



Town of Bridgewater

Recreation Needs Assessment

2015



Prepared for: Town of Bridgewater

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Bridgewater Town Administrator Michael Dutton

Bridgewater Recreation Commission:

James Campbell, Thomas Arrighi, Gina Gausconi, Michael Flaherty III, Daniel Buron

Bridgewater Recreation Superintendent Charlie Simonds

Bridgewater Community and Economic Development Director Andrew Delonno

Bridgewater Community and Economic Development Executive Assistant Lisa Sullivan

Parkland Stewards including:

Steve Black, Conservation Commission members Richard Monteith, Harry Bailey, Marilyn MacDonald, Tina Leo-Bianco, Mariah Jennings Rampsi, and others

Kitty Doherty

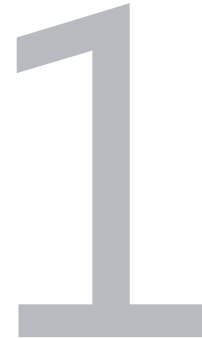
Carlton Hunt

Shirley Krasinski

Harry Bailey

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Introduction



Purpose

This study aims to develop a comprehensive recreation needs assessment of the town of Bridgewater's existing facilities that can subsequently be included in an updated Open Space and Recreation Plan and the updated Master Plan. The findings from study will help guide the Town's future efforts in recreation resources protection and improvements.

The Recreation Needs Assessment (Assessment) identifies future recreation needs by looking into the demographic trends of the community and the Level of Service (LOS) of existing recreation facilities in the community. The Assessment also provides a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of the conditions of existing recreation resources in town, as shown in Figure 1 Recreation and Open Space Resources Inventory and Distribution, including both active recreation facilities, such as ballfields and playgrounds, and passive recreation resources, such as trails and open natural areas. The Assessment further solicited community input on issues, needs, and recommendations regarding the Town's recreation resources through extensive public outreach.

Process

The process for preparing the Assessment involved field visits, interviews with Town staff and stakeholders, public outreach, and research regarding demographics, land use patterns, and levels of service for different types of recreation facilities.

An initial project kick-off meeting was held with Town Manager Michael Dutton and Recreation Superintendent Charlie Simonds to discuss the planned approach towards the preparation of the Assessment, finalize the selection of recreation facilities to be included in the review, and establish a preliminary schedule for meetings, public workshops and other outreach activities. The facilities identified for the Assessment include:

- ▶ Legion Field
- ▶ Scotland Field
- ▶ Crescent Street Fields
- ▶ Rainbow's End Playground
- ▶ Marathon Park
- ▶ Jenny Leonard Park
- ▶ Town River Landing
- ▶ Olde Scotland Links Golf Course
- ▶ Flagg Street Soccer Field
- ▶ Bridgewater Middle School
- ▶ Williams Middle School
- ▶ New Bridgewater Raynham High School
- ▶ George Mitchell Elementary School

The kick-off meeting was followed by a working session with Superintendent Simonds in which a final schedule for meetings and public outreach was set, approach to development of questionnaires for the public as well as youth league representatives discussed, and relevant new data and reports, including the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, were collected.

As part of this meeting, Superintendent Simonds was interviewed regarding the condition and needs presented by each of the sites being evaluated based upon his personal knowledge and understanding of these sites. A tour of many of the facilities followed, allowing VHB to become familiar with each of the sites and better understand the issues associated with them early in the planning process.

More detailed field visits and site reconnaissance of the Town's recreation facilities and playing fields were then undertaken to further assess and document the condition of the facilities and fields. The findings of these site visits are contained in Section 3 of this report.

Following the meeting with Superintendent Simonds, VHB prepared and launched an online survey linked to the Town's website that included questions regarding the use of the selected facilities, where the users of each facility live, and how they get to the facilities. The results of this survey provided valuable insights into recreation needs from a residents' perspective, some of these including:

- ▶ The recreation facilities used most frequently on a weekly basis include the Flagg Street Soccer Fields, Marathon Park, and Legion Field
- ▶ The recreation facilities respondents were least aware of include Jenny Leonard Park, Town River Landing and Scotland Field
- ▶ Lack of parking was the principle issue cited for Legion Field
- ▶ Lack of maintenance was the principle issue cited for Rainbow's End Playground

- ▶ Lack of signage was the principle issue cited for Crescent Street Field
- ▶ Walking/exercise trails and picnic tables were the most frequently cited additional desirable features for Legion Field and Crescent Street Field
- ▶ Water fountain and restrooms were the most frequently cited additional desirable features for Marathon Park
- ▶ A playground was the most frequently cited additional desirable feature for Flagg Street Soccer Fields
- ▶ Public ice skating was the most frequently cited additional desirable feature for the Olde Scotland Links Golf Course
- ▶ The most commonly used means for accessing the parks is by automobile, followed by bike, walking and bus, in that order.
- ▶ The preferred future means for accessing the parks is by bike and walking (tied), followed by automobile and bus.

A summary of the full results of the online survey are included in Appendix I.

VHB reached out to representatives of the local youth leagues with a questionnaire designed to identify and provide an understanding of the level of participation in sport activities, demand for town recreation facilities, the timing of activities for the different sports, in-kind (and financial, if applicable) contributions they make toward meeting their needs, and specific issues and concerns regarding the particular facilities they use. Information garnered through this survey was then examined to help establish current and future trends for facility usage. The questionnaire with results is included in Appendix II.

Concurrent with these activities, an analysis of key land use and demographic data regarding the Town's population and development patterns as they relate to open space and recreation was prepared, with results indicated in a series of map overlays. Figure 2 and Figure 3 identify the location of the Town's facilities as they relate to land use and key demographic data representing population densities and distribution of age groups, and aid towards identification of neighborhoods that are could be better served in terms of recreation facilities. As shown in Figure 2, the Town's recreation facilities and open spaces are distributed fairly evenly throughout the community. Majority of the Town's active recreation facilities are located within or close by higher density residential neighborhoods, indicating that a good percentage of the Town's population is currently being served adequately by accessible active recreation resources. Figure 3 shows the distribution of population in various Census Block Groups in Bridgewater and their relationship with the recreation resource distribution. It shows that many active recreation facilities are located in areas where there are a higher percentage of teenage and young adult population who may have a stronger demand for such recreation resources, although there are a few Census Block Groups in the southwestern and eastern portion of the Town that are not immediately served by such facilities. In addition, there may be additional demands for readily accessible passive recreation resources in neighborhoods with a higher percentage of senior population, such as in the northeastern portion of the Town.

Introduction

A review of Level of Service of Bridgewater's publicly accessible, developable parkland and recreation areas within public jurisdiction was also prepared. Based upon National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) current use of a comparative benchmark approach using their PRORAGIS database, this provides a comparison of Bridgewater to a baseline of similar communities in terms of current and projected area of parkland available. It was found that Bridgewater's current acreage level of services (as of the latest 2010 census) is 19.6 acres per 1,000 population, which is at the upper quartile of the NRPA's guideline for comparable communities.

Upon completion of the preliminary assessment of the selected facilities and based on the results from the stakeholder outreach, survey, questionnaire, and demographic/level of service analysis activities, an initial Public Meeting was held to review findings to date and receive feedback from regarding the recreation facility's needs. As part of the feedback portion of the meeting, a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis was conducted to help bring out the key issues. Valuable information was received through both the SWOT analysis and the open question/answer session held following it. The findings from the SWOT Analysis have been incorporated into the Community Needs analysis to help inform where future improvements are needed in order to meet the community recreation demands.

One topic that came to the forefront at the public meeting was a high-level of interest in individual and family use of Town owned open space, and that this should be reflected in the Recreation Needs Assessment. In response to this, VHB met with two key stakeholders representing these interests, Kitty Doherty, representing the Nunckatesett Greenway Project and Carlton Hunt, Chairperson of the Bridgewater Master Plan Implementation Committee. Following a discussion of the ongoing Nunckatesett Greenway Project and other Bridgewater open space preservation and linkage initiatives, Carlton Hunt and VHB's representative toured nine parks and conservation areas which were subsequently incorporated into the Assessment. These include:

- ▶ Iron Works Park (Stanley Ironworks)
- ▶ Stiles and Hart Conservation Area
- ▶ Tuckerwood Conservation Area
- ▶ Wyman Meadow
- ▶ Carver's Pond
- ▶ Titicut Conservation Parkland
- ▶ Lake Nippentucket Town Holdings
- ▶ Murray Farm
- ▶ Summer Street Canoe Launch

VHB met with the Recreation Commission and Recreation Superintendent Simonds to review a draft of the Recreation Needs Assessment findings as they relate to the Town's recreation facilities and playing fields. This allowed for a sharing of the Commission's experience with the various facilities and their assessment of needs based upon their active

involvement with the facilities and user groups. This information was used to refine VHB's understanding of issues and priorities.

A second Public Meeting was held to provide an update on the assessment of the Town's active recreation facilities followed by a detailed review of observations and issues related to the Town's use of passive open space with a focus on the nine parks and conservation areas VHB discussed with stakeholders. Meeting attendees at the second public meeting were primarily residents with a strong interest in parks and passive use open space. The open discussion following the presentation centered upon passive open space use and needs, providing additional valuable local knowledge for incorporation into the findings.

Based on the public meetings, discussions with stakeholders, and the needs assessment of existing recreational facilities described above, the Assessment report provides a foundation for making informed decisions on where resources should be placed to make improvements, and an approach towards prioritizing future actions.

Figure 1: Recreation and Open Space Resources Inventory and Distribution

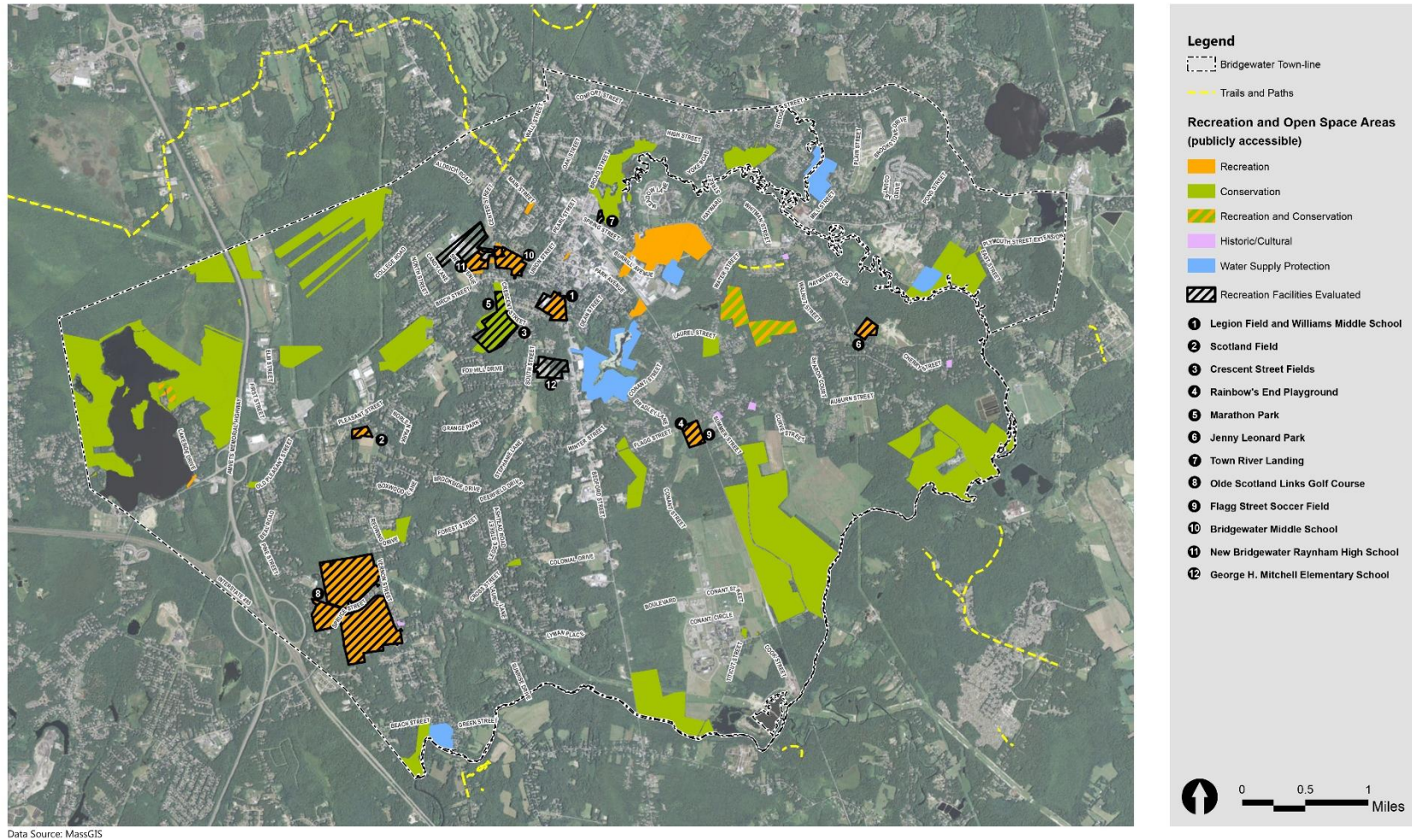


Figure 2: Land Use and Recreation Resources Distribution

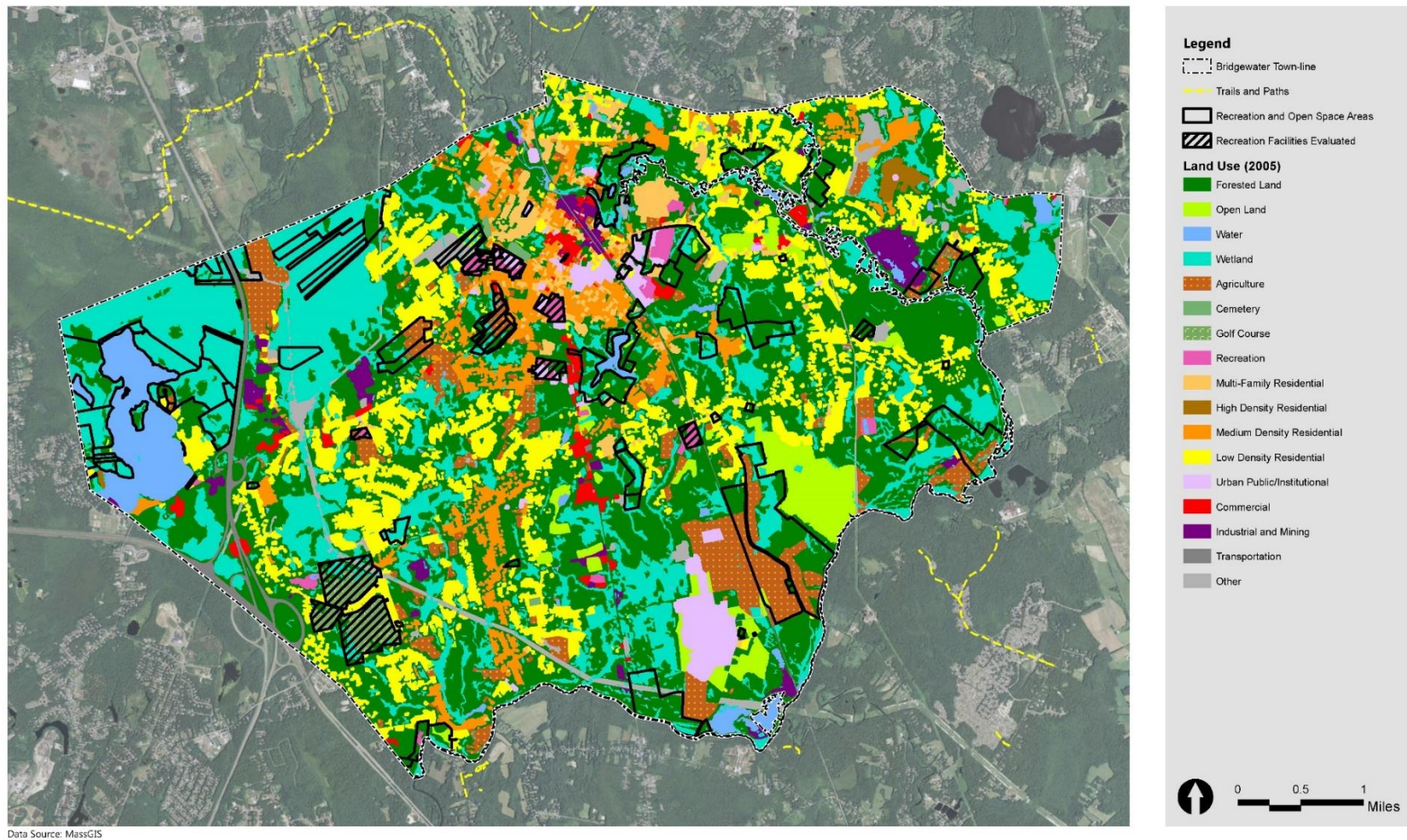
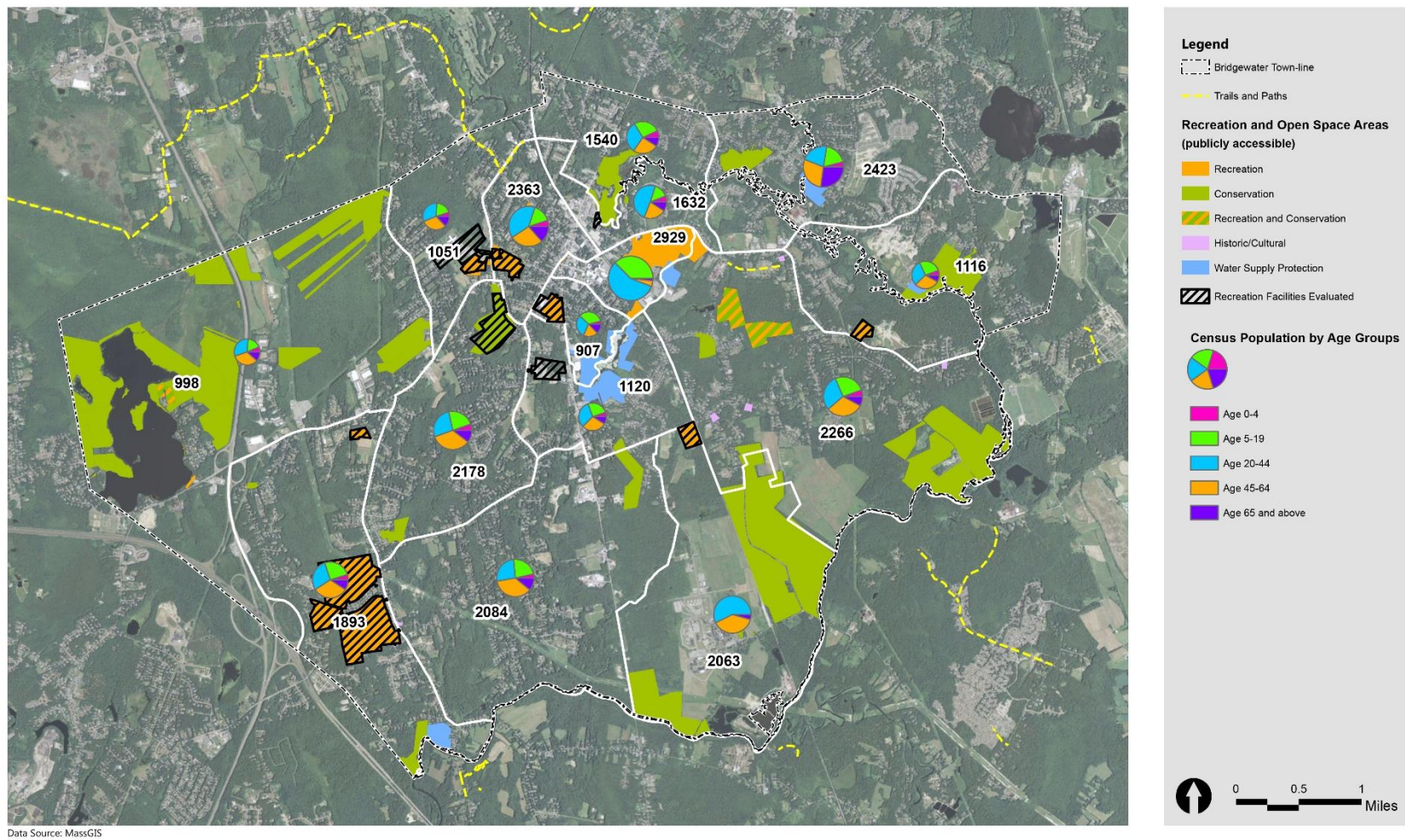


Figure 3: Demographics and Recreation Resources Distribution



Community Recreation Needs Analysis

2

Demographic Trends

The citizens of a community, as well as transient visitors who are drawn to town for a variety of recreation opportunities are potentially the beneficiaries of an adequate, well-balanced set of recreation resources provided that a town understand and has addressed the needs of those user groups. Forward looking population trends are vital to anticipating and being responsive to future projections of recreation needs.

The population of Bridgewater is characterized by constant growth since the 1950s, and this trend is likely to continue for the next few decades, though at a lower rate as projected by Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). As shown in Table 1 below, Bridgewater experienced a population growth at an average rate of 25.2% between 1970 and 2000. The population growth rate slowed to 5.5% between 2000 and 2010 and is projected to remain below 5% for the next 20 years according to MassDOT projections.

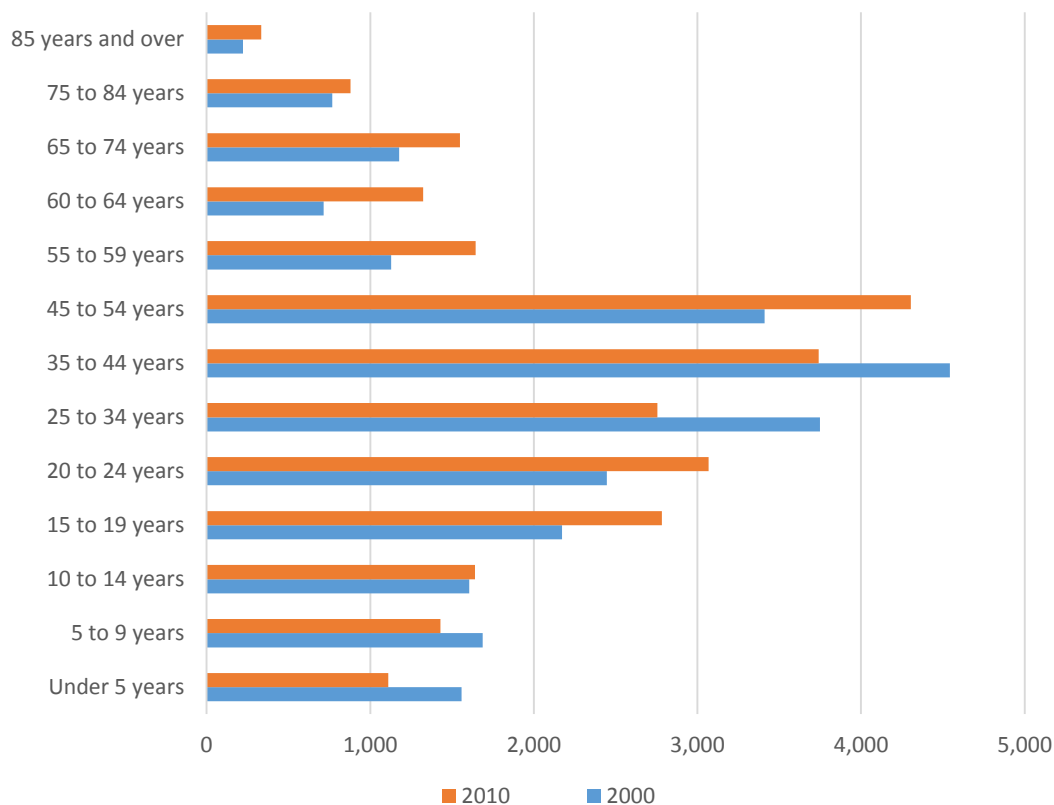
Table 1: Town of Bridgewater Population Change and Projection

Year	Population	Numerical Change	Rate Change
1950	9512	-	-
1960	10276	764	8.0%
1970	12911	2635	25.6%
1980	17202	4291	33.2%
1990	21249	4047	23.5%
2000	25185	3936	18.5%
2010	26563	1378	5.5%
2020	27997	1434	5.4%
2030	28674	677	2.4%

Source: US Census, MassDOT

A further look into the change of the median age of Bridgewater's population as well as changes in population composition reveals that Bridgewater has experienced an aging population over the past decade, a similar trend seen in many New England communities. The median age of Bridgewater's population was 33.6 in 2000, which increased to 36.7 by 2010. As shown in Figure 1, the population in Bridgewater over 45 years old increased significantly from 2000 to 2010 while the population of younger children under 10 years old and adults between 25 and 44 decreased. Population of teenage and younger adults between 15 and 24 years old also saw an increase during the same period. Such changes indicate that there are likely increased demands for recreation resources that suit the particular needs of seniors, such as passive recreation areas and/or trails and paths that connect these open spaces, and of young adults and teenage populations, such as active recreation and athletic facilities.

Figure 1: Population Change by Age Group: 2000-2010



Level of Service Standards

There are a number of ways to evaluate how well a community is served by recreation resources. The "acres of parkland per 1,000 population" metric is the most common technique for determining whether a community has "enough" parkland. It is also known as a community's "acreage level of service (LOS)". There is no standard acreage LOS in the United States, and LOS can vary widely due to a community's history, culture, demographics, density, development patterns, and other factors. In more recent years, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has moved away from "one size fits all"

guidelines towards a comparative benchmarking approach in which communities can compare themselves to peer communities using the PRORAGIS database¹.

According to PRORAGIS 2.0, the median range of the acreage LOS for comparable communities with similar population density as Bridgewater is around 9.5 acres per 1,000 population, while the lower quartile is at 5.2 acres and the upper quartile is at 16.8 acres per 1,000 population.

Based on the most recent "Protected and Recreation Open Space" GIS data provided by MassGIS, the Bridgewater has a total of approximately 522.2 acres of publicly accessible recreation land in public ownership, including land owned by the town and the state. The latest U.S. Census from 2010 shows that Bridgewater has a total population of 26,563, indicating that Bridgewater has an acreage LOS of 19.6 acres per 1,000 population, which is at the upper quartile of the NRPA's guideline for comparable communities. This infers that Bridgewater has relatively abundant recreation resources for its residents when compared to other similar sized suburban communities.

A further look into the projected population of Bridgewater shows that the existing recreation resources in town, if well protected and maintained, will adequately meet the long term recreation needs of the community in terms of acreage LOS. Massachusetts Department of Transportation projected that, by 2025, Bridgewater will have a total population of 28,200, and by 2035 the town will have a total population of 29,370. Based on these projections, in the next ten to twenty years Bridgewater's acreage LOS will remain above 17 acres per 1,000 population, still in the higher range of NRPA's guideline.

Community Needs – Key Findings

The following summary of community recreation needs represents the key findings, which resulted from the various public outreach events conducted as part of this study, and are described in section 1 above.

- ▶ Expand walking, hiking, biking, horse riding and/or multipurpose pathways and trails:
 - Along the rivers, around major ponds such as Lake Nippenicket and Carver's Pond, and through large tracks of open space and conservation land, where feasible.
 - Serving segments of the community not involved in organized sports.
 - Forming a town-wide network of paths and trails connecting neighborhoods and common destinations like the downtown, and the college, open space and conservation areas, and various recreation facilities and areas.
 - Connecting to regional long distance trail networks and/or trail systems in other communities.
- ▶ Improve access to Rivers and Ponds for Water Sports/Activities:
 - Canoe and kayak access points at protected riverside holdings.

¹ Available at <http://nrpaproragis.com/login.asp>

- Natural swimming areas at Carver's Pond or elsewhere in town.
- Canoe, kayak or small sailboat rentals at the Town River Landing, Lake Nippenicket, Carver's Pond, and Stiles & Hart Conservation Area, where feasible.
- Fishing and sailing docks at Lake Nippenicket and Carver's Pond.
- ▶ Increase neighborhood Parks
 - Small scale neighborhood parks with picnic areas, potentially on vacant parcels sporadically located in various neighborhoods, to offer shared gathering space.
- ▶ Improve tenting Areas
 - Improve access to and potentially expand improvements of local tenting areas at the Wyman Meadow and the Titicut Conservation Parkland.
- ▶ Trash accumulation, vandalism, and lack of maintenance are major concerns regarding the Town's recreation resources.
- ▶ Making recreation information more available to the public is a pressing issue as many residents are not aware of the existing recreation resources in Town.
- ▶ The responses to the Youth League questionnaires indicate the majority of the Town's active Youth Leagues currently can meet their needs with existing recreation facilities in Bridgewater and experience no major scheduling issues, although there are general maintenance and improvement needs such as lighting, irrigation, and parking, etc. for specific facilities. More detailed information is available in the Active Recreation Facilities evaluation section.

Recreation Resources Inventory and Evaluation

3

The following section provides a comprehensive inventory of the Town's recreation resources, including both active recreation facilities and passive recreation areas. The physical conditions of the recreation sites are evaluated based on field visits and site reconnaissance. Improvement recommendations are made based on extensive stakeholder interviews and questionnaires, public surveys, and public workshop discussions.

Active Recreation Facilities Evaluation

Based on the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the following thirteen public recreation facilities or areas, including athletic fields, playgrounds, and outdoor school facilities, are evaluated in this section. For each location general maintenance issues and needs, as well as additional recreation potentials on the site are identified, as applicable.

Legion Field



Location: Off Route 18 at Cottage Street, next to Williams Middle School

Size: 23.3 acres

Parcel ID: 48-86

Zoning: R-D

Access: From Bedford Street, Cottage Street, and Williams Middle School

Level of Protection High as recreation land

Management: Recreation Commission

Maintenance: Recreation Commission

Leagues help pay for fertilizer and paint.

Due to intensive use, maintenance is considered challenging with limited time or space to close fields for reseeding, regrading, or other required general maintenance.

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
One baseball diamond (full size - high school)	Yes	No	Field in good condition, backstops in good condition, some rust on fence posts, no safety cap on fences, dugouts and benches in good condition.
Two baseball diamonds (medium - Little League)	Yes	Yes	Fields in very good condition, backstops and benches in very good condition, sports lighting to be upgraded.
Two baseball diamonds (small - Pinto League)	No	No	Fields in good condition, weed eradication needed on baselines/infield (especially east field), backstops and benches in very good condition, one bleacher in very poor.

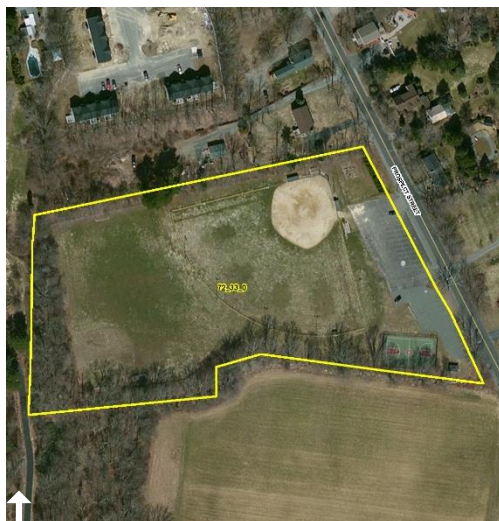
Two softball diamonds (One women's, one youth)	Yes	Yes	Stone dust infields rough to play on, ground depressions trap water in outfield, weeds in stone dust within the infields and outfields, north field dugout roofs in disrepair, some rust on fences, one wooden bleacher in poor condition.
Two T-ball diamonds	No	No	Stone dust infields are rough for children to play on, very confined location, ground depressions trap water, weeds in surrounding lawn.
One football/soccer field with bleachers	Yes	Yes	Field in very good condition, bleachers in very good condition.
Two basketball courts	N/A	Yes	Bituminous playing surface has minor cracks, paint is faded, fence in poor condition (rust and sags).
Gazebo	N/A	Yes	Not ADA accessible, rails missing pickets, wood slats at base in poor condition, no paved walkway to stairs.
One skateboard park (now closed)	N/A	No	Remnant fence posts should be removed.
Other facilities	Maintenance shack, restrooms alongside Bedford Street are in good condition. Also numerous maintenance out buildings in varied condition and a tot lot on the Cottagee Street side of the park.		
Parking	Two parking lots alongside the eastern edge of site. No street parking. Parking also available at adjacent Williams Middle School. Parking demands exceeded on weekends.		

Additional Recreation Potential

The closed skateboard park area can potentially be used for a small practice field, tennis courts or playgrounds.

Provide additional parking.

Scotland Field



Location:	Off Route 104 at Prospect Street	Size:	6.7 acres
Parcel ID:	72-33	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	From Prospect Street	Level of Protection	High as recreation land
Management:	Recreation Commission		
Maintenance:	Recreation Commission Town does regular maintenance. Town collects user fees (\$50-60/adult) to help with maintenance. Vandalism is a concern.		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
One softball field	No	Yes	Lighting and fencing to be upgraded in the next 2-5 years, turf generally in good condition but with areas of crab grass, clay infield in good condition, dugouts have holes in block walls, benches poor, bleachers should be replaced (frames rusted/seats have splinters).
One multipurpose field (soccer, lacrosse, archery)	No	No	Turf in good condition, no ADA access from parking (steep grade change from softball field to soccer field).
One basketball court	N/A	No	Almost 15 years old, some cracks in bituminous, fencing sagging, post and rails rusted in some locations.
One playground (with one swing set)	Yes	No	Poor location. Dilapidated. To be removed.

Other facilities	Small maintenance building. Adult leagues bring in portable toilet.
Parking	Enlarged parking lot on site, pavement in very poor condition, no curbing at entrances, no plantings along frontage.
<u>Additional Recreation Potential</u>	
None or limited.	

Crescent Street Fields



Location:	Crescent Street south of Route 104	Size:	49.9 acres
Parcel ID:	47-115	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	Along Crescent Street behind the new police station on Pleasant Street	Level of Protection	High as recreation and conservation land
Management:	Recreation Commission; possible Conservation Commission oversight of wetlands open space uses		
Maintenance:	Recreation area by Recreation Commission		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Three softball fields	Yes	One field is lit	Opened in 2010. Very good condition.
One rookie softball field	Yes	No	Stone dust diamond. Very good condition.
One playground	N/A	No	Good condition.
Other facilities	Walking trails around the fields; Large concession/bathroom building in memory of Jackie Moore; Small maintenance shack		
Parking	Parking lot off Crescent Street; additional parking available inside the gate next to the driveway for major events.		

Additional Recreation Potential

Wooded area on southwest of the parcel can accommodate walking or exercise trails and passive recreation in short or long term.

Rainbow's End Playground



Location:	Flagg Street, just west of and contiguous with Flagg Street soccer fields	Size:	Northwestern corner of the Flagg Street Soccer Field
Parcel ID:	90-999B	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	By path from Flagg Street and through woods from adjacent soccer fields.	Level of Protection	Land owned by Department of Correction and leased back to Town. Limited protection.
Management:	Recreation Commission		
Maintenance:	Playground built by the Rainbow's End Trust and given back to Town to maintain.		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Major castle-like pressure treated timber play structure	N/A	No	<p>Designed by Robert Leathers and built in 1991 by volunteers.</p> <p>Facility in extensive disrepair. Poor condition aged CCA pressure treated timber structures release arsenic to the soils and prone to splinters. Given the poor condition and leaching of arsenic, it is not recommended to repair the play structures.</p> <p>Poor sightlines from Flagg Street result in the playground currently being too secluded to be considered safe; adjacent wetlands prevent opening up vegetation for improved security.</p> <p>Due to the facility's seclusion, trash has been an issue.</p>
Parking	Parking available off Flagg Street		

Additional Recreation Potential

This site is not Town owned, consequently any investment in replacement with a new facility should be carefully evaluated and likely limited.

The site itself is physically suitable for building a new playground that would better meet the recreation demand of the community.

There is also adequate usable space for additional recreation opportunities such as a dog park.

If redeveloped, there is potential for better connection to the adjacent Flagg Street Soccer Field and associated parking.

Marathon Park



Location:	Crescent Street south of Route 104	Size:	Northern portion of the Crescent Street Field parcel
Parcel ID:	47-115	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	Along Crescent Street behind the new police station on Pleasant Street	Level of Protection	High as recreation and conservation land
Management:	Recreation Commission; possible Conservation Commission oversight of wetlands open space uses		
Maintenance:	Recreation area by Recreation Commission		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Major themed play structures	N/A	No	Opened in May 2014. Excellent condition, play areas designed for different age groups and utilize wood fiber safety surfaces. Trash collection was noted as an issue. Trash collection is currently handled by a private trash company as a donation/service to the community No water fountain and limited ADA parking.
Other facilities	Shade structure, picnic tables		
Parking	Stone dust parking lot off Crescent Street. Shared parking with Crescent Street Field.		

Additional Recreation Potential

Potential walking or exercise trails around the playground to connect to other nearby trails.

Jenny Leonard Park



Location:	North of Cherry Street just east of Walnut Street	Size:	10.4 acres
Parcel ID:	52-11	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	Up a few railroad tie steps or along a partially overgrown curved dirt drive to a low, wooded hill.	Level of Protection	High as recreation land
Management:	Town of Bridgewater		
Maintenance:	No clear maintenance authority		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Small playground with slide, swings, see-saw, turntable, basketball court, picnic table, roofed bad-weather play space, and a bathroom	N/A	No	All facilities under-maintained. Basketball court overgrown. Bathroom vandalized and dismantled. Extensive restoration or rebuild needed. Improved parking and signage are essential to make the playground more accessible.
Parking	No designated parking. Driveway, upon improvement, could accommodate a few cars. Poor sight lines due to seclusion of facilities poses security issues.		

Additional Recreation Potential

With nearby new residential developments underway, the site can potentially be restored as a full-sized playground serving the east side of the Town. Walking and exercise trails can be developed in the wooded areas.

Town River Landing



Location:	Behind former Highway Barn off of Spring Street	Size:	Northern portion of the former Highway Department yard parcel
Parcel ID:	21-167	Zoning:	CBD
Access:	By driveway and informal parking areas off of Spring Street. The site is signed both "No Trespassing" and "Bridgewater Landing"	Level of Protection	High as conservation land
Management:	Town Council		
Maintenance:	By volunteer Parkland Stewards through Town Manager		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Curved, graded, rip-rap lined non-vehicular ramp going down to Town River for launching and removing small hand-carried boats.	N/A	No	Site overgrown, access to river obscured by weeds and woods, existing buildings further obscure views in and conflict with park character.
Parking	Informal parking areas along driveway.		

Additional Recreation Potential

There is adequate space on the site for river side parkland.

Potential for a footbridge over Town River to connect to the Stiles & Hart Conservation Area across the river.

Olde Scotland Links Golf Course



Location:	Off of Vernon, Pine, and Spruce Streets	Size:	210 acres
Parcel ID:	108-1, 2, 8 116-7	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	By driveway to parking lot on Pine Street	Level of Protection	High as recreation land
Management:	Golf Commission		
Maintenance:	Golf Commission		

Facilities and Conditions

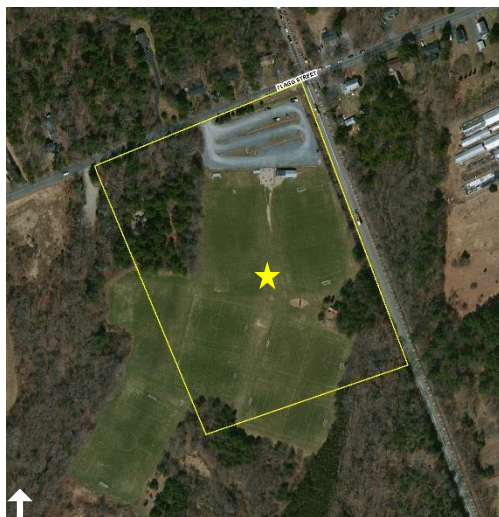
Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Premier golf course	Yes	No	Opened in 1997. Good conditions. No known major maintenance needs at present.
Other facilities	<p>New clubhouse built with volunteer support and opened in May 2012. Good condition.</p> <p>OSL is proud to be a Certified Audubon Cooperative Bird Sanctuary Golf Course, 1 of only 9 in Massachusetts and of only 473 worldwide.</p> <p>Maintenance building on north of Pine Street. Good condition.</p> <p>Golf carts shed next to parking lot. Good condition.</p>		
Parking	Parking lot off of Pine Street behind the club house.		

Additional Recreation Potential

Potential expanded use of the clubhouse function area.

Potential opportunity for cross country skiing and/or public skating in winter.

Flagg Street Soccer Field



Location:	Flagg Street, just west of and contiguous with Flagg Street soccer fields	Size:	Approx. 14.6 acres, northern portion of the Department of Corrections parcel
Parcel ID:	90-999B	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	By driveway and parking lot from Flagg Street and by path from Conant Street	Level of Protection	Land owned by Department of Correction and leased back to Town. Limited protection.
Management:	Bridgewater Youth Soccer		
Maintenance:	Bridgewater Youth Soccer		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Three full size soccer fields	Yes	No	Turf in very good condition.
Two U-12 soccer fields	Yes	No	Turf in very good condition.
Three U-8 soccer fields	Yes	No	Turf in very good condition.
Practice areas	Yes	No	Turf in good condition.
Other facilities			
Concession/storage/restroom building	Building is dated but appears well maintained.		
Parking	Crushed stone parking available off Flagg Street. Logs used as curbing are in poor condition and are weed havens. Parking available off Conant Street for major events		

Additional Recreation Potential

None

Bridgewater Middle School



Location: East of Center Street and north of Pleasant Street

Size: Approx. 21 acres

Parcel ID: 33-47
33-48

Zoning: R-D

Access: By driveway and parking lot from Center Street and Mt. Prospect Street

Level of Protection Limited protection.

Management: Bridgewater-Raynham School District

Maintenance: Bridgewater-Raynham School District

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
One football field with large bleachers	Yes	No	Turf in poor condition with crabgrass and bare/depressed areas, home bleachers in good condition but not ADA accessible and fence mesh peeling back in places, visitors bleachers are in hazardous condition, must be replaced.
One softball field with soccer field across outfield	Yes	No	Stone dust infield, turf in good condition, fence in good condition. Soccer play is compromised by infield penetrating its play area.
Eight tennis courts	N/A	No	The 4 northerly courts have been rebuilt and are in excellent condition; the 4 southerly courts need to be replaced.
One football practice area	No	No	Football field also used often for lacrosse

Concession building	Good condition on the exterior (brick).
Parking	Parking available off Center Street and Mt. Prospect Street parking lots

Additional Recreation Potential

A large area of reasonably level lawn that was formerly a baseball field by the southerly tennis courts could be converted to multipurpose play.

Williams Middle School



Location:	Off South Street next to Legion Field	Size:	Part of the Legion Field parcel
Parcel ID:	48-86	Zoning:	R-D
Access:	From South Street	Level of Protection	Limited protection
Management:	School property managed by Bridgewater-Raynham School District; recreation facilities by Recreation Commission		
Maintenance:	School property maintained by Bridgewater-Raynham School District; recreation facilities by Recreation Commission		

Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
One indoor gym	N/A	N/A	Internal to school; not applicable
Parking	Parking lots on site		

Additional Recreation Potential

None; the gym is internal to the building, all outdoor facilities are discussed in the Legion Field site evaluation

New Bridgewater Raynham High School



Location: 415 Center Street, west of
Bridgewater Middle School

Size: 56.94 acres

Parcel ID: 33-1; 33-5; 33-6; 33-79

Zoning: R-A/B

Access: By driveway and parking lot from
Center Street

Level of Protection Limited protection.

Management: Bridgewater-Raynham School District

Maintenance: Bridgewater-Raynham School District

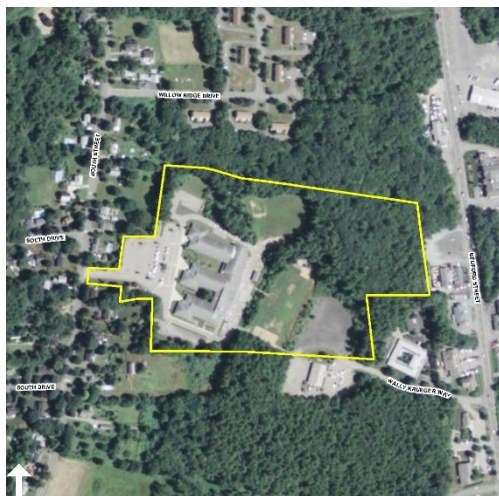
Facilities and Conditions

Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
One football /multipurpose turf field	N/A	Yes	Excellent condition.
One track	Yes	No	Cracking evident, in need of repair.
One soccer /multipurpose field			Excellent condition.
Two baseball fields (high school/college)	Yes	No	Excellent condition
Two softball fields (high school)	Yes	No	Excellent condition, stone dust infields. Concession stand, bathrooms, bleachers
One indoor gym	N/A	N/A	
Parking	Parking available off Center Street		

Additional Recreation Potential

There appears to be room for an additional high school soccer field along the site's northwest edge.

George H. Mitchell Elementary School



Location:	East of South Street across from South Drive	Size:	22.2 acres
Parcel ID:	62-19	Zoning:	R-C
Access:	By driveway and parking lot from South Street	Level of Protection	Limited protection.
Management:	Bridgewater-Raynham School District		
Maintenance:	Bridgewater-Raynham School District		

Facilities and Conditions

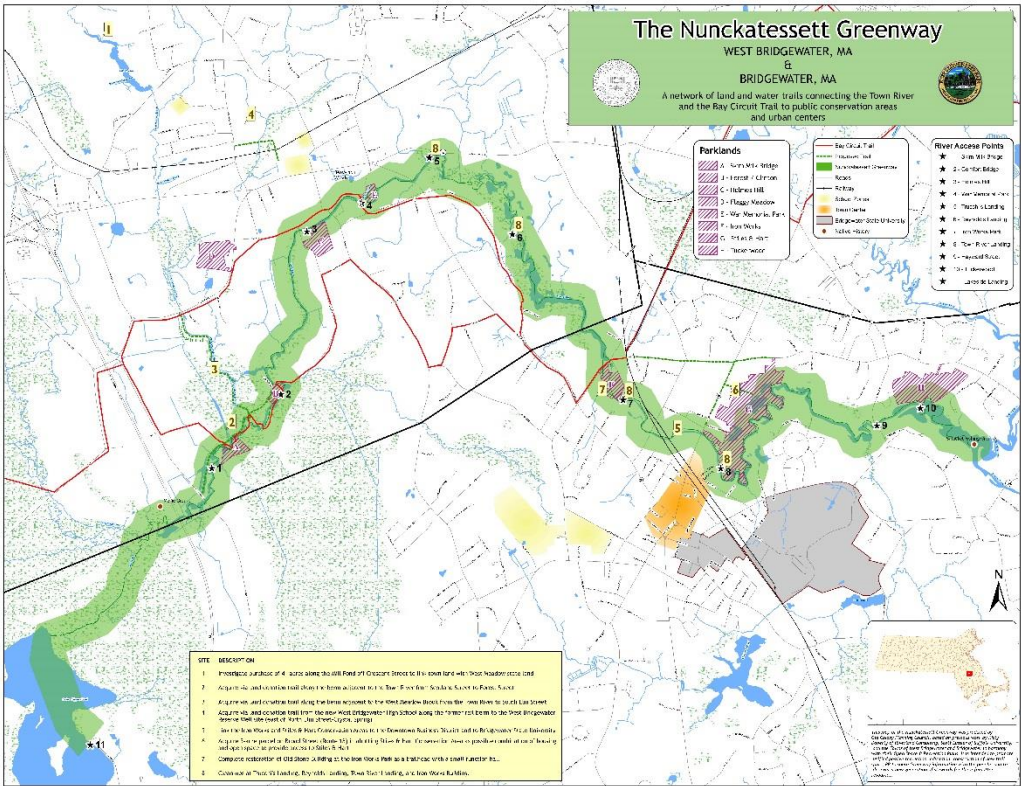
Type and Number	Irrigation	Lighting	Conditions and Maintenance Needs
Two playgrounds	N/A	No	The playgrounds are in some disrepair due to neglect following the school roof collapse
One small play structure	N/A	No	Fair condition.
One soccer /multipurpose field	No	No	The soccer/multipurpose field are in need of maintenance.
One baseball fields	No	No	The baseball field is in need of maintenance.
Two basketball hoops	N/A	No	The basketball hoops are in poor condition.
Parking	Parking available off South Street on school grounds.		

Additional Recreation Potential

Roof of the school building collapsed in 2015. Recreation facilities will not be in service for the next 2-3 years due to reconstruction. There is potential to improve recreation facilities on site to better serve neighborhood needs.

Passive Recreation Resources Evaluation

The Nunckatessett Greenway (Map provided by the Nunckatessett Greenway)



Location:	A network of land and water trails along Town River through West Bridgewater and Bridgewater	Size:	N/A
Parcel ID:	N/A	Zoning:	N/A
Access:	Multiple in Bridgewater, including Iron Works Park, Stiles & Hart and the Tuckerwood Conservation Area	Level of Protection	Various
Management:	N/A		
Maintenance:	N/A		

Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

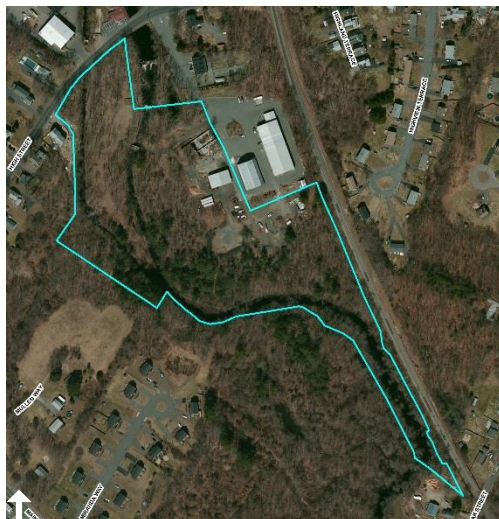
- Currently the Greenway connects the Bay Circuit Trail with the Town River, Iron Works Park, Stiles and Hart Conservation Area, and Tuckerwood Conservation Area in Bridgewater. There are four existing river access points along the Greenway in Bridgewater.

- ▶ The Greenway is meant to be used as a natural corridor for hiking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, wildlife habitat, outdoor nature and history classrooms, and for promoting alternative means of travel between the two town centers and Bridgewater State University.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Link the Iron Works and Stiles and Hart Conservation Areas to the Downtown Business District and to Bridgewater State University
 - ▶ Complete restoration of Old Stone Building at the Iron Works Park as a trailhead with a small function hall. Other opportunities should be explored to take full advantage of public use opportunities of the building upon restoration.
 - ▶ Clean-up Town River Landing, and Iron Works Building.
-

Iron Works Park (Stanley Ironworks)



Location:	On both sides of Town River southeast of High Street near West Bridgewater line	Size:	16 acres
Parcel ID:	10-40	Zoning:	I-B, R-D, R-D-C
Access:	Signed entrance off High Street and through Highway Department property	Level of Protection	High (in perpetuity) if under the Conservation Commission
Management:	Conservation Commission, Highway Department and volunteer Park Stewards		
Maintenance:	Highway Department and volunteer Parkland Stewards		

Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

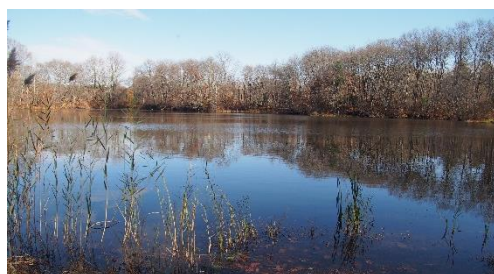
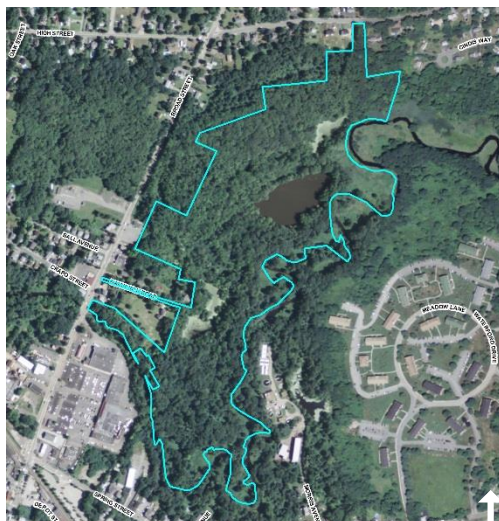
- Site has a deteriorated privately-owned dam, a fish ladder near new Highway Barn, and shell of an historic 19th Century brick and stone industrial structure. New bridge over river is in good condition and provides good access to either side.
- Site is mainly used as a scenic site for exploring riverside and the limited industrial ruins, and as portage point for canoeing and fishing.
- Information kiosk and interpretive sign panels provide information on the history of the site, areas of interest within in it and park rules.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- Improve pavement and signage guiding pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists into the park from High Street.
- Improve paths through the site's attractions and to the canoe launching area to accommodate ADA compliant access.
- Provide a gateway pedestrian entrance adjacent to High Street with improved views to the park.

- ▶ Provide park furnishings (benches, picnic, bike rack) within the park proper (currently confined to alongside High Street).
 - ▶ Expand information panels to show the evolving layout of Iron works improvements introduced during the course of the site's history and the story behind the Old Storage Building, Old Rolling Mill and west channel foundations and walls.
 - ▶ Provide an improved canoe/kayak launch area.
 - ▶ Provide pedestrian safety improvements for greater security adjacent to foundation remains and along steep bank areas of the river.
-

Stiles and Hart Conservation Area



Location: At the north-central edge of town on the Town River, east of Route 18, south of High Street, across from the Town River Landing boat launching area.

Size: 69 acres

Parcel ID: 12-44

Zoning: R-D

Access: Signed entrance via gated sewer easement off of Rte. 18 just south of Brick Kiln Lane.

Level of Protection High (in perpetuity) as conservation land

Management: Conservation Commission

Maintenance: Volunteer Parkland Stewards

Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- ▶ Site is generally wooded with areas of shallow bank that allow boat launching or landing.
- ▶ Four large ponds and numerous smaller ponds provide a varied and attractive landscape.
- ▶ Site is informally used for hiking, wildlife habitat, canoeing, kayaking, and fishing.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Provide a thoughtful trail network throughout the site that allows for hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and other activities.
- ▶ Improve pathways to be wheelchair accessible to the maximum degree practicable.
- ▶ Repair and replace footbridges on the interior of the park and add boardwalks in key areas of interest.
- ▶ Introduce benches at key vistas along the trails.
- ▶ Introduce interpretive and wayfinding signage through-out the park.

- ▶ Provide new sidewalks on Oak Street and Crapo Street and improve sidewalks on High Street to better connect the park to the Iron Works Park.
 - ▶ Local advocates noted that parking for a 3-car parking area mandated in the deed should be improved by moving the sewer easement gate back 20' at the existing Stiles & Hart Parkland egress / access via Broad Street.
 - ▶ Local advocates noted that the High Street egress / access to Stiles & Hart is intended to be a pedestrian gate only; there is no safe parking along High Street at this spot, and there is no intended canoe access from this entrance down the hill half-a-mile to the Town River. This section of trail is intended to be intermediate in difficulty.
 - ▶ Local advocates noted that the ADA egress/access to one of the Stiles & Hart ponds could be provided if additional property is purchased and an ADA driveway built in from Broad Street. Additional ADA accessible amenities could be provided along the Town River around the bridge and canoe launch area across from the Town River Landing.
 - ▶ Local advocates noted that the existing axis trail from the proposed pedestrian bridge site up the hill to High Street is not intended to be an ADA trail; it was built by the AmeriCorps in 2004 and is designed to be an intermediate trail experience according to the approved management plans. The town needs to offer diverse trail experiences throughout the whole parkland network.
 - ▶ The main access to the 70-acre Stiles & Hart site is recommended by the local advocates to be through a pedestrian bridge across the Town River at the Town River Landing, just upstream from the existing canoe launch, and also through the pedestrian entrance on High Street. They note that should additional property be acquired on Broad Street, that can be used as official ADA access
 - ▶ Local advocates noted that the Nunckatessett Greenway Plan sites this route as the branded trail spur bringing the Bay Circuit Trail into the downtown business district. They further note that there should be new signage, possibly MassDOT, at the High Street / Broad Street intersection reflecting this Bay Circuit Trail and Nunckatessett Greenway route along existing sidewalks and off-road trails.
-

Tuckerwood Conservation Area



Location: On south side of High Street, east of Hayward Street, west of the Bridge Street intersection with High Street.

Size: 32 acres

Parcel ID: 14-21

Zoning: R-C

Access: Signed driveway on High Street with an informal dirt parking area.

Level of Protection: High (in perpetuity) as conservation land

Management: Conservation Commission

Maintenance: Volunteer Parkland Stewards

Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- ▶ Site has pine and oak woods with a trail across a power line and a generally easy path down to the Town River. Site offers views across marsh and a potential oxbow.
- ▶ Site is used for hiking, wildlife habitat, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Improve entrance visibility and signage at High Street.
- ▶ Provide an information kiosk with a park trail layout map, information on natural features and park rules at the parking area.
- ▶ Provide for some seating and picnic opportunities near the parking area with improved trash/recycling receptacles.
- ▶ Examine possible hiking access via the cleared power line easement from Hayward Street.

- ▶ Due to the remoteness of the river from the entrance, a canoe/kayak launch areas is not practicable, however, opportunity exists for a canoe/kayak landing area where the river bank is close to the same elevation as the water surface.
 - ▶ Possibly explore the potential for tenting; this would require periodic monitoring by police or volunteers to assure safety and avoidance of clearing for campfires.
 - ▶ Improve paths from parking area to the river's edge to make them wheelchair accessible to the maximum degree practicable.
 - ▶ Add discrete signs on the river identifying the edges of the property.
-

Wyman Meadow



Location:	South of Plymouth Street on the Taunton River	Size:	55 acres (35 acres for conservation and 20 acres for water supply protection)
Parcel ID:	39-3, 39-4	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	By a long, unsigned, paved driveway to a Water Department pumping station with informal gravel parking for 2-3 cars.	Level of Protection	High (in perpetuity) as conservation land, moderate as water supply land
Management:	Conservation Commission and Water Department		
Maintenance:	Volunteer Parkland Stewards		

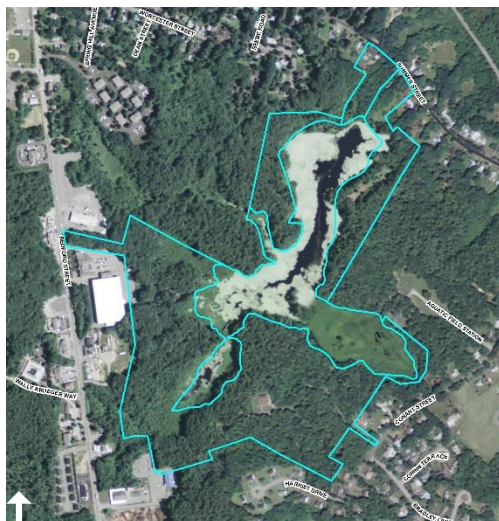
Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- Site entrance at Plymouth Street leads between existing residences and leads to a ¼ mile (approximate) gravel drive through rolling open meadow and wetlands to a Town water supply pump station. The sides and back portion of the site are characterized by wooded areas and an open sand pit.
- Site has a partially vandalized information kiosk and bench towards the front of the site and no furnishings on the major remaining portion of the site.
- Site is used for water supply protection (a Town well field is located on the site), hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Dramatic long views are afforded across the fields and wetlands.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Improve park entrance signage.
 - ▶ Replace the information display with a pull-off and new kiosk providing a trail layout map, information on natural features and park rules.
 - ▶ Designate and sign an allowable parking area next to pumping station.
 - ▶ Explore relocation of the access road to the western edge of the property to preserve the central portion as a unified natural habitat area with quality open views.
 - ▶ Restore natural vegetation on the sand pit portion of the site.
 - ▶ Provide additional paths in the woodland areas.
 - ▶ Improve paths from the parking area over the hill and down to the river's edge.
 - ▶ Improve access to the Taunton River and provide a small canoe/kayak landing area.
 - ▶ Make paths wheelchair accessible to the maximum degree practicable.
 - ▶ Add discrete signs on the river identifying the edges of the property.
-

Carver's Pond



Location:	Near town center surrounded by Bedford Street, Summer Street, and Conant Street	Size:	Approx. 34 acres of water body, 66 acres of conservation land, 6.5 acres of water supply protection land
Parcel ID:	Multiple	Zoning:	R-C
Access:	Conant Street and small parking area on Summer Street	Level of Protection	High (in perpetuity) as conservation land, moderate as water supply land
Management:	Conservation Commission and Water Department		
Maintenance:	Conservation Commission and Water Department		

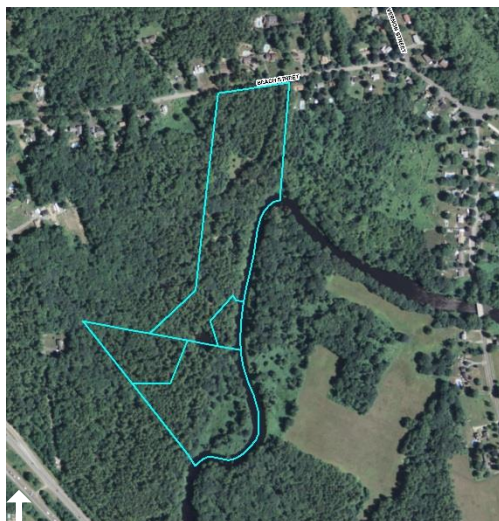
Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- ▶ Site has a trailhead with parking, an information kiosk with map of the park, historic interpretive signage and rules and regulations.
- ▶ The park provides a total of 3,285 feet of trails.
- ▶ Site is used for water supply protection, hiking, picnicking, fishing, hunting, winter ice-skating, and as outdoor classrooms by the college and public school classes.
- ▶ The site is of historic interest, having seen use by indigenous peoples going back as far as 12,000 years, followed by use as a sawmill, iron foundry, manufacturing of cotton gins, ice production and shoe manufacturing through the years.
- ▶ Carvers Pond is currently not used for swimming due to eutrophication.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Provide additional interpretive signage throughout the park describing its history and natural features.
 - ▶ Provide wayfinding signage along the park's trails.
 - ▶ Replace bridges and boardwalks (currently planks without railings) with new facilities featuring ADA compliant surfaces and rail systems.
 - ▶ Introduce benches, picnic tables and trash/recycling receptacles of uniform design in the lawn area alongside the pond's north edge (i.e., closest to the Summer Street entrance/parking area).
 - ▶ Provide clearings with seating areas at key potential vistas across the pond.
 - ▶ Install additional trail sections and boardwalks to provide a complete circuit of Carvers Pond.
 - ▶ Upgrade trail surfaces and, in some cases, grades to maximize wheelchair accessibility.
-

Titicut Conservation Parkland



Location:	On Taunton River at southern edge of town	Size:	27.8 acres (7 acres in Raynham)
Parcel ID:	131-8, 9, 10, 11	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	Driveway from Beach Street	Level of Protection	High (in perpetuity) as conservation land
Management:	Conservation Commission		
Maintenance:	Volunteer Parkland Stewards		

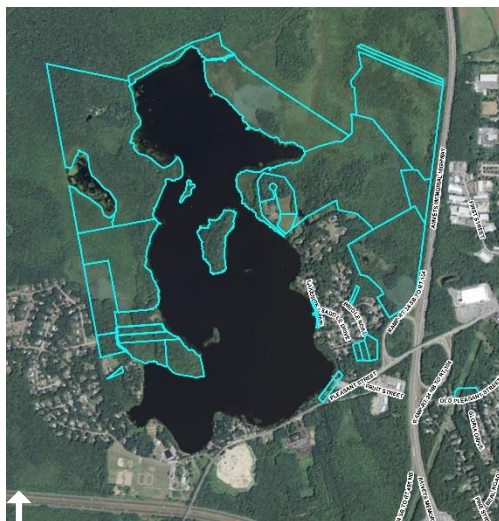
Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- The Beech Street site entrance has a small parking area and an information kiosk with maps and interpretive information. A separate sign stating park management by the Conservation Commission and Forestry Department is in disrepair.
- The site has a rich history, including taking advantage of its woodlands and tidal section of the Taunton River in the construction and launching of brigs in the early 1800's.
- A broad level path wide enough to accommodate a vehicle extends into the site through woodlands and then narrows as it reaches steep gradients towards the Taunton River.
- Site has an informal campground, canoe/kayak launching slope, and campfire area.
- Site is used for hiking, canoeing, tenting by groups with Conservation Commission permit, e.g., and by Taunton River Watershed Alliance's "Source to the Sea" trips.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Improve signage and information at the site entrance.
- ▶ Survey site to ensure that trails are all on public land.
- ▶ Work with neighbors to ensure appropriate access/egress from western edge of park land.
- ▶ Make paths from parking area to campsites wheelchair accessible.
- ▶ Seek a more level canoe/kayak pull-out area or add a rope or hand holds to ease climb from landing area
- ▶ Add discrete signs on the River identifying the edges of the property

Lake Nippenicket Town Holdings



Location: On western edge of town with three parcels on southeastern corner of lake, (only one with lake frontage); two small house lots on the eastern side with frontage, and three 1-2 acre lots without frontage

Size: 13.6 acres with lake frontage or adjacent to parcels with lake frontage; 4.1 acre house lot off Bridle Road without frontage

Parcel ID: 82-5,7; 83-60,78,79,80; 70-34

Zoning: R-A/B

Access: Via Park and Ride lot/Boat Ramp lot off of Route 106

Level of Protection High (in perpetuity)

Management: Conservation Commission

Maintenance: Conservation Commission

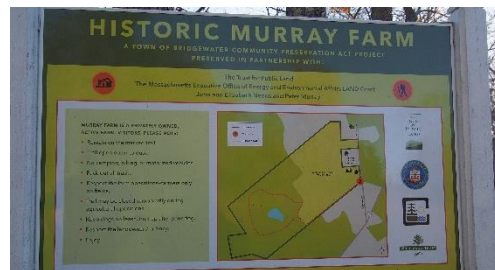
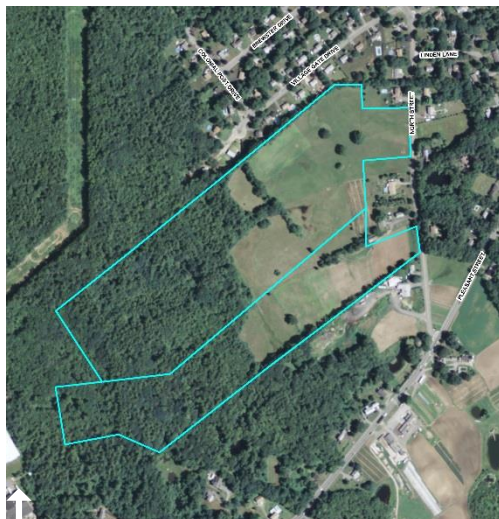
Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- ▶ Site has a Park and Ride lot, state boat ramp, and a sign noting the beach is “permanently closed” due to a drowning
- ▶ The historic Keith Homestead is located at the end of Lakeside Drive along the Lake’s east side.
- ▶ Site is used for hiking around the lake, canoe/kayaking, boating, jet skiing and bicycling on Lakeshore Drive.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- ▶ Provide improved signage and an information kiosk at the Lakeshore Drive entrance with a map showing trails and areas of special interest.
 - ▶ Work with State Public Access Board to improve state boat ramp, particularly its handicapped accessibility
 - ▶ Locate a canoe/kayak launch area off of Lakeshore Drive.
 - ▶ Clarify site availability and explore and support Recreation Commission ideas about developing a boating/sailing program with a boat house, rescue boat and related offsite swimming lessons, consistent with wildlife protection.
-

Murray Farm



Location:	On North Street off Pleasant Street	Size:	63.2 acres (37 acres active agriculture land)
Parcel ID:	46-126, 46-15	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	Via North Street	Level of Protection	High but temporary (Chapter 61A land)

Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- Level of protection is high and permanent, the Town having acquired a conservation restriction.
- Site has an active farm fronting North Street and a hiking trail along the southern property line going into the wooded back of the property and looping around a pond. Access is, however, limited due to liability of the working farm and associated use of agricultural equipment
- An information kiosk with a map and information is located alongside North Street.
 - Site is used for active haying and hiking.

Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements

- Provide for a parking pull-off on North Street sufficient to accommodate several parallel parking spaces; this will require moving an existing stone wall back some 10 feet into the site.
- Provide ADA compliant pedestrian connection from North Street.

Summer Street Canoe Launch



Location:	On Taunton River where Summer Street meets the town border	Size:	N/A
Parcel ID:	N/A	Zoning:	R-A/B
Access:	Via Summer Street	Level of Protection	Unknown
<u>Existing Recreation Resources and Uses</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ As part of the Summer Street bridge reconstruction, the canoe launch location was adjusted, resulting in a steep gradient down to the river.▶ Parking for 3 cars is provided in the unpaved launch area.			
<u>Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Improve entrance signage and gradients of the canoe launch ramp.			

Recommendations and Prioritizations

4

General Recommendations

Based upon VHB's on-site evaluation of the twelve active and nine passive recreation facilities, input garnered from discussions with Town representatives, stakeholders, community outreach meetings and the results of questionnaires, the following recommendations are put forward:

1. In terms of overall upkeep of the active recreation facilities, additional financial resources are recommended to be allocated. The need for this is evidenced by poor condition of parking lot pavement, rusting fences, damaged dugouts, children's play areas in disrepair, and other deficiencies found at various facilities.
2. Improvements to be considered for the passive recreation areas include highly visible and safe vehicular and pedestrian entrances, improved parking areas, bike storage facilities, ADA accessible pathways, benches and picnic tables, interpretive signage, expanded trail networks, trail markings and opening up of viewing areas.
3. Based upon the level of interest raised on passive parks during the community outreach meetings, it would be desirable to have a point person established to address their specialized needs.
4. Opportunities for additional public walkways providing connectivity between neighborhoods and the various recreation facilities should be identified and implemented. These should be developed as a multi-phased overall system to assure comprehensive coverage with existing sidewalks incorporated.
5. Existing bike paths and bike lanes should be expanded upon to provide safe access to recreation facilities both from within Town and from adjoining communities. As with public walkways and trails, these should be developed as a comprehensive network allowing for phased improvements.

6. Improved uniform signage should be implemented to clearly brand Town conservation areas and recreation facilities and direct the public to them. Integral to this, entrances should be more clearly established and guidelines provided on their use and information provided about the Towns recreation facilities and conservation areas.
7. Communication being a comment frequently raised in community outreach, an overall map of Town recreation facilities, conservation areas, trails and paths should be developed to share the wealth of resources with the community. This map could be provided on the Town website as well as at recreation area entrances.
8. Consistent and vandal resistant furnishings should be provided at all Town active and passive recreation facilities. Furnishings would include benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles and bike racks which use sustainable materials. This consistency in design and manufacturer will pay benefits in maintenance, allowing for one source for spare parts. It will also help identify the various parks as being part of one town-wide system.
9. A need for additional parking to service peak periods of use at Legion Field, the largest recreation facility in Bridgewater, was consistently raised. Opportunities within its vicinity should be explored and funding allocated for design and implementation of the improvements.
10. Safety issues to children due to degraded pressure treated wood Rainbow's End Playground was frequently raised. The existing play area should be eliminated as this is not Town owned land.
11. The existing Jenny Leonard Park is hidden from view by vegetation and the facilities it provides are in poor condition. The existing park facilities should be dismantled and the site considered for redevelopment as a full-sized play area for various age groups serving the east side of Town, with design and implementation achieved through a public/private partnership with the developer of the adjoining residential area.
12. The wooded area on the southwest portion of the Crescent Street Fields recreation facility offers the opportunity for interpretive trail development. Given the high use this facility receives, trails would add another dimension to its features.
13. Town River Landing offers the opportunity for parking and development as a passive park experience with seating areas, interpretive signage, clearing of vegetation in strategic locations to open views, improvements to trails and the canoe launch and introduction of a footbridge providing access to the Stiles & Hart Conservation Area.

Improvement Priorities

Prioritization of implementation of improvements is based upon a combination of VHB's site observations and feedback from the Town accomplished through interviews of Town

representatives and stakeholders, community outreach meetings and the results of the questionnaires. These priorities should be considered as preliminary suggestions which the community can then adjust based upon available funds and the outcome of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

1. Legion Field: implementation of additional parking, upgrading the basketball courts and softball fields and introducing new tennis courts in the area of the former skate park.
2. Rainbow's End Playground: removal of the existing degraded and unsafe play equipment for safety. Investment in improvements is not recommended as this is not Town owned land.
3. Scotland Field: removal of the small playground in disrepair, repair the basketball court and softball dugouts, replace benches and bleachers and repave the parking lot.
4. Jenny Leonard Playground: removal of the existing degraded and unsafe play equipment for safety. Possibly establish a public/private partnership, and/or seek funds to design and redevelop a new park/playground with improved visibility to better serve the east side of town.
5. Implement improved wayfinding and branding signage directing the public to recreation facilities, park entrance signage and interpretive signage.
6. Stiles and Hart Conservation Area: Relocate the gate at Broad Street to allow for parking, provide a footbridge for access to Town River landing and a canoe/kayak landing near the High Street entrance, improve trails and footbridges, enhance wheelchair accessibility, provide benches at key viewing areas and add interpretive and wayfinding signage.
7. Town River Landing: introduce improvements at to provide a true passive park area with parking, trail improvements, furnishings and a pedestrian bridge.
8. Carver's Pond: Provide consistent furnishings, improved pond side trails and additional interpretive signage.
9. General improvements to the other active and passive recreation facilities as identified in Section 3 of the Study.
10. Establish a standard design and manufacturer for park furnishings towards simplified future procurement.
11. Introduce a phased plan for expansion of existing Town walkways, trails and bike paths to provide a comprehensive network enhancing connectivity to the parks and open spaces.
12. Iron Works Park: Improvements addressing safety issues and drop-offs are the highest priority. Improve pavement and signage on the drive linking the park to High Street, introduce additional furnishings and bike racks, update and expand interpretive signage and implement an improved canoe/kayak launch area.