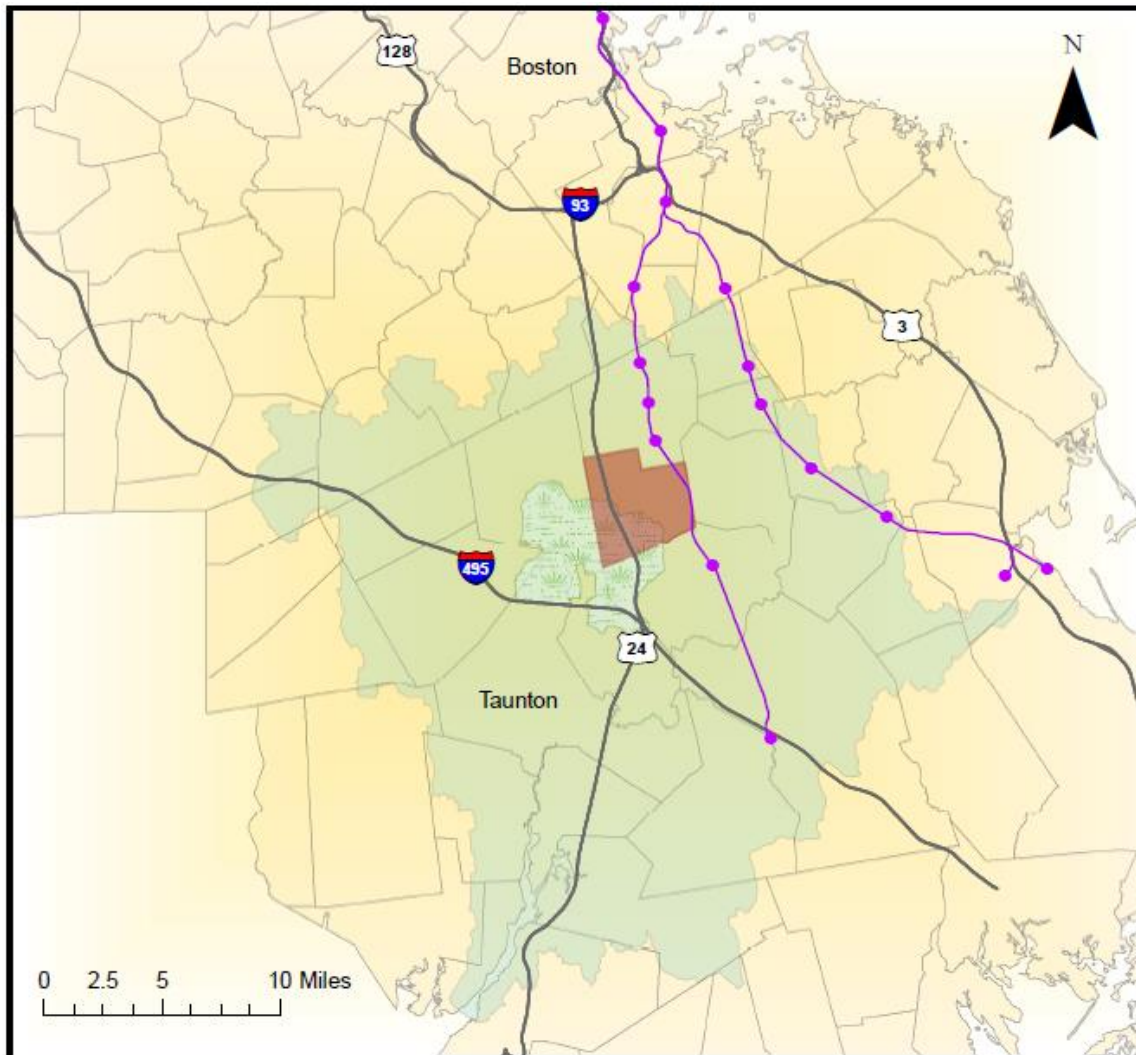
POPULATION DENSITY MAP



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS, ESRI, USCensus Bureau (ESRI 2020 USA Tapestry Segmentation Map)

Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS May 3, 2021

REGIONAL CONTEXT MAP



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS
 Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS April 3, 2020
 OpenSpace\RegionalContext

SOILS & GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES MAP

Soils and Geographic Features



Surficial Geology

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

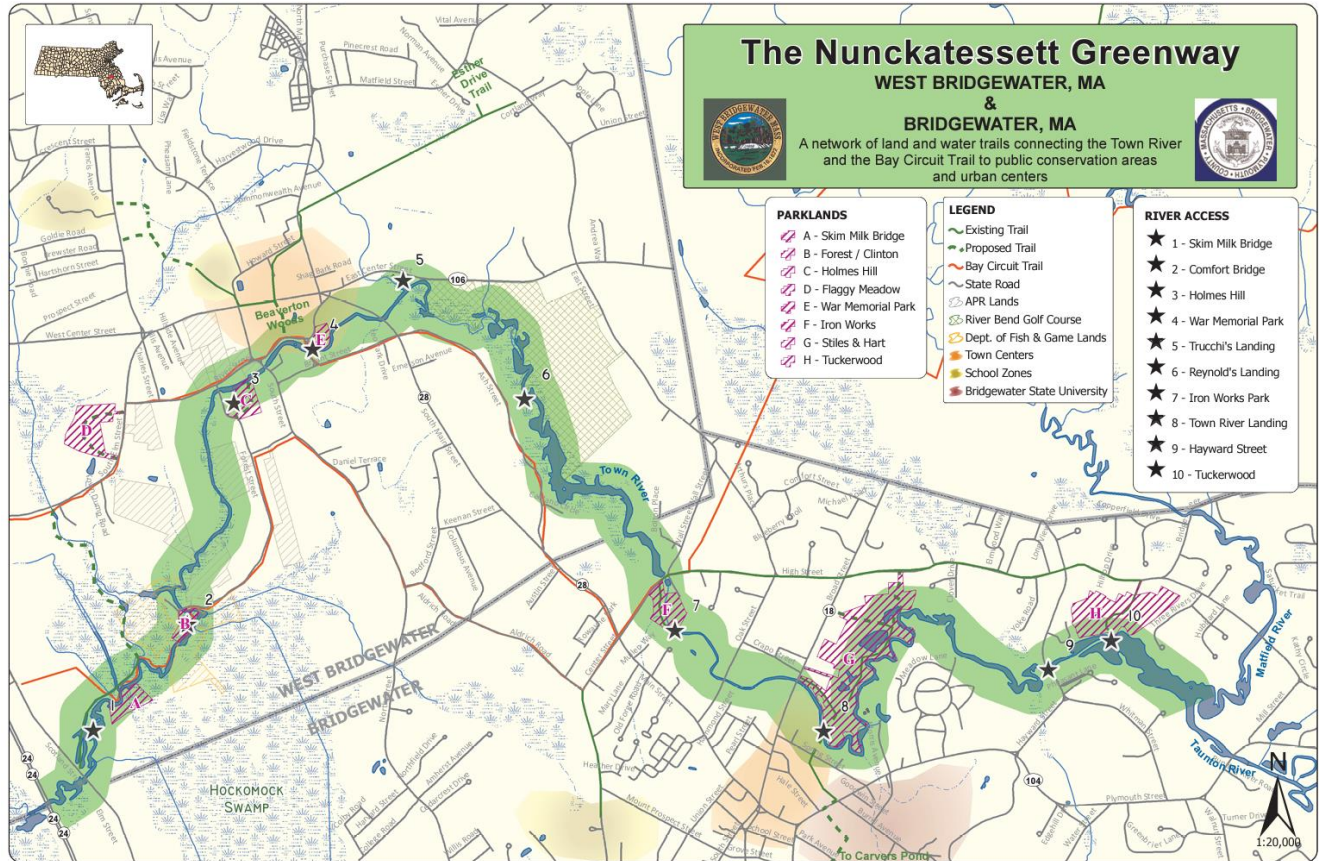


Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

www.ocpcrpa.org
Created July 2021

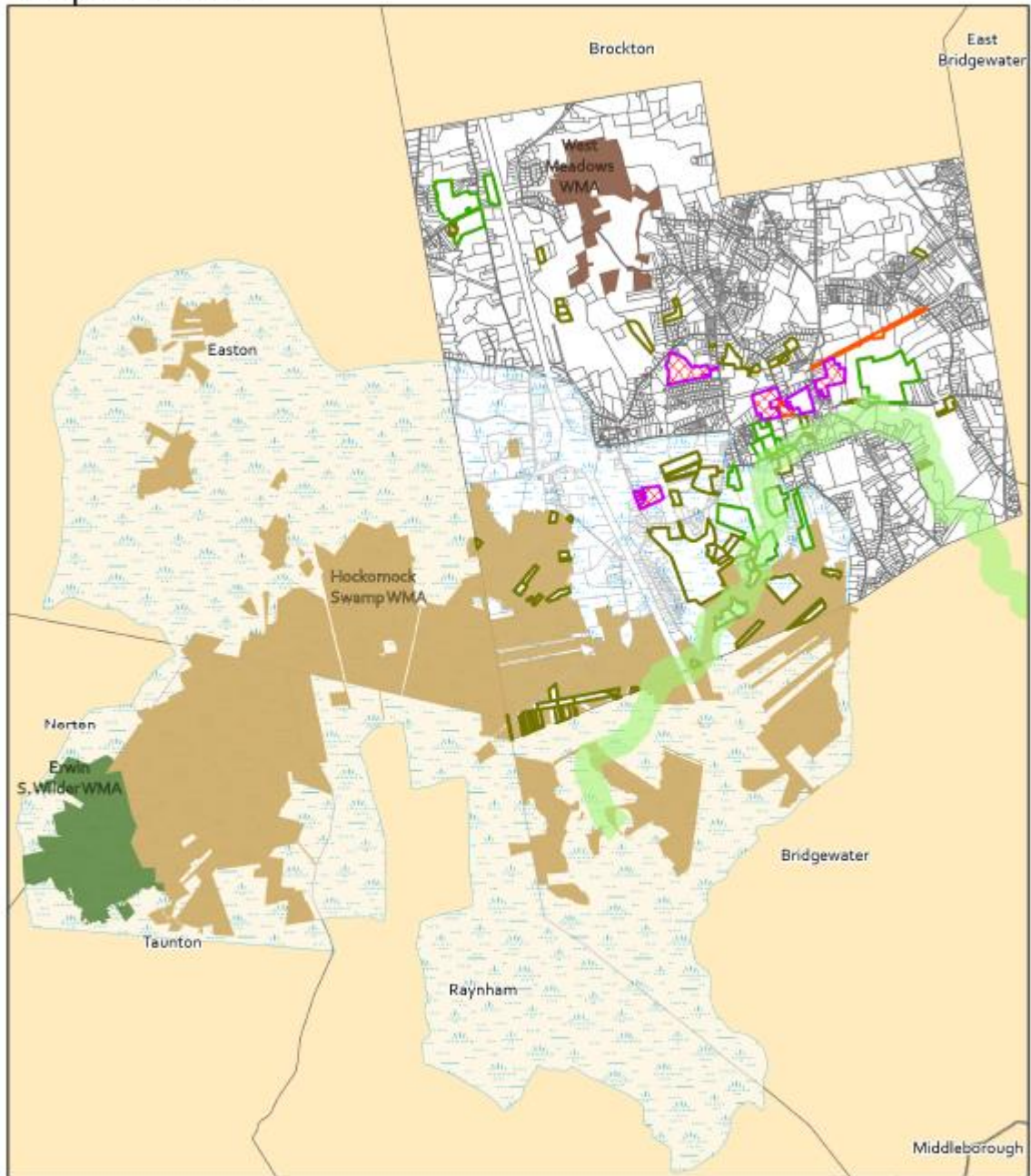
GIS Data Sources:
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT),
Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS),
Old Colony Planning Council

THE NUNCKATESSETT GREENWAY



UNIQUE FEATURES MAP

Unique Features



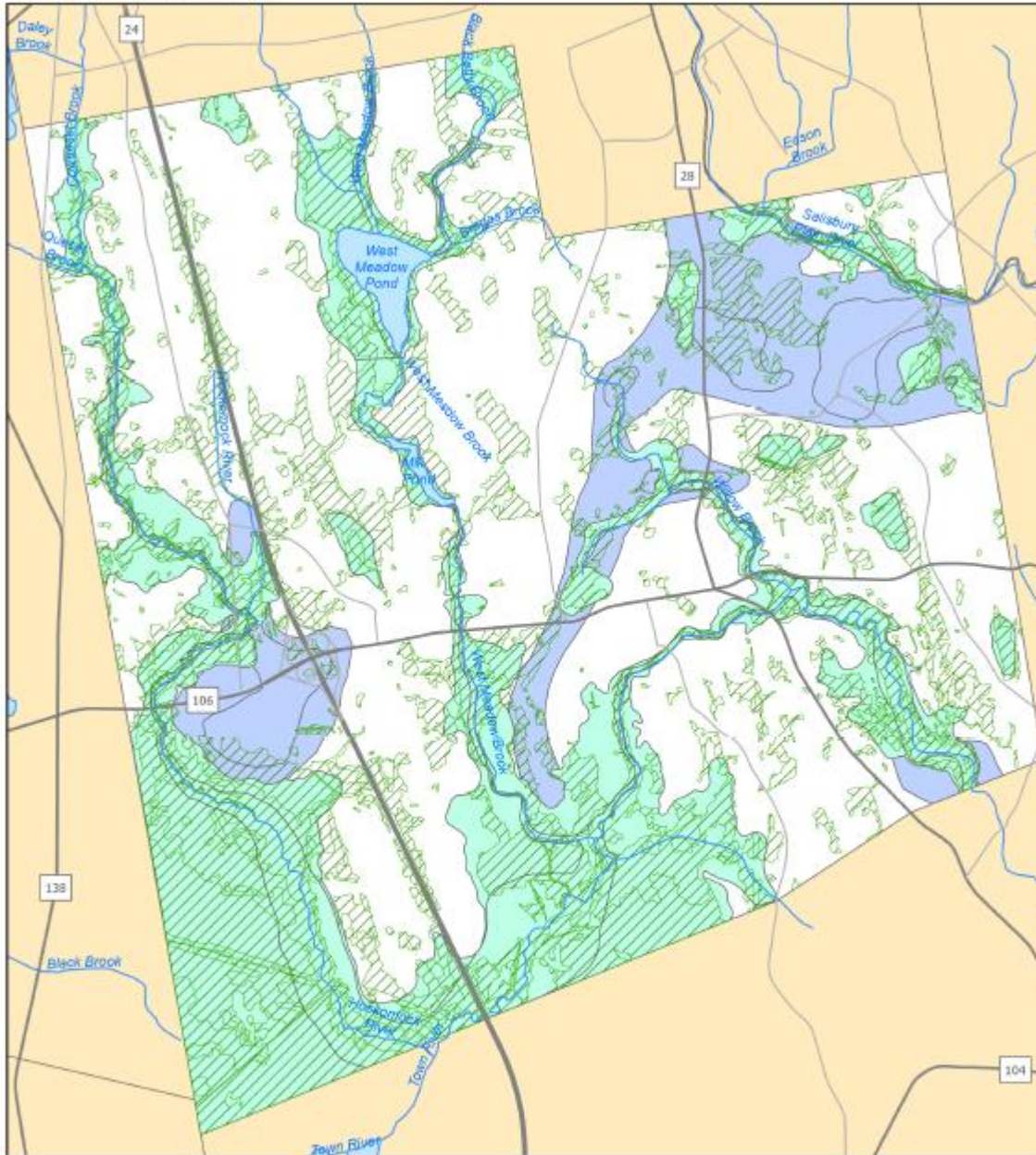
- Hockomock Swamp
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction Properties
- Town Owned Conservation Lands
- Town Owned Recreation Parcels
- Town Owned Playgrounds and Fields
- Town Owned Canoe Landings
- Town Owned Landmarks
- Nunckatessett Greenway



Old Colony Planning Council
 70 School Street, Brockton,
 MA 02301
oldcolonyplanning.org
 Created Apr 2024
 GIS Data Sources: MassGIS
 Old Colony Planning Council

WATER RESOURCES MAP

Water Resources

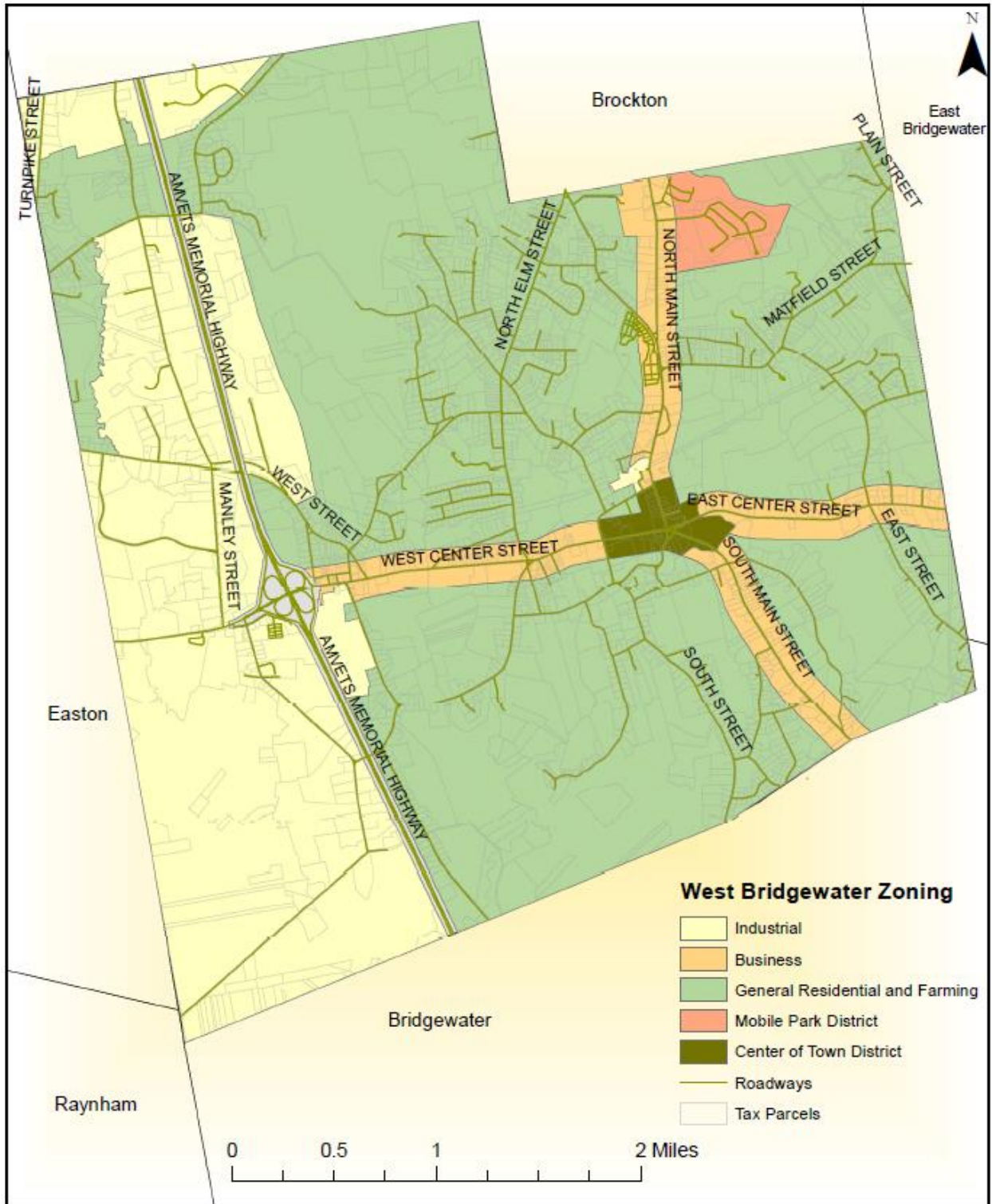


- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes and Ponds
- Wetland
- FEMA Flood Zone
- Aquifers



Old Colony Planning Council
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MA 02301
oldcolonyplanning.org
Created Apr 2024
GIS Data Sources: MassGIS
Old Colony Planning Council

ZONING MAP



Source Credit: MassGIS (Bureau of Geographic Information), Commonwealth of Massachusetts EOTSS
 Map Created by: Deborah Taylor, West Bridgewater GIS March 5, 2020
 OpenSpaceZoning

APPENDIX B: PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS

<p>Tell us what you think about West Bridgewater's Parks & Recreation Areas!</p> <p>this is part of a comprehensive plan that will help the town improve amenities and qualify for grant funding opportunities</p> <p> Old Colony Planning Council 70 School St., Brockton, MA 02301</p>	<p>TAKE THE SURVEY</p>  <p>https://bit.ly/3JWfyjO</p> 	 <p><i>"Open Space" is: "public and privately owned undeveloped lands which are important for a variety of reasons, including recreation, agriculture, forestry, etc</i></p> <p><i>The survey takes less than 10 minutes.</i> https://bit.ly/3JWfyjO</p> <p>QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, CONTACT:</p> <table><tr><td>Town of West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Committee Chair: Mary Wynne-Yee mary.wynne@verizon.net</td><td>Old Colony Planning Council: Dottie Fulginiti dfulginiti@ocpcrpa.org or (774) 539-2905</td></tr></table> <p> If you need a paper survey, assistance with filling out the survey or translation services, contact Dottie Fulginiti.</p>	Town of West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Committee Chair: Mary Wynne-Yee mary.wynne@verizon.net	Old Colony Planning Council: Dottie Fulginiti dfulginiti@ocpcrpa.org or (774) 539-2905
Town of West Bridgewater Open Space & Recreation Committee Chair: Mary Wynne-Yee mary.wynne@verizon.net	Old Colony Planning Council: Dottie Fulginiti dfulginiti@ocpcrpa.org or (774) 539-2905			

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

RIVER WALK 2022

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH 10-2

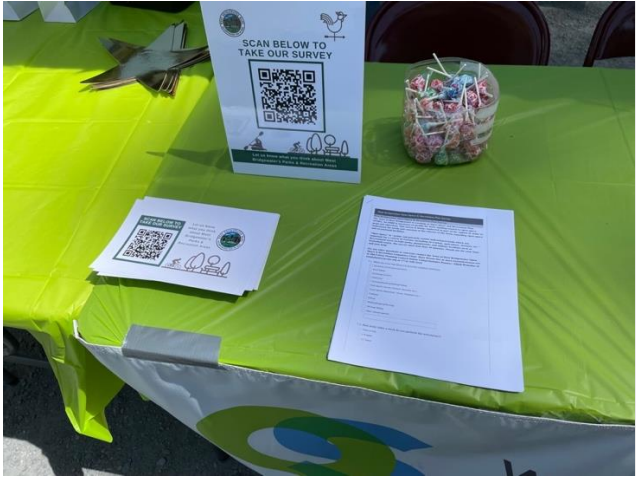
ENJOY BEAUTIFUL, CAR-FREE RIVER STREET

- Live Music
- Canoes & Kayaks
- Coffee Cart
- Keith House Tours



- Blacksmithing
- Yoga in the Park
- Kid's Play Area
- Raffles ...and more

EVENT IS FREE, BUT THERE WILL BE SNACKS AND TICKETS FOR PURCHASE. FOLLOW WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE ON FACEBOOK FOR EVENT UPDATES.
RAIN DATE IS SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH.



Public Listening Session
August 12, 2021 @ 7PM

First Floor Conference Room
West Bridgewater Town Hall
65 North Main Street
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

WEST BRIDGEWATER OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE



Hosted by the Town of West Bridgewater's Open Space & Recreation
Committee, Conservation Commission & Old Colony Planning Council



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL



SCAN TO
TAKE SURVEY

SCAN BELOW TO
TAKE OUR SURVEY



Let us know
what you think
about West
Bridgewater's
Parks &
Recreation Areas





**SCAN BELOW TO
TAKE OUR SURVEY**



**Let us know what you think about West
Bridgewater's Parks & Recreation Areas**



TAKE THE SURVEY

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBopenSpace>



**WE NEED
THE
PUBLIC'S
INPUT!**

SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS
ON:

- CONSERVATION
- PARKS
- SPORTS FIELDS
- AND MORE

QUESTIONS?

Contact the town at openspace@wbridgewater.com
Or OCPC at rdugan@ocpcrpa.com



TAKE THE SURVEY

SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBopenSpace>



QUESTIONS?

Contact the town at openspace@wbridgewater.com
Or OCPC at rdugan@ocpcrpa.com



APPENDIX C BIOMAP SUMMARY REPORT

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/biomap-town-report-west-bridgewater#west-bridgewater-at-a-glance->

West Bridgewater at a Glance

- **Total Area:** 10,031.0 acres
 - Total Open Space Protected in West Bridgewater: 2,365.7 acres or 23.6% of total area
- **BioMap Core Habitat:** 3,792.7 acres
 - Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Core Habitat: 37.8%
 - BioMap Core Habitat Protected in West Bridgewater: 1,694.8 acres or 16.9%
- **BioMap Critical Natural Landscape:** 3,600.9 acres
 - Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Critical Natural Landscape: 35.9%
 - BioMap Critical Natural Landscape Protected in West Bridgewater: 1,717.1 acres or 17.1%.
- **BioMap Local Components:** 2,128.1 acres
 - Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Local Components: 21.2%
 - BioMap Local Components Protected in West Bridgewater: 822.7 acres or 8.2%
- **BioMap Regional Components:** 2,587.3 acres
 - Percent of West Bridgewater Covered by Regional Components: 25.8%
 - BioMap Regional Components Protected in West Bridgewater: 1,213.8 acres or 12.1%

See Additional Information below for information on data sources.

Core Habitat

- Rare Species Core: 2,982.9 acres
 - Forest Core: 737.7 acres
 - Aquatic Core: 140.4 acres
 - Wetland Core: 2,188.8 acres
 - Vernal Pool Core: 923.5 acres
 - Priority Natural Communities: 38.5 acres
-

Critical Natural Landscape

- Landscape Blocks: 1,112.8 acres
 - Coastal Adaptation Areas: 0.0 acres
 - Tern Foraging Habitat: 0.0 acres
 - Aquatic Core Buffer: 252.2 acres
 - Wetland Core Buffer: 1,097.5 acres
-

Local Components

- Local Landscapes: 1,078.7 acres
 - Local Wetlands: 443.7 acres
 - Local Wetland Buffer: 329.2 acres
 - Local Rare Species Core: 27.9 acres
 - Local Aquatic Habitats: 89.9 acres
 - Local Aquatic Habitat Buffer: 203.5 acres
 - Local Vernal Pools: 144.8 acres
-

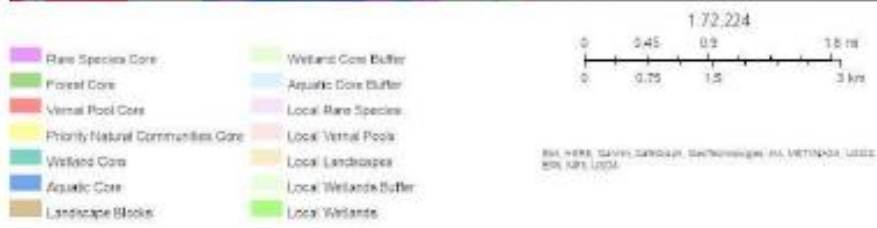
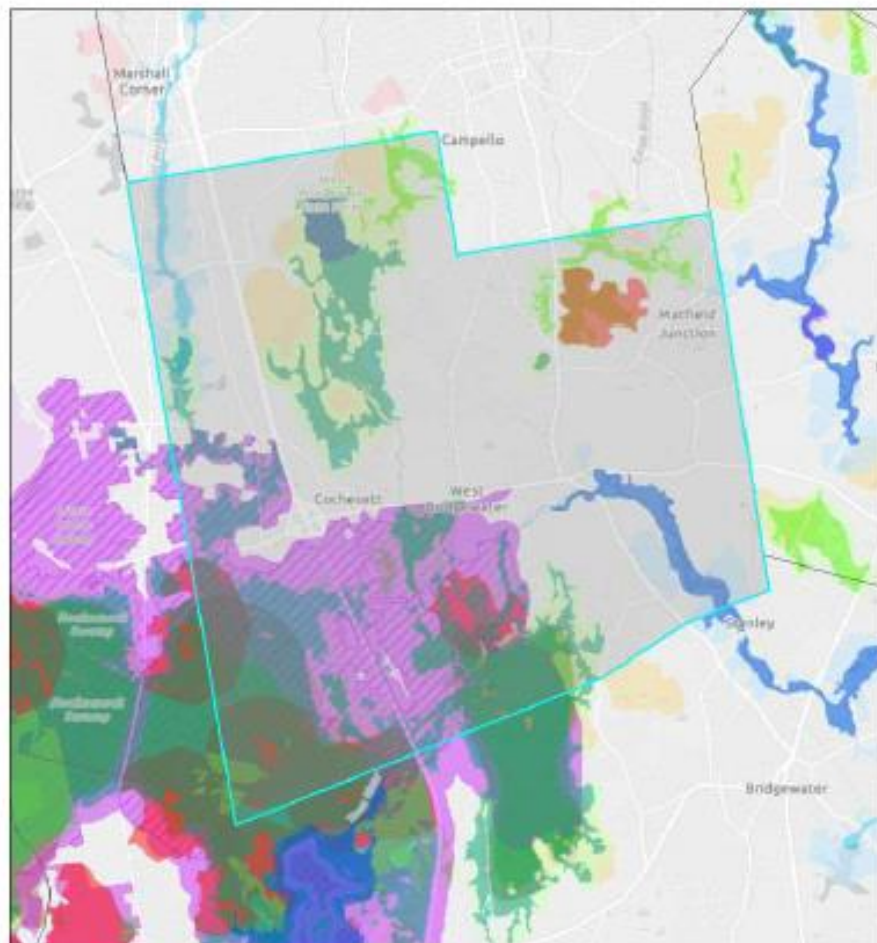
Regional Components

- Regional Connectivity: 0.0 acres
- Regional Rare Species Core: 2,587.3 acres

Area of Interest (AOI) Information

Area : 10,032.24 acres

May 16 2023 11:50:10 Eastern Daylight Time



Summary

Name	Count	Area(acres)	Length(ft)
Core Habitat	13	3,793.39	N/A
Critical Natural Landscape	16	3,601.49	N/A
Aquatic Core	1	140.39	N/A
Aquatic Core Buffer	3	159.66	N/A
Wetland Core	53	2,144.72	N/A
Wetland Core Buffer	7	664.41	N/A
Priority Natural Communities Core	5	38.52	N/A
Vernal Pool Core	4	923.72	N/A
Forest Core	2	737.97	N/A
Rare Species Core	4	2,983.57	N/A
Tem Foraging Habitat	0	0	N/A
Coastal Adaptation Areas	0	0	N/A
Landscape Blocks	2	1,112.30	N/A
Local Aquatic Habitats	1	89.86	N/A
Local Aquatic Habitats Buffer	1	203.56	N/A
Local Wetlands	9	443.73	N/A
Local Wetlands Buffer	37	329.23	N/A
Local Landscapes	5	1,078.83	N/A
Local Rare Species	10	27.90	N/A
Local Vernal Pools	4	90.84	N/A
Regional Rare Species	4	2,587.75	N/A
Regional Connectivity	0	0	N/A

Core Habitat

#	Core Habitat ID	Area(acres)
1	1039	3,011.39
2	1067	435.39
3	1062	157.20
4	1024	140.39
5	1048	35.52
6	1044	6.77
7	1034	5.75
8	1028	0.67
9	1037	0.17
10	1027	0.15

Critical Natural Landscape

#	Critical Natural Landscape ID	Area(acres)
1	531	1,907.88
2	576	824.79
3	554	339.85
4	543	296.75
5	537	170.33
6	523	31.68
7	551	16.75
8	516	6.67
9	1880	6.47
10	517	0.18
11	522	0.15

Aquatic Core

#	Aquatic Core ID	Area(acres)
1	311	140.39

Aquatic Core Buffer

#	Aquatic Core Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	271	89.00
2	283	64.18
3	367	6.48

Wetland Core

#	Wetland Core ID	Area(acres)
1	2229	632.84
2	2217	506.29
3	2393	435.17
4	2162	164.85
5	2244	84.19
6	2174	51.94
7	2252	47.98
8	2321	35.52
9	2280	23.53
10	2273	23.29
11	2200	22.25
12	2238	21.99
13	2164	20.51
14	2278	18.14
15	2192	16.25
16	2316	6.77
17	2297	5.75
18	2157	3.97
19	2160	3.76
20	2271	3.59
21	2207	2.89
22	2176	2.57
23	2167	2.28
24	2248	2.26
25	2223	2.22
26	2286	0.67
27	2242	0.55
28	2144	0.41
29	2142	0.40
30	2150	0.35
31	2249	0.35
32	2246	0.30
33	2245	0.24
34	2175	0.18
35	2302	0.17
36	2194	0.15
37	2282	0.15

Wetland Core Buffer

#	Wetland Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	1667	389.62
2	1633	94.20
3	1600	81.03
4	1575	69.76
5	1543	15.43
6	1630	9.98
7	1569	4.39

Priority Natural Communities Core

#	Natural Community Name	Area(acres)
1	Acidic Graminoid Fen	24.32
2	Coastal Atlantic White Cedar Swamp	7.43
3	Kettlehole Level Bog	6.77

Vernal Pool Core

#	Vernal Pool Core ID	Area(acres)
1	605	428.40
2	132	171.10
3	130	167.02
4	608	157.20

Forest Core

#	Forest Core ID	Area(acres)
1	172	494.52
2	171	243.45

Rare Species Core

#	Rare Species Core ID	Species Total	Area(acres)
1	704	9	2,911.53
2	725	3	71.88
3	704	12	0.16

Landscape Blocks

#	Landscape Block ID	Area(acres)
1	52	769.14
2	51	343.15

Local Aquatic Habitats

#	Local Aquatic Habitats ID	Area(acres)
1	169	89.86

Local Aquatic Habitats Buffer

#	Local Aquatic Habitat Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	1,692	203.56

Local Wetlands

#	Local Wetlands ID	Area(acres)
1	653	120,88
2	675	95,13
3	690	86,09
4	755	62,84
5	646	52,06
6	639	20,41
7	674	15,85
8	681	6,71
9	636	3,97

Local Wetlands Buffer

#	Local Wetlands Buffer ID	Area(acres)
1	1,214	75.39
2	1,134	54.72
3	1,078	47.81
4	1,126	37.60
5	1,090	32.63
6	1,177	21.33
7	964	17.04
8	1,220	14.96
9	1,088	6.22
10	1,209	3.12
11	957	3.08
12	1,142	2.28
13	1,070	2.12
14	1,076	1.89
15	1,058	1.41
16	1,089	1.35
17	1,100	0.79
18	960	0.65
19	1,053	0.48
20	1,057	0.48
21	944	0.46
22	936	0.40
23	1,083	0.40
24	1,148	0.33
25	1,109	0.32
26	1,095	0.31
27	1,104	0.28
28	959	0.26
29	938	0.23
30	942	0.22
31	1,155	0.19
32	1,050	0.13
33	974	0.11
34	939	0.08
35	975	0.08
36	943	0.06
37	937	0.05

Local Landscapes

#	Local Landscape ID	Area(acres)
1	178	979.76
2	1,740	62.38
3	1,745	32.85
4	865	3.17
5	317	0,67

Local Rare Species

#	Local Rare Species ID	Species Total	Area(acres)
1	629	1	8,00
2	628	1	5,72
3	627	1	4,44
4	621	1	2,77
5	630	1	1,81
6	620	1	1,68
7	619	1	1,62
8	614	1	0,77
9	608	1	0,54
10	611	1	0,53

Local Vernal Pools

#	Local Vernal Pool ID	Area(acres)
1	131	78,00
2	108	8,45
3	122	4,04
4	123	0,35

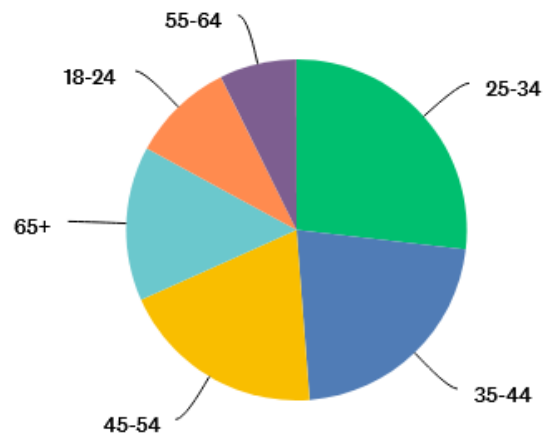
Regional Rare Species

#	Regional Rare Species ID	Species Total	Area(acres)
1	511	4	2,520,26
2	518	1	67,28
3	511	6	0,11
4	511	5	0,10

APPENDIX D: OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PUBLIC SURVEY

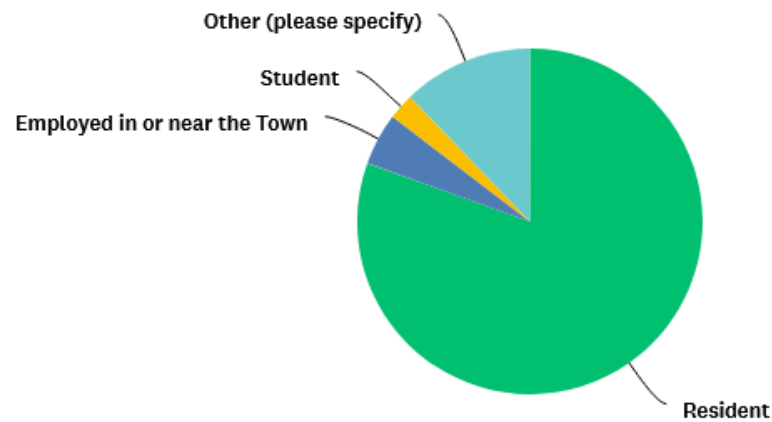
What age range do you fall under?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



Tell us about yourself, what is your relation to West Bridgewater?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0

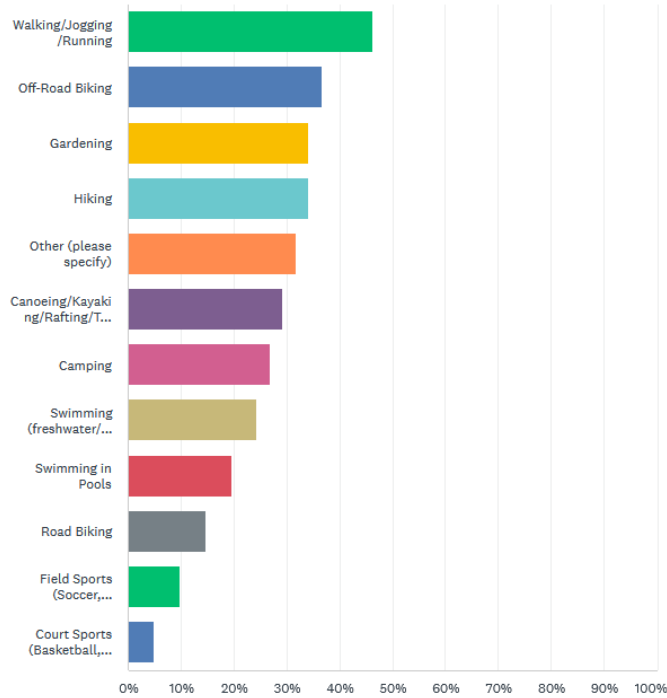


When asked: What are your top three (3) favorite outdoor activities? The top choices were:

4. Walking/Jogging/Running
5. Off-Road Biking
6. Gardening

What are your top three (3) favorite outdoor activities

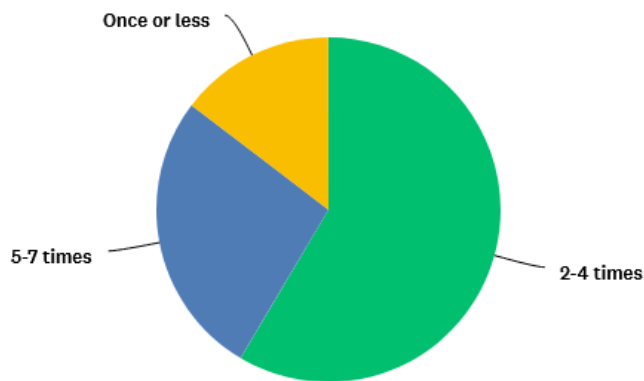
Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



When asked: How many times a week do you perform the activity(ies)? Over 58% of respondents said 2-4 times.

How many times a week do you perform the activity(ies)?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0

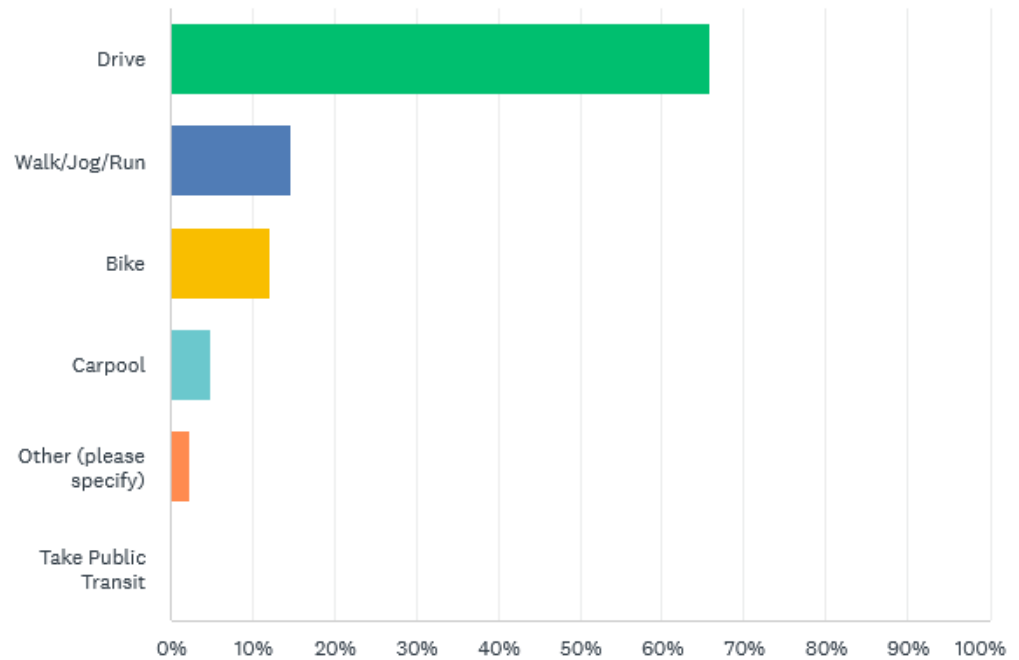


When asked: Is there a park, trail, or conservation area within a ten-minute walk from your home that you use? 53.66% said Yes.

When asked: How do you get to your park or recreation area? 65.85 percent said that they drove.

How do you get to your park or recreation area?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0

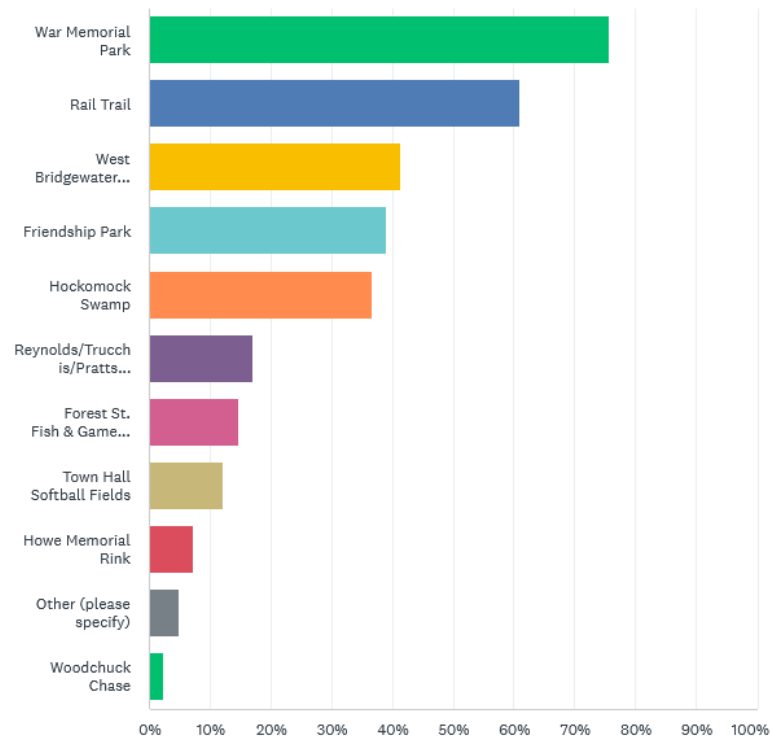


When asked to check the parks/recreational areas that you have visited in the last year, the top three responses were:

1. War Memorial Park
2. The Rail Trail
3. West Bridgewater State Forest/West Meadows

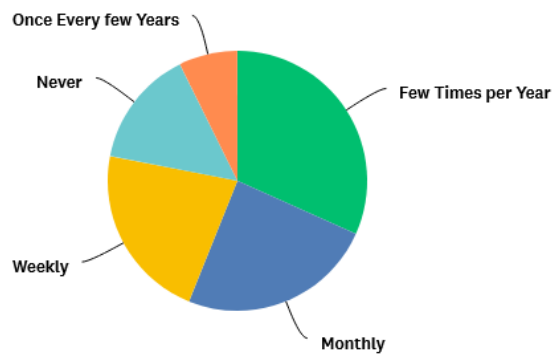
Please check the parks/recreational areas that you have visited in the last year:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



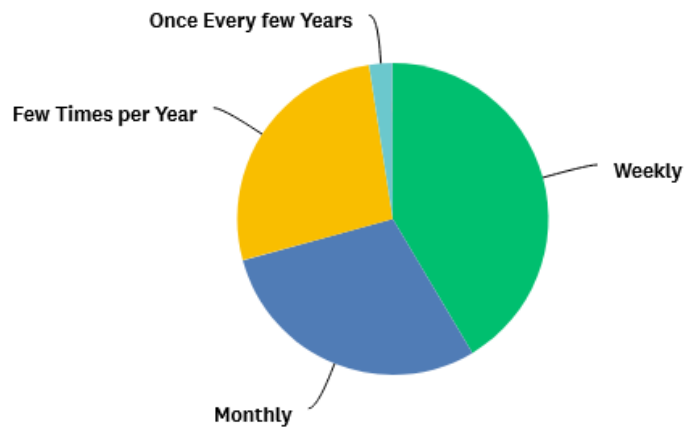
I use state facilities (like West Meadows):

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



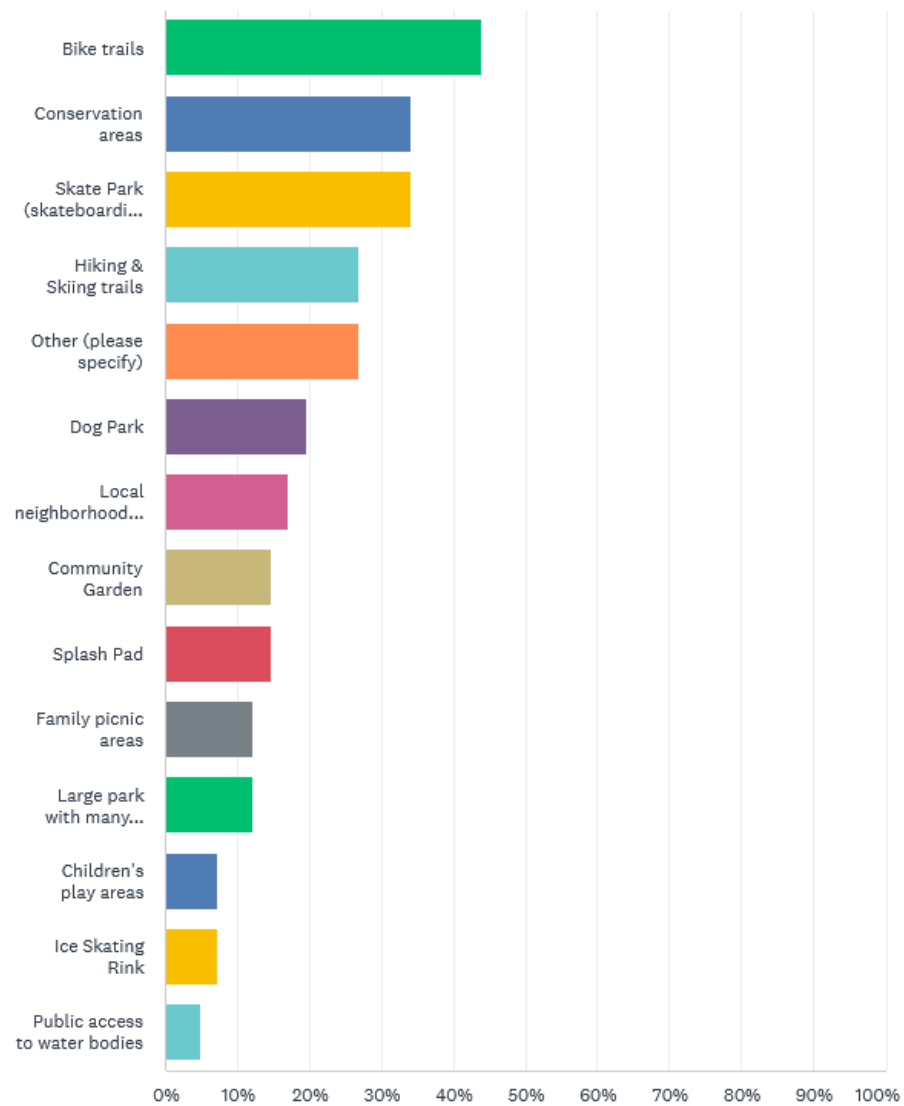
I use local facilities (like War Memorial Park or the Rail Trail):

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



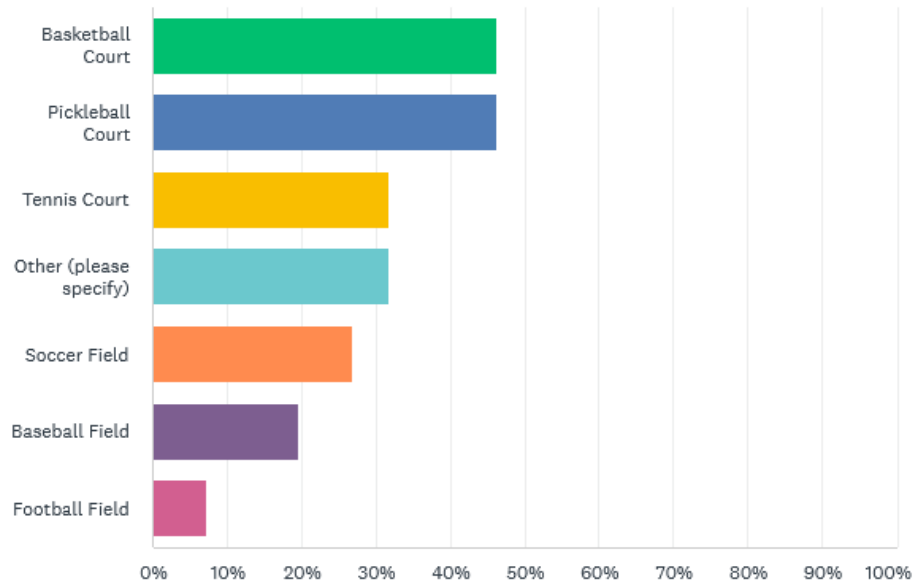
Please check the TOP THREE recreational facilities you feel are needed:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



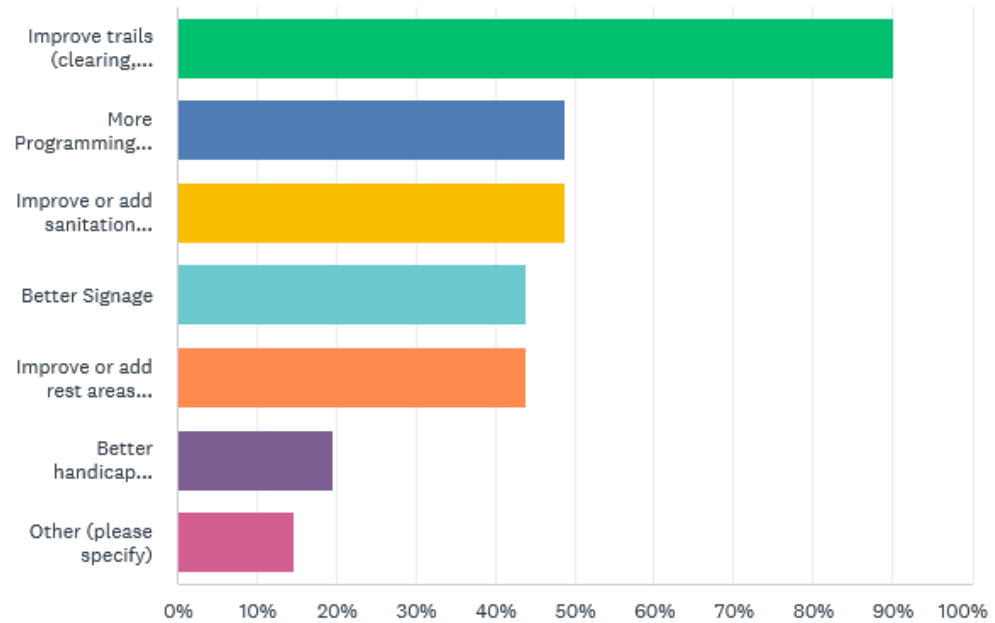
Please check the TOP THREE athletic facilities you feel are needed:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



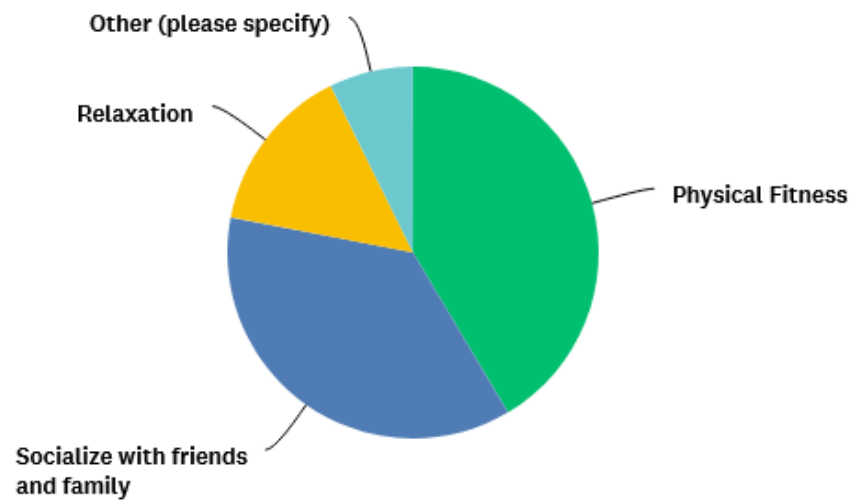
How can we improve our parks and recreation areas? (Pick 3)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



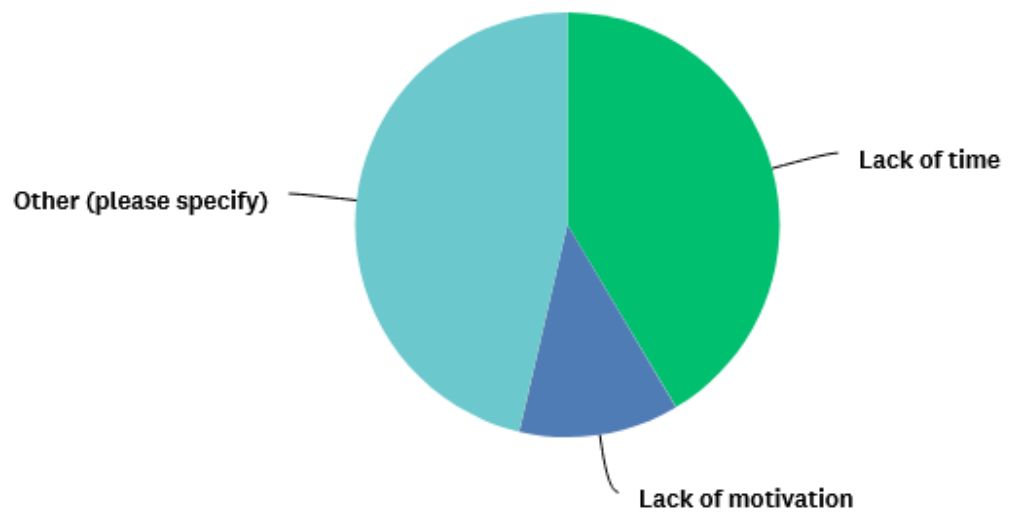
What motivates you to participate in outdoor activities?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



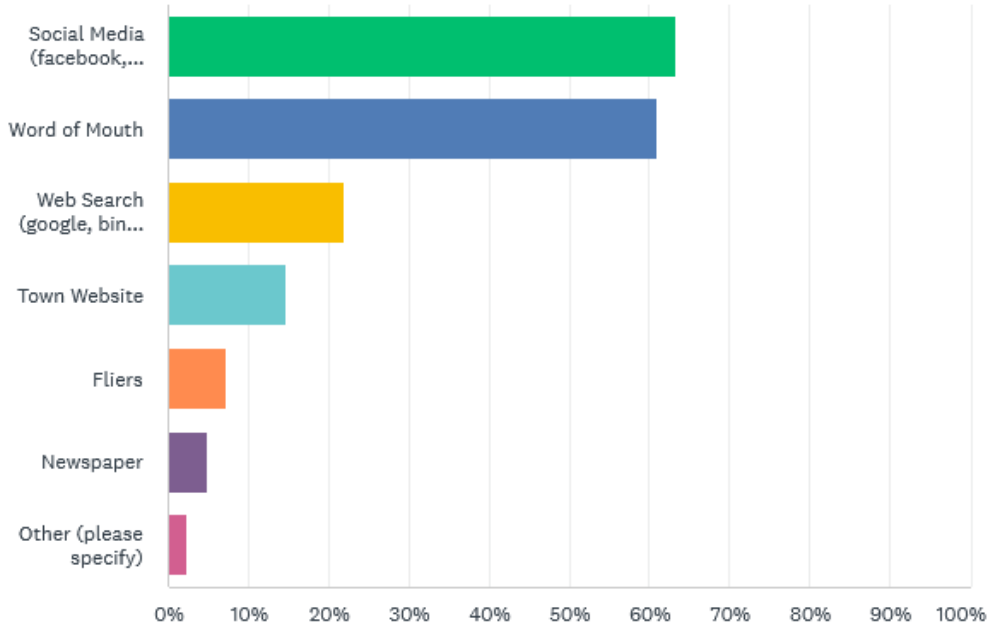
What prohibits you from partaking in outdoor activities?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



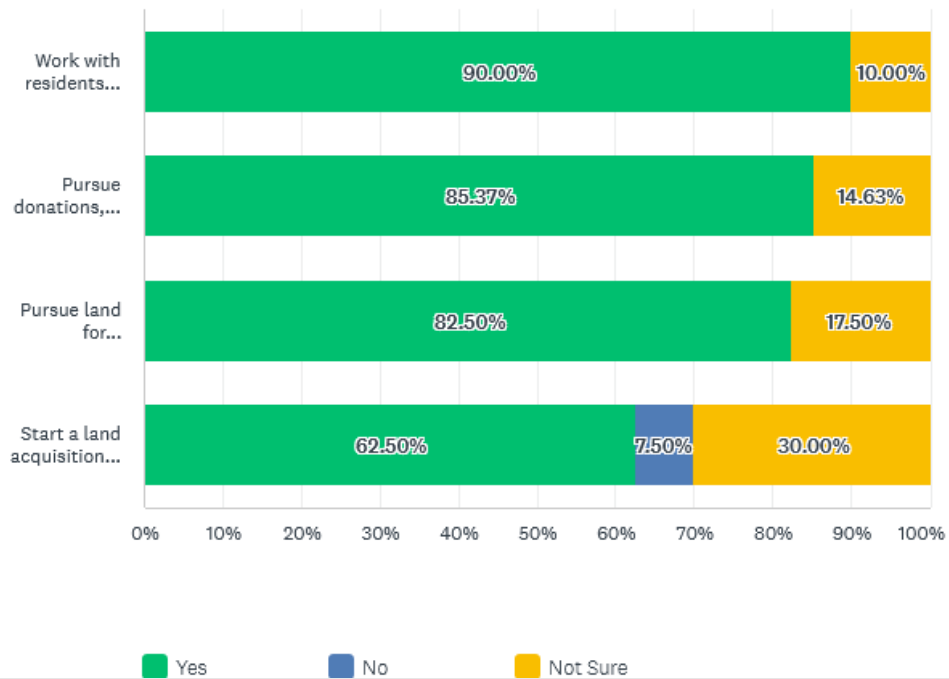
How do you find out about local facilities, parks, or programs?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



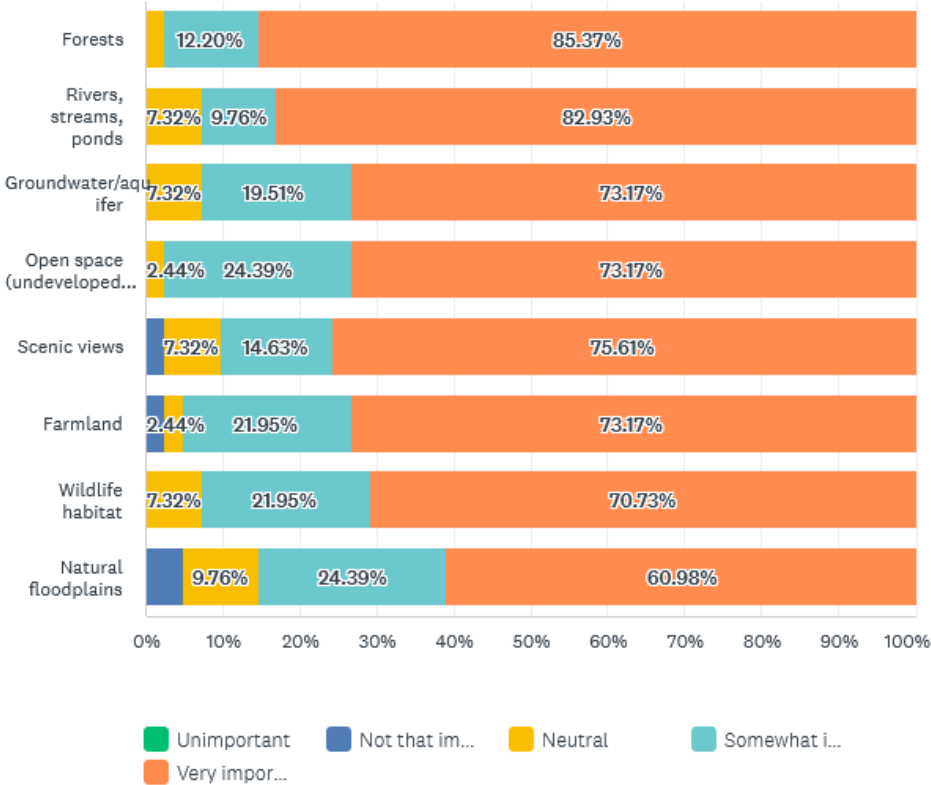
To preserve Open Spaces in town, West Bridgewater should:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



How important is it to you to protect these natural resources in West Bridgewater?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



How informed do you feel about the impact climate change will have on the local region over the next couple of decades? 1 star being not informed and 5 being very informed.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0

3.2★
average rating



APPENDIX E: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

APPENDIX F: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS

Town of West Bridgewater
Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
 Working Group Meeting #1 6/15/21

Hosted by Old Colony Planning Council, OCPC

1

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.



Laurie Minsky, AICP
 Director of Community Planning & Economic Development




Edgá Rivas
 Public Participation Planner

2

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.



3

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).
- Analyze Resource Protection Needs, Management Needs.

Image: West Middlesex Park
 Source: https://www.parks.com/locations/us/oh/ohio/west-middlesex-park

4

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 Selfing
 - Environmental Inventory
 - Inventory of Lands
 - Community Goals
 - Analysis of Needs
 - Goals & Objectives
 - 5-Year Action Plan
 - Public Comments
 - ADA Inventory

Image: West Bridgewater Fall Trail
 Source: https://www.parks.com/locations/us/ma/ma/west-bridgewater-fall-trail

5

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: West Bridgewater Fall Trail
 Source: https://www.parks.com/locations/us/ma/ma/west-bridgewater-fall-trail

6



13

NEXT STEPS

- Update Goals & Objectives,
- Identify Public Meeting Boards/Committees for hosting,
- Acquire parcel inventory for analysis,
- Survey sites for ADA compliance,
- Citizen/staff photos for report.

Image: West Ridge State Park
Source: <http://www.westridgepark.com/>

14

thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at:
eromulus@ocpcrpa.org

15



What is an Open Space & Recreation Plan?

- Roadmap for prioritizing open space and recreation projects and expenditures.
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- Plan components:
 - Plan Summary & Introduction
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 - Analysis of Needs
 - Goals & Objectives
 - 5-Year Action Plan
 - Public Comments
 - ADA Inventory

Image: West Bridgewater Fall Fall
Source: West Bridgewater Planning & Economic Development



Town of West Bridgewater

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Open Space & Recreation Committee
Public Listening Session - 8/12/21

Hosted by Old Colony Planning Council, OGPC



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: West Bridgewater Fall Fall
Source: West Bridgewater Planning & Economic Development

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.



Laurie Wilcox, AICP
Director of Community Planning & Economic Development



Brian Robinson
Sector Comprehensive Planner



Open Space Map

By Deborah Taylor - Town of West Bridgewater

Open Space 2011

- Conservation
- Forested
- Open Land
- Small Open Land
- Barren Land
- Wetlands/Conservation 2011
- Wetlands - Water
- Wetlands - Forest
- Wetlands - Shrub
- Wetlands - Open

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.



thanks!

Any questions?

You can reach me at:
eromulus@ocpcrpa.org or (508) 583-1833 ext. 217



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GOALS 1/2

- Identify and prioritize additional parcels with significant open space value.
- Promote collaboration among the various town boards, commissions, and departments responsible for open spaces.
- Preserve, maintain, diversify, and enhance open space resources and recreation opportunities.
- Protect agricultural land including fields, meadows, and orchards.
- Protect water resources, improve access to water bodies and improve storm water management.

Image: West Bridgewater, MA, Fall
 Source: West Bridgewater, MA, Fall
 7



GOALS 2/2

- Enhance broad understanding of green corridors/open space functions and values, particularly about stormwater, groundwater, climate, and wildlife.
- Identify additional measures to fund protection of significant open space when at imminent risk of loss.
- Preserve, restore, and create habitat for native wildlife and plants.
- Maintain, refurbish, and expand lands for park and recreational use.
- Maintain appropriate standards of care for the public urban forest.

Image: West Bridgewater, MA, Fall
 Source: West Bridgewater, MA, Fall
 8

TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER SURVEY

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE OUR PARKS & RECREATION AREAS?

LET US KNOW!

We need your opinion. Share with us & help us improve our parks & recreation areas. We need your voice with your comments.



Any questions or comments? Contact our office at info@westbridgewater.com

TAKE OUR SURVEY!

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APPENDIX G: GRANT PROGRAMS

Grant Programs Offered by the Division of Conservation Services

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program.** Funding is needed to acquire land for conservation or recreation, build a new park, renovate an existing park, or do trail work. Max. Award \$1,000,000 to build or renovate trails and acquire land for trails. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program>
- **Conservation Partnership Grant** funds the acquisition of conservation land by non-profit entities. You can apply if you are a not-for-profit group whose mission is to protect land in perpetuity and want to buy land for conservation purposes. Max. Award \$175,000 for the purchase of land or conservation restrictions. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-conservation-partnership-grant>
- **Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program** funding for protecting and conserving the quality and quantity of public drinking water supply sources in the Commonwealth, acquisition of land in existing DEP-approved drinking water supply protection areas or land in estimated protection areas of identified and planned future water supply wells or intakes. Max. Award \$300,000 for the purchase of land or conservation restrictions. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-drinking-water-supply-protection-grant-program>
- **Landscape Partnership Grant** To protect large-scale landscapes necessary to sustain the integrity and resilience of ecosystems and viability of local farms and forest economies, enable projects that stretch beyond the scope of other state grant programs, and support Executive Order 569, which calls for state government to adapt to climate change and build a more resilient Commonwealth. Max. Award \$1,250,000 for purchases of 500+ acres of land, conservation restrictions, and agriculture preservation restrictions. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-landscape-partnership-grant>

- **Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant.** Municipal conservation and agricultural commissions can apply for LAND grants to acquire interests in land that will be used for conservation and passive recreation purposes.
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-local-acquisitions-for-natural-diversity-land-grant>
- **Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program.** Funding for municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or renovate an existing park. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program>

APPENDIX H: ADA ACCESSIBILITY SELF EVALUATION

The Town of West Bridgewater has completed an ADA Transition Plan for municipal properties which can be downloaded at <https://oldcolonyplanning.org/document/west-bridgewater-ada-self-assessment/>

8.15.22

LOCATION: *Hockanock Swamp/Bay Circuit Trail* *W. Bridgewater*

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths	✓		
		Access to Open Spaces	✓		
		Back and Arm Rests	✓		
		Adequate number	✓		
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	✓		
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		✓			
Trails		Surface material <i>dirt & gravel</i>			
		Dimensions			
		Rails	✓		
		Signage (for visually impaired)			✓
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	✓		
		Location from accessible parking	✓		
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	✓		
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
		Location for accessible parking	✓		
		Shade provided	✓		
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	✓		
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	✓		
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Berm cuts onto courts	✓		
	Equipment	Height	✓		
		Dimensions	✓		
		Spectator Seating	✓		
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
	Equipment	Arm Rests	✓		
		Bait Shelves	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
		Fish Cleaning Tables	✓		
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim	✓		
		Guided Hikes	✓		
	Facilities accessible?	Interpretive Programs	✓		
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

*end of Maple St
No signage or trail head marker
Dirt/Gravel Road*

DF

LOCATION

PARKING							
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces			N/A	YES	NO	
Up to 25	1 spaces	<i>no onsite parking</i>					
25-60	2 spaces						
51-75	3 spaces						
76-100	4 spaces						
101-150	5 spaces						
151-200	6 spaces						
201-300	7 spaces						
301-400	8 spaces						
401-500	9 spaces						
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A				YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance							
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.							
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle							
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle							
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces							
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign							
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)							
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%							
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present							
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow							
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes			
Specification							
Slope Maximum 1:12							
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails							
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft							
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface							
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom							
Handgrip oval or round							
Handgrip smooth surface							
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"							
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail							
Non-slip surface							
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction							

LOCATION

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access				
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance				
Disembarking area at accessible entrance				
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed				
No ponding of water				
Path of Travel				
Path does not require the use of stairs				
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant				
3 ft wide minimum				
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).				
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/8 inch				
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane				
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"				
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs				
Entrances				
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance				
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors				
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)				
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door				
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist				
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space				
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible				
Door mats less than 1/4" thick are securely fastened				
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum				
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance				
Emergency egress - alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted				

NOTES:

adjacent to private property clearly marked parking for 3 or 4 cars - no handicapped large metal gate closed
 Signage is limited and obscured by vegetative growth lots of downed trees including one at 6' ft high blocking path
 No signage to show Hockonock Swamp or Bay Circuit trail

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Floors				
Non-slip surface				
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored				
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft				
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor				
Drinking Fountains				
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet				
Hand operated push button or level controls				
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible				
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain				
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach				
Telephones				
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor				
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide				
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified				
SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Switches, Controls and Signs				
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach				
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor				
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible				
Signs Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign				
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed				
Letters and numbers a t least 1½" high Letters and numbers raised .03"				
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color				

NOTES:

LOCATION

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides				
Lifting device				
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide				
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool				
Non-slip surface				

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use				
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening				
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance				
Floors are non-slip surface				
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve				
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat				
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose				
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor				
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long				
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L-shaped bar				
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line				

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access				
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.				
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground				
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions				
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter				

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.				
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
Programming	Are special programs at your Facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim			
		Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

~~End of Forest St & Hockanock Swamp before Bay Creek Trail~~
 No signage - no trail to get to it
 Next to location of Comfort Bridge - couldn't find it
 DF 1

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.				
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Shade provided			
		Same experience provided to all			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
Boat Docks	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Handrails			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

~~Reynolds Landing - Fisheries & Wildlife - Joan Pierce~~
 No signage
 Corner of Forest & Clifton no parking DF

8-15-22

SKIM MILK BRIDGE

W BRIDGEWATER

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
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Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
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Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
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Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your Facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim			
		Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance		Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired			
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

Next to Scotland St Bridge over Town River down trail
 Oldest Standing bridges & old trail
 Want to make National Historic Site 1700's
 No canoe landing over →

DF

8.15.22

LOCATION: Flagg Meadow

w. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.				
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
Shade provided					
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

South Elm Street - trail head next to 151 South Elm DF
 Natura' trail - No parking. con com is the lead
 Just a trail ADA check list not applicable - no
 parking available

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
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	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
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		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

*Forest St. Not ADA accessible no parking.
Along first bend of Forest St coming from River St*

JF

Facility Inventory 6.8.22

LOCATION: War Memorial Park

West Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces	Some		
		Back and Arm Rests	yes		
		Adequate number	some		
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface		✓	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Some		
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			✓		
Trails		Surface material			✓
		Dimensions	crushed stone - dirt		✓
		Rails			✓
		Signage (for visually impaired)			✓
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking		✓	
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired		✓	
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water		✓	
		Handrails		✓	
		Location for accessible parking		✓	
		Shade provided		✓	
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all		✓	
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair		✓	
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
		Berm cuts onto courts		✓	
	Equipment	Height		✓	
		Dimensions		✓	
		Spectator Seating		✓	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
		Handrails		✓	
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
		Handrails		✓	
	Equipment	Arm Rests		✓	
		Bait Shelves		✓	
		Handrails		✓	
		Fish Cleaning Tables		✓	
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim		✓	
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes		✓	
		Interpretive Programs		✓	
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

Corner of River St & Arch St
Not accessible - crushed stone

ER

LOCATION

War Memorial Park West Bridgewater

PARKING				
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO
Up to 25	1 spaces ✓ no handicap spaces			
25-60	2 spaces			
51-75	3 spaces			
76-100	4 spaces			
101-150	5 spaces			
151-200	6 spaces			
201-300	7 spaces			
301-400	8 spaces			
401-500	9 spaces			
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance		✓		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.				
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			✓	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			✓	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces		✓		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign		✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		✓		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		✓		
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present		✓		
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow		✓		
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Specification			✓	
Slope Maximum 1:12			✓	
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			✓	
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			✓	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			✓	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			✓	
Handgrip oval or round			✓	
Handgrip smooth surface			✓	
Handgrip diameter between 1 3/4" and 2"			✓	
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			✓	
Non-slip surface			✓	
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			✓	

LOCATION

War Memorial Park West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

No entrances
 2 ADA compliant picnic tables. not in shade
 1 wooden. in shade trash in grass not accessible

LOCATION

War Memorial Park West Bridgewater

STAIRS AND DOORS				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Stairs				
No open risers			✓	
Nosings not projecting			✓	
Treads no less than 11" wide			✓	
Handrails on both sides		✓		
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			✓	
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			✓	
Handgrip oval or round			✓	
Handgrip has a smooth surface			✓	
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			✓	
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			✓	
Doors				
Minimum 32" clear opening	✓			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	✓			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	✓			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	✓			
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides	✓			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)	✓			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	✓			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	✓			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	✓			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	✓			

NOTES:

No doors

LOCATION

War Memorial Park West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

NO RESTROOMS

LOCATION

War Memorial Park West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

NO floors, fountains, telephones, signs, signals or switches

LOCATION

War Memorial Park West Bridgewater

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	✓			
Lifting device	✓			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	✓			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	✓			
Non-slip surface	✓			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use	✓			
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	✓			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	✓			
Floors are non-slip surface	✓			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	✓			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	✓			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	✓			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	✓			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	✓			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	✓			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	✓			

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			✓	
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			✓	
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground		✓		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			✓	
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	✓			

No swimming pools or showers

8.15.22

Reynolds Landing, Ash St

W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Picnic Shelters		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance		Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired			
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

Directly across from 179 and 199 Ash St
 AS IS: parking lot crushed gravel
 Limited parking in gravel area - 10 car? NO handicap

DF

8.15.22

LOCATION: Truccis Landing Rte 106

W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

Across the street from Truccis - 500 ft toward E. Bridgewater
 AS IS - parking hard to access by wheelchair
 across field & down winding embankment - steep *df*

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths	✓		
		Access to Open Spaces	✓		
		Back and Arm Rests	✓		
		Adequate number	✓		
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	✓		
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	✓			
Trails		Surface material	✓		
		Dimensions	✓		
		Rails	✓		
		Signage (for visually impaired)	✓		
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	✓		
		Location from accessible parking	✓		
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	✓		
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
		Location for accessible parking	✓		
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	✓		
		Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓	
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	✓		
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓	
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height	✓		
		Dimensions	✓		
Spectator Seating		✓			
		✓			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
	Equipment	Arm Rests	✓		
		Bait Shelves	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
Fish Cleaning Tables	✓				
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	✓		
		Guided Hikes	✓		
		Interpretive Programs	✓		
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				✓
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

Howard St. Behind police station ER
 This is a small pond that people skate on in the winter
 Dried up when viewed in Aug. benches old - wooden on
 grass - parking in police lot

LOCATION

Howe Rink

West Bridgewater

PARKING						
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces			N/A	YES	NO
Up to 25	1 spaces ✓					✓
25-60	2 spaces					
51-75	3 spaces					
76-100	4 spaces					
101-150	5 spaces					
151-200	6 spaces					
201-300	7 spaces					
301-400	8 spaces					
401-500	9 spaces					
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			✓			
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			✓			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			✓			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			✓			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			✓			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			✓			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		✓				
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		✓				
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			✓			
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			✓			
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Specification						
Slope Maximum 1:12			✓			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			✓			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			✓			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			✓			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			✓			
Handgrip oval or round			✓			
Handgrip smooth surface			✓			
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"			✓			
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail			✓			
Non-slip surface			✓			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			✓			

LOCATION

Howe Rink

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

+ this is outdoors - no physical entrance

LOCATION

Howe Rink

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

No stairs or doors

LOCATION

Howe Rink

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES: *No Bathrooms*

LOCATION

Howe Rink

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES: *No floors, drinking fountains, telephones or signs, signals, switches*

LOCATION

Howe Rink

West Bridgewater

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	✓			
Lifting device	✓			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	✓			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	✓			
Non-slip surface	✓			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use	✓			
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	✓			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	✓			
Floors are non-slip surface	✓			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	✓			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	✓			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	✓			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	✓			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	✓			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	✓			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	✓			

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	✓			
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	✓			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	✓			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	✓			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	✓			

No swimming pools, showering or picnicking

Facility Inventory 6.15.22

LOCATION: High School Athletic fields W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.				
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

New - across from Police Station
 2 handicap + 2 handicap/van accessible
 Couldn't get in to bathrooms

DF

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Picnic Shelters		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
	Shade provided				
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			✓
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			✓
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
	Fish Cleaning Tables				
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance		Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired			
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

*Spring St. School - preK to K - between school bldgs DF
Needs total upgrade - committee tasked with looking at all school recreation facilities*

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

Located in a locked gate inside school courtyard
 Woodchip-base equipment older and no handicapped
 play units. Access from the school requires a
 step down onto ground. Not open to the public

8.15.22

Veteran Park

W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your Facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim			
		Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

New- next to fire station
 2 Handicap Space (1 w/ van loading) parking at fire station. Could get wheel chair to access

8.2.22

LOCATION: Howard School Soccer Fields W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.			
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
			Interpretive Programs		
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

Wet. on Lincoln St. Planning Rec center w/ better soccer fields. got land at Town Meeting. Need feasibility study of unauthorized use of quads & graffiti

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO	
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths	✓			
		Access to Open Spaces	✓			
		Back and Arm Rests	✓			
		Adequate number	✓			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	✓			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
Picnic Shelters		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.	✓			
Trails		Surface material Dirt				
		Dimensions 3ft +				
		Rails some parts				
		Signage (for visually impaired)				
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	✓			
		Location from accessible parking	✓			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	✓			
	Beaches		Location from accessible path into water	✓		
			Handrails	✓		
			Location for accessible parking	✓		
			Shade provided	✓		
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	✓			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	✓			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Berm cuts onto courts	✓			
	Equipment	Height	✓			
		Dimensions	✓			
		Spectator Seating	✓			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓		
		Handrails		✓		
	Equipment	Arm Rests	✓			
		Bait Shelves	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
	Fish Cleaning Tables	✓				
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim	✓			
		Guided Hikes	✓			
	Facilities accessible?	Interpretive Programs	✓			
Services and Technical Assistance		Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

Rte 2B - North of Town Hall
Open space committee looking to add interpretive kiosk

EP

LOCATION

Rail trail

West Bridgewater

PARKING						
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces			N/A*	YES	NO
Up to 25	6 spaces	1 space				
25-60		2 spaces				
51-75		3 spaces				
76-100		4 spaces				
101-150		5 spaces				
151-200		6 spaces				
201-300		7 spaces				
301-400		8 spaces				
401-500		9 spaces				
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			✓			
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			✓			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			✓			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			✓			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			✓			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			✓			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			✓			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			✓			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			✓			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			✓			
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Specification			✓			
Slope Maximum 1:12			✓			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			✓			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			✓			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			✓			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			✓			
Handgrip oval or round			✓			
Handgrip smooth surface			✓			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			✓			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			✓			
Non-slip surface			✓			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			✓			

LOCATION

Rail Trail

West Bridgewater

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Site Access			✓	
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			✓	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			✓	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			✓	
No ponding of water			✓	
Path of Travel				
Path does not require the use of stairs		✓		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			✓	
3 ft wide minimum		✓		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).			✓	
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/8 inch			✓	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			✓	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			✓	
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			✓	
Entrances				
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance				
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	✓			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	✓			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	✓			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	✓			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space	✓			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	✓			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened	✓			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/4" maximum	✓			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	✓			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	✓			

NOTES:

LOCATION

Rail Trail

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

NO STAIRS or doors

LOCATION

Rail Trail

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

NO RESTROOMS

LOCATION *Rail Trail*

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES: *No floors, telephones, drinking fountains, signs, signals or switches*

LOCATION *Rail Trail*

West Bridgewater

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	✓			
Lifting device	✓			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	✓			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	✓			
Non-slip surface	✓			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use	✓			
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	✓			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	✓			
Floors are non-slip surface	✓			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	✓			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	✓			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	✓			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	✓			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	✓			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	✓			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	✓			

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	✓			
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	✓			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	✓			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	✓			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	✓			

No swimming pools, shower rooms or picnicking

Facility Inventory 8.15.22

LOCATION: Woodchuck Chase Land w. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.					
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
Programming	Are special programs at your Facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim			
		Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

North Elm St
 Looking to put in low key signage - hidden - adjacent
 landowner concerned about privacy. Kiosk?
 No parking. Could not find it

DF

8.15.22

LOCATION: *Maldonald School Playground W. Bridgewater*

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.					
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			✓
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			✓
	Access Routes	Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your Facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim			
		Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

*Stepping Stone Drive old playground wood chips/grass
 Rosell School? No shade - old equipment - DF
 no handicapped features*

Facility Inventory 8-15-22

LOCATION: West Meadow Pond

W. Budgetwater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.					
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
	Shade provided				
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
	Spectator Seating				
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
	Fish Cleaning Tables				
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

598 Spring St
 Hope to design for swimming - right now no swimming facilities in town. Could be a regional asset (next to Brockton)
 Environmental Justice needs -

DF

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

Provide a loop- 4 miles. bike & multimodal. allowed to dislapiate

8.15.22

LOCATION: Forest St Fish & Game

W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.					
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
		Shade provided			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
		Fish Cleaning Tables			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

Owned by MA Fish & Wildlife - W Meadows pond
 W. Bridgewater Forest 15% of town - end of Spring St
 Open Space - who cares for fallen trees?

DF

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO	
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			✓	
		Access to Open Spaces		✓		
		Back and Arm Rests			✓	
		Adequate number		✓		
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface				
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths				✓
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.					✓	
Trails		Surface material <i>gravel, grass</i>				
		Dimensions	✓			
		Rails			✓	
		Signage (for visually impaired)			✓	
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	✓			
		Location from accessible parking	✓			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	✓			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
		Location for accessible parking	✓			
		Shade provided	✓			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			✓	
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			✓	
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair		✓		
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Berm cuts onto courts	✓			
	Equipment	Height	✓			
		Dimensions	✓			
		Spectator Seating	✓			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
	Equipment	Arm Rests	✓			
		Bait Shelves	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
		Fish Cleaning Tables	✓			
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim	✓			
		Guided Hikes	✓			
	Facilities accessible?	Interpretive Programs	✓			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		✓			
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		✓			

visited w/ Mary Wynne, Deborah Cauley & Grandson Caleb.
Newer playground next to school (Howard School)

DF

LOCATION

Friendship Park

West Bridgewater

PARKING						
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces			N/A	YES	NO
Up to 25	1 spaces					
25-60 ✓	2 spaces					✓
51-75	3 spaces					
76-100	4 spaces					
101-150	5 spaces					
151-200	6 spaces					
201-300	7 spaces					
301-400	8 spaces					
401-500	9 spaces					
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance						
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.						
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle						
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle						
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces						
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign						
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)						
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%						
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present						
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow						
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Specification	✓					
Slope Maximum 1:12	✓					
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	✓					
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	✓					
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	✓					
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	✓					
Handgrip oval or round	✓					
Handgrip smooth surface	✓					
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	✓					
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	✓					
Non-slip surface	✓					
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	✓					

LOCATION

Friendship Park

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

Parking is the biggest issue in using playground (Mary)
 Many suggested when new housing is built - there should be consideration to add a playground on site. Although this is a newer playground there are no handicapped structures to support wheelchairs. Should have more shade
 COD wants to apply for grant to create accessible paths connecting to picnic tables
 Friends of Friendship Park - non profit?
 Built 2020?
 Signs - need braille & sound

LOCATION

Friendship park

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

Friendship Park West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

friendship Park West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

Friendship Park West Bridgewater

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	✓			
Lifting device	✓			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	✓			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	✓			
Non-slip surface	✓			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use	✓			
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	✓			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	✓			
Floors are non-slip surface	✓			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	✓			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	✓			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	✓			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	✓			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	✓			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	✓			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	✓			

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access		✓		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.		✓		
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground		✓		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions		✓		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter		✓		

tables are on pads or stable ground but no stable pathway to access by wheel chair - they are accessed by grass. Some are not in shaded areas.

7

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO	
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			✓	
		Access to Open Spaces			✓	
		Back and Arm Rests	some benches have back rest not arm	✓		
		Adequate number	14 but very old and worn wood	✓		
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface		✓		
		Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓		
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths				✓
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths		✓		
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		✓		
	Trails	Surface material	Some pavement, gravel			✓
Dimensions						
Rails					✓	
Signage (for visually impaired)					✓	
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	✓			
		Location from accessible parking	✓			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	✓			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
		Location for accessible parking	✓			
		Shade provided	✓			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	✓			
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	✓			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		✓	
		Berm cuts onto courts	✗		✓	
	Equipment	Height				
		Dimensions				
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Spectator Seating			✓	
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
		Arm Rests	✓			
	Equipment	Bait Shelves	✓			
		Handrails	✓			
		Fish Cleaning Tables	✓			
				✓		
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim	✓			
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes	✓			
		Interpretive Programs	✓			
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired				✓	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		✓			

located behind town hall - 2 fields

Site audit w/ Mary Wynne-Yee open space & Deborah Cauley
& Deborah's grandson 8yr old Caleb

COMM Disability

See notes on page 3

DF 1

LOCATION

soft ball/baseball fields

West Bridgewater

PARKING						
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces			N/A	YES	NO
Up to 25	1 spaces					
25-60	2 spaces					
51-75	3 spaces					
76-100 ✓	4 spaces			shared w/ town hall & gazebo		✓
101-150	5 spaces					
151-200	6 spaces					
201-300	7 spaces					
301-400	8 spaces					
401-500	9 spaces					
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			✓	there are 2 accessible spaces identified by a sign sticking out of a bucket to make it moveable.		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			✓	They plan to designate 2 permanent spaces in the future.		
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			✓	Consider designated Veteran's parking spaces like Brockton & Easton		
Van space - minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			✓			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			✓			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			✓			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		✓				
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		✓				
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	✓					
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	✓					
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Specification						
Slope Maximum 1:12			✓			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	✓					
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			✓			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			✓			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			✓			
Handgrip oval or round			✓			
Handgrip smooth surface			✓			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			✓			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			✓			
Non-slip surface			✓			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			✓			

LOCATION

softball/base ball fields

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

on the field closest to town hall, part of the path is asphalt and is uneven with cracks. That path turns into gravel. Although there are several picnic tables & some benches - they are old & wooden and no accessible pathway to get to them. They are on the grass and one is on a cement pad with a step. Minimal shade opportunities. Bleachers are not accessible - they are on grass and no wheelchair access. There is no connection or pathway between the two fields. On the 2nd field there is an asphalt ramp with a steep decline. Need more shade opportunities

LOCATION

softball/baseball fields

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

No stairs or doors

LOCATION

softball/baseball fields

West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

NO RESTROOMS

LOCATION

softball/baseball fields West Bridgewater

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

NOTES:

no floors, telephones, signs, signals or switches

LOCATION

softball/baseball fields West Bridgewater

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	✓			
Lifting device	✓			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	✓			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	✓			
Non-slip surface	✓			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use	✓			
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	✓			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	✓			
Floors are non-slip surface	✓			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	✓			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	✓			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	✓			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	✓			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	✓			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	✓			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	✓			

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			✓	
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			✓	
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			✓	
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			✓	
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			✓	

No swimming or shower rooms

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths	✓		
		Access to Open Spaces	✓		
		Back and Arm Rests	✓		
		Adequate number	✓		
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	✓		
		Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		✓			
Trails		Surface material <i>grass - no path</i>			✓
		Dimensions <i>flagstone pavers in grass</i>	✓		
		Rails			✓
		Signage (for visually impaired) <i>plaque on rock</i>			✓
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance	✓		
		Location from accessible parking	✓		
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	✓		
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
		Location for accessible parking	✓		
		Shade provided	✓		
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	✓		
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	✓		
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Berm cuts onto courts	✓		
	Equipment	Height	✓		
		Dimensions	✓		
		Spectator Seating	✓		
				✓	
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
	Equipment	Arm Rests	✓		
		Bait Shelves	✓		
		Handrails	✓		
		Fish Cleaning Tables	✓		
Programming	Are special programs at your	Learn-to-Swim	✓		
	Facilities accessible?	Guided Hikes	✓		
		Interpretive Programs	✓		
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		✗		✓
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings				

Located next to town hall. Site audit w/ Mary Wynne-Yee Open Space Deborah Cauley - Common Disability & Deborah's 8yo grandson Caleb

See notes on page 3

DF 1

LOCATION

PARKING						
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces			N/A	YES	NO
Up to 25	1 spaces					
25-60	2 spaces					
51-75	3 spaces					
76-100	4 spaces <i>shared w/ town hall @ ballfields</i>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
101-150	5 spaces					
151-200	6 spaces					
201-300	7 spaces					
301-400	8 spaces					
401-500	9 spaces					
Specification for Accessible Spaces	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
RAMPS	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes		
Specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Slope Maximum 1:12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Handgrip oval or round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Handgrip smooth surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Non-slip surface	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

LOCATION

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Site Access	✓			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			✓	
Disembarking area at accessible entrance		✓		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			✓	
No ponding of water			✓	
Path of Travel				
Path does not require the use of stairs			✓	
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			✓	
3 ft wide minimum			✓	
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).		✓		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/8 inch			✓	
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			✓	
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			✓	
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			✓	
Entrances				
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and not be the service entrance	✓			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	✓			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	✓			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	✓			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	✓			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space	✓			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	✓			
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened	✓			
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	✓			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	✓			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	✓			

NOTES:

COD wants to get grant to build a new gazebo or make this one accessible

LOCATION

STAIRS AND DOORS				
Specification	N/A	YES	NO	Comments/Transition Notes
Stairs				
No open risers			✓	
Nosings not projecting			✓	
Treads no less than 11" wide			✓	
Handrails on both sides			✓	
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			✓	
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			✓	
Handgrip oval or round			✓	
Handgrip has a smooth surface			✓	
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"			✓	
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			✓	
Doors				
Minimum 32" clear opening	✓			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	✓			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	✓			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	✓			
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides	✓			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)	✓			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	✓			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	✓			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	✓			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	✓			

NOTES:

*Steps on gazebo rotting - not accessible for wheelchair
no railings*

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

LOCATION

SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	✓			
Lifting device	✓			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	✓			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	✓			
Non-slip surface	✓			

LOCATION

SHOWER ROOMS –				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use	✓			
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	✓			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	✓			
Floors are non-slip surface	✓			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	✓			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	✓			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	✓			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	✓			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	✓			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds 2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	✓			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	✓			

LOCATION

PICNICKING				
<i>Specification</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	✓			
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	✓			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	✓			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	✓			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	✓			

Facility Inventory

8.15.22

LOCATION: Pratt's Landing River St.

W. Bridgewater

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	N/A	YES	NO
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible Paths			
		Access to Open Spaces			
		Back and Arm Rests			
		Adequate number			
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths				
	Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.				
Trails		Surface material			
		Dimensions			
		Rails			
		Signage (for visually impaired)			
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance			
		Location from accessible parking			
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired			
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water			
		Handrails			
		Location for accessible parking			
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all			
		Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair			
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Berm cuts onto courts			
	Equipment	Height			
		Dimensions			
		Spectator Seating			
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths			
		Handrails			
	Equipment	Arm Rests			
		Bait Shelves			
		Handrails			
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim			
		Guided Hikes			
		Interpretive Programs			
Services and Technical Assistance		Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired			
		Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings			

Installed landing. accessible. 2021 installed
 Concom. plan to develop for parking & usage

DF

LOCATION

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

NOTES:

Across from Keith House (which has no parking)
 Historical Society has parking. good facilities @ Pratt's
 Very hard to find - sign faded & hard to see
 No parking - must cross grass to get to embankment