



# Town of Bridgewater

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

2017



Prepared for: Town of Bridgewater

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January 2018



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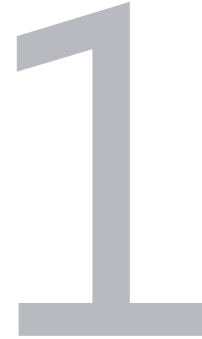
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# Plan Summary

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The Town of Bridgewater is a suburban community with an interesting array of athletic fields, open space, and parks within its borders. The Town strives to continue providing adequate and varied recreation opportunities to its people. The Town recognizes the needs to improve and upgrade existing recreation facilities and to continue preserving valuable open space resources.

This 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan was prepared under the guidance of the Bridgewater Community & Economic Development Department and the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. It represents an update to the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Since the adoption of the prior Plan, the Town has embarked on a variety of initiatives to implement the recommendations set forth in that Plan. A list of accomplishments is included in Section 8, Goals and Objectives.

As required by the Guidelines of the Division of Conservation Services, this 2017 Plan updates the social and environmental profiles of the town, discusses influences of present growth and development trends, inventories existing conservation and recreation areas and facilities, and examines community recreation needs. The Plan refreshes community goals and objectives to preserve and enhance resources. Finally, it summarizes implementation actions in the Seven Year Action Plan towards achieving the goals.

The Plan finds that Bridgewater's major resources include:

- ▶ Various outdoor recreation facilities, such as athletic fields, playgrounds, and the golf course
- ▶ Significant water resources, such as Lake Nippenicket, Carver's Pond, and the other water bodies
- ▶ Town River/Matfield River/Taunton River system
- ▶ Larger Ch. 61 holdings and smaller scattered holdings
- ▶ Current and potential agricultural lands
- ▶ Old State Farm (approx. 425 acres) protected under Article 97 of the State Constitution



## 1 Plan Summary

Major factors in threatened and loss of open space and recreation opportunities are:

- ▶ Limited capacity in maintenance and upkeep of existing town recreation facilities
- ▶ Continuing large-lot residential development with one-acre lots required in the extensive Res. A/B District
- ▶ Increased land values, challenges of farming, and zoning which allows intensive non-residential uses on some farmland.

This Plan reaffirms Bridgewater's desire to meet the following goals and objectives:

Goal 1. To provide and enhance balanced recreational opportunities for active and passive recreation that meet the sports-oriented and nature-oriented needs of the community's age demographics.

Objectives:

1. Rehabilitate aging municipal recreation facilities.
2. Create additional recreation opportunities to meet emerging recreation needs.
3. Promote passive recreational use of the Town's conservation areas by enhancing public accessibility, creating and maintaining trails and viewpoints, and increasing waterfront access.
4. Appropriately staff the Town Parks and Recreation Department and expand the cadre of volunteers to manage, maintain and improve the Town's recreation facilities and conservation lands.

Goal 2. To create and preserve a town-wide, regionally linked trails and parks system that connects neighborhoods with various open space and recreation amenities.

Objectives:

1. Inventory existing trails and open space areas in town to identify missing links between major resources through trail expansion.
2. Seek opportunities to add additional key open space parcels.
3. Establish a greenway system along Bridgewater's portions of the Town and Taunton Rivers as part of a joint effort with other riverside town(s).
4. Design and adopt a town-wide bicycle/pedestrian system that integrates with the regional Bay Circuit Trail network at the Iron Works Park.
5. Create additional parks and open space areas by repurposing vacant municipal properties, collaborating to acquire new key parcels, and integrating open spaces in new developments.

Goal 3. To increase public awareness of available open space and recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

1. Produce and maintain a clear, parcel-based open space and recreation resources map that shows access and parking locations, and primary activities at various public and non-profit holdings.
2. Establish a centralized open space and recreation information hub on the town website and at Town offices.
3. Create a consistent signage and wayfinding system for the town's publicly accessible open space and recreation areas.
4. Design and install interpretative displays at conservation properties in collaboration with private, non-profit, and state government stakeholders.

Goal 4. To preserve and cultivate public and private agricultural lands.

Objectives:

1. Protect historic agricultural land by encouraging sustainable land use practices such as Conservation Restrictions (CR), Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR), and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).
2. Utilize state programs to support investment in continuing farm operations.
3. Promote accessibility and usage of community gardens to foster learning opportunities for children and young adults about agriculture and local food.

Goal 5. To protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas that promote local and regional ecological and environmental integrities.

Objectives:

1. Improve water quality of rivers and other surface water bodies.
2. Identify and protect parcels serving as wild life corridors and critical habitats from adverse development (e.g. Jolly Meadow between Flagg, Mae Ave. and Alexander Dr. from Bridgewater Correction Complex connect to Winter St and Carver's Pond Habitats).
3. Sustain current aquifer protection districts to protect the quality, capacity, and security of the public water supply.
4. Support Low Impact Design (LID) strategies to reduce runoff and maximize ground water recharge.

# Introduction

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# 2

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to guide the efforts to protect and enhance open space and recreation resources in the community. These efforts are intended to provide adequate recreation opportunities in or near most neighborhoods, to preserve the town's remaining rural landscape and character, and to protect precious natural resources such as wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and water resources. The project is also done to ensure the Town's eligibility for state support in these endeavors through the Self Help (now LAND) Program, the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Community Preservation Act, and any related resources.

## The Planning Process and Public Participation

### Planning Process

VHB, the consultant selected to prepare this plan, worked closely with the Bridgewater Community & Economic Development Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Conservation Commission, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and the broader Bridgewater community throughout the planning process. Periodic coordination meetings were held in the Municipal Office Building and via teleconference calls between various parties involved to ensure effective communication in preparation of the Plan.

The planning process included site visits to significant open space and recreation parcels in Bridgewater. The site visits were guided by Charlie Simonds, Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Departments and Carlton Hunt from the Open Space and Recreation Committee. The site tours provided a means of gaining insight into the condition, type, and quality of Bridgewater's open space and recreation resources.

Existing studies and reports were reviewed as they relate to the town's open space and recreation resources, such as the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Recreation Needs Assessment completed by VHB in 2015, draft chapters of the on-going Master Plan Update as they became available, and the Town of Bridgewater Conservation Parkland System Histories and Action Plans 2002-2005, etc. VHB also incorporated relevant open space and recreation information updated by the town's prior planning consultant JM Goldson Community Preservation + Planning, as appropriate.

The update of the Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan was a highly collaborative effort that focused on how to best balance active and passive recreation needs as well as how to implement the Plan. The Plan was heavily shaped by the public participation portion of the planning process, which will be detailed in the next section.

## **Public Participation**

Throughout the planning process, public input was sought through various communication channels in order to reach the broadest possible audience. The Town hosted two well-attended public forums that were advertised through the town website, various email lists, social and print media. Both forums were held at the Town Council Chambers room in the recently rehabilitated historic Academy Building. The first meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> focused on defining the community's vision and goals for the town's open space and recreation resources. The second meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> offered the public opportunities to discuss and prioritize implementation actions for the next seven years.

In addition to the public forums, the Town also launched an open space and recreation survey that was distributed via the Town's website, the Town's social media pages, email lists and through provision of print copies at Town offices. The survey was made available to the public from September to December to allow ample time for responses. A total of 355 responses were collected during the process, including both online survey responses and print survey responses. All survey results were tallied and analyzed by VHB to understand community concerns and needs. The survey results summary can be seen in Appendix A.

## **Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation**

According to MassGIS and the 2010 U.S. Census data, there is no Environmental Justice neighborhoods with high minority, non-English speaking, low-income, and foreign-born populations within the Town of Bridgewater. Therefore, no particular enhanced public outreach was taken during the planning process. However, the Town has been dedicated to an inclusive public engagement process to ensure an equal and just opportunity for all Bridgewater residents to participate in the planning process.

# Community Setting

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# 3

## Regional Context

### Physical Locations and Characteristics

Bridgewater is a suburban-rural town 23 miles south of Boston, eight miles south of Brockton, and 29 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island. It is home to 26,563 inhabitants as suggested by the 2010 U.S. Census. It houses two major state institutions - Bridgewater State University, which is the flagship of the Massachusetts State College and University System with 11,187 full-time students in 2014 (roughly 14% enrolling as graduate students and 86% as undergraduate students) and 1,033 full-time employees, and the Bridgewater Correctional Complex with about 2,200 inmates in 2010.

Bridgewater abuts West Bridgewater and East Bridgewater to the north, Raynham to the west, Halifax to the east, and Middleboro to the south. A major feature in the town is the Wild and Scenic Taunton River and its main tributaries, the Town and Matfield Rivers. The Taunton River begins at the junction of the Town River and the Matfield River northeast of the town center. The resulting Taunton River essentially wraps around Bridgewater forming its eastern and southern boundaries.

The town is served by a MBTA commuter rail station located near the east end of the Bridgewater State University campus. It also has regional highway access via the limited access Route 24 running north-south through the western portion of the town and the nearby outer-circumferential Route 495 (see Map 1). These roads provide good highway access to Boston, Brockton, Providence, and the rest of the region, while the rail service connects the town to Middleboro/Lakeville to the south and to Quincy/Boston/Cambridge and the entire MBTA transit system to the north. Such accessibility, combined with the town's other attractions, gives Bridgewater broad appeal as a place to live and partially drives its continued growth.



Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016

## Regional Resources

### *Open Space*

Regional open space resources in nearby communities include the Blue Hills Reservation in Milton and Quincy, the many Easton Conservation areas, Ames Nowell State Park in Abington, D.W. Field Park in Avon and Brockton, Peterson's Swamp in Halifax and Plympton, the Burrage Wildlife Management Area in Hanson and Halifax, the extensive Hockomock Swamp, Massasoit State Forest in Raynham, the open land on the Bridgewater Correctional Complex (BCC) and adjacent extensive private farmland, along with the remaining rural landscape, particularly in Middleborough to the south, along with the whole Town River/Taunton River corridor.

### *Taunton River Watershed*

Bridgewater is in the Taunton River Basin and all streams in the Town eventually flow to the Taunton River. The Town River begins at Lake Nippenicket in the Bridgewater portion of the Hockomock Swamp and flows easterly through West Bridgewater, joining the Matfield River in Bridgewater to form the Taunton River. The Taunton River then essentially embraces the town wrapping around its eastern and southern borders.

### *South Shore and Narragansett Bay*

The Taunton River was designated a Federal Wild and Scenic River in 2000, identified for its "outstandingly remarkable" values including agriculture, ecology, and biological diversity. It is the longest undammed coastal river in New England and is host to over 154 species of birds and 45 species of fish. The designation protects the free-flowing condition of the river for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

### *Hockomock Swamp*

The entire Hockomock Swamp, the largest swamp in New England at 16,900 acres, covers portions of Raynham, Norton, Taunton, Easton, Bridgewater, and West Bridgewater with approximately 1,131 acres in the northwestern corner of Bridgewater excluding the surface of Lake Nippenicket. The swamp is one of the largest inland state-designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The designation, largely the work of interested Bridgewater citizens and officials, was approved by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs in 1990. This requires increased scrutiny under the Wetlands Protection Act and other applicable regulations.

Although it is zoned Residential A/B in Bridgewater (as compared to Industrial in West Bridgewater to the north), the Hockomock Swamp is an important wetland and is protected against inappropriate development by the ACEC designation as well as the town and state owned and protected land – Keith Homestead, Lake Nippenicket Preserve, and Hockomock Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

The swamp is home to several endangered species according to the state's Natural Heritage Program and serves as critical habitat and a vital water resource for wildlife. The swamp reduces flooding by storing water and provides some recharge to underlying aquifers, thereby contributing to drinking water supplies, and helping to maintain stream flow.

Bridgewater's western portions of the swamp drain directly into Lake Nippenicket and then to the Town River and on to the Taunton River. The swamp areas east of the Lake drain more directly to the Hockomock River and the Town River.

### *Bay Circuit Trail*

The Bay Circuit Trail was conceived in 1929 by then Secretary of the Trustees of Reservations Charles W. Eliot III, 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 major holdings are gone.

The Bay Circuit Trail runs through adopted and potential segments in West Bridgewater and East Bridgewater to the north and then dips into Bridgewater at Main Street and High Street to include the Stanley Iron Works Park on the Town River. Collectively, this land and water trail is known as the Nunckatessett Greenway. Over 50 communities are connected by the 200-mile Trail. However, there are gaps where continuous, designated year-round trails are still needed, including some in East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater and Pembroke.

The Bay Circuit Alliance, a volunteer implementing body, stresses continuous trails through the Circuit and connected scenic areas, rather than a wide greenbelt. However, the Alliance still encourages and supports open space acquisition and protection of key resources along the trail where possible, and seeks to integrate the trail with such resources.

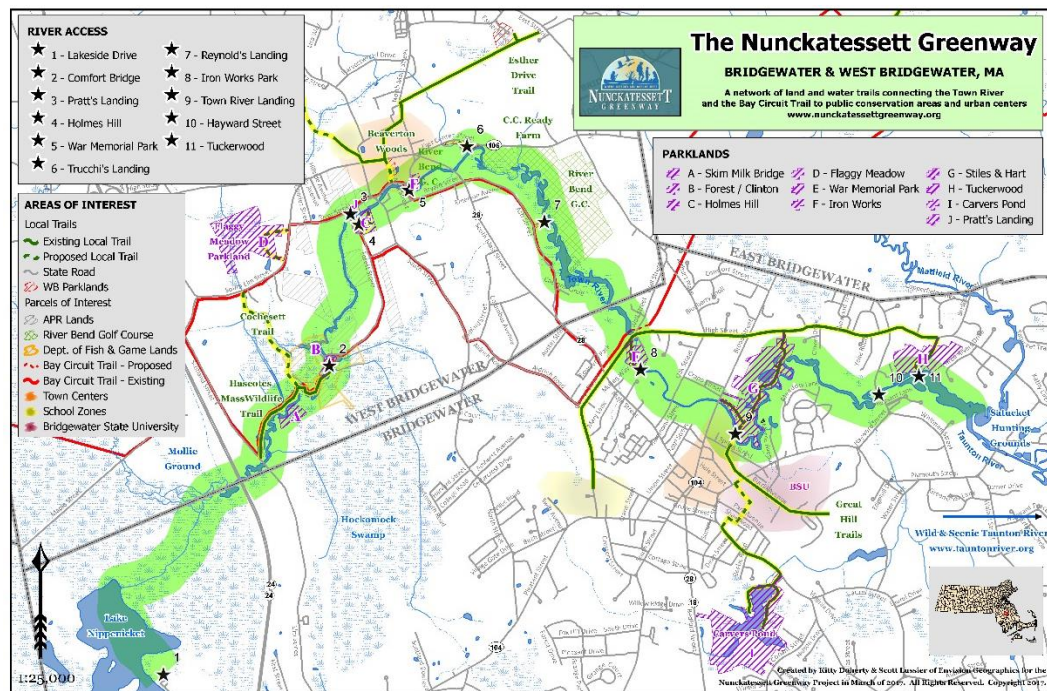
The project's advocates envision the Greenway providing community members greater access to the natural as well as historic elements of their area, such as the Haseotes MassWildlife Trail, Holmes' Hill, War Memorial Park, Iron Works Park, and Bridgewater's Stiles & Hart Conservation Parkland. The Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater through its Nunckatessett Greenway initiative has been fostering a majority of the project's development.



## Nunckatessett Greenway

Prior open space plans have proposed the establishment of a greenbelt along the Town River and a similar strategy was proposed in West Bridgewater. The towns of Bridgewater and W. Bridgewater embrace a vision for the greenway, known as the Nunckatessett Greenway, with the goal of linking town-owned conservation areas to the nationally recognized Bay Circuit Trail and the Town River to create one contiguous, walkable or paddleable trail and parkland system (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1 Map of the envisioned Nunckatessett Greenway**



Source: The Nunckatessett Greenway Project, last updated March 2016

The Greenway would link multiple sites of special interest including Haseotes MassWildlife Trail, Flaggy Meadow, Town River Landing, Holmes Hill and War Memorial Park in West Bridgewater and Iron Works Park and Stiles and Hart Conservation Area in Bridgewater. In addition, the Greenway includes 11 river access locations for car-top boat put-ins such as those at Iron Works Park, Town River Landing, Hayward Street, and Tuckerwood. The Nunckatessett Greenway Initiative is a subcommittee of the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater that acts as an advisor, coordinator and conduit between partnering groups and volunteer participants to implement the vision for the Greenway. The group is spearheading development of an Action Plan for the Greenway.

## History of the community

### Overview

Old Bridgewater was the first inland settlement in Massachusetts, established in 1656 by Myles Standish. Old Bridgewater, comprised of the current day Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Brockton, and East Bridgewater, was purchased from Chief Massasoit of the

Wampanoag tribe by Captain Standish and 54 other purchasers including John Washburn, Sr., John, Washburn, Jr., John Alden, William and John Bradford, Love Brewster, Experience Mitchell, Edmond Chandler, William and John Paybody in 1649. The following account is excerpted from a weekly newspaper feature, "Story of an Old Town" in the Bridgewater Independent (April 15, 1948):

*"Chickataubut, the Indian chieftain ...had been acclaimed 'the greatest sagamore in the country' and his favorite encampment was in the southern part of what was later Old Bridgewater, on the banks of the great river, Titicut (today's Taunton River). His domain extended ...almost to Duxbury and from the Nippenicket in a straight line to the headwaters of the Charles River.*

*What a choice land was this with fertile fields, glorious woodland to warm the hearts of the huntsman, and streams certain to beguile the fishermen too long limited to the offerings from the sea. Yes, and the great cedar swamps like the environs of the Nippenicket, with a rich offering of timber and shelter, too, for man and the beasts of the forest. fresh*

*Captain Myles Standish, Samuel Nash, and Constant Southworth ...(made) the purchase ... as seen by the deed dated 23rd of March, 1649: "Witness these presense that I, Ousamequin (a.k.a. Massasoit), sachem of the country of Poconocket... sold... on behalf of all the townsmen of Duxbury, aforesaid, a tract of land usually called Satucket... that is to say, from the wear at Satucket seven miles due east, and from the said wear seven miles due west, and from the said wear seven miles due north, and from the said wear seven miles due south ...In consideration of the aforesaid bargain and sale, we the said Myles Standish, Samuel Nash and Constant Southworth do bind ourselves to pay unto the said Ousamequin (a.k. a. Massasoit) for and in consideration of the said tract of land as followeth:*

*7 coats, a yard and a 1h in each coat, 9 hatchets, 8 hoes, 20 knives, 4 moose skins, 10 yards and ...of cotton."*<sup>1</sup>

The payment does not reflect the land's value and the settlers understood the worth of farmable soils and water. Later observers understood that the Native Americans thought that they were selling just the right to use it freely as they themselves did, not exclusive ownership of the land. Through additional purchases from them, Old Bridgewater grew to 96 square miles. In 1706 Abington broke away, eventually followed by the present East Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, and North Bridgewater (now Brockton). Whitman later separated from Abington.

Bridgewater was chartered in 1656 and grew as a farming and manufacturing community with activities based on clay, bog iron and water power. Foundries were developed north of downtown in the Stanley area where a deteriorated dam now forms a major pond on the Town River backing into West Bridgewater. Other industries making nails, shoes, and bricks grew in the late 1800s. The extensive riverside clay deposits led to bricks being made at the present Stiles and Hart Conservation Area, formerly known as the Plymouth County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds, just east of Rte. 18 and at the continuing Stiles and Hart Brick works along the Taunton River south of Titicut Street.

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<sup>1</sup> John Washburn's history indicates the purchase was for 7 coats, 1 and 1/2 yards in a coat, 9 hatchets, 8 hoes, 20 knives, 4 moose skins and 10 & 1/2 yards cotton (cloth). The transaction was signed by Massasoit for the Natives, and by Standish, Samuel Nash, and Constance Southworth for the colonists 23 March 1649 after seven years consideration by the Colonial Court, the purchasers, and the Natives. <http://lbf5591.tripod.com/id65.html>



### 3 Community Setting

As elsewhere, settlement patterns and road building through the years have followed the high ground and avoided unbuildable land in low, wet areas around the town. As a result, most of the existing vacant land and protected open space is concentrated around ponds, rivers, and wetlands, and on abandoned farm land. The later Nineteenth Century saw the formation of two major institutions in Bridgewater, the Normal School which became Bridgewater State University and the various state facilities now comprising the Bridgewater Correctional Complex, a major employer and land owner.

Bridgewater continued growing into the 20th Century with extensive agriculture, large dairy farms, scattered long-term industries, and a slowly growing population. Late in the century agriculture declined with reduced profitability and rising land values for development. A major reduction followed the US Department of Agriculture's Whole Herd Buyout program of the late 1980s when the Department bought out productive herds, reportedly including Cumberland Farms' large operation, to reduce milk production. The last thirty years have seen a continuing loss of agriculture even on the most suitable soils.

**Table 1 Historic Population Change in Bridgewater**

| Year | Population | % Increase over Decade |
|------|------------|------------------------|
| 1950 | 9,512      | -                      |
| 1960 | 10,276     | 7.7                    |
| 1970 | 12,902     | 25.6                   |
| 1980 | 17,202     | 33.3                   |
| 1990 | 21,249     | 23.5                   |
| 2000 | 25,185     | 18.5                   |

Source: US Census, includes university and correctional populations

As noted in the 2002 Bridgewater Master Plan, "During the 1960s, with the construction of the Interstate Highway System (including Route 495) and improvements to the State Highway System (Route 24) the town began to grow. By 1970 it had reached a population of 12,902, an increase of over 25% in ten years. The growing highway system made possible the connection of Bridgewater to major employment centers such as Boston and Providence, both under an hour away by automobile." The highways also attracted more suburban development to the western portion of the town. Growth increased in the 1970s and has continued as shown in Table 1.

The late 1990s saw restoration of commuter rail service between Boston and Middleboro/Lakeville. The original station off of Route 18, just north of downtown, was left in its recent commercial use and a new station and large parking area were built further from the town center near the east end of the Bridgewater State University campus.

Much of the housing growth has been suburban growth reflecting out-migration from the Brockton and Greater Boston areas with high land consumption levels related to much of the town being zoned for one-acre lots.

In April 2005, Bridgewater adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to fund a variety of affordable housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation initiatives. This legislation offers much potential for saving key open space and historic resources while

adding or preserving affordable housing. Since its enactment in Bridgewater, CPA funds have been used to fund a variety of projects in the community, including the construction of new softball fields, the purchase of a Conservation Restriction at the Murray-Needs Farm as well as acquisition of the Keith Homestead, and the rehabilitation of the Stanley Iron Works Stone Building, among others.

## Historic Resources

Bridgewater currently has 378 historic resources documented at the MA Historical Commission (MACRIS.) Two of those, the Stanley Iron Works and the McElwain School, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002 and 2013, respectively. Forty-nine of the historic resources were constructed in the 18th century, including the Tory House (located in Bridgewater's Central Square and built in 1710), the Bridgewater Old Graveyard (on Summer Street), and the Keith Homestead, a Georgian-style house at the end of Lakeside Drive that has been protected through town acquisition with CPA funds and subsequent resale to a private owner with a Preservation Restriction.

A vast majority (263) of the town's historic resources date back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most prominent of these is the Academy Building on Central Square. In 1986 the town created a Historic District containing 96 structures around the Center. Despite the Historic District Commission's efforts and citizen efforts, two significant houses, the 1822 Colonel Abram Washburn House and the Nahum Stetson House on Summer Street downtown, were demolished for commercial development allowed as-of-right under a then recent zoning ordinance revision. Currently, the Central Square is in the process of rehabilitation as recommended in the 2014 Downtown Revitalization Plan with the help of CPA funds. The Central Square Historic District is shown on the map of Scenic Resources and Unique Features in Section 4 as Local Historic District.

Located across South Street from the Academy Building in Central Square is the Memorial Building, a Romanesque Revival-style building originally constructed as the public library in 1881. Also in the Central Square area is the New Jerusalem Church, a prominent Gothic Revival on Bedford Street that was built in 1871. Outside of Central Square on School Street is the First Parish, a Greek Revival-style church, constructed in 1845. Many residencies in Central Square and surrounding neighborhoods date to the 1850s and 60s. Various 20th century resources include many Bridgewater State University sites, such as the Boyden Gymnasium and Woodward and Normal Halls, as well as a few homes on Summer Street and the J. Franklin McElwain House, which is owned by the University.

## Population Characteristics

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 understands 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.

### Overall Population Growth and Trends

Bridgewater's overall population is relatively affluent, predominantly white, relatively young, and rapidly growing. From 1950 to 1970 the total population, including that in institutions, grew gradually from 9,512 to 12,902. Growth then accelerated to 17,202 by 1980, 21,249 by 1990 and 25,185 by 2000, with an average growth rate of 25 percent per decade. The growth rate significantly slowed down to 5.5 percent between 2000 and 2010 where the town's population grew to 26,563 by 2010. The slow growth trend is likely to continue for the next few decades, as projected by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). See Table 2.

**Table 2 Town of Bridgewater Population Change and Projection**

| Year            | Population | Numerical Change | Rate Change |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1950            | 9,512      | -                | -           |
| 1960            | 10,276     | 764              | 8.0%        |
| 1970            | 12,902     | 2,635            | 25.6%       |
| 1980            | 17,202     | 4,291            | 33.2%       |
| 1990            | 21,249     | 4,047            | 23.5%       |
| 2000            | 25,185     | 3,936            | 18.5%       |
| 2010            | 26,563     | 1,378            | 5.5%        |
| 2020 projection | 27,997     | 1,434            | 5.4%        |
| 2030 projection | 28,674     | 677              | 2.4%        |

Source: US Census, projections by MassDOT

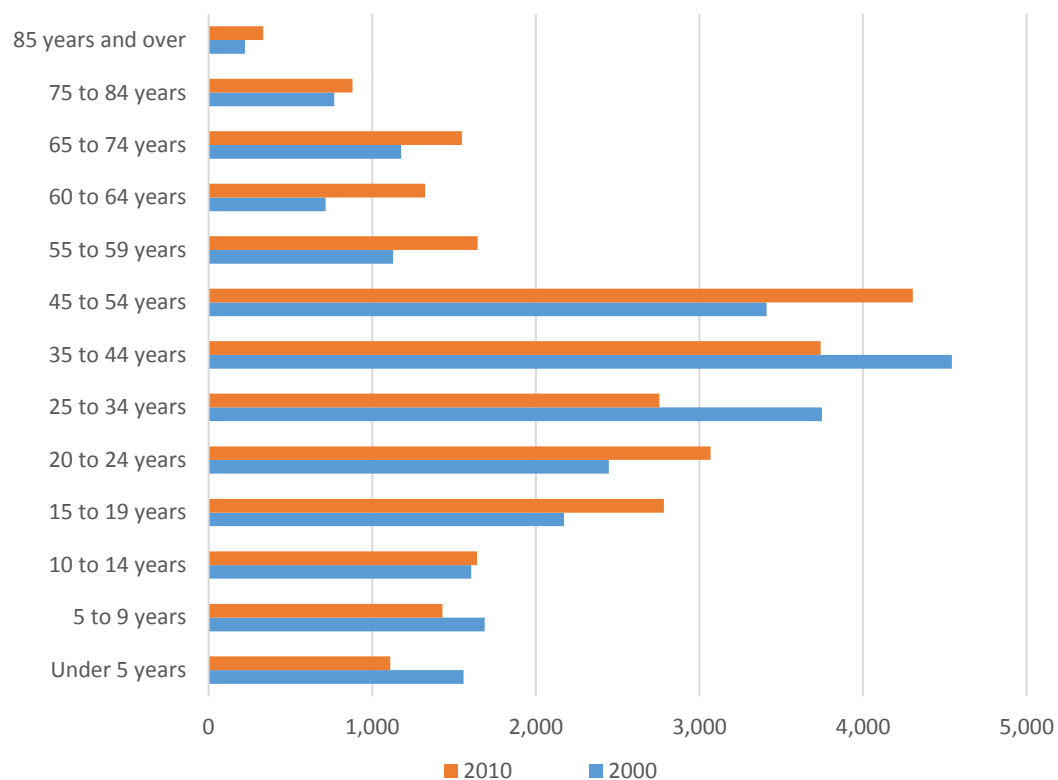
### Population Density

With the town's area fixed at 28.14 square miles, the overall density, reflecting developed land and undeveloped land, rose from 338 persons/square-mile in 1950 to the 944 persons/square mile in 2010. Most neighborhoods are far less dense than this suggests because these figures reflect the whole community, much of which is undeveloped or in very low density uses. The resulting patterns are discussed below under Land Use Patterns and Trends, and the implications for open space and recreation needs are noted in the Section 7 Analysis of Needs.

## Age Composition

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 2, 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. Despite the aging trend, Bridgewater's population is still young. The largest segment of the population, which includes teenage and younger adults between 15 and 24 years old, increased between 2000 and 2010. In addition, over 62 percent of the total population is less than 45 years old.

**Figure 2 Population Change by Age Group, 2000-2010**



Source: 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census

The significant loss of population under 10 and between the ages of 25-44 indicates that Bridgewater experienced a decline in families and young professionals. The gain in college-age population can be attributed to the growth trend in Bridgewater State University – the total student enrollment increased by roughly 27% between 2000 and 2010 from about 8,800 total students to 11,200, and the resident students living on campus increased 86% from 1,520 to 2,832 students. In 2013, overall enrollment increased to 11,267 students, with 3,180 resident students and 8,087 commuter students. The growth in resident students is attributed to construction of two new residence halls (Bridgewater State University Office of Institutional Research, October 2013.)

These population changes indicate increased demands for recreation resources that suit the particular needs of both the senior population, such as passive recreation areas and/or trails, and teenage and young adult populations, such as active recreation and athletic facilities.

### Income Characteristics

The median family income was \$50,080 in 1990 (1989 data) compared to \$47,273 for the same year in the OCPC region and \$44,367 statewide. By 2000 (1999 data) it had grown by 45.34% to \$73,953 compared to a regional increase of 42.43% to \$67,331, and a lesser state-wide increase of 38.98% to \$61,664. According to the American Community Survey estimates 2007-2011, the median family income was \$88,697, a 36% increase from 2000 (see Table 3).

**Table 3 Bridgewater Household Income, 2000-2011**

| Category  | 2000     | 2007-2011 | \$ Change | % Change |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Median Household (HH) Income  |          |           |           |          |
| Bridgewater   | \$65,318 | \$88,697  | \$23,379  | 36%      |
| Owner Occupied  | \$74,443 | \$98,940  | \$24,497  | 33%      |
| Renter Occupied   | \$39,453 | \$53,178  | \$13,725  | 35%      |
| Plymouth County   | \$55,615 | \$74,698  | \$19,083  | 34%      |
| Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH Metro Area*                                      | \$52,792 | \$71,865  | \$19,073  | 36%      |
| Median Family Income  |          |           |           |          |
| Bridgewater   | \$73,953 | \$101,641 | \$27,688  | 37%      |
| Plymouth County   | \$65,554 | \$88,110  | \$22,556  | 34%      |
| Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, MA-NH Metro Area                                       | \$64,538 | \$90,739  | \$26,201  | 41%      |
| *2000 Metropolitan Area data is for Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT CMSA |          |           |           |          |

Sources: 2000 US Census; 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B19013, B25119, B19113

### Industry and Employment Trends

According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), Bridgewater had an annual labor force of 14,883 in 2017, among which 14,354 were employed, indicating an unemployment rate of 3.6% which was slightly lower than the state average of 3.7%. While the local labor force has increased modestly from 14,023 in 2010, the unemployment rate has dropped significantly as compared to 7.7% in 2010.

The latest 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates indicate that within the employed Bridgewater residents, roughly 22.1% or fewer than 3,500 people worked locally in Bridgewater, another 32.4% worked outside of Bridgewater but within Plymouth County, and 43.5% worked outside Plymouth county, with another 2% worked outside state of residence. On the other hand, labor market information shows that the 2016 average employment in Bridgewater was approximately 8,420, meaning that the majority of the workers employed in Bridgewater commute to the town from elsewhere. These statistics



reflect the large degree of commuting to and from Bridgewater both inside and outside of the region.

The industry types, employment and wages found within Bridgewater are summarized in the table below. The largest employment sector is still Educational Services, reflecting the regional school district and Bridgewater State University. The largest single employers are the Bridgewater Raynham School District, Bridgewater State Hospital, the University, the Bridgewater Correctional Complex, and Roach Bros Supermarkets. The town's employment trends are like those throughout the state and region with declining manufacturing and agriculture, and growing services, particularly in education, health care, finance and other services.

**Table 4 Bridgewater 2017 Employment and Wages by Industry**

| Industry                                     | # Establishments | Average Employment | Average Weekly Wages |
|--|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting   | 3                | 14                 | \$130                |
| Construction                                 | 106              | 691                | \$1,485              |
| Manufacturing                                | 15               | 199                | \$1,096              |
| Wholesale Trade                              | 18               | 200                | \$1,115              |
| Retail Trade                                 | 62               | 836                | \$547                |
| Transportation and Warehousing               | 19               | 407                | \$667                |
| Information                                  | 5                | 24                 | \$996                |
| Finance and Insurance                        | 22               | 235                | \$1,486              |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing           | 20               | 84                 | \$1,428              |
| Professional and Technical Services          | 55               | 207                | \$1,117              |
| Administrative and Waste Services            | 33               | 160                | \$1,127              |
|  | 26               | 3,479              | \$1,286              |
| Health Care and Social Assistance            | 87               | 535                | \$1,086              |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation          | 10               | 80                 | \$379                |
| Accommodation and Food Services              | 50               | 979                | \$343                |
| Other Services, Except Public Administration | 55               | 270                | \$571                |
| Total  | 586              | 8,420              | \$1,033              |

Source: Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

The implications of these changes for open space and recreation planning are yet to be explored. More people working at a distance from home and at indoor "cubicle-bound" jobs, and fewer in farming, construction and other outdoor and physically active activities may increase demand for nearby hiking, camping or water sport activities. At the same time the in-migration of people from more urban communities to a perceived semi-rural one may increase demand for landscape preservation, for nearby active recreation resources for

youth, and for nearby readily accessible open space for things as simple as a walk in woods and fields after work.

## Race and Ethnicity

A vast majority (91.0%) of Bridgewater's population is white, non-Hispanic. 4.9% of the population is African American, and 3.2% is Hispanic or Latino (see Table 5). There are two census blocks of greater ethnic diversity in Bridgewater that can be explained by the institutional populations of Bridgewater: in the northern section, Bridgewater State University, and in the southern portion, the Bridgewater Correctional Complex between Summer Street and Route 18.

**Table 5 Bridgewater Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010**

| Total  | White  | African-American | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian | Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders | Some Other Race | Two or More Races | Hispanic or Latino |
|--------|--------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 26,563 | 24,163 | 1,292            | 62                               | 328   | 0  | 294             | 424               | 838                |
| 100 %  | 91.0%  | 4.9%             | .2%                              | 1.2%  | 0%   | 1.1%            | 1.6               | 3.2%               |

Source: U.S. Census, 2010 Table QT-P3.

## Growth and Development Patterns

### Land Use Patterns and Trends

The town's land uses are primarily residential and institutional with some remaining agriculture, and with concentrations of commercial uses in the town center and along Routes 18 and 104, along with growing industrial and distribution uses on former farmland along Elm Street. The Center is visually strong and accommodates the Town's main civic uses, but most commercial activity is along Route 18 with a concentration of older firms to the north and a growing number of scattered highway-oriented commercial and light industrial uses to the south.

Other commercial or industrial development includes the Bridgewater Industrial Park northeast of the Route 24 interchange, the Scotland Industrial Park off of Pleasant St, and the Claremont project in the state's Priority Development Area near the Route 24 and 104 interchange. These are generally remote from the flood plain in contrast to earlier water power-based industry in the Stanley area where the Town River enters Bridgewater, and at Paper Mill Village on Route 104, Plymouth Street just below the junction of the Town and Matfield Rivers where the Taunton River begins.

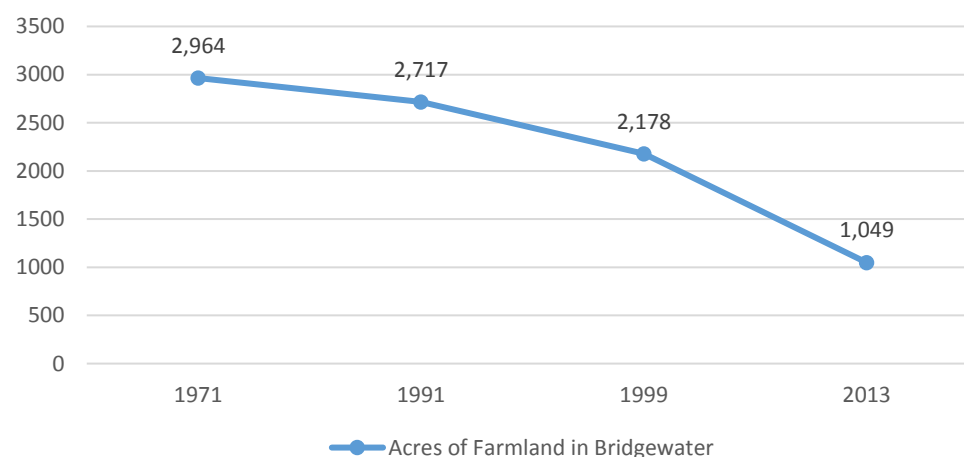
Major institutional uses are Bridgewater State University just east of downtown on both sides of the railroad tracks, and the extensive Bridgewater Correctional Complex in the south central (Titicut) portion of the town between Route 18 and the Taunton River.

The observations in the 1984 Bridgewater Master Plan Update remain true; “Bridgewater’s residential development continues to combine a compact medium-density town center with a roughly radial pattern of frontage (“Form A”) development along existing streets and a number of small subdivisions.” Older moderate density neighborhoods are found around the Center and along the Route 28 corridor to the north. Elsewhere, new neighborhoods with one acre lots are found in peripheral areas, particularly in the western portions of town. Only a scattering of lots around the center are under the 10,000 square foot minimum in the small CBD district and are grandfathered. The close-in R-C and R-D neighborhoods require at least 18,500 square feet and the rest of the community requires at least an acre (43,560 Square feet). As a result, most new neighborhoods are being built at a density of one unit per acre or less.

### Declining Farm Land

Between 1971 and 2013, acreage of farmland in Bridgewater declined from close to 3,000 acres to just over 1,000 acres.<sup>23</sup> Working farms include the Murray and Needs properties on North Street and the Hanson Farm on Route 104. These agricultural areas and the acres of non-forested wetland make up the majority of the town’s open vistas.

**Figure 3 Acreage Change of Farmland in Bridgewater, 1971-2013**



Sources: 1971 MacConnell UMass Map Down Project; 1991 & 1999 MASS GIS; 2013 Bridgewater Assessors.

Note: This data was not correlated with Chapter 61 parcel data.

Residential and institutional growth have claimed multiple agricultural properties and other open space including portions of the Imhoff Farm, much of the Homenook Farm, the Perkins land (Calthrop Trust Property off of Cherry Street), the McIntyre Farm, the Pole Farm, the Pawlowski Farm, much of the Wyman Farm, and woodlands on Pine and Conant Streets. According to data provided by the Bridgewater Community & Economic Development Department based on aerial photography, there are approximately 1,049 acres of farmland extant in Bridgewater as of November 2013, including cranberry bogs, fields for hay and corn, one tree farm, and two that appear fallow.

<sup>2</sup> Source: 1971 figures based on MacConnell UMass Mass Map Down Project; 1991 and 1999 figures based on MASS GIS; 2013 figures based on Bridgewater Community & Economic Development Department and Bridgewater Assessor database.

<sup>3</sup> Note: Due to reliance on a variety of sources, namely UMass, Mass GIS, and Bridgewater Assessors, the acreage determinations are based on different methodologies and caution is required when making direct comparisons of the data.

There have been local efforts to preserve farmlands. For example, the Town purchased the Hogg Farm in 2000 for municipal and recreational use, purchased the historic Keith Homestead and Farm on the shores of Lake Nippenicket and adjacent land in 2011 for historic preservation and open space/recreational uses, and acquired a Conservation Restriction to protect the Murray and Needs farms on North Street in 2015. In addition, there are approximately 220 acres of private agricultural land currently enrolled in the state Chapter 61A program.

### Buildout Implications

The Year 2000 Buildout Analysis sponsored by the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs sought to determine how much growth the town could experience given present land use patterns and zoning regulations. The process excluded land that was permanently protected against development, wetlands or land subject to the Rivers Protection Act, but did not reduce potential development according to sewer or water capacity or soil limitations for septic systems. It did make some adjustments for development constraints such as land ownership patterns and access to roadways.

The Analysis found 8,382 potentially developable acres accommodating 7,610 housing units and 19,538 new residents - a significant 72.9% increase - including 3,517 added school children. The combined potential residential and commercial/industrial space would demand 3.55 MGD additional gallons of water - far beyond the system's present capacities. The housing alone would demand 1.3 MGD. However not everyone is on town water and many houses, especially in outlying areas, could rely on private wells. This theoretical potential growth would also involve 76 miles of added roadways. Such a buildout would drastically change the character of the community by filling all buildable land with development. The Town would lose important aesthetic character and be transformed into a built-out suburb, leaving only presently protected lands and important wetlands as relief.

On the ecological side the extensive paving accompanying such a build-out would increase runoff, decreasing recharge and depressing water tables unless most development is done as Low Impact Development (LID). This would feature a maximum of recharge and integration of vegetation into stormwater management.

The theoretical build-out would also increase water consumption, particularly if homeowners seek to water lawns all summer despite present prohibitions. Beyond this the blanketing of the landscape with housing and businesses would break up areas of contiguous forest or rare grasslands wildlife habitat. In addition, the probable prevalence of predatory pets (cats and dogs) would have a negative impact on remaining wildlife. In addition, the presently required low-density development would increase local trips and with them increase fuel consumption and air quality impacts and add to the global warming effects of greater carbon dioxide emissions.

However, such build-out growth, region-wide or in the town, is unlikely since it assumes use of all available land and an infinite regional demand for housing and commercial space. On the other hand, with more smart growth developments where higher density is allowed, such as the Waterford Village Smart Growth Overlay district (20+ units/acre allowed) and the MHEC district (4+ units/acre allowed), more future growth could be housed on less land when strategically planned, which helps preserve more open land within the community.

Nonetheless, these remote prospects, or even the more probable lesser growth, make it important to identify sites and systems of holdings needed to create an ideal open space system, or at least an achievable one, and to proceed to accomplish it.

## Zoning Regulations

### *Zoning District Descriptions*

#### The Planned Development District

This district mapped just south of Lake Nippenicket allows mixed industrial/commercial/institutional/residential parks by Special Permit in "order to achieve mixed significant revenue or employment benefits without adverse impacts on their neighborhoods or on the Town's natural resources." It requires tracts of at least 10 acres and individual building sites of at least five acres except for house lots which must meet the one-acre requirement and other standards of the R-A/B District. The guidelines require a 200-foot screening buffer next to most public ways. At the same time building heights and massing are to be compatible with views from adjacent ways while building materials blend with the setting or complement it. Thus the development should not visually affect Lake Nippenicket.

While the maximum 25% lot coverage will leave much land open, there are no requirements that it blend into any adjacent open space. Similarly, the pedestrian circulation system requires access to all parts of the development and through any open space areas, but does not require connections to surrounding developments or neighborhoods. The allowed houses on acre lots do not leave as much completely open land as would townhouses or apartments at such a density. In practice, developers seeking the required special permits have proposed setting aside connected land areas for rare wildlife such as certain turtle species.

#### Mobile Home Elderly Community District

This mapped district allows communities of mobile homes (actually large one-story modular houses, not readily-moved trailers) for persons 55 years old or older. The parcels must have at least 50 acres (75% upland) with virtual lots of 7,000 square feet, 90-foot natural buffers against any public way, and preservation of 20% of the site as open space. The provisions do not specify the relationship of the preserved land to development or any open space in surrounding neighborhoods, but this might be dealt with through the required special permit. The District is mapped over much of the former Wyman Farm but does not affect the Wyman Meadow holdings.

#### Open Space Conservation Development

The provision aims to preserve large tracts of open space for natural and historical resource protection. The intent is also to protect and foster the Town of Bridgewater's rural and scenic character by promoting residential development that is in harmony with natural features and traditional landscapes. It requires a Special Permit from the Planning Board as an alternative to a Definitive Subdivision, and may be applied in any R-A/B, R-C or R-D residential district.

### 3 Community Setting

The OSCD ordinance requires a minimum of 5 acres of land area and 50 feet of frontage on a public right of way. Only single family residential units are allowed in an OSCD. Residential building lots in an OSCD must have a minimum of 10,000 sq ft of lot area, and a minimum of frontage of 25 feet. The maximum number of dwelling units permitted in an OSCD is computed by dividing the total developable area of the tract by the minimum lot size required for single family development in the underlying zoning district. In an OSCD, a minimum of 60 percent of the total tract area needs to be set aside as Common Land for the use of the OSCD residents or the general public. The Common Land should be dedicated and used for natural resource protection, recreation, park purposes, outdoor education, agriculture, horticulture, or forestry. The Common Land, in whole or part, shall be conveyed to and accepted by the Town of Bridgewater, or to a suitable and verifiable nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, stewardship, and management of the Common Land.

#### Gateway Business District

This is mapped over former Industrial 1-A and Residential-A/B land on Route 104 from Elm Street to Prospect Street. This allows office uses including creation of new space subject to site plan review design guidelines intended to protect the architectural and historic character of the area. These include visual and sound buffers against adjacent residential properties, sign restrictions, visually acceptable parking layouts, and low-impact parking design. Though mapped as a basic district with no other districts shown below it, it is referred to as “the overlay district” in Section 3.34.6.

#### East Gateway Business District

This mapped district intends to preserve and maintain the historic traditional New England character of the neighborhood that defines the gateways into Bridgewater while facilitating economic development, minimizing traffic impacts and utilizing the advantage of the highly visible and accessible location. Site plan approval for commercial uses in this district will emphasize shared driveways, parking facilities in the rear and sides of buildings, preservation of historic architecture, agricultural resources and rural character.

#### Elm Street Industrial District Overlay

The town has also mapped extensive farmland along Elm Street for limited office, commercial, and industrial uses (excluding housing) just east of Route 24, and over present Industrial - A Zoning. It is shown on the zoning map as “EOD” (Economic Opportunity District) and is the area the town has proposed as a Priority Development Site under Chapter 43D’s Expedited Permitting program. This program requires designating Priority Development Areas and permitting decisions must be made within 180 days, not creating an actual zoning district.

#### Waterford Village Smart Growth Overlay District (WVSGOD)

This district supports a proposed Ch. 40R rental residential project on “Substantially Developed” and “New Development” sub-districts requiring densities of 20 and 22.5 units/acre respectively. The sub-districts include the present developed land and adjacent land fronting on the Town River. Varied commercial uses are allowed on the land near Route 104. The housing may include altered, extended, reconstructed or expanded existing

development with buildings of up to 70 feet high and a minimum lot area/dwelling of 1000 square feet. The projects are nominally allowed as as-of-right subject to very detailed guidelines and approval by a Plan Approval Authority (PAA), in this case the Planning Board. The PAA may disapprove a plan for basic omissions, failure to meet the District's standards, or the impossibility of adequately mitigating adverse impacts. The high density allowed may make it possible to preserve much land along the Town River and interested bodies should participate actively in the project review.

#### Business-B

This district, mapped along Route 18 from just south of Flagg Street to Cottage Street requires 10,000 square foot lots, requires special permits for most residential uses, and allows most commercial uses, excluding only space-consuming or hazardous uses such as convention centers, large-scale laundries/dry cleaners, bottling plants, trucking terminals, open storage and uses "detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the public".

#### South Business District

This district, mapped along Route 18 south of Flagg Street, aims to accommodate major uses. It requires lots of 40,000 square feet, prohibits or requires special permits for most residential issues, allows most commercial uses as-of-right or by special permit including convention centers, bottling plants, and trucking terminals. In order to reduce impacts on Route 18 it requires the 40,000 sq. ft. only for lots obtaining access from Route 18 and allows 10,000 sq. ft. lots along streets "approved under the Subdivision Control Law," i.e., on back land.

#### Central Business District

The CBD District is mapped over the area north and east of the Common /Central Square<sup>4</sup>. The CBD District requires only 10,000 square-foot lots and may reduce area, frontage and yard requirements by special permit from the Planning Board where consistent with adopted downtown land use plans and guidelines. Therefore, it could allow traditional 0-lot line development close to the street<sup>5</sup>. The District allows some residential uses by special permit. The district allows multi-family housing as part of the Mixed Use Zoning Ordinance, discussed above. The CBD also allows most office or commercial uses as-of-right or by special permit,

#### Bedford Street (TDR) Overlay District (BSOD)

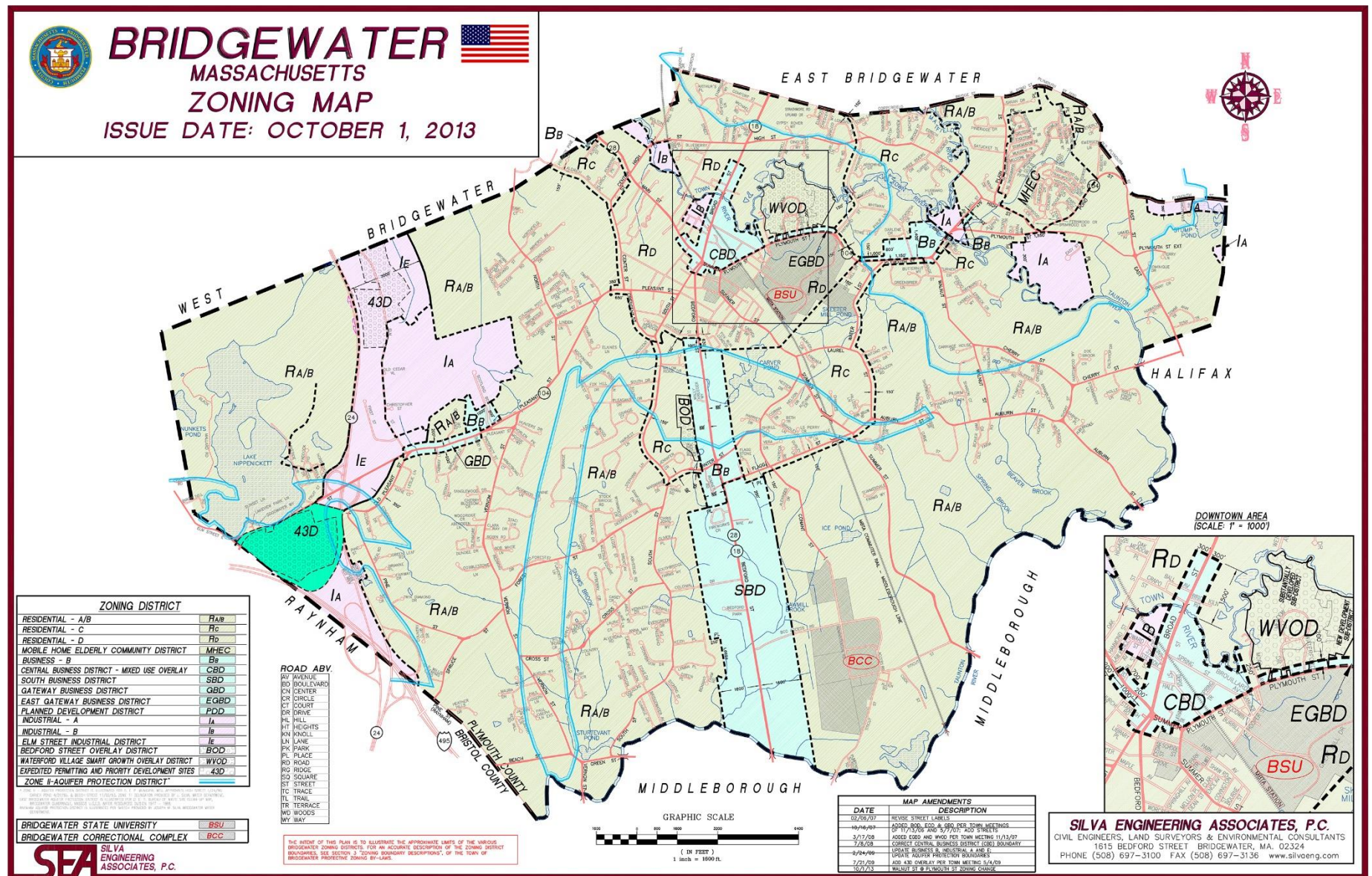
The BSOD is mapped just west of the southern portion of the B-B District, thereby roughly doubling the depth of commercial zoning at that point with the intent to "facilitate the expansion of a commercial node along Bedford Street, enabling high quality commercial development at the location while minimizing adverse impacts on natural resources, in particular the groundwater resources in the [nearby] Aquifer Protection District." It would do this partly through the use of Transferable Development Rights.

<sup>4</sup> However, it is no longer mapped over the heart of downtown around the Square itself, as it was on the Zoning Map updated through January 1998. That area is now mapped R-D requiring 18,500 sq. ft. lots and excluding most commercial uses

<sup>5</sup> Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts Zoning By-Laws Latest Revision July 22, 2016



Map 2 Town of Bridgewater Zoning Map





Uses allowed in the B-B District require Special Permits. The sending area must be in the R-C District land surrounding the BSOD mapped land. The amount sent must equal the development site plus any proposed impervious area exceeding half of the “receiving” development site and must be protected by a conservation restriction or transference of the deed to the Conservation Commission. The project must also not have detrimental effects on the groundwater or the neighborhood.

The available land is largely Ch. 61A farmland east of South Street. These provisions offer an opportunity to preserve farmland, or at least open space, in the center of a largely developed area. They reportedly have been used to allow at least one intensified development on Route 18.

### *Zoning/Local Protective Provisions*

Bridgewater zoning regulations include development of single-family and duplex homes. Bridgewater zoning requires house lots of 43,560 square feet (one acre) in the Residential A/B District, and one acre per unit in the Planned Development (PD) district, along with 18,500 square feet in the Residential C and D Districts, and 10,000 square feet in the Central Business District (CBD) (see Appendix 1, Map 5). The Town considered, but did not opt to increase minimum lot size requirements to 60,000 or 80,000 square feet, despite such a recommendation in the 1974 Bridgewater Growth and Development Report.

The Residential C and D districts allow duplex (two-family) houses as-of-right while the CBD district allows them by special permit. Multi-family housing is prohibited in all districts except for the Waterford Village Chapter 40R Smart Growth Overlay District and the recently adopted Mixed-Use allowance in the CBD, as described below. The highest densities allowed, outside of the 40R district, are lots of 7,000 square feet in the Mobile Home Elderly Community District. It is interesting to note that in 1971 the town amended the zoning ordinance to allow multi-family units by special permit, previously allowed by right. Then in 1982, the town amended the zoning ordinance to prohibit multi-family units. Currently, multi-family units are again allowed by special permit, but only as part of mixed-use buildings in the Central Business District.

The Central Business District covers the small commercial area of downtown, while the moderate-density Residential D District covers the largely sewered area around the downtown, and the comparable Residential C District is adjacent to the Residential D District, as shown on the Zoning map. The lowest density R-A/B District covers most of the undeveloped parts of the Town while the PD District covers the area south of Lake Nippenicket.<sup>6</sup>

The commercial zoning districts are located downtown, on Route 18, and in small selective outlying portions of Pleasant Street and Plymouth Street along Route 104. The Industrial districts are largely in planned or existing industrial areas along Route 24 and in scattered pockets reflecting existing uses. The Industrial E (IE) district is located on Elm Street, which encompasses a portion of the Priority Preservation Area.

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<sup>6</sup> Note that the PD District is the site of an approved comprehensive permit for the development of rental housing on Route 104 known as The Residences at Lakeshore.

The Bridgewater Town Council approved a Mixed Use Zoning Ordinance for the Central Business District in September 2013 that allows mixed commercial and residential development by special permit. The maximum number of residential units permitted is five per acre, or eight per acre if 25% of the total units are affordable. The ordinance requires commercial use on the street frontage of the first floor. In addition, the ordinance requires two off-street parking spaces per unit with a visitor parking space for every three units in addition to the off-street commercial parking requirements. Shared parking, to reduce the total parking requirement, is not permitted.

Bridgewater zoning allows an alternative to conventional subdivisions to protect open space by clustering house lots. This alternative applies (by special permit) for development of properties that are 10-15 acres through the Open Space Community Development (OSCD) Ordinance that was adopted in 1989. The ordinance requires that at least 35% of the land be preserved as common open space for purposes of conservation, recreation, or agriculture. Per the Bridgewater ordinance, an OSCD community is permitted the same number of total units as a conventional subdivision on lots not less than 50% of the minimum lot area in the zoning district. Seven developments have been approved through the OSCD ordinance since adoption, of which five were constructed: Cobblestone, Harvest Lane, Old Field Estates, Pheasant Lane, and Sea Tower. Bridgewater Preserve is currently under construction.

Adult Retirement Villages (ARV), which are intended as compact development to lower maintenance cost, foster community, and preserve open space, are permitted by special permit in the RA/B, RC, RD, Gateway, and E Gateway districts. ARV developments are permitted through the Open Space Community Development ordinance. An ARV development is permitted an increase of 25% over the maximum number of units allowed within a conventional subdivision.

In addition, the Zoning regulations allow accessory apartments by right in RA/B, RC, RD, Gateway, and E. Gateway districts and by special permit in all other districts.

### *Environmental Protection Provisions*

#### The Aquifer Protection District

Like most such provisions, Bridgewater's Aquifer Protection District is mapped over the town's main aquifers and over land (Zones I, II and III) significantly recharging the aquifer. It then prohibits or tightly regulates uses potentially contaminating the aquifer and requires special permits for dams, paved areas or other uses affecting storm water management and recharge, and sets standards for storm water management systems.

The District is mapped extensively over the sensitive areas, particularly in the northeastern section of the town, the area around the southern portion of Carver Pond, and a north-south strip west of Routes 18/28. In addition, East Bridgewater's comparable district covers a small area east of Stump Pond, and the Raynham district covers much of the area south of Lake Nippenicket to the Raynham line. These provisions provide much protection, but ownership is the greatest protection, so being in the District should be an added factor supporting acquisition.

Local Wetlands Protection Ordinance Article XXXIII

In addition to its Aquifer Protection Zoning ordinance, the town has a non-zoning local Wetlands Protection Ordinance. Such ordinance can regulate current activities as well as proposed activities regulated by zoning, and can provide protections additional to those of the Wetlands Protection Act (Ch.131, S. 40). Thus the ordinance can prohibit alterations within 100 feet of a wetland while the Act requires filing a Notice of Intent to work within 100 feet of a wetland but can only regulate work within the resource area or directly affecting it. In addition, the ordinance may include protection of resources and values (e.g. aesthetics, recreation, and agricultural values) not covered under the Act. Further, decisions under the ordinance can be appealed only to Superior Court, while decisions under the Act may be appealed to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Flood Plain District

The Flood Plain (overlay) District is provided to prevent residential use of land that floods seasonally or periodically, to protect and maintain the water table, and to ensure proper function of water courses to provide "adequate and safe floodwater storage capacity."

The District covers areas mapped as Zone A, A1-30 on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps. The Board of Appeals may allow development in the mapped flood plain if it can be done safely without causing problems elsewhere (e.g. by taking up needed flood storage and endangering downstream uses, or conversely, blocking flow and causing flooding upstream).

In addition to the zoning changes noted above, the Planning Board has upgraded its Rules and Regulations for drainage design in compliance with DEP's Best Management Practices.

**Infrastructure***Transportation*Roadways

Bridgewater is on Rte. 24, a major north-south limited access highway. This gives access to Fall River and New Bedford and Routes 44, I-495 and I-195 to the south; and to Route 128 and I-93 and Greater Boston to the north. Local numbered routes serving the town are:

- ▶ Route 28 running north-south through the town along with Route 18 and connecting to Brockton and on to Route 128 to the northwest
- ▶ The east-west Route 106 running west to Plainville and to Routes 1 and I-95, and east to Kingston and Route 3; and
- ▶ The east-west Route 104 running northeast to Halifax and south-west to Taunton. See Locus map above.

### Rail

Bridgewater has MBTA rail transit in the form of the restored Old Colony Commuter rail service running north through Brockton and Quincy to Boston, and south to Middleborough and Lakeville. It offers 12 round trips per day. The station is located in the University between the east and west campuses. MassDOT and MBTA are currently developing environmental permitting and design for the South Coast Rail project, a commuter rail service that will reconnect Boston and major cities and towns in the Massachusetts South Coast. The project envisioned a possible new Middleborough option where the MBTA Middleborough/Lakeville line can connect to Fall River, Taunton, and New Bedford via an upgraded Middleborough Secondary Line. If this vision comes to fruition, Bridgewater residents will have rail services to Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford.

### Bus and Paratransit

The Brockton Area Transit system (BAT) offers school year service routed from the BSU campus along Route 28 to a transfer point serving the rest of the BAT system in the north end of Brockton. Other service is that within the Bridgewater State University campus; the Bridgewater Council on Aging's paratransit service and the BAT system's Dial-a-BAT demand-responsive paratransit service also serving the elderly and disabled.

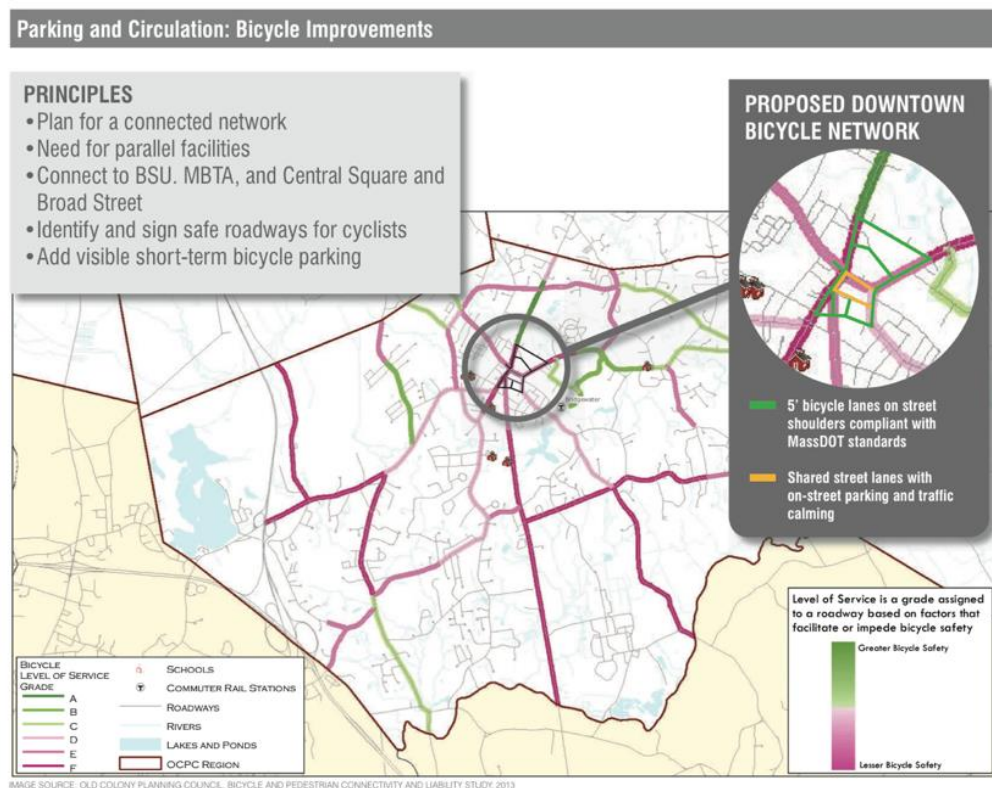
### Bicycleways

In March of 2014, the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) published the *Central Square Parking, Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Traffic Operations Improvement Plan*. Building from previous studies including the Bridgewater Downtown Community Development Master Plan (2014, The Cecil Group), Bridgewater Housing Plan (2012, JM Goldson) and Traffic Circulation & Pedestrian Access Study (2011, OCPC), the plan gave specific strategies for improving the Central Business District with a focus on traffic flow and pedestrian/bicycle access.

The OCPC plan outlines bicycle accessibility problems, including the lack of a bicycle lane downtown which forces cyclists to share the road with two lanes of traffic. Limited formal bicycle storage and hazardous conditions such as vehicles pulling out of parking spaces leaves serious room for improvement in making the Central Square area more bicycle-friendly. As for solutions, the plan cites the need for better signage and the installation of bike racks at key locations within Central Square.

The 2014 *Downtown Community Development Master Plan* proposed its own set of bicycle improvement recommendations, with new considerations based on more detailed traffic analysis. Figure 4 was taken from the 2014 Downtown Community Development Master Plan, and includes data from OCPC's 2013 Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Liability Study, as well as a proposed bicycle network that would be part of the downtown revitalization focus.

**Figure 4 Proposed Bicycle Improvements in the Downtown Community Development Master Plan**



Source: Bridgewater Downtown Community Development Master Plan, 2014, produced by the Cecil Group

### Pedestrian ways

The aforementioned OCPC *Central Square Parking, Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Traffic Operations Improvement Plan* outlines numerous pedestrian access problems in the Central Square area, including angled parking which blocks sight lines, lack of adequate signage, and faded crosswalks that do not alert motorists to the presence of the pedestrians. The plan describes various methods to help combat these issues, including installing ADA-compliant ramps, Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFB), and curb extensions to all pedestrian crossings.

The 2014 Community Development Master Plan offers an even greater variety of pedestrian improvement recommendations. The following are the main points of their pedestrian-accessibility suggestions:

- ▶ Stripe crosswalks more boldly to enhance pedestrian visibility, and eventually work towards patterned, ADA-compliant crosswalks
- ▶ Add curb extensions at key crosswalks and intersections located in high volume areas.
- ▶ Create new pedestrian pathways from Central Square through to BSU
- ▶ Realign crosswalks to shorten crossing distance

Figure 5 below, taken from the Community Development Master Plan, marks current pedestrian access in and around the Central Square area.

**Figure 5 Pedestrian Access in Central Square**

Source: Bridgewater Downtown Community Development Master Plan, 2014, produced by the Cecil Group

### Bicycle / Pedestrian Way Requirements

In 2016, the Town adopted a Complete Streets Policy to ensure streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balance the needs of different modes, and support local land uses, economies, cultures, and natural environments. In addition, the town's zoning ordinance requires that the pedestrian circulation system include pathways providing direct routes between major buildings, parking areas and roads and a secondary walking system, and that it must allow movement through open spaces.

At the same time, the subdivision rules and regulations say that pedestrian ways or footpaths will normally be required to provide convenient circulation or access to schools, playgrounds, shopping, churches, transportation, parks and conservation areas with a 15-foot to 20-foot right-of-way. Properly designed, these can also serve as bicycle paths.

These standards need to be more clearly defined and enforced. They rarely are fully implemented because there is often no path in the adjacent undeveloped land to which the required path in a new subdivision can be connected. This might be solved by adopting a skeletal town-wide pedestrian/bikeway system which would connect major destinations and be binding on new development. Currently the Town is undertaking a Pedestrian Safety Assessment and Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to explore physical improvements to the pedestrian network, sidewalks, cross walks, signalization, equipment and amenities of the Central Business District and other critical geographic areas of the Town.



### *Water Supplies*

Bridgewater's water supplies come from ground water in two aquifers. One is along the Matfield River with four wells south of High Street and east of the river and with two new wells south of Plymouth Street along the Taunton River on the Wyman Meadow land. The other aquifer is around Carver's Pond with four wells just south of the pond and an inactive well on the shore of the southern lobe of the pond. There is a secondary well near the Olde Scotland Links Golf Course that's currently in permit process.

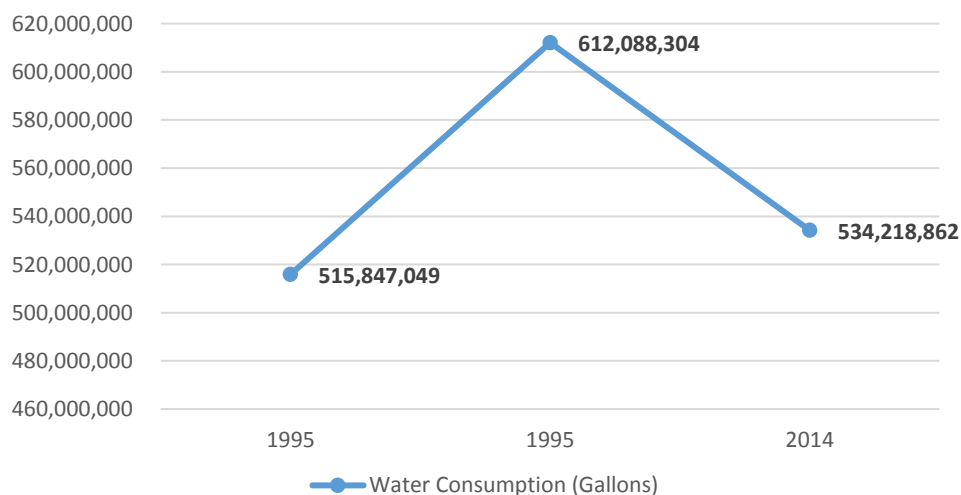
The Matfield River aquifer occupies the northeast corner of the town bracketing the Town and Matfield Rivers, while the Carver's Pond aquifer runs east and west of the Pond and then south, roughly west of Snow's Brook, to the Taunton River near the Middleboro line. These aquifers are indicated by the Zone II recharge areas shown on the Water Resources map in Section 4. These are the recharge areas tapped during a six-month drought.

The supplies are protected by ownership of land around the wells and by the town's Aquifer Protection District zoning discussed below. This district is mapped over the Zone II areas shown on the Water Resources map.

Water from the Carver's Pond Aquifer is treated for removal of iron and manganese at the Carver's Pond Treatment Plant. The High Street wells along the Matfield River were formerly treated for nitrates, but the plant has been closed since nitrate levels dropped following changes in upstream land uses, particularly altered dairy farm operations. A new iron removal plant is currently entering the design engineering phase.

Despite increased population, overall annual water consumption decreased between 2000 and 2014 from 612,088,304 gallons per year (1.68 MGD) in 2000 to 534,218,862 gallons per year in 2014 (see Figure 6). Bridgewater has reversed the prior trend of increased water consumption between 1995 and 2000, which went from a total of 515,847,049 gallons per year in 1995 to 612,088,304 gallons per year in 2000.

**Figure 6 Water Consumption Change in Bridgewater, 1995-2014**



Source: Bridgewater Water Department

To ensure adequate supply, the Town acquired land and developed two new wells at Wyman Meadow that went into service in 2006 and are producing 500,000 gallons/day (.5MGD). This gives the system a total safe yield of 2.4 MGD. The department also purchased land at Beech Street next to the Titicut Conservation Parkland for a possible added well. The Water Department reports that the site has turned out to be less productive than expected and the Water Department does not expect to use it.

For distribution, water is stored in two tanks, one on Great Hill holding 990,000 gallons and one on Sprague's Hill to the north holding 4,000,000 gallons. Together these give two days' storage based on the recent maximum day's consumption of 2.2 MGD and 2.9 days' storage based on 2007 average consumption of 1.73 MGD.

The Water Department continues to explore other options such as bedrock wells and alternative sources. These do not include use of the extensive supplies in Lake Nippenicket because of their very high level of iron. Nippenicket reportedly is Wampanoag for "Lake of Red Water."

With the recent increase in safe yields and its continuing efforts to expand supplies, the Water Department does not expect water supply to be a significant constraint on development for the foreseeable future.

### *Water Protection*

The Town's water supply is protected by the Groundwater Protection Zoning described below. This was adopted in 1988 and updated in 1994 in accord with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Guidelines. Such protection is a concern shared with adjacent communities. Some of the wells serving East Bridgewater and Middleborough are close to Bridgewater and two wells serving Raynham are next to Lake Nippenicket. The Zone II primary recharge areas for East Bridgewater and Bridgewater overlap near the Matfield River. A small portion of East Bridgewater's Aquifer District just east of Bridgewater's Stump Pond, and extensive areas of Raynham's Aquifer District west and south of Lake Nippenicket, are included in Bridgewater's mapped Groundwater Protection District.

### *Sewers / Septic System Feasibility*

Soil limitations for on-site septic systems greatly influence the location and density of residential development. Areas mapped with severe limitations due to high water tables, rock, or impermeable soils (e.g. fragipan) are the most difficult to develop with such systems and steep slopes add to the limitations.

Maps in the 1969 Plymouth County Soil Survey by US Soil Conservation Service show that such restricted lands cover as much as 45% of the community, running north-south in irregular bands. These cover extensive areas northwest of the Correctional Complex, northeast of Lake Nippenicket, southeast of Bridgewater State University, along much of the Town and Taunton Rivers and South Brook, over the State Forest and east of Vernon Street.

Development without sewers will be constrained in these areas, but generally possible, particularly at the low densities required in Bridgewater. The result is that most severely-restricted soils are able to accommodate up to three quarters of the development otherwise



allowed, though system maintenance may be a problem. Thus, septic limitations do not predict development potential so much as of future maintenance problems. In addition, more recent Innovative and Alternative on-site sewage treatment systems can reduce the needed depth to the water table, or other dimensional requirements, along with the required percolation rates, making previously marginal sites useable.

Nonetheless, sewerage has a major impact in removing consideration of soil suitability for disposal systems. This makes development more likely and increases feasible densities. Thus, the soil maps still can suggest priorities for protection among comparable sites in presently un-sewered areas.

Bridgewater's present advanced wastewater treatment plant has a capacity to treat 1.44 MGD. It currently receives flows of 800,000 to 900,000 gallons a day fluctuating with the seasonal flows from the college, and up to 1.2 MGD during wet weather. This wet weather flows reflect problems with infiltration and inflow (I/I) which the department is treating through inspection, repair and a mandatory 3:1 I/I removal requirement for major new sewer connection. The system discharges treated effluent to the Town River at the treatment plant site off of Morris Avenue.

The present sewer system serves the heart of the community around the town center, the University and some recently added outlying areas including the Elm Street and Scotland Park industrial areas and the office/retail complex south of Lake Nippenicket, (located over a portion of Raynham's aquifer). It also serves the Mobile Home Elderly Community at the former Wyman's Farm, along with some blocks along North Street, the upper portion of South Street, Laurel Street, Hayward Street and Whitman Street.

A number of extensions are planned to meet present or anticipated local water quality problems from failing septic systems rather than to protect the aquifer recharge areas as such. Thus, some are proposed for areas over the aquifer, like the Fox Hill/Pleasant Drive area west of Carver's Pond, while others are only at the edge of an aquifer. At the same time, some land over aquifers have no service since septic systems continue to function adequately. The Sewer Department notes that there is not sufficient capacity to serve all areas presently proposed for service.

# Environmental Inventory and Analysis

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# 4

## Geology, Topography, and Soils

### Geology and Topography

Bridgewater is in the northwestern portion of the Old Colony Planning Council Region and in the Greater Brockton sub-region consisting of Abington, Avon, Brockton, Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Easton, Stoughton, West Bridgewater, and Whitman.

The terrain has limited relief ranging from 10 feet above mean sea level (MSL) along the southern end of Taunton River to 175 feet MSL at Sprague's Hill and 157 feet MSL at Great Hill on the Bridgewater State University Campus. Much of the land is low-lying with poor drainage and scattered wetlands, especially in the southern and western parts of the town.

Overall, this relatively developed town has many streams and scattered ponds, which are often man-made impoundments). These are its most prominent geologic features. It also has commonly tight glacial soils limiting on-site disposal opportunities and groundwater yields. While the region's extensive drainage system has many streams, none except the Matfield River, the Town River and the Taunton River itself are very large because the communities are close to the headwaters of several basins.

Similarly, the town has very few major streams beyond the South Brook because most streams run for a short distance to the Town and Taunton Rivers, as discussed under Water Resources.

The climate is temperate, lacking the extremes found in the south, the far north or the interior of the country, and without the range of precipitation of the northwest or desert regions. Yet there is enough of a range of temperature and weather to give us serious winter storms, rare but dramatic hurricanes, and occasionally dangerous heat waves. One fairly constant factor is the annual 40-plus inches of rain to be accommodated by the streams and wetlands, or stored for use.

## Soils

The various soils' suitability for septic systems can help to prioritize open space acquisitions if two similar sites have very different potential for development. Similarly, in cases where maintaining the amount and quality of ground water recharge is a concern, a site's recharge value may be an important consideration. However, acquisition should not be crucial in outlying areas if adequate protective regulations are in place - as they are in Bridgewater.

Glacial till is found in drumlins - oval hills formed by a moving glacier. These are shaped like half a football sliced the long way, and are commonly oriented north-south like that on Forest Street just east of South Street. They usually contain layers or lenses of clay along with gravel and other materials and can be very tight, as noted above. They absorb septic system effluent slowly and shed water rapidly, sometimes compounding local drainage issues, but they also offer good building sites in popular scenic hillside locations. Thus, any un-built upon drumlins would deserve strong consideration for partial protection.

Fluvial (outwash) soils are deposited by glacial melt-water streams and typically contain much sand and gravel. There are found throughout Bridgewater. Such soils offer good (or sometimes excessively rapid) septic effluent absorption and can hold much groundwater.

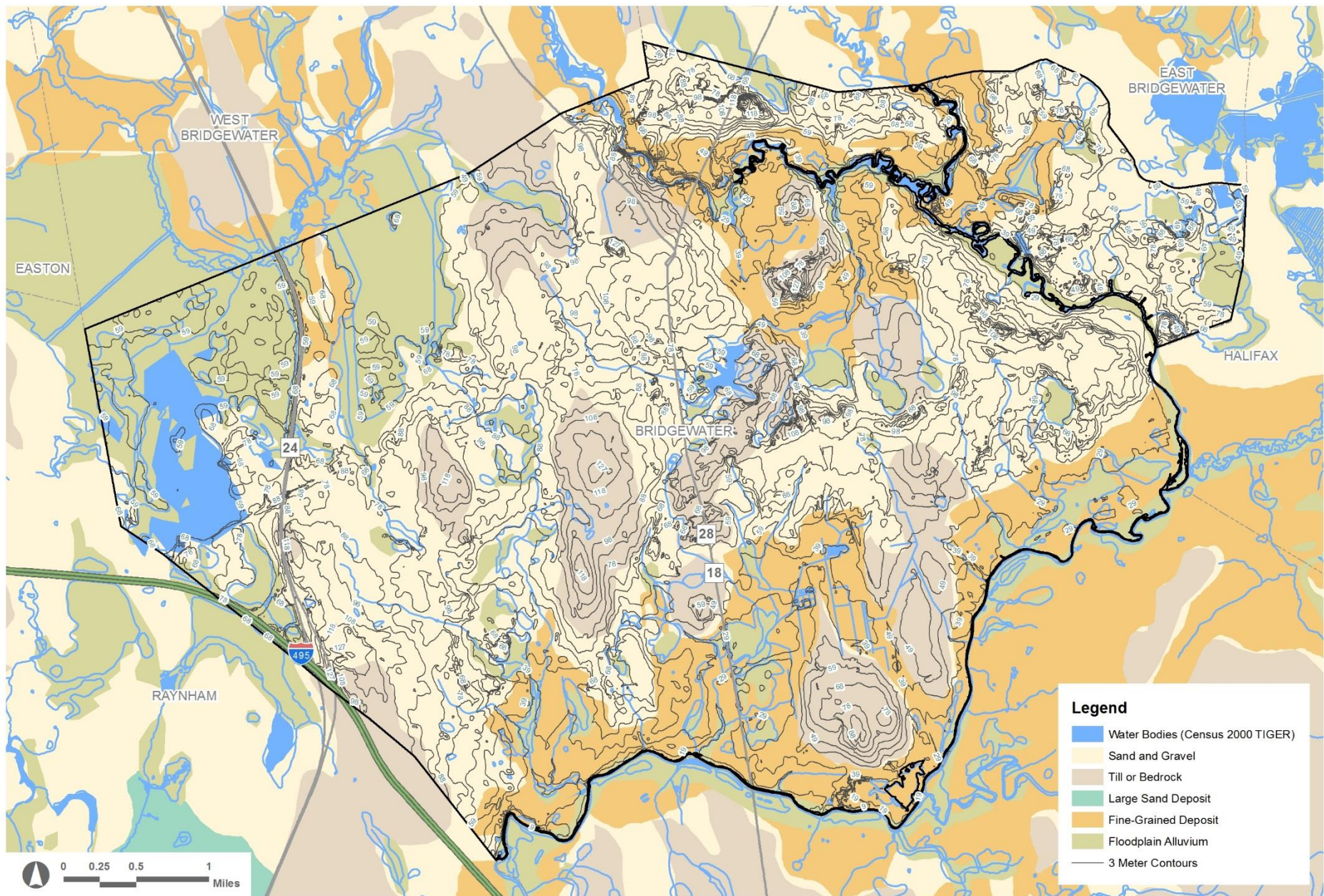
Lacustrine (lake bottom) soils are fine-textured silt and clay deposited by flowing glacial melt-water beyond the point where heavier sand and gravel settle. The large glacial Lake Taunton covered much of the Bridgewater area leaving thick silt and clay deposits, particularly in the southern and eastern sections of the town. These areas are quite difficult to serve with septic systems and lead to extensive areas with septic limitations. Such soils can also be found along streams as with the clay pits at the former and present Stiles and Hart Brick Works on the Town and Taunton Rivers respectively.

Organic soils reflect incompletely-decayed plant material and are found in the northeastern corner of the town in the Hockomock Swamp. They can hold large amounts of water, slowly releasing it to streams and even more slowly releasing it to the underlying aquifers. They are poorly suited for septic systems or groundwater recharge and make poor building sites, particularly when composed of easily compressed peat. The soils best suited for septic systems are those that are well-drained, but not excessively well-drained on level or gently sloping land with no shallow underlying layers of dense silt or till. They can benefit from being over well-sorted glacial fluvial soils unless coarse underlying soils offer inadequate treatment as the water percolates toward ground water. Well-drained soils over firm or dense glacial tills will be less suitable for septic systems or ground water recharge because the percolating water will be excessively slowed by the firm layer, often called fragipan. Moderately or poorly-drained soils over freshwater organic deposits (commonly called peat) or over silty lacustrine (lake) deposits are the least suitable for septic systems or recharge.

Map 3 shows the soil and surficial geologic features in Bridgewater and its surrounding communities. While the individual soils will vary in some traits, they are described as parts of such soil map units listed below.

BIRCHWOOD-POQUONOCK-MATAPOISETT Very deep, nearly level to moderately steep, well-drained to poorly-drained soils formed in sandy mantled (sic) underlain by loamy firm to friable glacial till in areas of ground moraines and uplands. These soils are found over much of Bridgewater's undevelopable Hockomock swamp lands.





Source: MassGIS

Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017



**Map 3**  
**Soils and Geologic Features**

FREETOWN-SWANSEA-SCARBORO Very deep, nearly level, very-poorly drained soils formed in very-deep to shallow freshwater organic deposit, underlain by glacial fluvial deposits in swamps and depressions. Such soils would be severely limited for septic systems or groundwater recharge.

HINCKLEY-WINDSOR-DEERFIELD Very deep, nearly level to steep, excessively to moderately well-drained soils formed in glacial fluvial deposits on outwash plains, deltas, kames, and ice contact deposits. These could be too well drained for effective treatment by septic systems, but would be good for ground water recharge.

SCITUATE-MONTAUK-NORWELL Very deep, gently sloping to steep, well-drained to poorly-drained soils formed in loamy glacial till overlying dense glacial till; on upland oval hills (drumlins) and ground moraines. These are apt to be poor for septic system and for ground water recharge due to the underlying dense material obstructing downward movement.

RAYNHAM-SCIO-BIRDSAL Very deep, nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well-drained to poorly-drained soils formed in silty lacustrine deposits. These too, are apt to be poor for septic system and for groundwater recharge due to the underlying dense material obstructing downward movement. These soils are over much of the tight clay soils along the Town and Taunton Rivers (leading to the creation of the Stiles and Hart brick works.)

WOODGBRIDGE-PAXTON-RIDGEBURY Very deep, gently sloping to steep, well-drained to poorly-drained soils formed in loamy glacial till overlying dense glacial till; on upland oval hills (Drumlins) and on ground moraines. Again these are apt to be poor for septic systems and groundwater recharge despite well-drained surface soils.

## Landscape Character

Bridgewater's landscape combines woodlands, wetlands, remaining farm fields including those around the Correctional Complex, views of two major ponds/lakes and occasional glimpses of the Taunton River. Bridgewater also has a strong town center, increasing numbers of commercial strip development, outlying low-density neighborhoods, and the major institutional presence of the Bridgewater State University, including the iconic Boyden Hall.

Farmlands and meadows bordering major roads are often more appreciated than other less- visible lands because of the views they provide. Most notable are the remaining farms along Plymouth Street and fields rolling down to the River from Plymouth Street at Wyman Meadow, and at the end of Auburn Street at the former Lehtola Farm, a 230-acre property that was acquired by the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern MA and the MA Department of Fish and Game in 2009 and is known as the Great River Preserve and the Taunton River Wildlife Management Area.

Other significant expanses are the former State Farm along Summer Street at the BCC, and pastures along South Street north of Winter Street. The approximately 200-acre Cumberland Farms land along the Taunton River is quite extensive with about 4,800 feet of river frontage – it has been permitted for the installation of a solar farm. A 40B project has been proposed by Duxburrow Estates for the upland area and is currently under Zoning



Board of Appeals review. The project includes 150 single family units on 88.5 acres off Curve Street.

Much of the town's agricultural and forested landscape is fading or under threat. In recent years residential and institutional growth have claimed the Imhoff farm, much of the Homenook farm, the Perkins land (a.k.a. Cathrop property) off of Cherry Street, the McIntyre farm, the Poole Farm, the Pawlowski Farm, much of the Wyman Farm, woodlands on Pine and Conant Streets, and other former agricultural and forest holdings. In response to these losses and in appreciation of what is left of the town's natural beauty, there have been local efforts to enhance a variety of public land and to preserve farmlands and other open areas. Thus the town purchased the Hogg Farm in 2000 for municipal and recreational use and bought the Wyman Meadow for a well site and conservation use. The town, with CPA funds, also acquired 9.27 acres of open space adjacent to the Keith Homestead with a Conservation Restriction held by MA Department of Fish and Game in 2012 and, also with CPA funds, acquired a Conservation Restriction on the Murray and Needs farms on North Street.

With such multi-purpose purchases as with the Wyman Meadow land, it is important to divide the land into the intended municipal and conservation pieces and then to place the conservation land into protected ownership. This approach allows the municipal land to remain available for the intended municipal purposes without the legislative acts needed to change the use of "parkland" under the State Constitution's Article 97. It additionally allows the conservation land to be clearly protected, as it would not be as general municipal land

The town has successfully used State Self Help funds to buy the Tuckerwood woodlands in 1998 and the historic Stiles and Hart brick-making site (the former Plymouth County Agricultural Society Fairgrounds) in 1999, along with the Wyman Meadow and the first Self Help project, the Titicut Conservation Parkland. These are all along the Town and Taunton Rivers, adding many acres and miles to Bridgewater's proposed protected river greenway. This is a major component of the Conservation Parklands System.

In the late 1970s Bridgewater acquired the extensive Chaffee Farm as general open space and then later created the Olde Scotland Links town-owned golf course on it.

The character of the streets bordering these scenic areas can enhance the public appreciation of them by having modest widths and curvilinear configurations, following the topography, and creating or enhancing viewsheds. At the same time, the overall street hierarchy has to meet traffic demands, so a design is needed which accommodates traffic while maintaining flexibility, e.g. one with narrow, curved streets but few cul-de-sacs and provides good connectivity to adjacent streets and through routes.

Most early development followed the high ground with roads built along ridges and land sloping away on both sides and most recent development (except for the sewered area around the center) has focused on uplands that are suitable for septic systems. Therefore, as the 2005 draft plan put it, "The greatest concentrations of pristine lands, some private and some public are now found further from public view along major rivers and water bodies." Expansive wetlands and forests of red maples and similar vegetation predominate in such remote areas.

## Water Resources

Bridgewater boasts a broad variety of water resources within its boundaries. See Map 4.

### Watersheds

The town is in the approximately 562-square mile Taunton Basin, the second largest in Massachusetts. It contains the headlands of the Taunton River where the 14-mile long Town River, originating at Lake Nippenicket and Hockomock Swamp and draining much of West Bridgewater, meets the Matfield River. The Matfield River draws on the Salisbury Brook and Beaver Brook. These meet in East Bridgewater, to form the Matfield River which then picks up the Satucket River in the Joppa section of East Bridgewater just north of the Bridgewater town line. The Matfield River then flows south to meet the Town River in Bridgewater and to form the Taunton River.

The basin is unusually flat with only a 20-foot drop over its 40-mile main stem. This may partly explain the lack of mill dams noted below. The basin is characterized by low permeability glacial till soils and less frequent very coarse sand and gravel outwash soils; by shallow depths to groundwater; and by many wetlands. These features significantly constrain conventional on-site wastewater disposal and may exacerbate storm water runoff issues, but they provide unique habits for aquatic and upland wildlife.

With the region's growth has come increased concerns with water quality, water supply, and management of stormwater and waste water. These concerns have led to the 2008 Taunton River Watershed Plan study coordinated by Bridgewater State University, and to the more waste-water focused 2012 Upper Taunton Basin Wastewater Evaluation project. This section draws heavily on the first project's Phase I report.

The Taunton River Basin has 108 sub-watersheds or sub-basins of which six are wholly or partially within Bridgewater. These are typically the areas upstream of the confluence of two second order streams and range from 5 to 10 square miles. The south-central portions of Bridgewater are drained by Sawmill Brook and its tributaries running through extensive areas of flood plain and wetlands south of Flagg Street and east of the Bridgewater Correctional Complex and entering the Taunton River just west of Route 18. It is also drained by Snow's Brook and its tributaries flowing through Sturtevant Pond and entering the Taunton River just above the Sturtevant Bridge on South Street. Sturtevant's Pond is an example of the many lesser streams dammed and small ponds enlarged by impoundment in order to power local industries. These have left well-established mill ponds.

The southeastern corner is drained by Beaver Brook and Spring Brook, flowing through an extensive area of 100-year flood plain and entering the Taunton River just west of Auburn Street.

The northwestern corner of the town is drained by the Hockomock River running from West Bridgewater through the Hockomock Swamp to the Town River just upstream of Route 24.

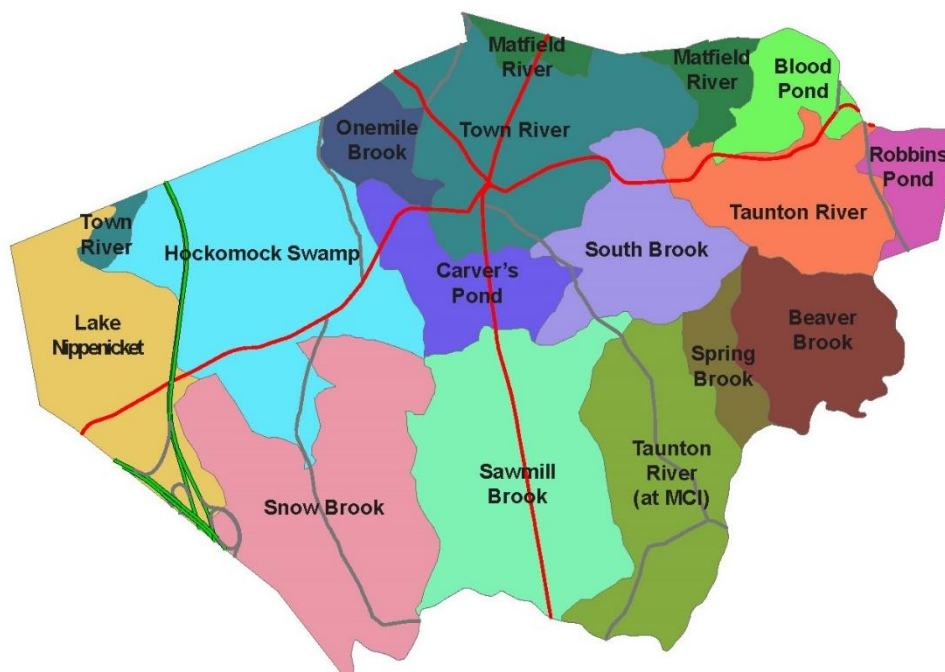
The north-central part of the town is drained north to the Town River by the substantial South Brook which runs through Carver's Pond and Skeeter Mill Pond east of Water Street and through extensive areas of wetlands and 100-year flood plain en route to the river.



The northeastern corner of the town is drained to the Taunton River by Blood Pond Brook flowing through wetlands and Blood Pond to the River.

In all, eight mapped sub-basins (smaller brooks, streams and wetlands draining into the Town, Matfield and Taunton Rivers) drain the town to the Taunton River and ultimately to Mount Hope Bay and Narragansett Bay. Due to the short distance to the Rivers none of these streams is very long or has large flows.

**Figure 7 Sub-watersheds of the Taunton River Watershed within Bridgewater**



Source: Bridgewater Source Water Protection Project, June 30, 2015

There are two major dams on the Town River, one at the War Memorial Park in West Bridgewater and one upstream of the former Stanley Iron Works off High Street in Bridgewater. The later dam is privately owned. This dam makes possible 450-acre Town River Reservoir that extends well into West Bridgewater.

The High Street Dam consists of two structures, one in the main channel of the river; a second smaller one is located at the head of a channel constructed early in the industrial age west of the Lincoln Club to divert water for power. The main dam was originally built in 1694. In 2011, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts listed the condition of the main dam as fair and the channel dam as poor.

The Town River Fishery Committee, consisting of volunteers appointed from Bridgewater and West Bridgewater, monitors the river for fish migrations and advises the Towns' regarding fishery management of the river. The committee also works with the Conservation Commission to address river accessibility by boat and recreational uses including fisheries.

In November 2016, the state Marine Fisheries Division working with the dam's owner, the Town River Fishery Committee, and Nature Conservancy launched a High Street Dam Study

to determine the condition of the dam and develop options that ensure anadromous fish passage including whether this dam should be removed. Removal will likely lessen the current width of the reservoir and alter the current ecosystems. The implementation of this study will have potential impacts on the existing Iron Works Parkland design and the local riparian landscape behind the Lincoln Club, in addition to other considerations including ownership of the egress/access to Iron Works Parkland, storm water management issues, fishery management, historical preservation, Bay Circuit Trail enhancement, and possible funding for further restoration of the Stone Building.

It is notable that there are no dams on the Taunton River itself except for the very low, deteriorated one at Paper Mill Village just below confluence of the Matfield and Town Rivers. As a result, the Taunton is often referred to as the longest free-flowing stream in the state.

## Surface Water

### *Rivers and Streams*

#### Taunton River

The southwesterly flowing Taunton River begins at the confluence of the Town and Matfield rivers in Bridgewater north of Mill Street and eventually empties into Mount Hope Bay. The Taunton River is a nationally-designated Wild and Scenic River, which is a system created by Congress in 1968 to preserve rivers with outstanding natural cultural, and recreational values, keeping them in free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Less than ¼ of 1% of rivers in the United States are protected under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, [www.rivers.org](http://www.rivers.org)).

**Figure 8 Confluence of the Town, Matfield, and Taunton Rivers in Bridgewater**



Most projects within a river's bed or banks require a permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through its authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of

the Rivers and Harbors Act. Such a project may also require other permits. The National Park Service (NPS), as the river-administering agency under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, has responsibility to review any federal actions, permits, etc. that would impact the Taunton River. In addition, the Taunton River Stewardship Council, which is primarily a coordination and communication body, can weigh in on the NPS project reviews. Projects that typically require review include impoundments, diversions, channel straightening, riverbank revetment, and structures including docks, piers, and bridges.

The Taunton River is nationally significant as the longest undammed coastal river in New England, it has globally rare freshwater and brackish tidal marsh habitats, and is the state-designated Wampanoag Commemorative Canoe Passage (an ancient Native American waterway of over 70 miles).

#### Town River

As a key tributary of the Taunton River, the Town River is also recognized and afforded protection. The 14-mile-long Town River flows from the Hockomock Swamp north of Lake Nippenicket through West Bridgewater and back into the northeastern side of Bridgewater. The Town River meanders east, past the Campus Plaza area until it meets the Matfield River flowing south from East Bridgewater. At that point, both rivers converge and form the Taunton River, which defines the eastern and southern boundaries of Bridgewater. The Town and Taunton Rivers were designated as priority protection areas by the Town of Bridgewater and regionally by the Old Colony Planning Council in 2013.

#### Matfield River

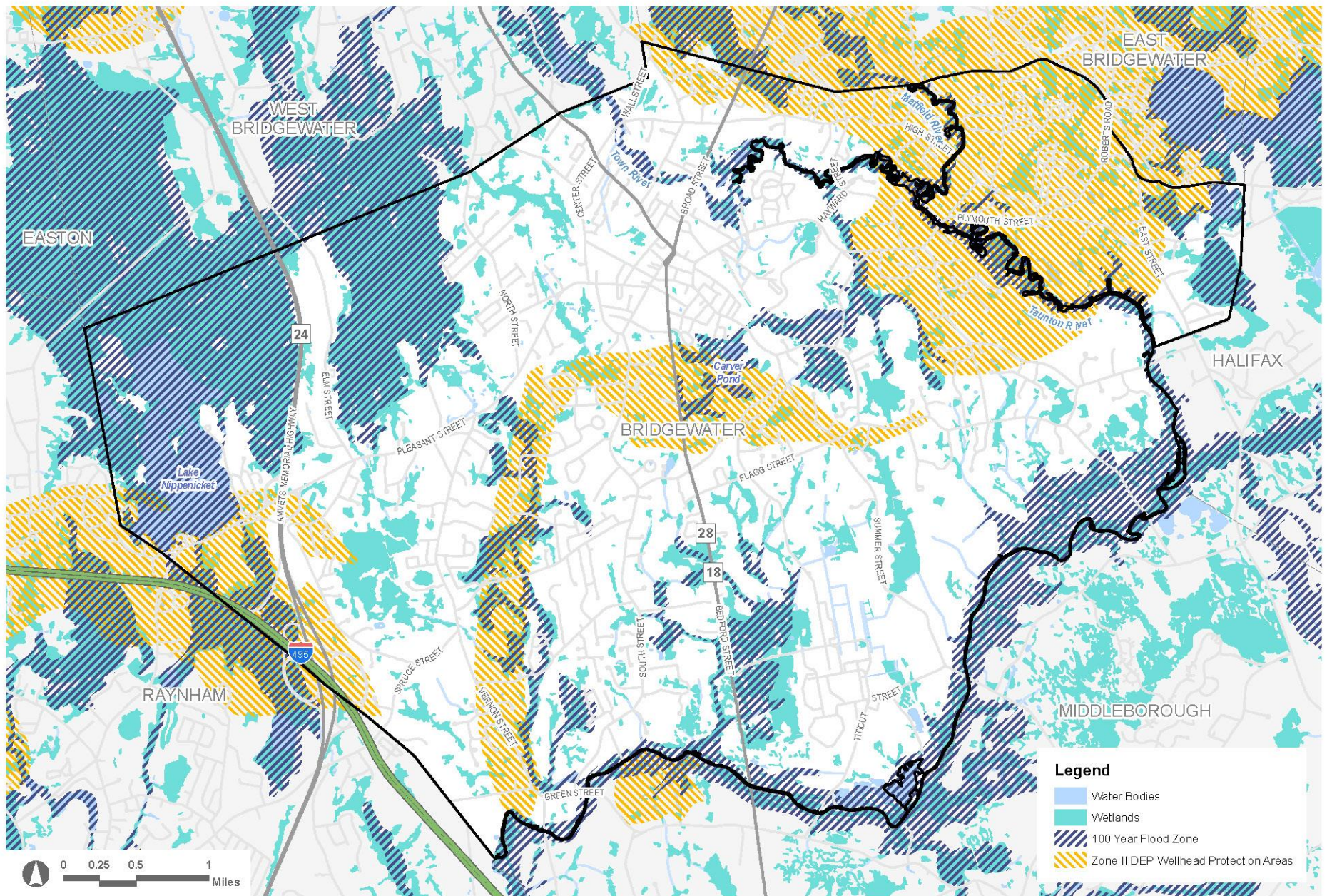
The Matfield River, approximately 6.7 miles, flows southeastward through East Bridgewater to Bridgewater and eventually joins the Town River in Bridgewater to become the Taunton River. The Matfield River is relatively undeveloped past the Elmwood area of East Bridgewater. The confluence of the Salisbury Plain River and Beaver Brook form the Matfield River, though locals consider the whole river through West Bridgewater as the Matfield River. The Salisbury Plain River's proximity to the Brockton Sewerage Treatment Plant has led to water pollution in the Matfield River (described more in the "Water Quality" section below).

#### Streams

As mentioned above, the eight sub-basins, including brooks, streams, and wetlands drain into Bridgewater's three rivers. South-central Bridgewater is drained by the Sawmill Brook and its tributaries running through extensive areas of floodplain and wetlands east of the Bridgewater Correctional Complex (BCC) as well as by Snow's Brook and its tributaries flowing through Sturtevant Pond.

The southeastern area of Bridgewater is drained by Beaver Brook and Spring Brook, which flow through an extensive area of flood plain and enter the Taunton River just west of Auburn Street. The northwestern area of town is drained north to the Town River by the substantial South Brook, which runs through Carver's Pond and Skeeter Mill Pond. Blood Pond Brook drains the northeastern area of town flowing through wetlands and Blood Pond to the Taunton River.





Source: MassGIS

Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017



**Map 4**  
**Water Resources**



### *Lakes and Ponds*

Bridgewater has nine primary lakes and ponds: Lake Nippenicket, Carver's Pond, Skeeter Mill Pond, Sturdevant's Pond, Blood Pond, Ice Pond, Cross Street Pond, the Town River Impoundment, and Paper Mill Village Backwater. Most of Bridgewater's small ponds have been altered (or created) through dams/impoundments to provide water control.

Bridgewater's lakes and ponds are ecological, recreational and historic assets, providing important wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities including fishing, boating, and skating, and historic resources with particular significance for Native American, Colonial, and industrial history.

#### Lake Nippenicket

Lake Nippenicket, located in the northeast area of Bridgewater near the Raynham border, is a shallow but nearly 500-acre lake at the headwater of the Town River. It offers water-based recreation opportunities including boating and fishing (not swimming). Much of the western shore is owned by the state with scattered town holdings. The state also owns the land known as Lake Nippenicket Preserve on the eastern shore of the Lake (formerly property of the Wildland Trust for Southeastern MA, gifted to the Commonwealth in 2011). Adjacent to this state property, is town property known locally as the Keith Homestead, which was acquired with Community Preservation Act and MA Department of Fish and Game funds for open space and historic preservation purposes.

At the time of the 2009 OSRP, Lake Nippenicket was listed in the MA Department of Environmental Protection's Integrated List of Waters as Category 5 as "Requiring TMDL<sup>7</sup>" for metals and exotic species. However, in the 2012 Integrated List it is improved to a Category 4A "TMDL completed."

#### Carver's Pond

Carver's Pond is a manmade, approximately 25-acre former mill and ice pond. It is an impoundment of South Brook just west of Summer Street and abuts wetlands and town wells. Most of the shore is town-owned water supply protection and conservation land and surrounding paths allow passive recreational use. The 2009 OSRP reported that Highway Department studies recommended further repairs to the pond's earthen dam including filling the breach with clay.<sup>8</sup> The Town's work to repair the dam at Carver's Pond was constrained by incomplete public ownership. Per the 2012 Integrated List, water quality remains as it was in 2006 as Category 4C "Impairment not caused by a pollutant" but rather by exotic species.

<sup>7</sup> TMDL – "Total Maximum Daily Load" is a calculation of the maximum amount of pollutant that a water body can receive and still safely meet water quality standards. (EPA, <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/tmdl>)

<sup>8</sup> According to a memo from Andrew Bagas, Superintendent of the Water and Sewer Department, to the Board of Selectmen dated 2/16/2006, the Water and Sewer Commission recommended lowering the water level of Carver's Pond to reduce pressure on the dam and thus potential for flooding. In a memo dated 2/17/2006 to the Board of Selectmen, Stanley Kravitz, Health Agent, recommended investigation of the affects of lowering the water level of Carver's Pond.

#### Skeeter Mill Pond

The estimated 5-8-acre pond is on South Brook at Water Street, downstream from Carver's Pond and just above the State Forest. The pond is impounded by a control structure with boards before dropping the South Brook via a culvert under Water Street. The most accessible part of the pond, along Water Street, is largely privately owned and is notable for benches and fishing space provided for public use by the property owner. Much of the rest of the pond is state owned. The 2009 OSRP pointed out a possibility to restore a herring run at the pond.

#### Sturdevant's Pond

This approximately nine-acre pond is located at the end of South Street, with access from Green Street, and is an impoundment of Snow's Brook, which flows south to the Taunton River. The town owns an estimated third of the pond shore with access from Green Street.

#### Blood Pond

Blood Pond is a small 2-3-acre impoundment of Blood Pond Brook just north of the Taunton River and Plymouth Street and accessible from Plymouth Street. It has an earthen and stone dam with a fixed outlet via a corrugated pipe dropping water to a channel under Plymouth Street.

#### Ice Pond

Ice Pond is a small impoundment at the north end of the Bridgewater Correction Complex property and drains to a tributary of Sawmill Brook.

#### Town River Reservoir

This pond is located at High Street in the Stanley Ironworks neighborhood and is formed by an impoundment of the Town River. The total pond is approximately 18 acres, mostly in West Bridgewater, with approximately two acres in Bridgewater. Per the 2009 OSRP, the Stanley Dam (a.k.a. Town River Dam or High Street Dam), which impounds a significant section and has a long fish ladder, was in deteriorated condition. The dam, first constructed in 1694 with a major repair in 1919, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource in the Stanley Ironworks District.<sup>9</sup> Currently Marine Fisheries (DF & G) is undertaking a study on the High Street Dam in order to improve the safe passage of migratory fish. There is a high possibility of dam removal recommendation out of the study, which will have significant impacts on the existing Iron Works parkland design and the local riparian landscape behind the Lincoln Club. The dam is privately-owned and not under town jurisdiction.

#### Paper Mill Village Backwater

The Paper Mill Village Backwater is above the ruins of a collapsed former mill dam on the Taunton River, just downstream of Mill Street. The mill dam collapsed some years ago, but the remnant continues to raise the Taunton River causing backwater.

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<sup>9</sup> Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System, <http://mhc-macris.net/>.

### *Vernal Pools*<sup>10</sup>

Vernal pools are ephemeral bodies of water that do not support predatory fish and provide essential spring breeding habitat for various amphibian species, including wood frogs and blue-spotted salamanders. Vernal pools are protected by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, but must be certified as vernal pools before falling under this protection. The town has 13 Certified Vernal Pools and approximately 300 Potential Vernal Pools<sup>11</sup>. More details are presented in the Fisheries and Wildlife section later.

### **Flood Hazard Areas**

Flood hazard areas are largely portions of the Hockomock Swamp in the northwestern corner of the town, and along river-side swamp and farmland. These are mapped in the eastern-most corner of the town just past East St.; from Auburn St. to and along Spring Brook; from Summer St. to Sawmill Brook and adjacent wetlands; on to lowland by Sturtevant's Bridge; south under Forest Street and then through Sturtevant's Pond, and up Snow's Brook to Pleasant St. Thus far, risks and losses due to flood hazards have been slight due to the terrain affected and to effective Flood Plain District zoning regulations.

### **Wetlands**

The town has an estimated 3,048 acres in wetlands. These include 459.4 acres of non-forested wetlands such as streamside marshes and wet meadows, and extensive areas of wooded swamp<sup>12</sup>. Some wetlands are along streams or contain streams, as the state's largest, the Hockomock Swamp, does, while others are isolated. Very few are along the edge of the Taunton River due to its banks being generally fairly steep.

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. The Secretary of Environmental Affairs approved designation of this ACEC area in 1990. The Massachusetts Division of Fish and Game owns approximately 5,000 acres of the Hockomock Swamp.

#### *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern*

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) are places in Massachusetts that receive special recognition because of the quality, uniqueness, and significance of their natural and cultural resources. These areas are identified at the community level and are reviewed and designated by the state's Secretary of Environmental Affairs. ACEC designation creates a framework for local and regional stewardship of these resources.

<sup>10</sup> Vernal pools definition and regulation information excerpted from the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and go to EOEEA.

<sup>11</sup> Number of Potential Vernal Pools based on authors query using MassGIS online data in January 2014 through Oliver: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) go to MassGIS.

<sup>12</sup> The last are difficult to measure by aerial photography since they can look much like upland forests. However, USGS sheets do have a separate pattern for wooded wetlands.



## Aquifer Recharge Areas

Aquifer recharge is essential in maintaining the groundwater table which the town relies on. It is also important to maintain water as a general resource, particularly in areas where it is reflected in pond levels.

Recharge is greatest over coarse soils, like sand and gravel, or where it is augmented by use of devices such as the rain gardens or underground recharge galleries used for storm water management. It is limited over surfaces with a high rate of runoff such as sloping lawns, tight clay-like soils, or ledge, and none occurs over paved surfaces. In such cases water runs more rapidly to storm drains and the stream system, leading to increased downstream flooding.

Recharge is most important where it directly supplies aquifers drawn on for water supplies. Thus it would be important to maintain or increase recharge over the Matfield River, Carver's Pond Zone II areas, and the Raynham recharge area that encompasses Lake Nippenicket over which the Aquifer Protection Zoning District is mapped. However, it is also important to maintain recharge in outlying Zone III areas from which groundwater eventually flows to the Zone II areas (i.e., the areas from which water is drawn by a well over a 6-month drought.)

The areas with the greatest recharge potential can be identified on a soil map and they are suggested by the areas with fewest limitations for septic systems, since those limitations frequently reflect tight soils as well as high water tables. (However, some lands with highly porous soils have septic limitations due to steep slopes.)

In general, the areas with a high recharge potential are quite scattered and often close to soils with severe septic limitations. The areas with a high recharge potential are those with coarse sandy soils with high porosity which allow rapid movement of water down through soil layers to the aquifer. These patterns can be derived from the maps and descriptions in the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's 1969 Plymouth County Soil Survey.

In addition to maintaining the quantity of recharge, it is important to protect its quality. Therefore, storm water management systems using leaching catch basins, underground recharge galleries, or detention ponds are often preceded by water quality devices which remove oil or grease along with sediments, particularly those carrying nutrients or contaminants.

For these reason too, areas of high porosity located close to or over Zone II areas should get a higher priority for protection. However, the areas with high recharge potential are so frequent and so scattered that it would not be practical or necessary to try to protect them all through ownership. Thus Bridgewater should not rely upon land ownership and land protection alone to maintain recharge and water quality. Instead it is important that it has the effective protective regulations discussed earlier combined with subdivision regulations and water management policies to minimize runoff and enhance recharge in outlying areas, regardless of ownership.

## Water Quality Protection

Water quality is protected by multiple federal, state, and local regulations including the, federal Clean Water Act, federal Safe Drinking Water Act, Title V - State Environmental Code, town's Groundwater Protection zoning, town's Aquifer Protection zoning, local wetlands protection, town's Flood Plain zoning, and the town's Subdivision Regulations.

### *Federal Clean Water Act<sup>13</sup>*

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1972. Under the CWA, EPA has implemented pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. There have also been water quality standards set up for all contaminants in surface waters.

### *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System<sup>14</sup>*

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (known as the Clean Water Act or CWA) provide the statutory basis for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. NPDES requires permits for all municipal, industrial, and commercial facilities that discharge wastewater directly from a point source (a discrete conveyance such as a pipe, ditch or channel) into a receiving water body (lake, river, and ocean). Like most communities, Bridgewater is required to obtain a permit for its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) under the NPDES program. Bridgewater must have an NPDES permit for discharge from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Town River and Taunton River Watershed.

The town is in "administratively continued"<sup>15</sup> status with the NPDES permit and is working to fulfill obligations to complete stormwater documentation. The recently revised 2016 Massachusetts Small MS4 General Permit was signed April 4, 2016 and will become effective July 1, 2017. The final permit reflects modifications to the 2014 draft small MS4 general permit released for comment on September 20, 2014 and replaces the 2003 small MS4 general permit for MS4 operators within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to the requirements of the previous permit, the revised permit will require towns to encourage Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure (GI) practices for stormwater management.

### *Federal Safe Drinking Water Act<sup>16</sup>*

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the main federal law that ensures the quality of Americans' drinking water. Under SDWA, EPA sets standards for drinking water quality and

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<sup>13</sup> EPA "Summary of the Clean Water Act:" [www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act](http://www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act).

<sup>14</sup> NPDES description excerpted from EPA Region I website: [www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/index.html).

<sup>15</sup> According to the Manomet Center for Conservation Science report "Taunton River Watershed Climate Change Adaptation Plan," the Town of Bridgewater's "publicly owned treatment works facility" has an NPDES permit status of "administratively continued" and is awaiting the assignment of a permit writer from the US Environmental Protection Agency for permit #MA 0100641, issued 12/30/2003 (p. 22).

<sup>16</sup> EPA "Safe Drinking Water Act:" <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/>.

oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards. Congress passed SDWA in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. The law was amended in 1986 and 1996 and requires many actions to protect drinking water and its sources: rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and ground water wells.

### *Title V – The State Environmental Code*

Title V 310 CMR 15.00 the State Environmental Code regulates septic systems in Massachusetts and was most recently amended in January 2014. Local Boards of Health are the primary regulatory authorities. However, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is involved in certain approvals, including many innovative/alternative technology approvals, shared systems, large systems and many variance requests. In addition, DEP is responsible for overseeing local implementation of Title V and provides local governments with training and technical assistance.

### *Groundwater Protection Zoning*

The Town's water supply is protected by the Groundwater Protection Zoning described below. First adopted in 1988, it was updated in 1994 in accordance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Guidelines. Some of the wells serving East Bridgewater and Middleborough are close to Bridgewater and two wells serving Raynham are near Lake Nippenicket. The Zone II primary recharge areas for East Bridgewater and Bridgewater overlap near the Matfield River. A small portion of East Bridgewater's Aquifer District, just east of Bridgewater's Stump Pond, and extensive areas of Raynham's Aquifer District, west and south of Lake Nippenicket, are included in Bridgewater's mapped Groundwater Protection District.

According to the Bridgewater Water and Sewer Department, the Town's potable water quality meets all federal and state standards. The only resident complaints regarding water quality occur when the town is the process of a flushing program, which is usually performed in the fall. Flushing is more frequent and has the most noticeable impact on water quality in areas that have "dead ends," which are part of the system where water is not looped (linked) to other water mains. The Town is currently moving forward with a filtration plan.

### *Aquifer Protection District*

Bridgewater's Aquifer Protection District, per Section 15 of the Zoning Ordinance (see Appendix 1, Map 5), protects the Town's main aquifers and land significantly recharging the aquifer. It prohibits or limits uses potentially contaminating the aquifer and requires special permits for dams, paved areas, or other uses affecting storm water management and recharge, and sets standards for storm water management systems. The District extensively covers the sensitive areas, particularly in the northeastern section of the Town, the area around the southern portion of Carver's Pond, and a north-south strip west of Routes 18 and 28. The OSRP suggested that it would be important to maintain or increase recharge over the Matfield River and Carver's Pond Zone II areas, over which the Aquifer Protection District is mapped. However, it is also important to maintain recharge in outlying Zone III areas from which groundwater eventually flows to Zone II (Zone II areas are those from

which water is drawn by a well over a 6-month drought). The current ordinance could be strengthened with the addition of performance standards for nitrogen management.

### *Local Wetlands Protection*

The Town adopted a local Wetlands Protection By-law, updated 3/2009. Such ordinance can regulate current activities as well as proposed activities regulated by zoning, and can go further than the Wetlands Protection Act (Ch.131, S. 40). Thus, the ordinance can regulate alterations within 100 feet of a wetland, while the Act requires filing a Notice of Intent to work within 100 feet of a wetland, but can only regulate work within the resource area or directly affecting it. In addition, the ordinance may include protection of resources and values (e.g. aesthetics, recreation, and agricultural values) not covered under the Act. Further, decisions under the ordinance can be appealed only to Superior Court, while decisions under the Act may be appealed to the Department of Environmental Protection. According to estimations by the Planning Department (February 2014), Bridgewater has over 3,000 acres of wetlands.

### *Flood Plain District*

The Flood Plain (overlay) District is to prevent residential use of land that floods seasonally or periodically, to protect and maintain the water table, and to ensure proper function of watercourses to provide adequate and safe floodwater storage capacity. The District covers areas mapped as Zone A, A1-30 per the 2012 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps. The Bridgewater Zoning Board of Appeals may allow development in the mapped flood plain if it can be done safely without causing problems elsewhere (for example, by taking up needed flood storage and endangering downstream uses, or conversely, blocking flow and causing flooding upstream). The Planning Board recently upgraded its Rules and Regulations for drainage design in compliance with DEP's Best Management Practices to further protect flood plains.

### *Subdivision Regulations*

Bridgewater's Subdivision Regulations include water quality protection primarily through the Low Impact Development Performance Standards (LIDP Standards) and sedimentation controls. The LIDP Standards are intended to prevent "soils or other eroded matter from being deposited onto adjacent properties, rights of ways, public storm drainage system, or wetland or watercourses" and are based on the MA Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban and Suburban Areas, 1997, as amended.

In addition, the Subdivision Regulations include an allowance for the Planning Board to require a Sediment Control Plan, dependent on the nature of the proposed subdivision. The purpose of the plan would be to "reduce the amount of top soil erosion that occurs when land is disturbed during development and to reduce the resultant pollution of streams, natural drainage ways, and other water courses." The plan would prescribe methods such as berms, dikes, detention ponds, mulching, and temporary sodding.

## Protected Riverside Properties

Protected holdings along the rivers include the following properties:

- ▶ 70-acres Calthrop Trust Conservation Restriction (Private)
- ▶ 20-acre Stanley Iron Works Site (Town)
- ▶ 70-acre Stiles and Hart Site (Town)
- ▶ 32-acre Tuckerwood site (Town)
- ▶ Town River Landing site (Town)
- ▶ 35-acre Wyman Meadow (Town)
- ▶ 27.8-acre Titicut Reservation (Town)
- ▶ 12.5-acre Packard Conservation Restriction (Wildlands Trust of Southeastern MA)
- ▶ 230-acre Great River Preserve (Wildlands Trust of Southeastern MA and MA Department of Fish and Game)
- ▶ 41.2-acre North Fork Preserve (Wildlands Trust of Southeastern MA)
- ▶ 105-acre Taunton River Wildlife Management Area (MA Department of Fish and Game)
- ▶ The Water Department's 18.0 acres next to the Titicut Conservation Parkland (Town)
- ▶ 425-acre Bridgewater Correctional Complex/Old State Farms property protect as Article 97 land

In addition, the town owns a 2.6-acre unprotected house lot (Map 25/ Lot 81) running from Plymouth Street steeply down to the Taunton River just west of Jillian's Way; and further downstream, west of Routes 18/28 the Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts has a Conservation Restriction on a 12.69-acre parcel (lot 118/4) off of South street, just east of Dickens Street. This preserves the land, but offers no public access

In all the town, the Wildlands Trust and the State control roughly 5.5 miles of protected river frontage on the Town and Taunton Rivers. An additional approx. 1.6 miles of partially ("limited") protected Taunton River frontage is owned by the Highway and Water departments, along with a .66-mile stretch of partially ("limited") protected Water Department lands on the Matfield River.

## Vegetation

Bridgewater has sizable tracts of conifer forest, red maple and cedar swamps throughout the town. These vegetated areas offer important wildlife habitat and their upland portions offer hiking opportunities most of the year. Selective installation of boardwalks and removal of some trailside briars and brambles could increase such opportunities particularly during the wet seasons. It's also important to keep the areas large enough and/or well connected to give wildlife needed range and migration corridors.

## Wetlands and Fields

As discussed earlier, the town has an estimated 3,048 acres in wetlands. Several rare communities of acidic fens, and white cedar swamps and bogs are found in the town's diverse Hockmock swamp lands, and the Alluvial Atlantic White Cedar Swamp habitat occurs in spots along the Taunton River where it floods in the Spring and remains wet most of the year. The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species (NHESP) Program notes that "Fortunately much of the land in and around the Hockomock where these occur is protected for conservation by the town and Commonwealth." Elsewhere there are some open fields offering grasslands depending on mowing practices. An example is the town-owned Wyman Meadow land. There are also small areas of fresh marsh with non-forested wetlands.

## Forests

According to the latest land use information from MassGIS, less than half of the town's land is in mixed hardwood and softwood forests. These are found in both uplands and wetlands. These extensive forests reflect untouched land and reforested former farmland. With increasing low-density development on both forest and farm land, solid blocks of forest are likely being lost more rapidly than new forest is replacing farmland. Many former solid blocks of forest are broken up by development along existing roads. It is important to leave gaps in such development where wildlife may cross between isolated blocks of forest.

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

Bridgewater is one of the towns which mapped lands in 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 forest. These areas are in the periphery of the town. Including one to the south of Lake Nippenicket, one a red maple swamp just west of Rte. 24 and extending into West Bridgewater, another along the East Bridgewater and Halifax town lines north of the Taunton River, and an irregular patch north of the Cumberland Farms land, across from the Wyman Meadow, and just northwest of the Lehtola Farm. Some of this land is already developed or is under development pressure. The NHESP notes that "The areas of 1830s forest on private land would be good targets for conservation acquisition to maintain the biodiversity of the town and region." Such data should be considered in setting priorities for protection in the Seven Year Action Plan.

## Street Trees/Shade Trees

The Bridgewater Highway Department maintains about 200 flowering decorative shade trees in the town center. These are primarily cherry trees and pear trees. The Department replaces about 10 a year when necessary. This effort is funded by the Bridgewater Improvement Association and the Mass ReLeaf Program (now the Urban and Community



Forestry Challenge Grants) through the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Department also sprays trees in the Central Square area and in several roadside planting areas for periodic pests such as the Winter Moths which eat buds and emerging leaves on certain host trees. In addition, the Department also replaces a few roadside trees annually when needed and when resources allow.

## Rare and Endangered Plant Species

Many of Bridgewater's rare plant species are associated with the Town's extensive wetlands. It is important to protect both the wetland forests, pine forests, vernal pools, and open nesting.

The two species of orchid noted in the table below are based upon historic records from along the Taunton River and Lake Nippenicket, last seen almost a full century ago, while Long's Bulrush is still found in open wet meadows often maintained by fire, such as Acidic Graminoid (grassy) Fens and Sedge Meadows. The pink-and-yellow flowered Plymouth Gentian and the Round-fruited False-loosestrife grow on the wet shores of ponds and lakes and require fluctuating water levels to maintain their populations.

**Table 6 Rare Flora Species Documented in Bridgewater**

| Scientific Name   | Common Name                     | MESA Status | Most recent year seen |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Ludwigia Sphaerocarpa</i>  | Round Fruited False-loosestrife | E           | 2005                  |
| <i>Platanthera ciliaris</i>   | Orange Fringed Orchis           | Historic    | 1970's                |
| <i>Platanthera flava</i> var. <i>herbiola</i>   | Pale Green Orchis               | T           | 1912                  |
| <i>Sabatia Kenndyana</i>  | Plymouth Gentian                | SC          | 2005                  |
| <i>Scirpus longii</i>   | Long's Bullrush                 | T           | 2003                  |
| E= Endangered T=Threatened SC=Special Concern Historic=No longer occurs in Massachusetts. DL=Delisted |                                 |             |                       |

Source: The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

## BioMap2

Undeveloped land, whether in private or public ownership, provides wildlife habitat important for biodiversity and the survival of rare and endangered species. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program BioMap 2 identifies wildlife species and habitats critical to protecting the state's biodiversity in the context of climate change. Bridgewater has approximately 4,500 acres of *BioMap2* Core Habitat, of which approximately 23% is protected from development, just over 3,800 acres of *BioMap2* Critical Natural Landscape, of which about 28% is protected, and one forest core.

The components of Core Habitat include rare species, vernal pools, forest cores, wetland cores, and aquatic cores. The components of Critical Natural Landscapes include landscape blocks, upland buffers, and upland habitat. Bridgewater's forest core includes large intact forests that provide critical habitat for woodland species. In addition, forests play a key role in mitigating effects of climate change due to carbon storage potential. The BioMap2 forest

core in Bridgewater is an area located between Elm Street and North Street, seen on the map below in dark green.

In addition to the Hockomock Swamp area, Bridgewater has Core Habitat along southern Broad Street and along the Town and Taunton rivers, including the former Calthrop Trust property off of Cherry Street.

## Fisheries and Wildlife

Diverse wildlife habitat exists along the Town, Matfield and Taunton Rivers as well as along lesser brooks and streams and in varied upland areas. Habitat along the Town and Matfield rivers is limited by relatively high-density development while the Taunton River flows through the town's longest stretch of undisturbed habitats in Bridgewater. Yet the view from the canoe can be illusory. The river's riparian areas need to be protected vigorously as continuing nearby development can be disruptive even if outside of the Rivers Act's 200-foot buffer. While this buffer is far less than that defined by the Wild and Scenic River Campaign, these river buffer areas function as critical wildlife corridors within the town boundaries and beyond.

Despite the limited buffer area, white-tailed deer, coyote, fox and wild turkey are plentiful here along with varied small mammals common to northeastern forests and wetlands. The migratory habits of some large mammals have changed with the 1998 commuter rail restoration leaving the fields along Summer Street bisected by a 6-foot high chain link fence. Yet these grasslands and farm fields are still a vital component of the regional habitats and flyway for migratory birds and the occasional Bald Eagle is seen.

The greatest natural setting in the community remains the several hundred acres of land surrounding Lake Nippenicket. This nearly 500-acre great pond attracts a diversity of waterfowl, amphibians and mammals indigenous to the greater Hockomock Swamp. Other significant functioning reserves for wildlife are Carver's Pond, Ice Pond, Sturdevant's Pond, and Skeeter Mill Pond and their surrounding landscapes.

The joint West Bridgewater-Bridgewater Town River Fishery Committee was established by the two towns in 1994 for restoration, protection and management of the herring fishery while respecting competing needs for stream flow and working to improve public viewing and catching areas. Fish ladders exist at the town-owned War Memorial Park dam in West Bridgewater and at the deteriorated privately-owned and maintained dam at Iron Works Park near High Street in Bridgewater. There are none on South Brook connecting the Town River to Skeeter Mill Pond and Carver's Pond. The need for such ladders and their cost/benefit require study. Downstream from these sites the NRTB and Trout Unlimited have worked to protect wild and native trout streams in portions of the Old State Farm /BCC land.

As far back as 1994 the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program's Watch List included 14 plants and animals in Bridgewater. The categories used are in descending order of risk are Endangered (E), Threatened (T), of Special Concern (SC) and Delisted (DL). Three plants were considered to be endangered and two others were "threatened" while only one

animal, the Upland Sandpiper was considered to be endangered. The current situation is discussed below.

## **Rare and Endangered Wildlife Species**

Many of Bridgewater's rare animal species are associated with the Town's extensive wetlands. It is important to protect the wetland forests, pine forests, vernal pools, and open nesting.

The categories used in descending order of risk are Endangered (E), Threatened (T), of Special Concern (SC), and Delisted (DL). It is important to protect both the wetland forests used by Spotted Turtles and the dry oak and pine forests used by Eastern Box Turtles along with the vernal pools and open, often sandy nesting areas which they all use. The endangered Northern Red-Bellied Cooters (nee Plymouth Red Belly Turtle) are the most aquatic local vertebrates, living in ponds and nesting in adjacent open beaches. Many wetland species like spotted salamanders, Wood Turtles and Spotted Turtles use upland forests for most of their lives. Wood Turtles (SC) are found in large streams and rivers, adjoining forests. They spend more time in the water than the delisted Spotted Turtle (DL) or the Box Turtle (SC), but travel over land between rivers and to upland nesting places.

The listed and delisted birds (Cooper's Hawk (DL), the Grasshopper Sparrow (T), Long-eared Owl (SC), Upland Sandpiper (E), and Barn Owl (SC)) include species primarily found in grasslands and open areas near forest. Bridgewater's remaining farm fields and the riparian areas along the Rivers, particularly on the Old State Farm/BCC lands supply such habitat. The Town's rare invertebrates include freshwater mussels in the Taunton River and Lake Nippenicket, and two types of damsel flies breeding in small ponds and living in nearby wetlands and forests. Both require clean water. The damsel flies are found in the mosaic of wetland types in the Hockomock swamp. These also provide habitat for the Water Willow Stem Borer Moth.

It is critical for habitat of threatened species to protect the Town and Taunton rivers with riparian buffers and ongoing pollution control (e.g., upgrades to the Brockton and Bridgewater wastewater treatment plants) and flow maintenance for a healthy riverine ecosystem and to enhance survival chances of threatened species.

## **Vernal Pools**

The town has 13 Certified Vernal Pools and approximately 300 Potential Vernal Pools. These pools are good breeding habitat, especially for salamanders, frogs and other small amphibians because the seasonal nature of the pools prevent predator fish populations. Some vernal pools are protected in Massachusetts under the Wetlands Protection Act regulations, as well as several other federal and state regulations. The NHESP serves the important role of officially certifying vernal pools that are documented by citizens, researchers, and other parties.

There are clusters of Certified Vernal Pools located on land east of Lake Nippenicket, two on private property, three on land owned by the Commonwealth, and on private property near Pine Street and Beal Road. Other Certified Vernal Pools are scattered throughout Bridgewater.

## Priority and Estimated Habitats, and the Living Waters Core

The NHES Program identified Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats for rare and endangered species as well as land in the Living Waters Core. The Estimated Habitats are wetland-related areas significant for rare wildlife. They are intended to be used in enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act while the slightly more inclusive Priority Habitats are the probable habitats of State listed rare species to guide protective activities. The combined areas cover the end of the town west of Rte. 24; a sizable area bracketing the Taunton River and extending into Halifax on the eastern end of the town; and another area running north of the river roughly along Rte. 18 to Forest St./ Winter St. and including upland fields in the northeast corner of the BCC/Old State Farm lands.

As explained by the NHES Program, 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. The BioMap focused on species of uplands and wetlands; Living Waters focused on aquatic species. Large un-fragmented conservation land provides the best opportunities to maintain populations of species and limit further species loss from the town.” Hence, protection of land adjacent to existing public or private open space locally and across town lines “is one way to provide important large areas of biodiversity protection.” The identified BioMap area and “supporting Natural Landscape” cover much of the northwest and southeast corners of the town and generally include more than the Estimated and Priority Habitats. The Living Waters are identified along the Taunton River to its junction with Halifax’s Winnetuxet River. 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 acquisition or increased protection.

## Wildlife Corridors

Bridgewater has vast areas supporting wildlife as described above. Though the largest open land areas are discontinuous and thus may impeding free movement of larger wildlife, there are still many opportunities for wildlife corridors along streams such as South Brook, Snow’s Brook, Spring Brook, etc. In addition, various protected riverside lands along the Town and Taunton Rivers offer a valuable and near continuous wildlife corridor for stream-dependent species to move up and down the streams while its width gives good access to the upland and wetlands forests.

The various potential uplands and streamside wildlife corridors all require further study with close attention to preserving needed connections between habitats. This calls for coordination among various town departments and stakeholders in order to retain needed habitats and to preserve connections between or behind subdivisions, such as utilizing an Open Space Community Development approach that allows preservation of such connections while still fostering desired degree of development.

## Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

### Landscapes

The town's most compelling landscapes are its open fields, particularly along Summer Street through leased acreage on the Old State Farm at BCC, and Flagg Street soccer fields on BCC land, the Taunton River Wildlife Management Area, the Great River Preserve, the long view up Lake Nippenicket and many shorter views along the rivers from bridges, such as the view up the Matfield River from High Street. The approximately 200-acre Cumberland Farm fields (approved for a solar field and other land use changes) are significant despite being hidden from upland view by woodlands and development, except from along Curve Street south of Auburn Street which allows a view of approximately 2,400 feet of river frontage. This view is a key part of the river's wild and scenic sometimes pastoral character. Some views have been degraded by alterations such as the paved wellfield access drive bisecting the Wyman Meadow rather than running along its edge. Other iconic landscapes are the fleeting view of the former McIntyre's farm field from Plymouth Street and the charming town center views of Central Square.

The town has a number of potential Scenic Ways proposed in multiple earlier Open Space Plans. These include:

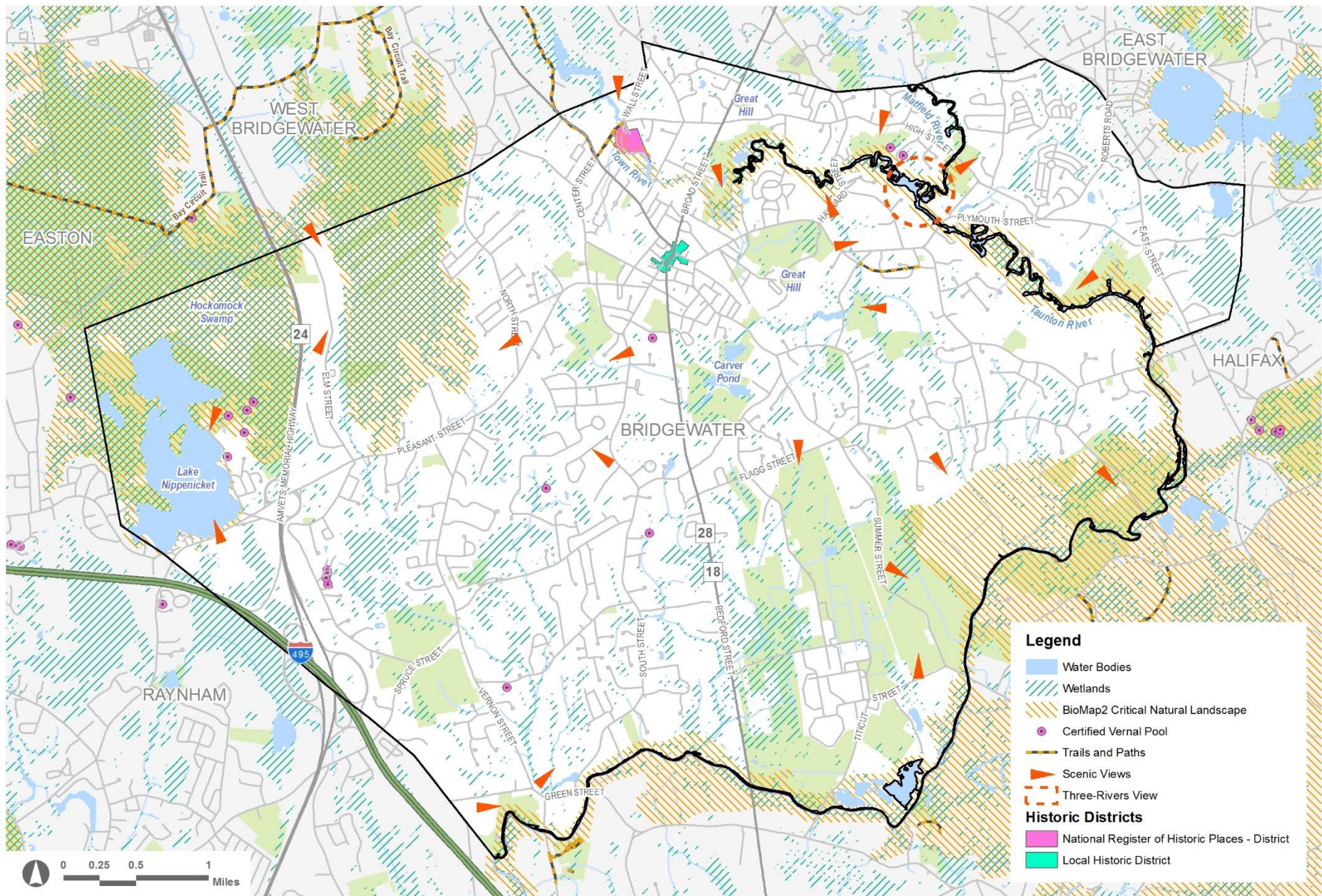
- ▶ Auburn Street
- ▶ Spruce Street
- ▶ Summer Street (South of Flagg Street)
- ▶ Elm Street (Northern portions)
- ▶ Plymouth Street (East of Pond Street)
- ▶ South Street (South of South Drive)
- ▶ Lakeside Drive along the edge Lake Nippenicket

These roads have not been officially designated by Town Meeting according to the Town Clerk and the Planning Board. Thus they do not have the protection afforded by a mandatory Planning Board hearing before road- side trees can be cut or stonewalls may be altered, yet they add to the town's character and should be protected.

### Characteristic Geologic Features and other Resources

The town's main geologic feature is its virtual enclosure by the Town and Taunton Rivers. Opportunities to view them, to protect their water quality and to increase usable access are central to this plan and its recommendations. The town's two main hills, Great Hill on the BSU campus (157 feet above mean sea level [msl] and Sprague's Hill (170 feet msl) on the East Bridgewater line, could be pleasant viewing points except that each is dominated by a large water supply tank and is otherwise largely tree covered. However, such opportunities might well be explored consistent with tank security since each is accessible by the water tank access road.





Source: MassGIS, Town of Bridgewater

Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017



## Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The 16,950- acre Hockomock ACEC was designated by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs in the 1990 after extensive research and advocacy led by Bridgewater residents concerned with the implications of potential commercial and residential growth, particularly around Lake Nippenicket.

In Bridgewater the ACEC includes the western end of the town west of Pine Street, and much land east of Rte. 24 about two thirds of the way to North Street. It includes much Ch. 61B land and land in the Hockomock Swamp Wildlife Management Area. This is only a small portion of the ACEC which extends far into Raynham, Easton, Taunton, Norton and West Bridgewater. The designation does not prevent development but it requires lower thresholds for jurisdiction and a higher standard of review than apply elsewhere.

## Cultural, Archeological and Historic Sites

Bridgewater's cultural and historic sites are largely proximate to the Central Square area. They have been discussed in Section 3 where a list of all major historic structures and places is provided. Native American archeological sites might be expected along the rivers and nearby fertile fields, but original inhabitants' seasonal movements along the river system involved very few permanent settlements and left few artifacts.

In addition to the churches and former schools listed earlier, most notably the Academy Building, the town's major cultural resource is Bridgewater State University. This is the flagship of the state college system and brings many classes, concerts, plays, athletic events and other cultural happenings to the town and the region.

# Environmental Challenges

## Hazardous Waste and Brownfield Sites

According to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), there have been a total of 148 reportable oil and hazardous waste release incidents or sites in Bridgewater since 1987. A vast majority of these incidents either were relatively minor, low risk oil releases involving a response that did not require oversight by DEP or a Licensed Site Professional (LSP), or have achieved permanent solutions sufficient to reach a level of no significant risk. Most of these required oil or hazardous waste remediation efforts which are the responsibilities of private parties.

There are three "Tier classified" incidents in Bridgewater, indicating a type or an extent of contamination that poses a higher risk to the public. The auto service/gas station at 380 Main Street and the auto parts dealership at 95 Water Street were classified as Tier 2 sites, which warrant clean-up under LSP supervision but don't require a DEP permit as they do not involve a high enough risk. The site at 552 Bedford Street was classified as Tier 1D. This is a default classification that DEP assigns when the responsible party misses a regulatory deadline, e.g., failing to file a report, etc. Bridgewater has no Tier 1 high risk site with evidenced high level of groundwater contamination.

In addition, DEP has identified two sites in Bridgewater, located at 31 Perkins Street and 1615 Bedford Street respectively, that are subject to Activity and Use Limitation (AUL). These are remediated (and sometimes un-remediated) sites that can be used for new purposes but are subjected to restrictions as recorded with the deed due to the nature of the contaminations.

## Landfills

The inactive former town landfill at Conant and Winter Streets presents no problems because the groundwater flows south, away from the Carver Pond wells. In addition, in its later years the site was a “burned landfill” in that waste was burned in cells before they were covered, leaving very little to decay and produce harmful leachate.

The Bridgewater Correctional Complex to the south formerly was self-sufficient with on-site wells. These were closed when the facility tied into the City of Taunton system years ago and no problems were found.

The capped but unlined commercial Chuckran landfill to the south off Rte.18 also presents no problems. The owner maintains monitoring wells around the site and the results are reviewed by DEP.

## Erosion and Sedimentation

Stream or pond sedimentation from agricultural or construction erosion is not a significant problem in Bridgewater. Construction erosion is limited largely because the land is relatively level and because most projects involving excavation and grading are required to use straw bales, settling basins and other sedimentation control measures. Agricultural erosion and sedimentation are also limited because most cultivated farmland is separated from streams and ponds by bands of varied natural vegetation which trap water-borne sediment.

## Chronic Flooding

There has reportedly been minor flooding incidents at various locations in Bridgewater that require temporary road closures, such as along South Brook at Skeeter Mill Pond on Water Street, at Water and Wood Streets, Hayward Street; Snow’s Brook at Cross Street; and on the Matfield River at Bridge Street. These have resulted in no, or very minimal property damage. In 2010 the Bridge Street Bridge over the Taunton River sustained flood damage. The damage was mostly to the pavement while the underlying structure was in good shape. Although FEMA paid for some of the repairs, much of the damage was deemed due to deferred maintenance.

## Development Impacts

New developments have possible impacts on the water quality and open space preservation of a community. Potential negative impacts can be prevented or mitigated, with adequate management and regulatory measures.

Stormwater runoff associated with new development is addressed through application of federal and state stormwater regulations as well as more stringent local stormwater policies required by Bridgewater. Decreased water quality with inadequate wastewater management

is a potential concern in any growing community. Bridgewater's present source water is protected by a number of regulations as detailed in the Water Quality Protection section of this report above. The town's Aquifer Protection Ordinance reflects the latest DEP standards and includes Zone II areas of adjacent communities.

Bridgewater adopted Open Space Conservation Development zoning regulations in 2016. The intent is to preserve large tracts of open space for natural and historical resource protection and to protect and foster Bridgewater's rural and scenic character by promoting residential development that is in harmony with natural features and traditional landscapes.

## Ground and Surface Water Quality

In the past, nitrogen loading has been a major problem at Lake Nippenicket, but more recently there has been greater concern with sedimentation and eutrophication. These are also increasingly evident in the town's other major ponds such as, Carver's Pond, and are thought to partially reflect nearby failing septic systems.

The Matfield River showed low oxygen levels and high nutrient levels when tested by the Water Access Laboratory at Bridgewater State University from 1996 to 2005. Upgrading of the upstream Brockton wastewater treatment plant is expected to improve the situation. The 2016 Water Quality Sampling study conducted by the Taunton River Watershed Alliance shows that the nitrate level range of Matfield River during June to September was between 1.9-2 mg/l, which is 5 times the target level at 0.4 mg/l.

## Impaired Water Bodies

Both Lake Nippenicket and Carver's Pond have been assessed as impaired according to the Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) 2014 Integrated List of Waters. Lake Nippenicket was classified as a Category 4A waterbody impaired for fish consumption and aquatic plants but does not require the development of a TDML. Total Maximum Daily Load (TDMLs) indicates the greatest amount of a pollutant that allows a waterbody to meet water quality standards for public health. Impairments to Lake Nippenicket are caused by atmospheric deposition toxics. Carver's Pond was classified as a Category 4C waterbody impaired for non-native aquatic plants but does not require the development of a TDML.

## Invasive Species

A water quality related need, is management of invasive aquatic vegetation or marine life in Bridgewater's ponds, since these can heighten eutrophication and threaten native species. One potential mitigation measure is providing signage at the town's canoe/kayak boat launching areas warning users to clean off boats and equipment before moving from one stream or pond to another.

According to the Highway and Forestry Superintendent, Bridgewater presently has no major infestations affecting its trees other than periodic Winter Moth or Gypsy Moth infestations. The European Winter Moths were first noticed in Nova Scotia in the 1930s and now range through coastal Massachusetts from Gloucester to Orleans on Cape Cod and a few areas to the west and south of the Massachusetts Turnpike. The larvae hatch when the temperatures average 55 degree and begin eating buds and leaves on many local trees and shrubs including apples, elm, maple, ash, crabapple, cherry, and blueberry until mid-June. There are

no local natural controls, but UMASS is collecting and breeding a parasitic fly that has been effective elsewhere. The Superintendent notes that the extremely destructive Asian Long Horned Beetle found in the Worcester area has not progressed far in this direction.

### Environmental Equity

Environmental Equity refers to not only the idea that no population, particularly those vulnerable low income/minority “Environmental Justice” populations, should have a disproportionate exposure to negative environmental features, such as hazardous waste sites or facilities, but also that no population should have disproportionate distribution of open space and recreation resources in more privileged neighborhoods within a community. As mentioned earlier, Bridgewater has no Environmental Justice population according to the latest 2010 US Census. Nor does the town have areas of degraded environment such as open land fill or hazardous waste sites that pose significant public health concerns.

As shown on the Map 6 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation, the Town’s recreation facilities and open spaces are well dispersed throughout the community. In addition, the majority of the Town’s active recreation facilities are located within or close to population centers of Bridgewater, indicating that a good percentage of the Town’s population currently has good access to recreation resources. Therefore, there is no immediate Environmental Equity issue in Bridgewater.

# Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

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# 5

## Introduction

Open space significantly contributes to quality of life within a community. Public recreation areas and open space provide a focus for community life and promote a unique and identifiable community character. Natural open areas also function as oases for quiet reflection and help enhance connection to the nature. Well maintained and balanced open space and recreation resources also protect and enhance property values and attract businesses, new residents, and public and private investment. Conservation land, on the other hand, serves numerous environmental functions, providing wildlife habitats and stormwater recharge areas. Impervious areas associated with open spaces can also help reduce runoff and diminish the frequency and severity of flooding while the vegetation helps cool the air and improves air quality.

This section presents an inventory of Bridgewater's open space and recreation resources, such as lands of recreation, conservation, habitat, scenic, and water resource interest; whether protected, partially protected, or unprotected. The Open Space and Recreation Inventory matrix provided here includes conservation and recreation land owned by the Town of Bridgewater, the state, and non-profit entities as well as private lands that fall under Chapter 61, and private lands of Conservation Restrictions (CRs). Land dedicated to park and recreation purposes is also protected under Article 97 of the state constitution.

Much of the land listed in this inventory matrix provides extensive passive and active recreational opportunities. It is intended to help guide the town's actions in protecting land for broadly-defined open space and recreation purposes. The protection of such land is important if the community is to remain a place where recreation opportunities are adequate and accessible, wildlands are nearby and nature is present and abundant. On the other hand, it should be recognized that the Town doesn't have jurisdiction or responsibilities over the various state properties and private land holdings.

It's important to understand the status of protection for various inventoried open space and recreation properties in Bridgewater. Listed below are details of different levels and types of protection.

- ▶ High Protection: "In Perpetuity" refers to land held for conservation, recreation or wildlife protection purposes and appropriately deeded to the Conservation or Recreation Commission, to a state agency or to a non-profit land-holding agency and/or protected by a binding Conservation Restriction or Agricultural Preservation Restriction, or to a lesser extent by inclusion the state Constitution's Article 97.
- ▶ Moderate or Limited Protection: "Temporary" refers to land held by public agencies for other purposes such as water supply or education and protected as long as it is needed for the basic purpose. Examples would be water supply lands, school sites, or state college and correctional facilities which could be vacated and sold for other purposes if no longer needed.
- ▶ Low: "Minimal" refers to miscellaneous town holdings serving no public purpose, commonly acquired through tax title takings and available for sale.
- ▶ Unprotected: "None" refers to publicly or privately-owned undeveloped land with no protection.

These categories are made more complicated by the provisions of Chapters 61, 61A and 61B and the effects of Article 97.

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

Article 97 requires votes of the local government and a two-thirds vote of the General Court before broadly-defined "parklands" may be sold, transferred, or converted to a different use. Because the chance of this happening is so small, Article 97 lands are considered to be protected in perpetuity. Through the efforts of the Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater (NRTB), the General Court applied such protection to the peripheral, southern and riverside portions of the Bridgewater Correctional Complex (e.g., MCI Bridgewater) known as the Old State Farm. In response, the MassGIS map of Protected Land shows these areas as protected in perpetuity.

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



## Open Space and Recreation Inventory

The following Open Space and Recreation Inventory matrix is organized by the following columns:

- ▶ Property/Address: Indicates streets of where the properties are located.
- ▶ Map/Lot: Indicates map and lot numbers of the properties on the Town's Assessors' maps.
- ▶ Size (acres): Indicates acreage of properties or an approximation in case where specific information was not attainable.
- ▶ Owner/Manager: Indicates owners of the properties and the agency or department responsible for managing and maintaining the properties.
- ▶ Current Use: Indicates main use for the properties.
- ▶ Conditions: Indicates site conditions (excellent, good, fair or poor).
- ▶ Public Access: Indicates status of public accessibility.
- ▶ ADA Accessible: Indicates whether people with disabilities can access the site or its amenities.
- ▶ Recreation Potential: For land not currently used for recreational purposes, potential for recreational activities is identified. Conservation land is generally deemed to have limited recreation potential except for passive recreation such as hiking and walking.
- ▶ Zoning: Indicates zoning districts in which the property is located.
- ▶ Protection Status: Indicates whether the site, either by virtue of its zoning, ownership, existence of deed restrictions, or by the fact that it has received state or federal funding, is protected against conversion to some other use (see below).
- ▶ Grant Received: Where applicable, identifies the source of funding for the acquisition of the parcel, including public grants, private donations, deed restrictions, etc.

The information contained in the inventory is based on information in the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, survey work of open spaces and recreational facilities by staff at the Parks and Recreation Departments, and Assessors' data updated through fiscal year 2015.

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

## Town-owned Open Space and Recreation Land

| PROPERTY   | MAP-<br>LOT   | Size<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER  | CURRENT USE   | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL    | ZONING           | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS                                   | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|---|-----------------|--|---|-----------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------|
| Aldrich Rd.  | 9-27  | 5.30            | Town   | Open Space  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive recreation    | RA/B             | Low   | N/A                |
| Auburn St.<br>Cemetery<br>Auburn St.                         | 77-17   | 0.76            | Town   | Open Space/<br>Historical<br>Resource                     | Good      | Yes              | No                | None                       | RA/B             | Perpetuity  | N/A                |
| Bedford St.<br>Woods<br>Bedford St.                          | 120-1   | 11              | Town   | Open Space  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive recreation    | SB/D             | Low   | N/A                |
| Bob White<br>Ln./Old<br>Forest St.<br>Bob White<br>Ln.       | 99-<br>49,50,5<br>1,53,55,<br>65                                    | 9.90            | Town   | Open Space  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive recreation    | RA/B             | Low   | N/A                |
| Red Wing Dr.   | 98-87   | 0.55            | Town   | Drainage/Wetland  | Fair      | No               | No                | None                       | RA/B             | Perpetuity  | N/A                |
| Bridgewater<br>Middle<br>School<br>Center St.                | 33-47<br>33-48  | 21.00           | Bridgewater-<br>Raynham School<br>District                     | Football, tennis<br>courts, baseball<br>and soccer fields | Good      | Yes, no fee      |                   | Moderate,<br>sports fields | RA/B             | Limited   | N/A                |
| Broad St.  | 4-1   | 2.67            | Town   | Open Space  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive recreation    | R/D              | Low   | N/A                |
| Carver's<br>Pond<br>watershed<br>Winter<br>St./Conant<br>St. | 49-27<br>49-44<br>62-28<br>63-2<br>63-18<br>63-19<br>63-20<br>63-21 | 70.1            | Conservation<br>Commission/<br>Water & Sewer<br>Dept./ Audubon | Passive<br>Recreation, water<br>supply protection         | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Boating, hiking            | R/C,<br>R/D, B/B | Perpetuity<br>Moderate as<br>water supply<br>protection | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY   | MAP-<br>LOT                 | Size<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                                       | CURRENT USE  | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL                                      | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|--|-----------|------------------|-------------------|--|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Music Alley  | 34-188                      | 0.1             | Town and private  | Outdoor music  | Good      | Yes, no fee      | Yes               | Maximized  | CBD    | High                  | CPA                |
| Chaffee Farm<br>Vernon St.                                 | 109-8<br>109-12<br>109-13   | 60.00           | Town/ Golf<br>Commission/<br>Highway Dept./             | Town<br>compost/Open<br>Space  | Fair      | NA               | No                | High but time<br>sensitive,<br>passive<br>recreation         | RA/B   | High                  | N/A                |
| Cobblestone<br>Lane<br>Subdivision<br>Vernon St.           | 98-3                        | 21.50           | Conservation<br>Commission/<br>Town                     | Open Space/<br>Conservation  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Limited,<br>passive<br>recreation                            | RA/B   | Perpetuity            | N/A                |
| Crescent St.<br>Fields<br>Marathon<br>Park<br>Crescent St. | 47-115                      | 49.90           | Recreation<br>Commission/<br>Conservation<br>Commission | Conservation/<br>Softball,<br>playground,<br>picnicking,<br>wetland, open<br>space, hiking | Very good | Yes, no fee      | Yes               | Almost<br>maximized<br>Potential to<br>add walking<br>trails | RA/B   | Perpetuity            | N/A                |
| Cross St.  | 110-16                      | 2.30            | Town  | Open Space   | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation                                   | RA/B   | Low                   | N/A                |
| Dundee Dr.   | 98-7<br>98-31               | 20.10           | Town  | Open Space   | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation                                   | RA/B   | Low                   | N/A                |
| East St. Sand<br>Pit<br>Tony Terrace                       | 54-7                        | 18.00           | Highway Dept.   | Sand pit for<br>Highway Dept.  | Fair      | No               | No                | Moderate,<br>passive<br>recreation                           | RA/B   | Moderate              | N/A                |
| Emerald<br>Lane<br>Cross St.                               | 117-and<br>119-<br>multiple | 19.1            | Town  | Open Space   | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation                                   | RA/B   | Low                   | N/A                |
| Great Hill<br>Water Tank<br>Great Hill Dr.                 | 35-31,<br>32, 33            | 10.67           | Water<br>Department                                     | Water tank   | Fair      | Yes              | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation                                   | R/D    | Moderate              | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY  | MAP-<br>LOT                       | Size<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER   | CURRENT USE   | CONDITION            | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL  | ZONING   | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS                             | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|----------|---|--------------------|
| Heather Hills<br>Woods<br>Heather Hill<br>Dr.                             | 123-2                             | 6.15            | Town  | Open Space  | Fair                 | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation   | RA/B     | Low   | N/A                |
| Iron Works<br>Park<br>High St.  | 10-40<br>11-3                     | 16.00           | Conservation<br>Commission/<br>Highway Dept.                      | Conservation,<br>Passive<br>Recreation                | Fair                 | Yes, no fee      | No                | Possible carry-<br>in boat launch  | I/B, R/D | Perpetuity  | N/A                |
| Jennie<br>Leonard Park<br>Cherry St.                                      | 52-11                             | 10.40           | Town of<br>Bridgewater/<br>no designated<br>maintenance<br>entity | Playground  | Poor                 | Yes, no fee      | No                | Moderate, add<br>walking trails,<br>improve<br>upkeep                    | RA/B     | High  | N/A                |
| Lake<br>Nippenicket<br>Overlook Dr.,<br>Bridle Rd.,<br>Lakeside Dr.       | 69-, 70-,<br>82-, 83-<br>multiple | 17.78           | Conservation<br>Commission  | Passive<br>Recreation/<br>Conservation/<br>Recreation | Fair                 | Yes, no fee      | No                | Water sports<br>development  | RA/B     | Low/Perpetu<br>ity                                | N/A                |
| Laurel St.  | 50-5                              | 12.20           | Town  | Open Space  | Fair                 | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation   | R/C      | Low   | N/A                |
| Legion<br>Field/Williams<br>Middle<br>School<br>Rte. 18 at<br>Cottage St. | 48-86                             | 23.3            | Recreation Dept.  | Basketball courts,<br>baseball fields,<br>skate park  | Fair to very<br>good | Yes, no fee      | Limited           | Maximized  | R/D      | High at<br>Legion Field,<br>moderate at<br>school | N/A                |
| Matfield River<br>Lands<br>High St.                                       | 14-<br>11,12,1<br>7,18            | 34.00           | Water<br>Department   | Protection of water<br>supplies                       | Fair                 | Yes, no fee      | No                | Good potential<br>for passive<br>recreation, esp.<br>on parcel 14-<br>17 | RA/B/C   | Moderate,<br>as active<br>water supply            | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY  | MAP-<br>LOT                                     | Size<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                          | CURRENT USE   | CONDITION                       | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS                        | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL  | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|---|---|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| McElwain<br>School<br>Rte. 28                                     | 20-40   | 6.42            | Town                                       | Vacant  | Poor                            | Yes, no fee.<br>No entry in<br>building | No                | Possible<br>playground   | R/D    | Low                   | N/A                |
| Mitchell<br>Elementary<br>School<br>South St.                     | 62-19   | 22.17           | Bridgewater-<br>Raynham School<br>District | Playgrounds,<br>baseball,<br>basketball               | School<br>under<br>construction | Yes, no fee                             | Yes               | High improve<br>facilities after<br>school<br>construction<br>ends | R/C    | Limited               | N/A                |
| New<br>Bridgewater<br>Raynham<br>High School<br>415 Center<br>St. | 32-8<br>33-<br>1,5,6, 9,<br>114,<br>123,<br>124 | 56.94           | Bridgewater-<br>Raynham School<br>District | Football, baseball,<br>softball, soccer,<br>track     | Excellent                       | Yes, no fee                             | Yes               | High, sports<br>fields   | RA/B   | Limited               | N/A                |
| Old Forge<br>Rd.<br>Old Forge<br>Rd.                              | 20-25   | .06             | Town                                       | Open Space  | Fair                            | Yes                                     | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation   | RA/B   | Low                   | N/A                |
| Olde<br>Scotland<br>Links<br>Golf Course<br>Vernon St.            | 108-<br>1,2,7;<br>116-7                         | 210.00          | Town Golf<br>Commission                    | Golf  | Good                            | Yes, user<br>fee                        | Yes               | High for winter<br>sports dev't                                    | RA/B   | High                  | N/A                |
| Plymouth St.  | 25-81   | 2.60            | Town                                       | Open Space  | Fair                            | Yes, no fee                             | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation   | RA/B   | Low                   | N/A                |
| Red Mill<br>Road Cluster<br>Land<br>Jaclyn Way                    | 124-68  | 16.6            | Town                                       | Open Space  | Fair                            | Yes, no fee                             | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation   | RA/B   | Low                   | N/A                |
| Scotland<br>Field<br>Vernon St.                                   | 72-33   | 6.70            | Recreation Dept.                           | Playground,<br>soccer, softball,<br>lacrosse, archery | Good                            | Yes, no fee                             |                   | Maximized  | RA/B   | High                  | N/A                |



## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY   | MAP-<br>LOT      | Size<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER           | CURRENT USE  | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL                                     | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS                                 | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|------------------|-------------------|---|--------|---|--------------------|
| Sprague Hill<br>Water Tank<br>Bedford St.                    | 4-5              | 7.40            | Water<br>Department         | Water tank   | Good      | No               | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation                                  | R/D    | High  | N/A                |
| Starr Park<br>Starr Rd.                                      | 47-128           | 10.5            | Town                        | Open Space   | Fair      | Yes              | No                | High, passive<br>recreation                                 | RA/B   | Low   | N/A                |
| Stiles & Hart<br>Conservation<br>Area<br>High St./Rte.<br>18 | 12-44            | 69.00           | Conservation<br>Commission  | Conservation/Pass<br>ive Recreation                  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Add canoe<br>landing, foot<br>bridge,<br>parking            | R/D    | Perpetuity  | Self Help          |
| Sturtevant's<br>Pond<br>Green<br>St./South St.               | 132-2            | 3.33            | Conservation<br>Commission  | Passive<br>Recreation                                | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Moderate,<br>enhanced<br>passive<br>recreation              | RA/B   | Perpetuity<br>(but Town<br>owns only<br>1/3 of shore) | N/A                |
| Titicut<br>Conservation<br>Parkland<br>Beach St.             | 131-8,<br>10, 11 | 27.80           | Conservation<br>Commission  | Campground/<br>Passive<br>Recreation                 | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Improve camp-<br>ground<br>facilities                       | RA/B   | Perpetuity  | Self Help          |
| Titicut Water<br>Land<br>Vernon St.                          | 131-7            | 20.20           | Water<br>Department         | Acquired for well,<br>not in use                     | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High, if<br>included with<br>adjacent Titicut<br>Cons. Land | RA/B   | Moderate  | N/A                |
| Toole Park<br>("Toole<br>Legacy")<br>Pleasant St.            | 72-1             | 9.20            | Town                        | Open space   | Fair      | Yes              | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation                                  | RA/B   | Perpetuity  | N/A                |
| Town River<br>Landing<br>Spring St                           | 21-167           | 2.2             | Selectmen/ Park<br>Stewards | Boat launch (part<br>of former Highway<br>Dept yard) | Poor      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High, improved<br>boat launch,<br>picnic                    | CB/D   | Moderate  | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY                                       | MAP-<br>LOT   | Size<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                          | CURRENT USE                         | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL           | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|---------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Tuckerwood<br>Conservation<br>Area<br>High St. | 14-21         | 33.00           | Conservation<br>Commission                 | Conservation/Pass<br>ive Recreation | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Add carry-in<br>boat launch       | R/C    | Perpetuity            | Self Help          |
| Winter St.<br>Canton St.                       | 76-<br>7,8,56 | 4               | Town                                       | Open Space                          | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Low, passive<br>recreation        | R/C    | Low                   | N/A                |
| Wyman<br>Meadow<br>Plymouth St.                | 39- 3,4       | 55.00           | Conservation<br>Commission/<br>Water Dept. | Conservation/Pass<br>ive Recreation | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | Possible carry-<br>in boat launch | RA/B   | Perpetuity            | Self Help          |

Source: Town of Bridgewater Assessors

## State-owned Open Space and Recreation Land

| PROPERTY   | MAP-<br>LOT                     | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                        | CURRENT USE                            | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS  | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|--------------------|
| Bridgewater<br>State<br>University<br>Plymouth St.,<br>Grove St.                                 | 22-,34-,<br>35-,50-<br>multiple | 211.10          | BSU                                      | University<br>recreational uses        | Good      | Yes              | Yes               | Low                     | RA/B   | Moderate   | N/A                |
| Bridgewater<br>State Forest<br>Water St.   | 50-85                           | 58.50           | Dept. of<br>Conservation &<br>Recreation | Passive<br>Recreation/<br>Conservation | Fair      | Yes              | No                | Moderate                | RA/B   | Perpetuity   | N/A                |
| Old State<br>Farm/Bridge<br>water<br>Correctional<br>Complex<br>State Farm<br>Rd., Conant<br>St. | 90-999<br>multiple              | 1485.72         | Dept. of<br>Corrections                  | Open Space/<br>Agriculture             | Fair      | Yes              | No                | Low                     | RA/B   | Limited (high<br>on 425 Ag<br>acres, low<br>on<br>remainder) | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY   | MAP-<br>LOT                             | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                                      | CURRENT USE   | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING             | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|---|-----------------|--|---|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Flagg St<br>Soccer Fields<br>(on Dept. of<br>Correction<br>land)   | 90-999B                                 | 14.6            | Dept. of<br>Correction/<br>Bridgewater<br>Youth Soccer | Eight soccer fields   | Very good | Yes, no fee      | No                | Maximized               | RA/B               | Moderate              | N/A                |
| Rainbow's<br>End<br>Playground &<br>North Hay<br>Fields<br>Fields (on<br>Dept. of<br>Correction<br>land) | 90-999B                                 | 49.60           | Dept. of<br>Correction/                                | Playground  | Poor      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High                    | RA/B               | Limited               | N/A                |
| Hockomock<br>Wildlife<br>Management<br>Area<br>Harvest<br>Lane, Brown<br>Ave.                            | 17,18,2<br>9,31,44,<br>58-<br>multiple  | 415.60          | MA Division of<br>Fish and Wildlife                    | Wildlife Protection/<br>Stormwater<br>Storage/ Passive<br>Recreation/Conser<br>vation | Fair      | Yes              | No                | Moderate                | RA/B<br>I/A<br>I/E | Perpetuity            | N/A                |
| Keith<br>Homestead<br>Lakeside<br>Drive  | 70-61<br>57-18,<br>19,20,2<br>1,22,23   | 8.53            | MA Division of<br>Fish and Wildlife                    | Passive<br>Recreation   | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High                    | RA/B               | Perpetuity            | CPA                |
| Lake<br>Nippenickett<br>Rte. 104   | 30,56,5<br>7,69,<br>71, 82-<br>multiple | 252.80          | MA Division of<br>Fish and Wildlife                    | Conservation/<br>Wildlife habitat/<br>Boating/Passive<br>Recreation                   | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High                    | RA/B               | Perpetuity            | N/A                |
| Lake<br>Nippenickett<br>Peninsula  | 57/75,<br>76, 77,<br>83; 70/2           | 88.00           | MA Division of<br>Fish and Wildlife                    | Conservation/<br>Passive<br>Recreation  | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High                    | RA/B               | Perpetuity            | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY                          | MAP-<br>LOT        | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                                | CURRENT USE                            | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS   | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|--|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Skeeter Mill<br>Pond<br>Water St. | 49,50/<br>multiple | 34.37           | State Division of<br>Capital Asset<br>Management | Conservation/<br>Passive<br>Recreation | Fair      | Yes              | No                | Low                     | R/C    | Moderate<br>(temporary) | N/A                |

Source: Town of Bridgewater Assessors

## Non-profit Open Space and Recreation Land

| PROPERTY   | MAP-<br>LOT                       | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER                                    | CURRENT USE  | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| North Fork<br>Preserve<br>Plymouth St.,<br>East St.                        | 39/7                              | 41.20           | Wildlands Trust of<br>SE MA (WTSEM)                  | Conservation | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High                    | RA/B   | Perpetuity            | N/A                |
| Taunton<br>River WCR   | 80-<br>10,12,2<br>9, 93-<br>4,5,6 | 125             | Wildlands Trust of<br>SE MA (WTSEM)                  | Conservation | Fair      | Yes, no fee      | No                | High                    | RA/B   | Perpetuity            | N/A                |
| Wildlands<br>Trust of SE<br>MA<br>Conservation<br>Restriction<br>South St. | 118/4                             | 12.70           | Private owner<br>Wildlands Trust of<br>SE MA (WTSEM) | Conservation | Fair      | No               | No                | No                      | RA/B   | Perpetuity            | N/A                |

Source: Town of Bridgewater Assessors

## Private Land held in Chapter 61, 61A, 61B

| PROPERTY  | MAP-<br>LOT | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER | CURRENT USE | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Broad St. | 4-10        | 3.59            | ADGA Realty       | Forested    | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | R/D    | 61                    | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY                              | MAP-<br>LOT               | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER             | CURRENT USE            | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING      | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Main St.                              | 10-73,<br>74, 170         | 17.9            | Flaherty Realty<br>Trust      | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | R/D<br>I/B  | 61A                   | N/A                |
| North St.                             | 46-<br>15,126             | 37.00           | Murray                        | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B<br>I/A | 61A                   | CPA                |
| 221 & 239<br>Walnut St.               | 51-18,<br>30, 31          | 20.0            | Garrison                      | Forested land          | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61                    | N/A                |
| Carriage<br>House Dr.                 | 51-51                     | 0.06            | Turner                        | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Pleasant St.<br>& Forest St.          | 60-8, 18                  | 2.1             | Hanson Family<br>Realty Trust | Truck crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Fox Hill Dr. &<br>Willow Ridge<br>Dr. | 61-47,<br>98,160<br>62-13 | 26.2            | Wood Realty<br>Trust          | Nature study           | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Grange Ct.                            | 61-166,<br>167            | 2.2             | Wood                          | Hiking                 | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Nelson Dr.                            | 63-87,<br>88              | 1.1             | Nelson                        | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | R/C         | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Laurel St.                            | 64-18                     | 18.00           | Turner                        | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Sharon Ct.                            | 65-66,<br>81              | 5.5             | Turner                        | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Pleasant St.                          | 72-48                     | 21.5            | Andruk Realty<br>Trust        | Hunting                | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Pleasant St.                          | 73-22,<br>108             | 14.7            | Hanson Family<br>Realty       | Non-productive<br>land | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Ledgewood<br>Dr.                      | 73-23                     | 11.3            | Wood Realty<br>Trust          | Nature study           | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B        | 61B                   | N/A                |
| South St &<br>Bedford St.             | 74-10,<br>39              | 60.0            | South Street<br>Realty Trust  | Field crops            | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B<br>R/C | 61A                   | N/A                |

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

| PROPERTY               | MAP-<br>LOT      | SIZE<br>(acres) | OWNER/<br>MANAGER             | CURRENT USE          | CONDITION | PUBLIC<br>ACCESS | ADA<br>ACCESSIBLE | RECREATION<br>POTENTIAL | ZONING   | PROTECTI<br>ON STATUS | GRANTS<br>RECEIVED |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| South St & Bedford St. | 75-25, 26, 28    | 31.2            | South Street Realty Trust     | Productive woodlands | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | R/C B/B  | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Grange Ct.             | 74-84            | 1.04            | Wood Family Trust             | Nature study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Brookside Dr.          | 86-2, 60, 61, 72 | 10.1            | Wood Realty Trust             | Nature study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61B                   | N/A                |
| 885 Bedford St.        | 88-10            | 10.88           | Wood Realty Trust             | Nature Study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Bedford St.            | 88-14            | 14.60           | Pad Corporation               | Nature study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | SBD      | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Forest St.             | 99-14            | 10.00           | Forest St. Realty Trust       | Non-productive land  | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61A                   | N/A                |
| Bedford St.            | 101-4            | 20.48           | Bedford Realty Trust          | Nature study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | SBD      | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Conant St.             | 102-4, 6         | 11.20           | Curtin                        | Forested land        | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | SBD      | 61                    | N/A                |
| Bedford Park           | 111-30           | 21.16           | Saw Realty Trust              | Hiking               | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | SBD RA/B | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Bedford St.            | 120-6, 7, 28     | 20.00           | RJ Realty Trust               | Nature study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | SBD      | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Cook St.               | 122-2            | 4.90            | Stiles & Hart Brick Co.       | Forested land        | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61                    | N/A                |
| Summer St.             | 122-10           | 10.10           | Riverside Realty Trust        | Nature study         | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61B                   | N/A                |
| Titicut St.            | 128-7            | 0.21            | Stiles & Hart Brick Co.       | Forested land        | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61                    | N/A                |
| Cook St.               | 129-2            | 23.00           | Stiles & Hart Brick Co.       | Forested land        | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61                    | N/A                |
| 98-B Green St.         | 132-5            | 24.43           | 98B Green Street Realty Trust | Field crops          | N/A       | N/A              | N/A               | N/A                     | RA/B     | 61A                   | N/A                |

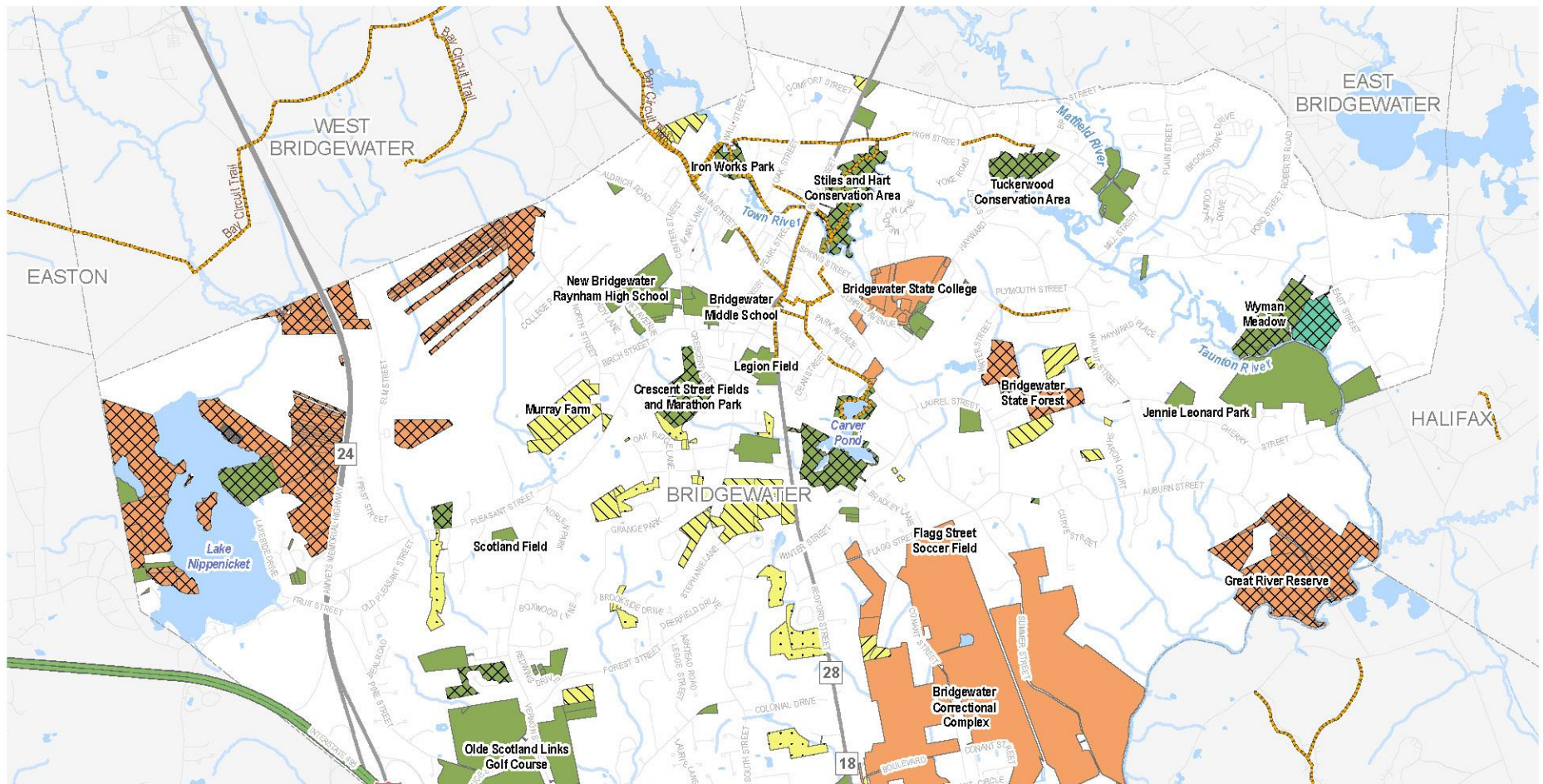


## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Source: Town of Bridgewater Assessors

## Conservation Restrictions

| CRs Reference | Received Date | Restriction Acres | Grantor                          | Grantee                                       | Secretary Signed | CR recording Book Page |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|
| 11533         | 4/15/1993     | 21.7              | Trustees of Bismark Realty Trust | Town  | 5/3/1994         | 12861                  |
| 11534         | 8/26/1999     | 10                | Phyllis Packard                  | Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts | 5/23/2000        | 18551                  |
| 11535         | 9/20/2001     | 45.44             | Chaves and Cincotta, Inc.        | Town  | 4/11/2002        |                        |
| 11536         | 6/20/2005     | 5                 | Wolski Family Trust              | Town  | 7/28/2005        | 3955                   |



## Important Open Space and Recreational Resources

This section provides detailed narratives describing the most significant open space and recreational resources located in Bridgewater. For each area, general maintenance issues and needs, as well as additional recreation potentials on the site are identified as applicable. The resources are organized by active recreation areas and passive recreation/conservation areas and are presented in no particular order.

### Active Recreation Facilities/Areas

#### *Legion Field*



|                     |   |                            |                         |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | Off Route 18 at Cottage Street, next to Williams Middle School  | <b>Size:</b>               | 23.3 acres              |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 48-86   | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-D                     |
| <b>Access:</b>      | From Bedford Street, Cottage Street, and Williams Middle School   | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High as recreation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Recreation Commission   |                            |                         |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | Recreation Commission<br>Leagues help pay for fertilizer and paint.<br>Due to intensive use, maintenance is considered challenging with limited time or space to close fields for reseedling, regrading, or other required general maintenance. |                            |                         |

### **Facilities and Conditions**

| <b>Type and Number</b>                           | <b>Irrigation</b>   | <b>Lighting</b> | <b>Conditions and Maintenance Needs</b>  |
|--|---|-----------------|--|
| 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 – Minor 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 stone dust 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.                        |                 |  |

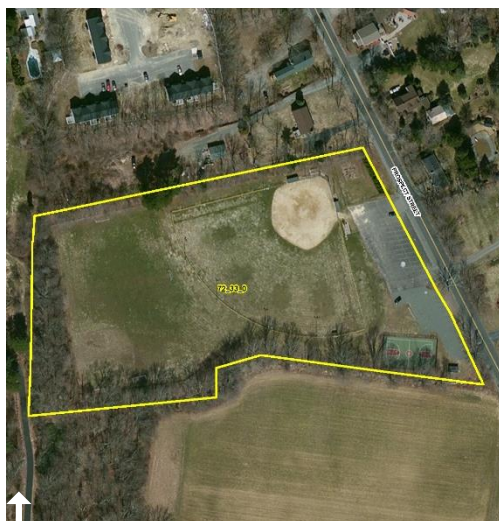
### **Additional Recreation Potential**

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

Provide additional parking.



### *Scotland Field*



|                     |   |                            |                         |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | Off Route 104 at Prospect Street  | <b>Size:</b>               | 6.7 acres               |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 72-33   | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-A/B                   |
| <b>Access:</b>      | From Prospect Street  | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High as recreation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Recreation Commission   |                            |                         |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | Recreation Commission<br>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. |

### **Additional Recreation Potential**

None or limited.

## *Crescent Street Fields*



|                     |   |                            |  |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Location:</b>    | Crescent Street south of Route 104  | <b>Size:</b>               | 49.9 acres                               |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 47-115  | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-A/B                                    |
| <b>Access:</b>      | Along Crescent Street behind the new police station on Pleasant Street                        | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High as recreation and conservation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Recreation Commission; possible Conservation Commission oversight of wetlands open space uses |                            |  |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | 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;<br>Large concession/bathroom building in memory of Jackie Moore;<br>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*



|                    |   |                            |   |
|--------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Location:</b>   | Flagg Street, just west of and contiguous with Flagg Street soccer fields | <b>Size:</b>               | Northwestern corner of the Flagg Street Soccer Field                                |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>  | 90-999B   | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-A/B   |
| <b>Access:</b>     | By path from Flagg Street and through woods from adjacent soccer fields.  | <b>Level of Protection</b> | Land owned by Department of Correction and leased back to Town. Limited protection. |
| <b>Management:</b> | 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 platy 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**

The dilapidated playground is scheduled to be demolished in 2017.

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



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

### Facilities and Conditions

| Type and Number              | Irrigation   | Lighting | Conditions and Maintenance Needs  |
|------------------------------|--|----------|---|
| Major themed play structures | N/A  | No       | <p>Opened in May 2014. Excellent condition, play areas designed for different age groups and utilize wood fiber safety surfaces.</p> <p>Trash collection was noted as an issue. Trash collection is currently handled by a private trash company as a donation/service to the community</p> <p>No water fountain and limited ADA parking.</p> |
| 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*



|                     |   |                            |                         |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | North of Cherry Street just east of Walnut Street   | <b>Size:</b>               | 10.4 acres              |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 52-11   | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-A/B                   |
| <b>Access:</b>      | Up a few railroad tie steps or along a partially overgrown curved dirt drive to a low, wooded hill. | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High as recreation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Town of Bridgewater   |                            |                         |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | 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.<br><br>Extensive restoration or rebuild needed.<br><br>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*



|                     |  |                            |   |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Location:</b>    | Behind former Highway Barn off of Spring Street  | <b>Size:</b>               | Northern portion of the former Highway Department yard parcel |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 21-167   | <b>Zoning:</b>             | CBD   |
| <b>Access:</b>      | By driveway and informal parking areas off of Spring Street. The site is signed both "No Trespassing" and "Town River Landing" | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High as conservation land                                     |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Town Council   |                            |   |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | 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*



|                     |   |                            |                         |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | Off of Vernon, Pine, and Spruce Streets   | <b>Size:</b>               | 210 acres               |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 108-1, 2, 8<br>116-7                      | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-A/B                   |
| <b>Access:</b>      | By driveway to parking lot on Pine Street | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High as recreation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Golf Commission                           |                            |                         |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | 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> <p>Mass Audubon recognizes the Golf Course area as one of the most excellent bird watching areas in the state. The Golf Course has held designation as an Mass Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary since 2004.</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*



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

#### **Additional Recreation Potential**

None

### *Bridgewater Middle School*



|                     |  |                            |                     |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | East of Center Street and north of Pleasant Street                     | <b>Size:</b>               | Approx. 21 acres    |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 33-47<br>33-48   | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-D                 |
| <b>Access:</b>      | By driveway and parking lot from Center Street and Mt. Prospect Street | <b>Level of Protection</b> | Limited protection. |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Bridgewater-Raynham School District                                    |                            |                     |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | 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.

## ***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<br>/multipurpose turf field | N/A        | Yes      | Excellent condition.                 |
| One track                                | Yes        | No       | Cracking evident, in need of repair. |

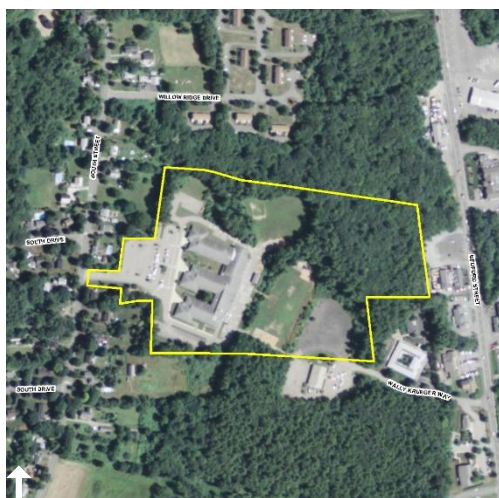


|   |                                     |     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----|---|
| One soccer /multipurpose field            |                                     |     | Excellent condition.  |
| Two baseball fields (high school/college) | Yes                                 | No  | Excellent condition   |
| Two softball fields (high school)         | Yes                                 | No  | Excellent condition, stone dust infields.<br>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*



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

**Facilities and Conditions**

| <b>Type and Number</b>         | <b>Irrigation</b>                                     | <b>Lighting</b> | <b>Conditions and Maintenance Needs</b>   |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 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. |                 |   |

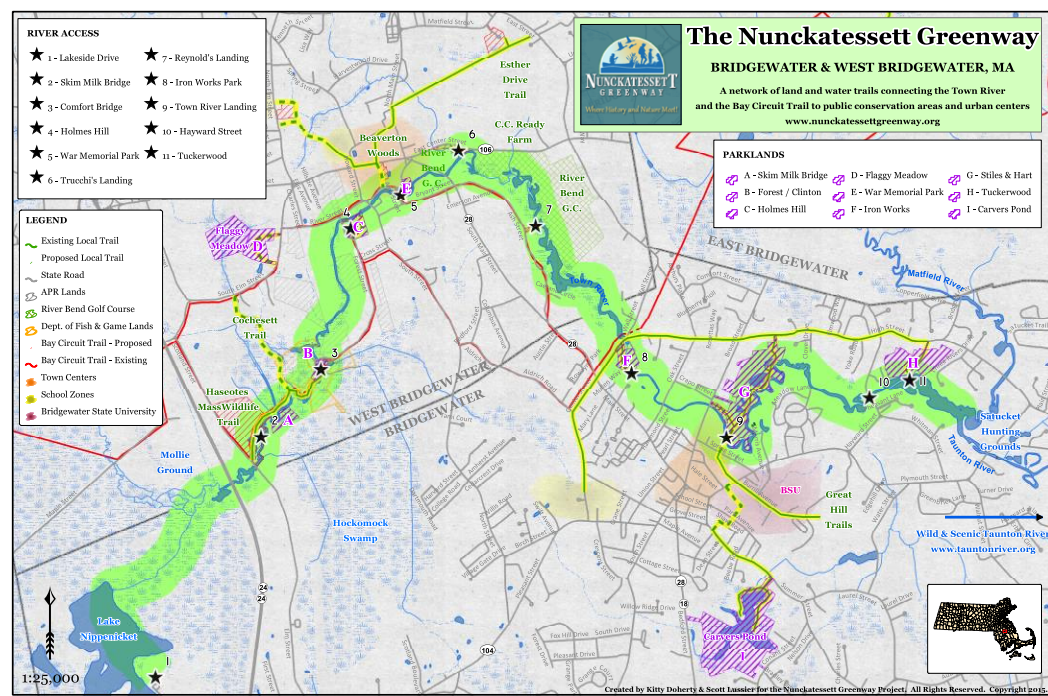
**Additional Recreation Potential**

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 Areas

The Nunckatessett Greenway (map provided by the Nunckatessett Greenway)



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

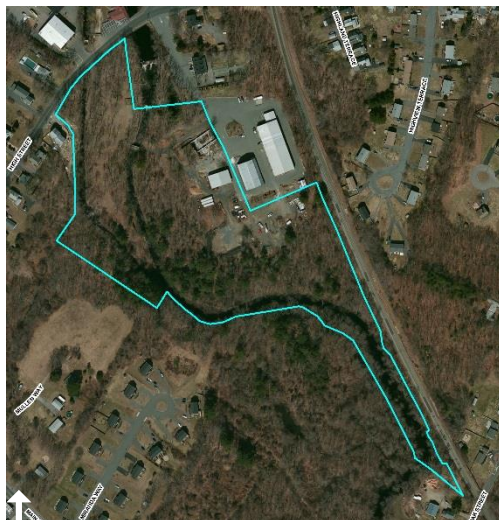
Existing Recreation Resources and Uses

- Currently the Greenway connects the Bay Circuit Trail with the Town River, Iron Works Park, Stiles and Hart Conservation Area, Town River Landing, 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)*



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

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### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

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- ▶ 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 it and park rules.
- 

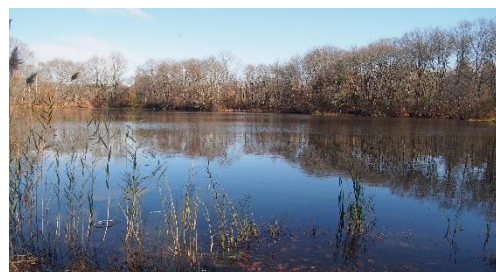
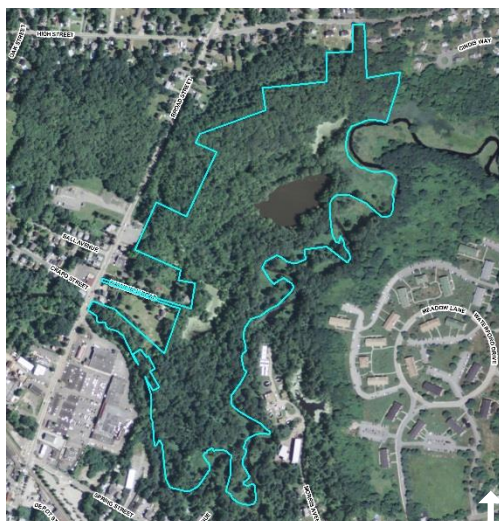
### **Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements**

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- ▶ 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.
  - ▶ Marine Fisheries (DF &G) is currently undertaking a study on the High Street Dam in order to improve the safe passage of migratory fish. The possibility of dam removal will have significant impacts on the existing Iron Works parkland design and the local riparian landscape behind the Lincoln Club. While the dam is not under town jurisdiction, future site-specific improvements to the Iron Works Park, such as access, storm water management, historical preservation including the restoration of the stone building, and trail enhancement, should be in synergy with the implementation of the High Street Dam Study.
-



### *Stiles and Hart Conservation Area*



|                     |  |                            |   |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Location:</b>    | 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. | <b>Size:</b>               | 69 acres                                  |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 12-44  | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-D                                       |
| <b>Access:</b>      | Signed entrance via gated sewer easement off of Rte. 18 just south of Brick Kiln Lane.   | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High (in perpetuity) as conservation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Conservation Commission  |                            |   |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | 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**

- Gate needs to be repositioned back to allow three cars to angle in off the roadway, as required in the deed agreement with Conservation Services.
- Provide a thoughtful trail network throughout the site that allows for hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and other activities. Use the existing Conservation Parkland System Histories & Action Plan study as reference when developing the trail network.
- 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.

## 5 Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation 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*



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

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### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

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- ▶ 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.

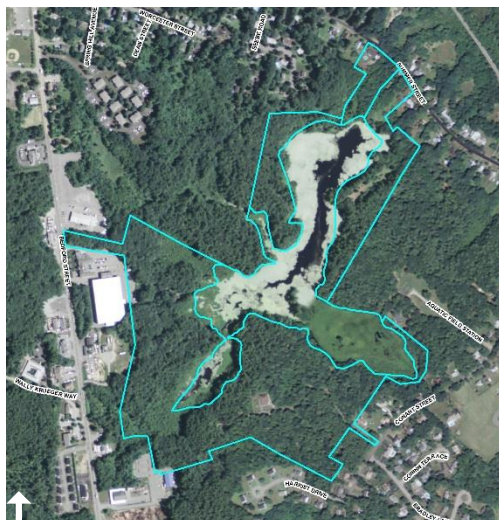
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### **Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements**

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- ▶ 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*



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

### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

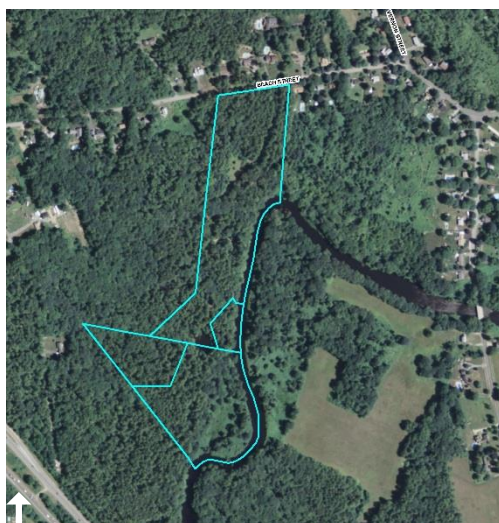
- Site has a trailhead with parking, an information kiosk with map of the park, historic interpretive signage and rules and regulations.
- The park provides a total of 3,285 feet of trails.
- Site is used for water supply protection, hiking, picnicking, fishing, hunting, winter ice-skating, and as outdoor 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.
- ▶ Explore connection from Pond to Winter/Flagg St. as wildlife corridor to connect with Jolly Meadow and allow natural habitat to Bridgewater Correction Complex and eventually the Taunton River.
- ▶ Explore possibility of securing trail connections to Route 18/28 and to South St, through Wally Krueger Way.

### ***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

|                     |                             |                            |   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Access:</b>      | Driveway from Beach Street  | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High (in perpetuity) as conservation land |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Conservation Commission     |                            |   |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | Volunteer Parkland Stewards |                            |   |

### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

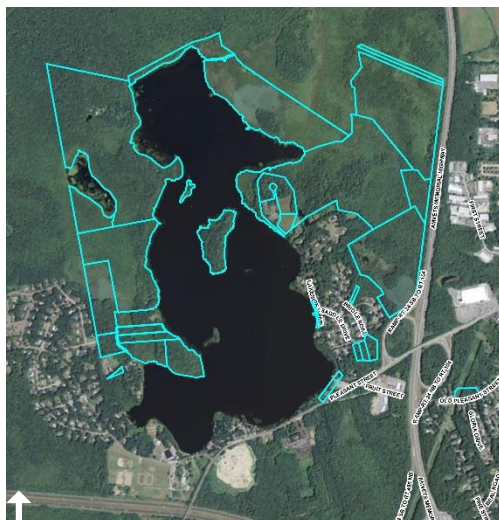
- ▶ The Beech Street site entrance has a small parking area and an information kiosk with maps and interpretive information. A separate sign stating park management by the Conservation Commission and Forestry Department is in disrepair.
- ▶ The site has a rich history, including taking advantage of its 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.
- ▶ There is a native burial ground on this site which cannot be disturbed.

### **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*



|                     |  |                            |  |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Location:</b>    | 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 | <b>Size:</b>               | 13.6 acres with lake frontage or adjacent to parcels with lake frontage; 4.1 acre house lot off Bridle Road without frontage |
| <b>Parcel ID:</b>   | 82-5,7; 83-60,78,79,80; 70-34  | <b>Zoning:</b>             | R-A/B  |
| <b>Access:</b>      | Via Park and Ride lot/Boat Ramp lot off of Route 106   | <b>Level of Protection</b> | High (in perpetuity)   |
| <b>Management:</b>  | Conservation Commission  |                            |  |
| <b>Maintenance:</b> | Conservation Commission  |                            |  |

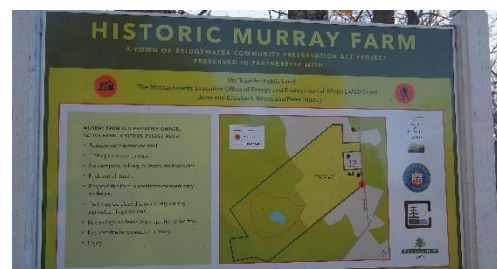
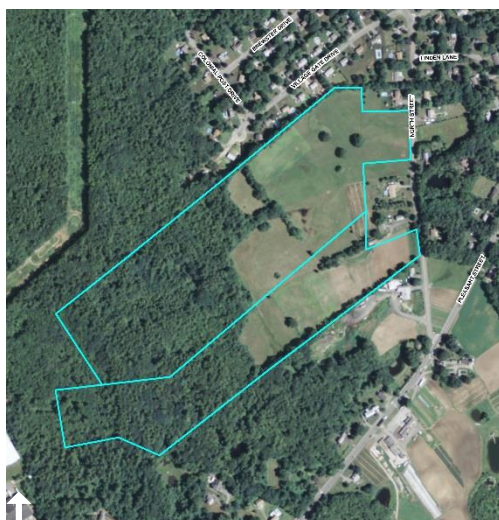
### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

- 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***



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

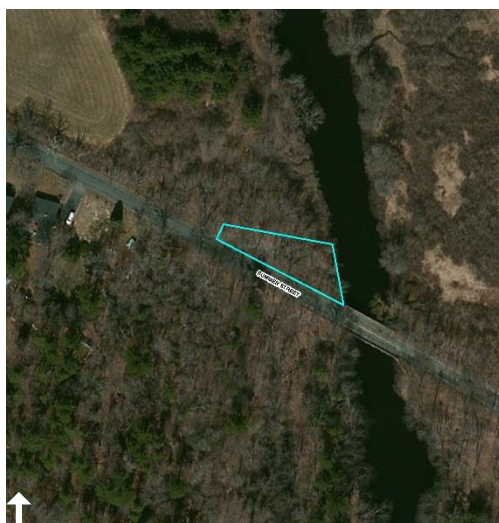
### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

- ▶ 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.

### ***Old State Farm Trailhead***



**Location:** On Taunton River where Summer Street meets the town border at Woodward Bridge

**Size:** N/A

**Parcel ID:** N/A

**Zoning:** R-A/B

**Access:** Via Summer Street

**Level of Protection** Article 97 and DOC

### **Existing Recreation Resources and Uses**

- 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.

### **Recommendations for Potential Recreation Improvements**

- Improve entrance signage and gradients of the canoe launch ramp.
- Explore possibility to enlarge whole site to include land and water trail head to either canoe/kayak, or hike to Auburn Street along the Taunton River.

# Community Vision

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# 6

## Description of Process

The vision, goals and objectives for this 2017 Open Space and Recreation Update were derived from thorough reviews of existing open space and recreation studies, including the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan, a series of meetings with Town staff, as well as ample opportunities for public input.

A variety of methods, as described in Section 2 Introduction, were undertaken throughout the development of the vision and goals. Two public forums were held on September 26<sup>th</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup> after extensive publicity. All parties contributing to the drafting of this Plan were involved in both public forums, including the Open Space and Recreation Steering Committee, Community & Economic Development Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Conservation Commission, and other Town representatives.

During the first public forum, the 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan goals were presented to the attendees, followed by open dialogues among the citizens and Town representatives to discuss what has been achieved since the 2009 plan and where the community wants to be in the future. Participants then discussed which of the previous goals were still relevant and important to the community, and made suggestions on amendments and additions to the goals and objectives for the update. Meeting notes from the first public forum were compiled and discussed at a subsequent Steering Committee meeting, during which the Committee collaboratively refined the vision, goals, and objectives based on public input.

The second public forum was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> where the refined goals and objectives from the previous meetings were presented to the public to ensure additional opportunity for public input. The goals and objectives were further polished and finalized during this meeting and the seven-year action plan was reviewed and discussed.

Concurrent with the public forums, an open space and recreation survey was launched by the Town during September and December. The survey was distributed via the Town's



website, the Town's social media pages, email lists and print copies provided at the Town offices. A total of 355 responses were collected during the process, including both online survey responses and print survey responses. The survey responses, along with all other public input collected during the public meetings, helped shape the vision statement and goals for the community. A summary of the survey results is provided in Appendix A.

## Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

### Community Vision

The Town provides top-notch accessible playgrounds, athletic fields, walking trails, hiking trails and bike paths that are popular with the community and foster healthy activity for all ages, including both the active youth/young adult population and the growing senior population. Biking is popular in Bridgewater as a recreation activity and means of transportation with safe bike lanes and posted routes throughout town. In addition, the Town fosters water-based recreation such as fishing and boating. The Town and State provides multiple well-maintained river access points and appropriate commercial businesses. The Nunckatessett Greenway, which was a collaborative vision between the towns of Bridgewater and West Bridgewater over 20 years ago, now links multiple recreation trails and parklands along the Town River to a continuous trail way network including connection to the regional Bay Circuit Trail. Bridgewater's conservation areas and natural features, including water bodies, forests, and fields, are treasured by residents and protected from harm. Conservation areas have well maintained trails with appropriate signage, access and adequate parking facilities.

### Community Goals

Goal 1. To provide and enhance a balance of both active and passive recreation opportunities that meet the sports-oriented and nature-oriented needs of Bridgewater's age demographics.

Goal 2. To create and preserve a town-wide, regionally linked trails and parks system that connects neighborhoods with various open space and recreation amenities.

Goal 3. To increase public awareness of available open space and recreation opportunities.

Goal 4. To preserve and cultivate public and private agricultural lands.

Goal 5. To protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas that promote local and regional ecological and environmental integrities.



# Analysis of Needs

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The community needs reflect the goals above and earlier analyses of the community's issues, resources and opportunities. While needs can be subjective and are often difficult to distinguish from wants, these needs are those implied in the Goals and Objectives and earlier data, and those derived from the standards in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). A summary of needs organized by major areas of concern follows.

## Summary of Resource Protection Needs

### Nationally-Significant Taunton River

The Taunton River is nationally significant as the longest undammed coastal river in New England, has globally rare freshwater and brackish tidal marsh habitats, and is the state-designated Wampanoag Commemorative Canoe Passage (an ancient Native American waterway of over 70 miles). As such, the Taunton River is a high priority natural resource for protection and riverfront properties are high priorities for land conservation.

### Unique Habitats and Development Impacts

The Taunton River Basin is unusually flat with only a 20-foot drop over its 40-mile main stem, and 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 habitats for aquatic and upland wildlife, significantly constrain conventional on-site wastewater disposal, and may exacerbate storm water runoff issues. As sea levels continue to 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 causes increased concerns for water quality, water supply, and management of storm water and wastewater.

## 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. In addition to the Hockomock Swamp area, Bridgewater has Core Habitat along southern Broad Street and along the Town and Taunton rivers, including the former Calthrop property off of Cherry Street. Land conservation and protection of habitat should be priorities for these areas, which are also listed as Priority Protection Areas.

## Rivers and Vernal Pools

It is critical for habitat of threatened species to protect the Town and Taunton rivers with riparian buffers, ongoing pollution control (e.g., upgrades to the Brockton and Bridgewater wastewater treatment plants) and flow maintenance for a healthy riverine ecosystem and to enhance survival chances of threatened species. The roughly 300 Potential Vernal Pools identified by aerial photography should be further studied to determine eligibility for certification. Certification provides greater protection from negative impacts for these unique habitats. Priority land for rare species protection include land with Estimated and Priority Habitats and those of the BioMap and Living Waters areas, along with those Natural Communities and Certified and Potential Vernal Pools. These areas are priorities for acquisition and protection.

## Waterbodies Valued as Community Assets

Bridgewater's lakes and ponds are ecological, recreational, and historic assets, providing important wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities including fishing, boating, and skating, and historic resources with particular significance for Native American, Colonial, and industrial history. The water quality of multiple Bridgewater water bodies is impaired by non-native aquatic plants, including at Lake Nippenicket and Carver Pond, and pollutants, such as fecal coliform found in the Matfield River. These issues should be addressed to improve water quality of these important community assets. In addition, the 2009 OSRP reported that Highway Department studies recommended repairs to the dam at Carver Pond, but work was constrained by incomplete public ownership.

## Sewer Treatment Upgrades

The town is in compliance with the federal NPDES permit. The town engaged Weston & Sampson to complete a 2017 Comprehensive Water Management Plan, and Water Resources (CWMP). The CWMP has identified areas for infrastructure investment and improvement. The goal is to regulate future sewer extensions and connections to serve identified needs areas and allocate remaining limited capacity to desired target development while continuing to meet the flow neutral requirement. This will allow increased funding for treatment plant improvements, while continuing to improve treatment standards and reduce effluent emissions. The Water and Sewer Department are capital planning for the requisite system improvements.

## Aquifer Protection Improvements

The current Aquifer Protection District regulations could be strengthened with the addition of performance standards for nitrogen management. Nitrate-nitrogen is a public drinking water contaminant that poses a health hazard and is linked to “blue baby syndrome” and cancer. Nitrogen, in concert with other indicators, may be an indication of the presence of wastewater and other dangerous compounds.

### Scenic Vistas & Agricultural Land

Bridgewater’s most compelling landscapes are its open fields and water bodies, which provide scenic vistas that contribute to the community’s open space character. The ongoing occurrence of low-density suburban growth in Bridgewater, which is consuming open space and agricultural land, contributes to the significant decline of local agriculture and scenic vistas. The largest properties of farmland that are not permanently protected include 176 acres on Curve Street, 55 and 35 acre parcels on Auburn Street, 31 acres on North Street, and 29 acres on Pleasant Street.

## Summary of Community Needs

### Level of Service Approaches

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 database.

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 information available from the open space and recreation land inventory, as presented in Section 5, Bridgewater has over 500 acres of publicly accessible recreation and park land in public ownership, including land owned by the town, the state, and non-profit organization. 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 nearly 19 acres per 1,000 population, which is at the upper quartile of the NRPA’s guideline for comparable 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 available lands. 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. It is also

to be noted that among the total population of the Town, there are approximately 2,200 that are incarcerated with their own recreation facilities, and the university population is commuter and season-based. 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 upper end of NRPA's guideline. Therefore, from an acreage LOS standpoint Bridgewater has relatively abundant recreation resources for its residents when compared to other similar sized suburban communities.

## Local Needs

The Town of Bridgewater takes pride in such recreation opportunities enjoyed by its residents and beyond. According to the Park and Recreation Department, there are roughly more than 4,000 participating members across various sports leagues in Bridgewater, including approximately 1,500 in boys and girls' soccer age 4 and up, 500 in boys and girls' lacrosse, 275 in football, 500 in softball, 500 in boys and girls' basketball, 600 in boys' baseball, and 200 in boys and girls track. The summer recreation programs offered by the town typically receive 50 to 100 participants per week. Outreach to the leagues as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update indicated that 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. However, a surge in recent years in the sport of lacrosse has shown emerging demands for additional dedicated facilities.

The town's vast conservation areas are also enjoyed by residents for various passive recreation purposes. The public outreach process of this Plan Update revealed the following key needs:

- ▶ 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 tracts 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. The community has a strong desire for the implementation of the envisioned Nunckatessett Greenway between the towns of West Bridgewater and Bridgewater, with the goal of linking town-owned conservation areas to the nationally recognized Bay Circuit Trail and the Town River. Pursuing this vision through property linkage, public access, and recreational amenities will be key to fully realizing the Nunckatessett Greenway along the Town River.
- ▶ Improve access to Rivers and Ponds for Water Sports/Activities:
  - Canoe and kayak access points at protected riverside holdings.
  - 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.

## Massachusetts SCORP Recreation Needs

The latest Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), completed in 2017, presents the findings of a statewide survey on outdoor recreation needs. Three different public participation methods were utilized to conduct the surveys, including three online surveys, public meetings throughout the state, and a statistically-relevant phone survey.

The online recreation users survey indicated that, when asked about which activities the participants and their household planned to engage in over the next 12 months, the top responses included walking or jogging on trails and greenways and hiking. When asked what three activities they participated in the most over the past 12 months, the most frequent responses can be broken down into two categories: water-based recreation (specifically, boating [canoe/kayak/power boat], fishing, swimming at beach/lake/river, swimming in pool, paddle boarding, and tubing) and trail-based recreation (hiking, biking [on/off road], cross-country skiing, walking/jogging on trails, and mountain biking).

A question that directly gets at the heart of what types of projects respondents would like to see funded in the future mirrored what activities users are currently undertaking. The top online survey responses fall into three categories: 1. trails (hiking, biking, paved walkways, trails with access for people with disabilities, and mountain biking), 2. playgrounds (for ages 2-5, designed for people with disabilities, for ages 6-12, and for ages 6 months to 2 years), and 3. water (swimming pool, canoe/kayak access, and fishing areas)<sup>17</sup>. Over 80 percent of the online survey respondents also said it was a priority to have more recreation programming offered for 4-12-year old and for teens.

Phone survey revealed similar results to the online survey. When asked what the top five outdoor recreation activities in which the respondent or members of their household participated in over the last 12 months, the top six responses were: running, jogging, or

<sup>17</sup>Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017, available at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>



walking; hiking; swimming in freshwater or saltwater; road biking; swimming in pools; and canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or tubing.

Most relevant to the purposes of the SCORP, phone survey participants were asked what the top three improvements to recreational facilities they would like to see. The top five responses can be broken into two categories: 50.3% mention some type of trail improvements (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; and unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails) and 58.4% mention some type of water-based recreation (beaches and outdoor swimming pools or spray parks). When asked the same question about municipal facilities, a slightly different response is received: 59.0% mention some type of water-based recreation (outdoor swimming pools or spray parks; beaches, fresh or saltwater swimming areas; canoeing/kayaking/rafting/tubing areas; fishing/ice fishing areas; and waterskiing/jet skiing areas), 52.0% request neighborhood park-type amenities (playgrounds, picnic areas, off-leash dog parks, and community gardens) and 48.0% mention some type of trail (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails; off-road motorcycle or ATV trails; and snowmobiling trails).

These latest findings in the SCORP clearly showed that the local recreational needs identified by Bridgewater residents through this Open Space and Recreation Plan process essentially align with the state-identified recreation needs. Therefore, working towards meeting these recreation needs and demands, both within the Town of Bridgewater and beyond in a more regional scale, contributes to the state's aspiration and efforts in providing adequate and quality recreational resources to its residents.

## Special Needs Populations

When evaluating community recreation needs, it's important to make sure the needs of a diverse population are considered, particularly those with special needs. In Bridgewater, the elderly and the disabled populations are identified to be the two major groups of special needs populations.

### *The Elderly*

Bridgewater's elderly population, defined as those 65 and over, grew from 2,168 (8.6% of total population) in 2000 to 2,762 (10.4% of total population) in 2010. This trend of increase in senior populations is expected to continue, partially due to the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, but also due to Bridgewater's character as a college town which increases its attractiveness as a place to retire, as well as its rail service to Boston's resources and seasonal (school year) bus service to the Brockton.

The Bridgewater Department of Elder Affairs, who operates the town's Senior Center located off of Rte. 18/28, is dedicated to promote the emotional, physical and economic wellbeing of older adults and to encourage their participation in all aspects of community life. Over the years, the Department has observed that some of the popular recreation activities and interests of the town's seniors include card playing and table games, swimming and various other exercise programs, meals and social gathers, walking on safe level trails, gardening, and shopping with access via the Senior Shuttle. These activities and programs are offered at the Senior Center, local schools, college, and gym facilities, or

outdoors. Additional changes and improvements that will contribute to the range of usable facilities and programs for seniors include:

- ▶ Improvements to trails and greenways town-wide to create safe walking opportunities near every neighborhood.
- ▶ Increase opportunity for accessible swimming within the town.
- ▶ Develop community garden plots, particularly near concentrations of elderly persons in multi-unit affordable housing.
- ▶ Continue enhancing Senior Center service and programs
- ▶ Extend Senior Shuttle service to increase access to local programs and recourses.
- ▶ Add more shaded tables, sitting areas and low-stress activity opportunities such as exercise circuit, neighborhood parks, bocce court, etc.

### *The Handicapped/Disabled*

According to the latest 2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, roughly 8 percent of Bridgewater's total civilian noninstitutionalized population has some level of disabilities. The handicapped or disabled population has a wide range of abilities and needs. Mobility limitations range from slight, to infrequent balance problems, to use of crutches, to use of hand-powered wheelchairs, to reliance on electric wheelchairs. Some people have little use of their legs but strong upper bodies and can swim once they get into the water or can play basketball from a wheelchair. Other people have varying vision or hearing limitations affecting their use of facilities and programs.

It is generally assumed that the needs of the diverse handicapped population include:

- ▶ Physical access to facilities in order to:
  - Watch sporting events
  - Use supportive facilities such as bathrooms, picnic tables, viewing points, and
- ▶ Modification of facilities and programs to allow:
  - Participation in sports and games through reasonable accommodations
  - Use of basic facilities where that can be made possible through such accommodations

Some of the recognized and recommended improvements that might give diverse handicapped persons access to a cross-section of facilities typically include:

- ▶ Conventional ramps to bathrooms, bleachers, public spaces
- ▶ Modification of picnic tables to allow people in wheelchairs to sit close to the table
- ▶ Means of entering the water for swimmers, e.g. a ramp or lift into a pool, or provision of large-wheeled wheelchairs that can roll into the water at any beach
- ▶ Provision of boardwalk or trail guidance system for the blind (e.g. a rope strung from pole to pole) and a coordinated Braille or audible system identifying significant aromatic plants

- ▶ Modification of swings, seesaws etc. to allow use from wheelchair or use by someone lacking balance or upper body strength.
- ▶ Modification (grading, smoothing, use of oversized graphics) of trails to allow passage by wheel chairs, or confident walking by people with balance or vision problems.

The ADA survey at the end of this report notes the access and use limitations of the present Town recreational resources. A program to remedy these shortcomings should be developed and implemented through a transition plan as soon as resources allow. Further study in cooperation with the Disabilities Commission, the Department of Elder Affairs, and related bodies will be needed during development of such as plan.

## Management Needs, Potential Change of Use

The primary management needs in Bridgewater relate to how the town manages and maintains its existing recreational facilities and open spaces. The town has a very small Parks and Recreation Department that oversees and maintains all town-owned recreational facilities, including various parks, fields, and the golf course, and coordinates recreational activities with the school departments, youth groups, sports leagues, and other groups. Despite the tremendous efforts by the department staff to keep up with facility maintenance and other service requests, the Parks and Recreation Department is severely understaffed and underfinanced to truly meet the recreational needs of the community. The need for additional staff and financial resources 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.

On the other hand, the Town also needs to increase its capacity to implement open space priorities. The Town has re-established the Open Space Committee upon adoption of an Administrative Code in 2016. The Open Space Committee is responsible for implementation of many of the recommendations of this Open Space and Recreation Plan including overseeing land conservation initiatives such as open space property acquisitions, protection through Conservation Restrictions or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions.

# Goals and Objectives

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## Introduction

The goals and objectives outlined in this Plan Update intend to achieve a balance of recreation and conservation. The following list of goals and objectives reflect a collective vision shared by the community members, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee and various town departments.

## Goals and Objectives

### Vision

The Town provides top-notch accessible playgrounds, athletic fields, walking trails, hiking trails, and bike paths that are popular with the community and foster healthy activity for all ages, including both the active youth/young adult population and the growing senior population. Biking is popular in Bridgewater as a recreation activity and means of transportation with safe bike lanes and posted routes throughout town. In addition, the Town fosters water-based recreation such as fishing and boating. The Town and state provides multiple well-maintained river access points and appropriate commercial businesses. The Nunckatessett Greenway, which was a collaborative vision between the towns of Bridgewater and West Bridgewater over 20 years ago, now links multiple recreation trails and parklands along the Town River to a continuous trail way network including connection to the regional Bay Circuit Trail. Bridgewater's conservation areas and natural features, including water bodies, forests, and fields, are treasured by residents and protected from harm. Conservation areas have well maintained trails with appropriate signage, access and adequate parking facilities.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal 1. To provide and enhance a balance of both active and passive recreation opportunities that meet the sports-oriented and nature-oriented needs of Bridgewater's age demographics.

### Objectives:

5. Rehabilitate aging municipal recreation facilities.
6. Create additional recreation opportunities to meet emerging recreation needs.
7. Promote passive recreational use of the Town's conservation areas by enhancing public accessibility, creating and maintaining trails and viewpoints, and increasing waterfront access.
8. Appropriately staff the Town Parks and Recreation Department and expand the cadre of volunteers to manage, maintain and improve the Town's recreation facilities and conservation lands.

Goal 2. To create and preserve a town-wide, regionally linked trails and parks system that connects neighborhoods with various open space and recreation amenities.

### Objectives:

6. Inventory existing trails and open space areas in town to identify missing links between major resources through trail expansion.
7. Seek opportunities to add additional key open space parcels.
8. Establish a greenway system along Bridgewater's portions of the Town and Taunton Rivers as part of a joint effort with other riverside town(s).
9. Design and adopt a town-wide bicycle/pedestrian system that integrates with the regional Bay Circuit Trail network at the Iron Works Park.
10. Create additional parks and open space areas by repurposing vacant municipal properties, collaborating to acquire new key parcels, and integrating open spaces in new developments.

Goal 3. To increase public awareness of available open space and recreation opportunities.

### Objectives:

5. Produce and maintain a clear, parcel-based open space and recreation resources map that shows access and parking locations, and primary activities at various public and non-profit holdings.
6. Establish a centralized open space and recreation information hub on the town website and at Town offices.



## 8 Goals and Objectives

7. Create a consistent signage and wayfinding system for the town's publicly accessible open space and recreation areas.
8. Design and install interpretative displays at conservation properties in collaboration with private, non-profit, and state government stakeholders.

Goal 4. To preserve and cultivate public and private agricultural lands.

### Objectives:

4. Protect historic agricultural land by encouraging sustainable land use practices such as Conservation Restrictions (CR), Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR), and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).
5. Utilize state programs to support investment in continuing farm operations.
6. Promote accessibility and usage of community gardens to foster learning opportunities for children and young adults about agriculture and local food.

Goal 5. To protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas that promote local and regional ecological and environmental integrities.

### Objectives:

5. Improve water quality of rivers and other surface water bodies.
6. Identify and protect parcels serving as wild life corridors and critical habitats from adverse development (e.g. Jolly Meadow between Flagg, Mae Ave. and Alexander Dr. from Bridgewater Correction Complex connect to Winter St and Carver's Pond Habitats).
7. Sustain current aquifer protection districts to protect the quality, capacity, and security of the public water supply.
8. Support Low Impact Design (LID) strategies to reduce runoff and maximize ground water recharge.

# Seven-Year Action Plan

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## Introduction

The Seven-Year Action Plan is based on goals and objectives explained in Section 8. It represents collaborative efforts among the stakeholders, including the Steering Committee, several town departments, and the public. The Action Plan offers tangible steps –for to resource preservation, acquisition, enhancement, management and maintenance –the Town can take over the next seven years tow achieve the vision and goals defined herein. It lays out specific actions under each goal and objective and identifies the timeline, responsible parties, and potential funding sources for each.

## Accomplishments Since the 2009 Plan

Following is a summary of significant accomplishments under Bridgewater’s 2009 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

- ▶ Recreation achievements:
  - Administrative code adopted in 2016 created a Parks and Recreation Department and a parks and recreation commission.
  - Completed Recreation Needs Assessment in 2015 - CPA funded.
  - Demolition of dilapidated Rainbow’s End playground - 2017.
  - Creation of Marathon Park (private/public Partnership) – May 2014.
  - Completion of girls’ softball complex at Crescent Street – CPA funded 2012.
  - New sign at Legion Field – Donated by Bridgewater Little League in 2016.
  - Golf Course clubhouse built - 2011.
  - Created Music Alley, an outdoor performance venue in 2016 – CPA (construction) and private grants (program).

9 Seven-Year Action Plan

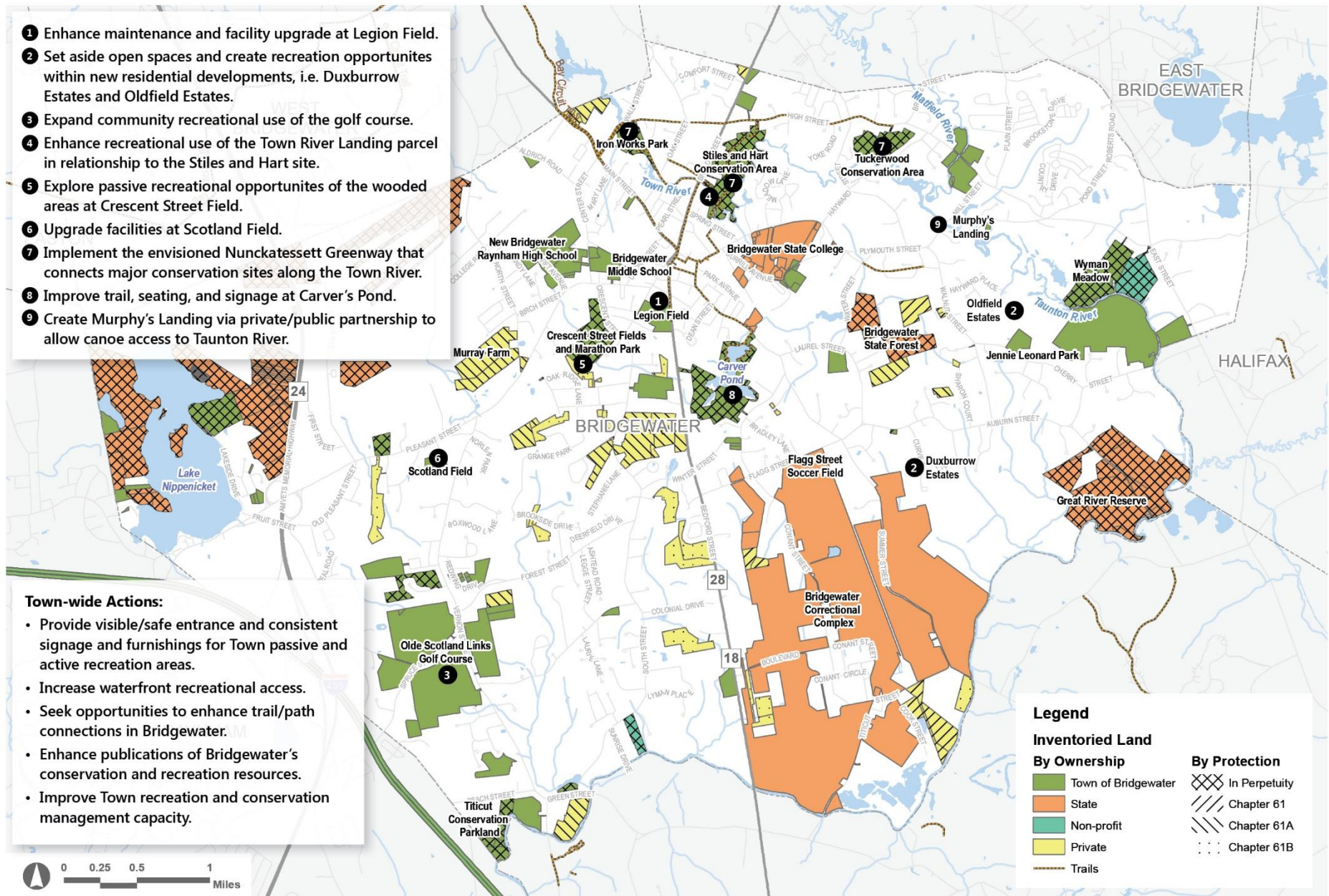
- ▶ The Town secured with CPA funds Conservation Restrictions on two working farms (61A land) when it preserved the 63.2 acre Murray/Needs Farm (37 acres of active agricultural land) with assistance from the Trust for Public Land. This accomplishment serves three purposes: preserving open space, securing a Conservation Restriction on a working farm, leveraging other additional public funds (Land Grant funds) by working with other organizations.
- ▶ Great River Preserve (end of Auburn Street) Preserved 230 acres. Department of Fish and Game (DFG) owns part outright and two parcels have conservation restrictions. In 2009 the Wildlands Trust and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game completed the acquisition of 230 acres along the upper Taunton River in Bridgewater. Purchased from the Lehtola Family, the Trust's 125-acre portion of the acquisition is now known as the Great River at Conihassett in recognition of and respect for the site's Native American history, which is part of the larger 410 acre Taunton River Wildlife Management Area
- ▶ The Town and the Department of Fish and Game acquired and managed 11.3 acres of land at Lake Nippenicket abutting Keith House and another 88 acres of adjacent property. The Department of Fish and Game owns 100% of the interest including the conservation restriction and the underlying restricted fee.
- ▶ Town completed an appraisal of 5 acres of land at the Stiles and Hart (Off Broad St). Negotiation of purchase would be next step – 2017.
- ▶ Town instituted zoning changes including the Open Space Conservation Development Ordinance to encourage cluster development and conservation of open space - 2016.
- ▶ Town adopted Complete Street policy – 2016.

## Seven Year Action Plan

It is critical to recognize that implementing the recommendations of this Seven Year Action Plan will require support from and collaborations among key town departments, commissions, boards, in coordination with the town volunteers and partners. As discussed in Section 7, the Town created an Open Space Committee with responsible to ensure the Town's implementation of the recommendations in this Action Plan. The Town's annual budget, capital improvement projects, and the Town's capacity to hire staff and recruit volunteers It should also take into consideration to move the actions forward. Securing additional sources of funds, increasing staff, recruiting, volunteers, and leveraging support for open space and recreation facility maintenance and enhancement equally important.

The following is a list of acronyms for Action Plan responsible parties and funding sources:

| <u>Acronym</u> | <u>Full Name</u>                                 |
|----------------|--|
| AC             | Agricultural Commission                          |
| BRRSD          | Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District     |
| ConCom         | Conservation Commission                          |
| CED            | Community and Economic Development Department    |
| CPA            | Community Preservation Act                       |
| CPC            | Community Preservation Committee                 |
| DEP            | Department of Environmental Protection           |
| DOC            | The Department of Correction                     |
| DPW            | Department of Public Works                       |
| GCEF           | Golf Course Enterprise Fund                      |
| HC             | Historical Commission                            |
| LAND           | Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (state) |
| NGC            | Nunckatessett Greenway Committee (regional)      |
| NRTB           | Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater           |
| OCPC           | Old Colony Planning Council (regional)           |
| OSC            | Open Space Committee                             |
| PB             | Planning Board                                   |
| PRC            | Parks and Recreation Commission                  |
| PRD            | Parks and Recreation Department                  |
| TC             | Town Council                                     |
| TRFC           | Town River Fishery Committee                     |
| TM             | Town Manager                                     |
| Town           | Town of Bridgewater                              |
| ZBA            | Zoning Board of Appeals                          |



Source: MassGIS, Town of Bridgewater

Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017





| Goals and Actions   | Responsible Parties | Short-term<br>2017-2018 | Mid-term<br>2019-2021 | Long-term<br>2022-2023 | Potential Primary Funding |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Goal 1. To provide and enhance a balance of both active and passive recreation opportunities that meet the sports-oriented and nature-oriented needs of Bridgewater's age demographics.</b>  |                     |                         |                       |                        |                           |
| Maintain and improve facilities at Olde Scotland Links Golf Course, such as:  |                     |                         |                       |                        |                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small clubhouse expansion including coat room and table/chair storage.</li> <li>Paved parking lot.</li> <li>Continuous cart paths.</li> <li>Composting toilets instead of portable toilets on one or two holes.</li> <li>Irrigation Improvements.</li> </ul> | PRC, PRD            | √                       |                       |                        | GCEF                      |
| Expand community recreation use of the club house at Olde Scotland Links Golf Course. Explore the possibility of using the club house as a large, modern venue as a means to increase revenue to the town.  | PRD, PRC            | √                       |                       |                        | GCEF                      |
| Explore seasonal or year-round opportunity for cross country skiing, snow shoe, Frisbee golf and public skating at large tracks of town parklands, such as the Olde Scotland Links Golf Course, Carvers Pond, etc.  | PRD, PRC            | √                       |                       |                        | GCEF                      |
| Explore the possibility of creating a multipurpose play field for lacrosse and football with appropriate irrigation and parking.  | PRC, PRD, BRRSD     | √                       |                       |                        | Town BRRSD                |
| Provide esthetically consistent furnishings, improved pond side trails and additional interpretive signage at Carver's Pond, Iron Works, and Stiles & Hart Parklands.   | OSC, DPW            | √                       |                       |                        | Town CPA                  |
| Create ADA accessible trails/parking at Carver's Pond or Iron Works Park.   | OSC, DPW            | √                       |                       |                        | Town CPA                  |
| Improve signage at the Town River Landing parcel and develop designated parking and passive recreation access.  | OSC, DPW            | √                       |                       |                        | Town Volunteers           |
| Allocate additional financial resources to support overall upkeep of the passive and active recreation facilities.  | TC, TM              | √                       |                       |                        | Town                      |
| Establish a point person from the PRD/PRC to address passive recreation needs.  | TC, TM              | √                       |                       |                        | Town                      |
| Build capacity and coordinate volunteer organizations to assist town staff in monitoring and maintaining town conservation lands. Use existing stewards in a more guided way.   | OSC, PRD, TM        | √                       |                       |                        | N/A                       |
| Update basketball courts, T-ball fields, and playground at Legion Field.  | PRC, PRD            | √                       |                       |                        | Town                      |

## 9 Seven-Year Action Plan

| Goals and Actions  | Responsible Parties         | Short-term<br>2017-2018 | Mid-term<br>2019-2021 | Long-term<br>2022-2023 | Potential Primary Funding |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Improve lighting on Hayes and Lazzaro Major League fields. Repair the basketball court and softball dugouts, replace benches and bleachers and repave the parking lot at Scotland Field.     | PRC, PRD                    | √                       |                       |                        | Town<br>CPA               |
| Explore space and funding opportunities for additional peak-period parking at Legion Field.  | PRC, PRD                    |                         | √                     |                        | Town                      |
| Rebuild and add irrigation to Babe Ruth or Lane Field at Legion Field.   | PRC, PRD                    |                         | √                     |                        | Town                      |
| Identify the opportunities to introduce a small practice field, tennis courts, or playgrounds in the former skate park at Legion Field.  | PRC, PRD                    |                         | √                     |                        | Town<br>CPA               |
| Dismantle existing degraded park facilities at Jennie Leonard Park.  | DPW                         |                         | √                     |                        | Town                      |
| Consider mitigation of Duxburrow Estates 40B project at Curve Street to include playground to serve east side of town.   | ZBA, PRC, PRD               |                         | √                     |                        | Town<br>Private developer |
| Remove or relocate the small playground at Scotland Field which has safety concerns and is in disrepair.   | PRD, DPW,                   |                         | √                     |                        | Town<br>CPA               |
| Implement seating, interpretive signage, viewpoints, trail improvement, and a footbridge to the Stiles & Hart Conservation Area across from the Town River Landing parcel.                   | OSC, HC, PRD, PRC, DPW, NGC |                         | √                     |                        | Town<br>CPA<br>NGC        |
| Examine and improve visibility of exiting entrances, signage, and parking availability at conservation areas, particularly Iron Works Park, Stiles & Hart, and Tuckerwood Conservation Area. | OSC, PRD, DPW               |                         | √                     |                        | Town<br>CPA               |
| Improve existing canoe/kayak launching areas and explore the possibility of adding new launch points at appropriate intervals on waterfront conservation sites.                              | OSC, PRD, DPW               |                         | √                     |                        | Town<br>CPA               |
| Ensure small craft access and fisheries improvements to Town River and Lake Nippenicket by appropriate removal/cleaning of the Town River and Taunton River                                  | ConCom, TFC                 |                         | √                     |                        | Town                      |
| Provide esthetically consistent and vandal resistant furnishings at Town recreation facilities.  | PRC, PRD                    |                         |                       | √                      | Town                      |
| Explore a public-private partnership for proper/potential recreation use of the Jennie Leonard Park site with developers of the adjoining and nearby residential areas.                      | PRC, PRD                    |                         |                       | √                      | Town<br>Private developer |
| Provide esthetically consistent and vandal resistant furnishings at all Town conservation areas.   | OSC, DPW                    |                         |                       | √                      | Town                      |

| Goals and Actions   | Responsible Parties    | Short-term<br>2017-2018 | Mid-term<br>2019-2021 | Long-term<br>2022-2023 | Potential Primary Funding                 |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Goal 2. To create and preserve town-wide, regionally linked trails and parks system that connects neighborhoods with various open space and recreation amenities.</b>  |                        |                         |                       |                        |   |
| Extend walking trails, where appropriate, at the Crescent Street Field into the wooded area southwest of the field to connect to other nearby trails.   | OSC                    | √                       |                       |                        | CPA<br>Town<br>GCEF                       |
| Identify and prioritize gaps among existing bicycle/pedestrian path, hiking, and horse riding trail systems in town and with the regional network. For example:   | OSC, PRC, CED,         |                         |                       |                        | Town<br>CPA                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider connecting hiking trail at Mitchell Elementary School from South St. to Bedford St with long range plan to connect to Carver's Pond via crosswalk on Route 18/28.</li> <li>Consider trail spurs connecting to BSU through the campus to Great Hill (BSU) and Carver's Pond.</li> <li>Explore collaboration with the Bay Circuit Alliance and their partners AMC to improve the Bay Circuit Trail between Iron Works and East Bridgewater's Route 106, along an old rail bed. Some board walks may be needed between Wall St and the rail bed (plus conservation easement).</li> </ul> | OSC, PRC, CED, BSU     | √                       |                       |                        | Town,<br>BSU,<br>CPA                      |
|   | OSC, PRC, CED          |                         |                       |                        | W. Bridgewater<br>CPA,<br>Bridgewater CPA |
| Pursue the design and implementation of the town-wide bicycle/pedestrian network.   | OSC, PRD, PRC, CED, TC |                         | √                     |                        | Town                                      |
| Develop a master trail system design with publicly accessible way-finding (physical and electronic).  | OSC, CED, PRD          |                         | √                     |                        | CPA<br>OCPC                               |
| Pursue the establishment of the Old State Farm land & water trail head in collaboration with EEOA, DOC, DAR, DF&BA and Wild & Scenic Taunton River Stewardship Council.   | OSC, PRD               |                         | √                     |                        | CPA<br>Town<br>GCEF<br>NGOs               |
| Coordinate with private land owners and conservation holders to create trails with access to the Town and Taunton Rivers. For example, explore the possibility of Murphy's Landing (canoe launch and picnic area via private developer, DF&BA, Taunton River Stewardship Council and the town) at the Route 104 confluence with the Town, Matfield and Taunton Rivers in the Pratt Town section of Town.  | OSC, PRD               |                         | √                     |                        | Citizen donation<br>CPA<br>GCEF           |

## 9 Seven-Year Action Plan

| Goals and Actions  | Responsible Parties   | Short-term<br>2017-2018 | Mid-term<br>2019-2021 | Long-term<br>2022-2023 | Potential Primary Funding         |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Based on actions identified in the 2014 Master Plan, develop a land prioritization plan that identifies high priority vacant municipal properties to be considered for recreation reuse, particularly parcels in underserved neighborhoods and parcels adjacent to existing recreation and conservation areas. | OSC, PRD, CED         |                         | √                     |                        | CPA<br>Town                       |
| Create walking trails in the wooded areas at the Jennie Leonard Park site that connect to nearby residential areas.  | OSC                   |                         |                       | √                      | Town<br>Private developer<br>GCEF |
| Pursue acquisition, as opportunities rise, of identified high priority parcels.  | OSC, CED, ConCom, CPC |                         |                       | √                      | CPA,<br>Land trusts<br>LAND       |
| Collaborate with West Bridgewater to implement the Nunckettesett Greenway on the Town River and Bay Circuit Trail.   | OSC, NGC, NRTB        |                         |                       | √                      | CPA, LAND<br>Volunteers           |
| <b>Goal 3. To increase public awareness of available open space and recreation opportunities.</b>  |                       |                         |                       |                        |                                   |
| Develop and maintain an up-to-date parcel-based inventory of Town recreation facilities, conservation areas, trails and paths, potentially using mapping applications.   | PRD, CED              | √                       |                       |                        | Town<br>Volunteers                |
| Create a recreation and conservation information page on the Town website.   | PRD, TM               | √                       |                       |                        | Town                              |
| Make recreation and conservation information available at the Parks and Recreation Department, such as large map displays and brochures.   | PRD                   | √                       |                       |                        | Town                              |
| Develop a uniform branding and wayfinding signage plan for the Town's recreation facilities and conservation areas, in coordination with existing local and regional signage systems as appropriate.   | OSC, CED, NGC         |                         | √                     |                        | CPA<br>NGC<br>Town                |
| Prepare a schedule to implement a phased signage plan  | OSC, CED, PRC, PRD    |                         | √                     |                        | Town                              |
| Restore Old Stone Building at Iron Works Park as a trailhead.  | OSC, HC               |                         | √                     |                        | CPA, Private,<br>NGO              |
| <b>Goal 4. To preserve and cultivate public and private agricultural lands.</b>  |                       |                         |                       |                        |                                   |
| Communicate with and encourage landowners to protect agricultural lands through CR and APR.  | OSC, AC, ConCom, CED  | √                       |                       |                        | Citizen participation<br>LAND     |
| Publicize community garden opportunities.  | OSC, AC               | √                       |                       |                        | Town                              |
| Identify and pursue state funding to support agricultural activities.  | OSC, AC               |                         | √                     |                        | Town                              |

## 9 Seven-Year Action Plan

| Goals and Actions  | Responsible Parties | Short-term<br>2017-2018 | Mid-term<br>2019-2021 | Long-term<br>2022-2023 | Potential Primary Funding |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Collaborate with Department of Correction to promote community usage of existing community garden.   | OSC, AC, DOC        |                         | √                     |                        | N/A                       |
| <b>Goal 5. To protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas that promote local and regional ecological and environmental integrities.</b> |                     |                         |                       |                        |                           |
| Update water quality conditions of rivers and other surface water bodies in Bridgewater.   | ConCom, DPW, DEP    | √                       |                       |                        | Town                      |
| Update the Bridgewater Priority Protection Areas accepted by OCPC in 2013/2014.  | OSC, CED            | √                       |                       |                        | Town                      |
| Continue to enforce local wetland and riverfront protection regulations.   | ConCom, ZBA         | √                       |                       |                        | N/A                       |
| Communicate with and incentivize landowners to protect parcels of significant habitats from development impact.                                  | ConCom, OSC         | √                       |                       |                        | Citizen participation     |
| Develop a Water Resource Management Plan.  | ConCom, OSC, DPW    |                         | √                     |                        | Town                      |
| Use rain gardens and other LID techniques for paved areas adjoining new athletic facilities and open spaces.                                     | PRD, DPW            |                         | √                     |                        | Town                      |
| Incorporation of LID principles in applicable Town regulations.  | TC, TM              |                         | √                     |                        | N/A                       |
| Continue to enforce the aquifer protection district regulations.   | ZBA, PB, CED        |                         |                       | √                      | N/A                       |
| Encourage new subdivisions to provide subdivision specific water sources (e.g., subdivision wells) and waste water treatment systems.            | PB, ZBA             |                         |                       | √                      | N/A                       |
| Identify impoundments/control structures with the potential to be managed for active flood control and develop a management program.             | DPW, TRFC           |                         |                       | √                      | Town                      |





## Appendices

Appendix I: Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results Summary

Appendix II: Recreation Needs Assessment Community Survey Results Summary

Appendix III: Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Self-Evaluation

Appendix IV: State of Water Supply Conservation

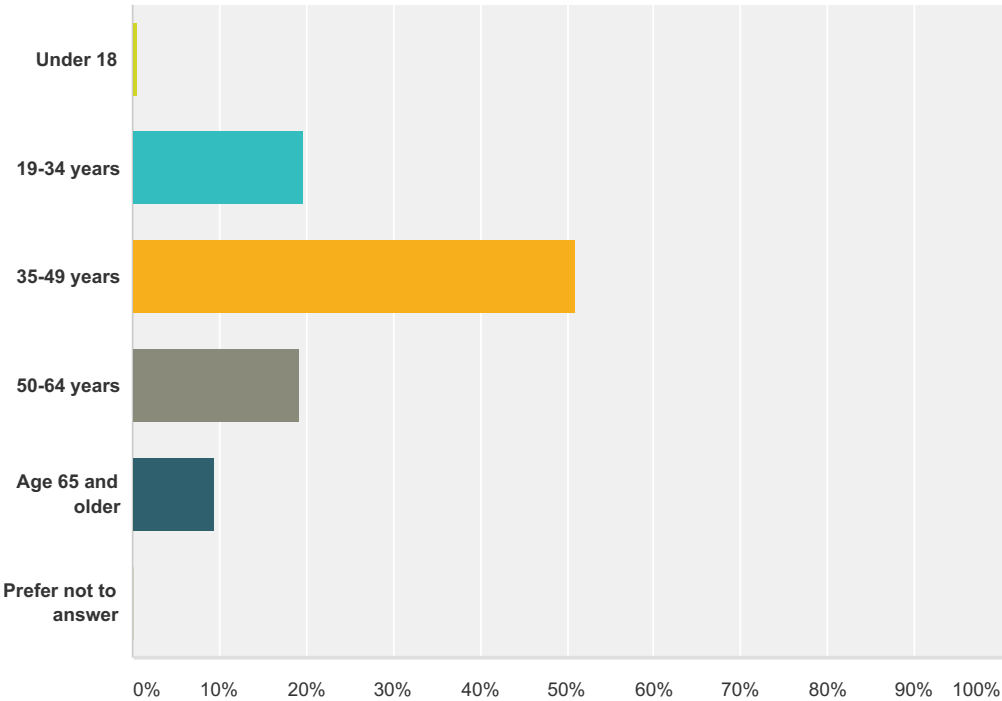
Appendix V: Letters of Approval

## **Appendix I:**

### Open Space and Recreation Plan Community Survey Results Summary

Q1 What is your age?

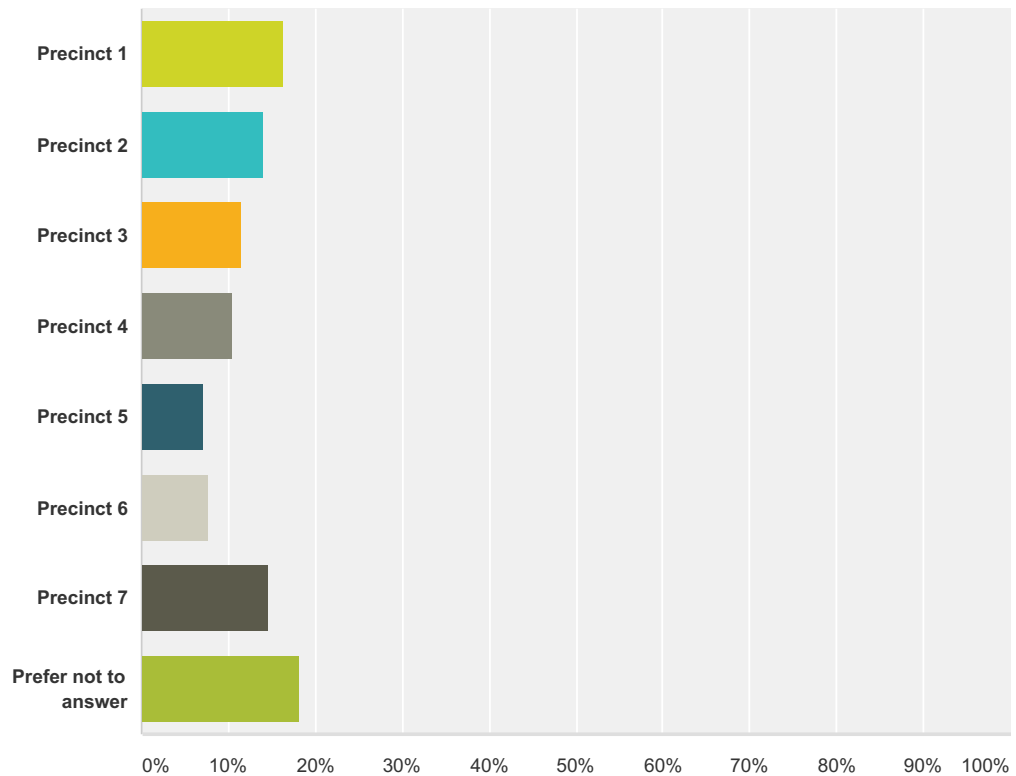
Answered: 353 Skipped: 3



| Answer Choices       | Responses |     |
|----------------------|-----------|-----|
| Under 18             | 0.57%     | 2   |
| 19-34 years          | 19.55%    | 69  |
| 35-49 years          | 50.99%    | 180 |
| 50-64 years          | 19.26%    | 68  |
| Age 65 and older     | 9.35%     | 33  |
| Prefer not to answer | 0.28%     | 1   |
| Total                |           | 353 |

## Q2 Which precinct are you from?

Answered: 348 Skipped: 8

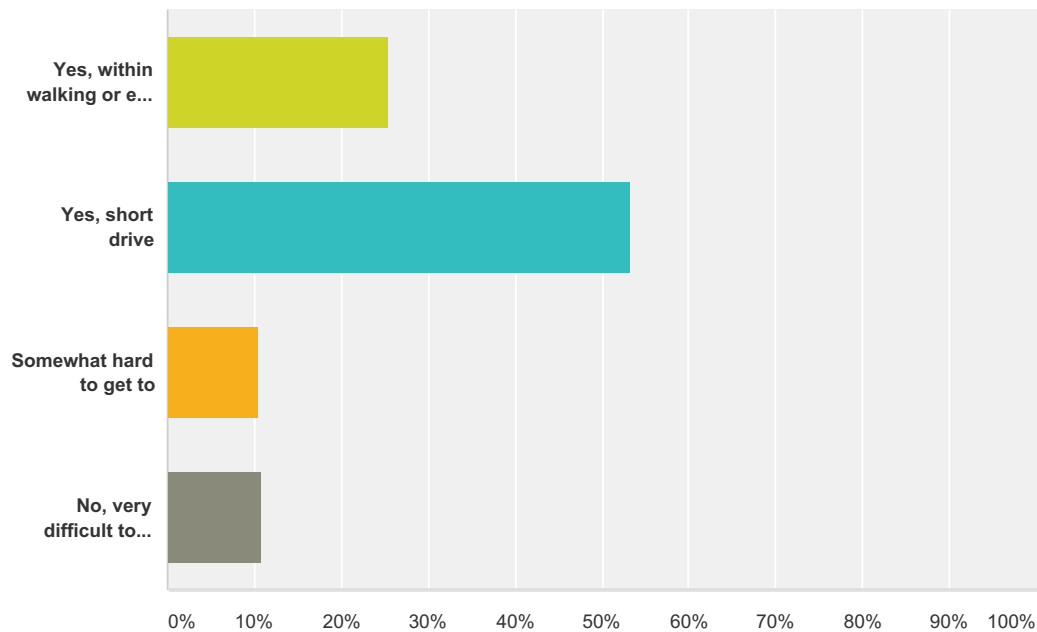


| Answer Choices       | Responses |            |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Precinct 1           | 16.38%    | 57         |
| Precinct 2           | 14.08%    | 49         |
| Precinct 3           | 11.49%    | 40         |
| Precinct 4           | 10.34%    | 36         |
| Precinct 5           | 7.18%     | 25         |
| Precinct 6           | 7.76%     | 27         |
| Precinct 7           | 14.66%    | 51         |
| Prefer not to answer | 18.10%    | 63         |
| <b>Total</b>         |           | <b>348</b> |



**Q3 Do you think your neighborhood has easy access to some type of park and recreation facility?**

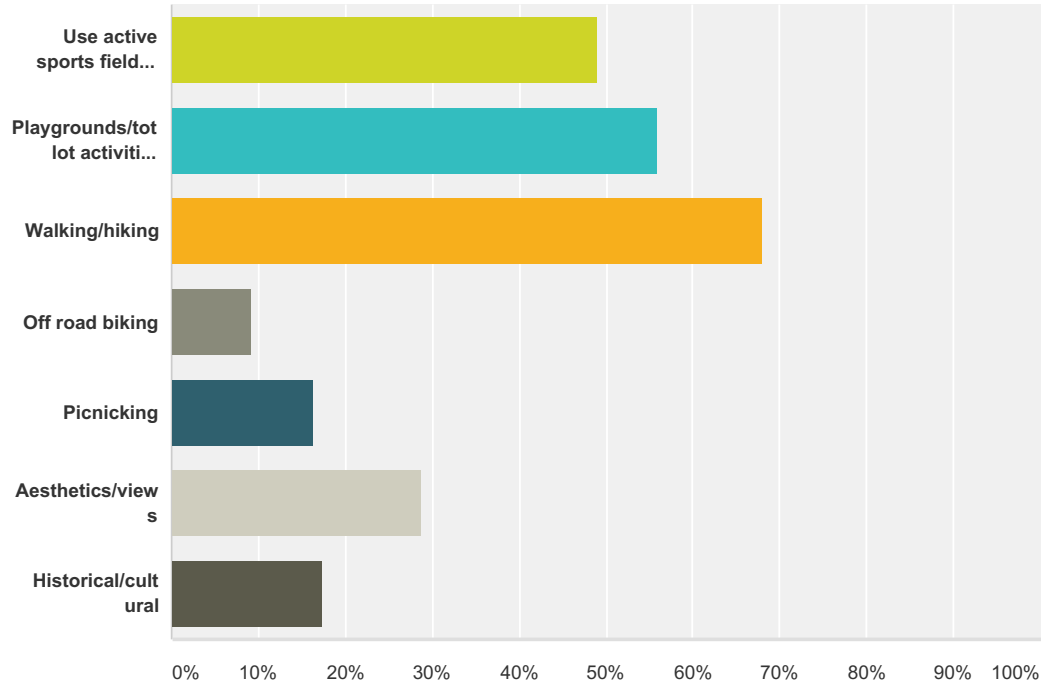
Answered: 353 Skipped: 3



| Answer Choices                              | Responses |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Yes, within walking or easy biking distance | 25.50%    | 90  |
| Yes, short drive                            | 53.26%    | 188 |
| Somewhat hard to get to                     | 10.48%    | 37  |
| No, very difficult to get to                | 10.76%    | 38  |
| Total                                       |           | 353 |

### Q4 What are your most common purposes when visiting a park or open space area in town? Choose all that apply.

Answered: 350 Skipped: 6



| Answer Choices                          | Responses  |
|---|------------|
| Use active sports fields and/or courts  | 49.14% 172 |
| Playgrounds/tot lot activities for kids | 56.00% 196 |
| Walking/hiking                          | 68.00% 238 |
| Off road biking                         | 9.14% 32   |
| Picnicking                              | 16.29% 57  |
| Aesthetics/views                        | 28.86% 101 |
| Historical/cultural                     | 17.43% 61  |
| Total Respondents: 350                  |            |

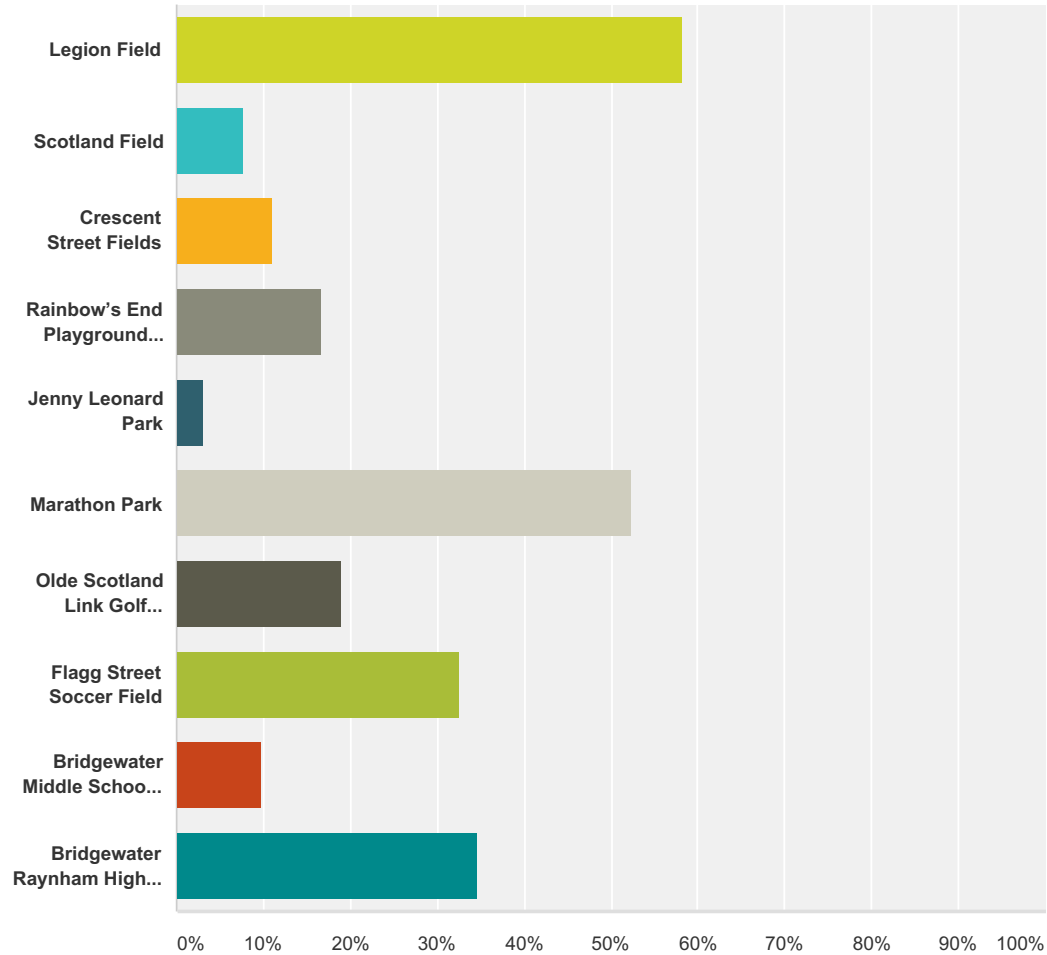
| # | Other (please specify)  | Date                |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1 | preservation of environment and habitat: Please consider Curve Street area to be used in a similar situation as Great River Preserve. | 11/23/2016 7:27 AM  |
| 2 | Dog walking   | 11/21/2016 5:13 AM  |
| 3 | Badgers football!!  | 11/16/2016 9:35 AM  |
| 4 | The high school track and tennis courts are unusable.   | 11/16/2016 6:19 AM  |
| 5 | Use of Legion Field for Baseball and Football Youth Leagues. Much needed Football areas for practice use.                             | 11/15/2016 11:19 PM |
| 6 | A splash bad for the little ones would be great!!   | 11/15/2016 9:10 PM  |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 7  | Wish we had a dog park  | 11/15/2016 6:22 PM  |
| 8  | dog walking   | 11/15/2016 12:00 PM |
| 9  | Would love to see a place that is stroller friendly ... A nice view would be a bonus :)   | 11/15/2016 10:30 AM |
| 10 | watching kids organized sports  | 11/15/2016 10:11 AM |
| 11 | Dog walking   | 11/15/2016 8:18 AM  |
| 12 | Dog exercise  | 11/15/2016 7:16 AM  |
| 13 | When raising my children in town, spent many hours on sports fields.  | 11/15/2016 7:12 AM  |
| 14 | Stop opening vape shops and add a Panera in the center. Make the center more pedestrian friendly. More parking. Would increase the use of the park.   | 11/7/2016 5:28 PM   |
| 15 | Would love more pet friendly spaces to bring the dog with our child.  | 11/7/2016 9:12 AM   |
| 16 | Walking our dog   | 11/6/2016 8:45 PM   |
| 17 | Dog park ♥☐   | 11/6/2016 1:26 PM   |
| 18 | Would love to see a dog park  | 11/6/2016 1:08 PM   |
| 19 | Walk the dog  | 11/5/2016 9:44 PM   |
| 20 | We don't do much in town because traffic is always so bad. So we avoid Bridgewater as much as possible.   | 11/5/2016 9:51 AM   |
| 21 | We need a place for recreational vehicle use (atvs, dirtbikes, utvs) , something like an rc track would be great for community, deck hockey rink should have a place somewhere in town                            | 11/5/2016 1:20 AM   |
| 22 | A nice walking park similar to the park in West Bridgewater where they hold their annual festivals would be nice. Must be handicapped accessible and have restrooms available too. A dog park would be wonderful! | 11/4/2016 7:55 PM   |
| 23 | Dog walking   | 11/4/2016 5:59 PM   |
| 24 | We need a dog park  | 11/4/2016 5:44 PM   |
| 25 | Dog walking.  | 11/1/2016 10:00 PM  |
| 26 | Walking my dog off-leash  | 10/31/2016 11:07 AM |
| 27 | dog walking, sightseeing/wildlife   | 10/28/2016 3:34 PM  |
| 28 | Trails through natural woods. Enough plastic playgrounds and open grass areas... we need natural beauty   | 10/28/2016 3:31 PM  |
| 29 | I think it would be wonderful to have green space within easy walking distance of all the neighborhoods in Bridgewater.   | 10/3/2016 6:22 PM   |
| 30 | Dog walk  | 10/3/2016 4:51 PM   |
| 31 | No smoking  | 10/3/2016 3:54 PM   |
| 32 | Safe and fenced in areas for my kids is my number one priority for choosing a space.  | 10/3/2016 3:48 PM   |
| 33 | Dog walking   | 10/3/2016 3:18 PM   |
| 34 | running   | 10/3/2016 12:51 PM  |

**Q5 What are your TOP THREE favorite active recreation facilities/areas in town?  
Choose up to three.**

Answered: 288 Skipped: 68



| Answer Choices   | Responses  |
|--|------------|
| Legion Field   | 58.33% 168 |
| Scotland Field   | 7.64% 22   |
| Crescent Street Fields                                     | 11.11% 32  |
| Rainbow's End Playground (scheduled to be demolished soon) | 16.67% 48  |
| Jenny Leonard Park   | 3.13% 9    |
| Marathon Park  | 52.43% 151 |
| Olde Scotland Link Golf Course                             | 19.10% 55  |
| Flagg Street Soccer Field                                  | 32.64% 94  |
| Bridgewater Middle School facilities                       | 9.72% 28   |
| Bridgewater Raynham High School facilities                 | 34.72% 100 |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

**Total Respondents: 288**

| #  | Other (please specify)  | Date                |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1  | The Town should consider the land abutting Curve Street. The land has wildlife habitats and would be great walking reserve similar to Great River Preserve.   | 11/23/2016 7:30 AM  |
| 2  | Lake Nippenicket  | 11/21/2016 5:16 AM  |
| 3  | Rainbow's end location should get a new playground !  | 11/19/2016 1:12 PM  |
| 4  | Carvers Pond  | 11/17/2016 11:01 AM |
| 5  | Carver pond   | 11/15/2016 11:40 PM |
| 6  | Prisco's Market   | 11/15/2016 10:06 PM |
| 7  | Wyman meadows. It's getting overgrown and hasn't been kept up to the management plan that was layed out in 2002. The town should find someone to hay it twice a year like they used to do.  | 11/15/2016 9:58 PM  |
| 8  | Wild land Trust   | 11/15/2016 9:24 PM  |
| 9  | Carvers pond  | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 10 | Carvers Pond, wildlands trust-auburn st   | 11/15/2016 8:51 PM  |
| 11 | None  | 11/15/2016 4:33 PM  |
| 12 | Carver pond. The Nip. Conservation area at end of Auburn St.  | 11/15/2016 11:00 AM |
| 13 | We like Marathon Park but during the summer it is just way too sunny there ... perfect for spring and fall though   | 11/15/2016 10:33 AM |
| 14 | Titicut park on beach st.   | 11/15/2016 9:40 AM  |
| 15 | Carver pond   | 11/15/2016 8:20 AM  |
| 16 | Loved everything about Rainbows End when my kids were small. That was the last time we were there because of the overgrowth surrounding the park, the destruction of the equipment, and of course the dangerous materials. Its such a great concept and promoted imagination through play! Sad to see it go!  | 11/15/2016 8:11 AM  |
| 17 | Carver Pond   | 11/15/2016 7:53 AM  |
| 18 | Conservation property on Auburn St.   | 11/14/2016 12:17 PM |
| 19 | Ironworks Park  | 11/8/2016 7:55 AM   |
| 20 | Carver's Pond   | 11/7/2016 7:41 PM   |
| 21 | None- and don't know where Jenny Leonard park is. I would say carver pond.  | 11/7/2016 7:18 PM   |
| 22 | Jenny Leonard is a forest. leave it alone   | 11/7/2016 5:31 PM   |
| 23 | BSU   | 11/7/2016 1:48 PM   |
| 24 | The fields off of Summer Street, and the old brick factory area   | 11/7/2016 11:05 AM  |
| 25 | Conservation area off of Auburn Street  | 11/7/2016 9:14 AM   |
| 26 | Carver Pond   | 11/6/2016 8:47 PM   |
| 27 | Woodlands and open fields   | 11/6/2016 6:39 PM   |
| 28 | Carvers Pond  | 11/6/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 29 | None of these fit my needs but it is impossible to continue without choosing 3, so my 3 are just the first 3 on the list.   | 11/6/2016 1:28 PM   |
| 30 | Carver pond   | 11/5/2016 11:46 AM  |
| 31 | Carvers pond, broken bridge   | 11/5/2016 10:12 AM  |
| 32 | I use any of these.   | 11/5/2016 9:32 AM   |
| 33 | The only other that I enjoy is carvers pond. This town is getting rid of all of its open land and building an unnesesary amount of houses. Rainbows end should be preserved, it has been a part of our community for over twenty years and has an important place in many people's hearts. It really is a shame that they are tearing it down.. just what this town needs another parking lot or area to build more houses. | 11/4/2016 11:52 PM  |
| 34 | Carver pond   | 11/4/2016 6:01 PM   |

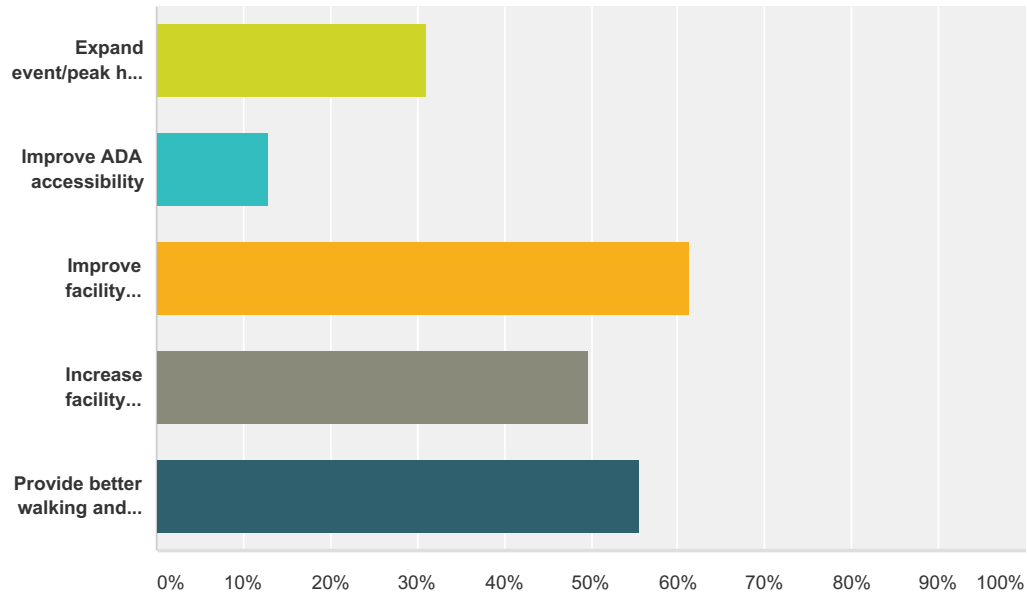


## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 35 | Marathon park is great for little kids   | 11/4/2016 5:46 PM   |
| 36 | BSU campus and Great River Preserve off Auburn street  | 11/1/2016 10:02 PM  |
| 37 | BGSL Fields  | 10/31/2016 12:42 PM |
| 38 | By far my favorite place to be outside in Bridgewater is the Great River Preserve.   | 10/31/2016 12:13 PM |
| 39 | Iron Works Park on High Street   | 10/31/2016 10:52 AM |
| 40 | We seem to have a number of suitable spots for sports and rec designed around younger kids and students but not a lot of places with paved walk-paths to get in a lengthy walk with pleasant scenery or a place to walk dogs, or for active seniors interested in regular exercise outdoors. | 10/28/2016 3:49 PM  |
| 41 | How many people do you think have even HEARD of Jenny Leonard Park? I was there once about 5 years ago to see the site- shamefully neglected for too many years.   | 10/13/2016 10:20 AM |
| 42 | Don't use any  | 10/12/2016 9:55 PM  |
| 43 | Carver's Pond  | 10/5/2016 10:27 PM  |
| 44 | Library  | 10/4/2016 7:40 PM   |
| 45 | walking the trails in the conservation areas including the trails at Bridgewater State   | 10/3/2016 10:25 PM  |
| 46 | Carver pond  | 10/3/2016 9:05 PM   |
| 47 | Walking in the cemetery enjoying the trees and the quiet. We need to encourage more places the promote reflection. We have become a shallow people for the lack of solitude. Constant activity and distraction does not make for a developed consciousness.                                  | 10/3/2016 8:44 PM   |
| 48 | Titicut, Carvers, end of Auburn St.  | 10/3/2016 7:55 PM   |
| 49 | I don't use any of these. I prefer Carver Pond and the Iron Works.   | 10/3/2016 7:12 PM   |
| 50 | What are;some of these places? Carver pond, the nip  | 10/3/2016 6:37 PM   |
| 51 | None of them fit the criteria for bike riding, picnics, walking.   | 10/3/2016 5:17 PM   |
| 52 | Auburn st land trust   | 10/3/2016 4:52 PM   |
| 53 | Wild lands trust Carver Park   | 10/3/2016 3:20 PM   |
| 54 | Great River Reserve. Darling Wildlife Area.  | 10/3/2016 2:37 PM   |
| 55 | Bridgewater State Great Hill trails, Bridgewater State track. Why put Jenny Leonard on the survey when it is virtually unusable?   | 10/3/2016 12:55 PM  |
| 56 | Carver pond  | 10/3/2016 12:41 PM  |
| 57 | Carvers Pond   | 10/3/2016 11:40 AM  |

**Q6 In general, what do you think are the TOP THREE most needed improvements to the town's existing active recreation facilities? Choose up to three.**

Answered: 292 Skipped: 64



| Answer Choices  | Responses  |
|---|------------|
| Expand event/peak hour parking opportunities                | 31.16% 91  |
| Improve ADA accessibility                                   | 13.01% 38  |
| Improve facility condition                                  | 61.30% 179 |
| Increase facility maintenance capacity (staff and funding)  | 49.66% 145 |
| Provide better walking and biking connections to facilities | 55.48% 162 |
| <b>Total Respondents: 292</b>                               |            |

| # | Other (please specify)  | Date               |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Additional options for recreation   | 2/9/2017 3:23 AM   |
| 2 | Bathrooms at Marathon Park  | 11/17/2016 3:01 AM |
| 3 | n/a   | 11/16/2016 6:36 AM |
| 4 | Bridgewater is trying to promote both Boys and Girls Lacrosse, but there are NO fields dedicated to this sport. Both the football and baseball fields are in serious need of improvement. The only field in top shape are the Flagg Street Soccer Fields. | 11/16/2016 6:01 AM |
| 5 | The bathrooms in Bridgewater soccer football and baseball fields are awful! We play against many towns in all 3 sports and ours is by far the worst (minus a few with outhouses :))   | 11/16/2016 5:48 AM |
| 6 | Cleanliness. Bathrooms are never cleaned.   | 11/16/2016 5:29 AM |
| 7 | Bathrooms at legion field are disgusting and need to be redone  | 11/16/2016 2:10 AM |
| 8 | The gazebo at Legion Field is in desperate need of maintenance, it's only a matter of time until a child gets hurt.   | 11/16/2016 1:00 AM |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 9  | more shade structures and bathrooms at marathon park. As well as removal of damaged music equipment that has rusty pins sticking out of it   | 11/15/2016 3:40 PM  |
| 10 | Need a lacrosse field. Flag street should be available for all activities, not just soccer.  | 11/15/2016 2:39 PM  |
| 11 | Bathrooms for Marathon Park  | 11/15/2016 12:30 PM |
| 12 | Bathrooms, trash, better lighting. Better parking arraignment at legion field (water dept lot)   | 11/15/2016 12:04 PM |
| 13 | Activity space for older kids and improve track at BRRHS   | 11/15/2016 10:24 AM |
| 14 | None   | 11/15/2016 8:33 AM  |
| 15 | Little League Baseball fields need some attention that is beyond the leagues ability to resolve( Field Lighting, former skate park fence removal.)   | 11/15/2016 6:45 AM  |
| 16 | Provide portable bathroom at Marathon Park.  | 11/15/2016 6:27 AM  |
| 17 | We just recently moved here from Weymouth and the first thing I noticed is there is no place to go and take the kids for a walk. Our street does not have a sidewalk either so that's not an option really with young kids .. we enjoyed webb state park in Weymouth and Pond Meadow Park. A place like one of those to walk would be great.                                       | 11/15/2016 2:33 AM  |
| 18 | Benches fixed, paint improved, Condition of parking lots   | 11/15/2016 1:54 AM  |
| 19 | Bathrooms  | 11/15/2016 1:53 AM  |
| 20 | New lights for Legion field Footballs own facility   | 11/15/2016 1:01 AM  |
| 21 | Need to replace lights at legion field and install lights on the big diamond   | 11/15/2016 12:54 AM |
| 22 | Increasing parking at Carver pond  | 11/14/2016 11:53 PM |
| 23 | Legion field needs updating/maintenance, including the basketball nets.  | 11/14/2016 11:36 PM |
| 24 | Have a map of trails available   | 11/14/2016 11:34 PM |
| 25 | Bathroom facilities  | 11/14/2016 11:21 PM |
| 26 | Legion Field is in bad need of new lights. The poles are twisting and have required piecemeal repair. Currently they do not meet safety standards for lights because the aim is now off. It's needed badly. The Badgers Youth organization needs a facility of their own. They use the outfields at Legion and tear them up creating VERY dangerous conditions. Divots, holes etc. | 11/14/2016 3:13 PM  |
| 27 | Football needs its own fields to tear up. They practice on baseball fields and it short changes the football teams and damages baseball fields   | 11/14/2016 1:44 PM  |
| 28 | More sidewalks, especially near schools, and streets near/off of 104.  | 11/14/2016 1:17 PM  |
| 29 | Should be about more than sports fields. Improve hiking trails around ponds, etc   | 11/7/2016 11:41 AM  |
| 30 | Put some pick up activities for people. Volleyball nets, tether ball, horseshoe pit, bocce pit.  | 11/7/2016 11:18 AM  |
| 31 | Sidewalks  | 11/7/2016 5:50 AM   |
| 32 | Sidewalks  | 11/7/2016 5:48 AM   |
| 33 | offer larger diversity of facilities for different types of events   | 11/7/2016 2:30 AM   |
| 34 | Provide jogging/walking space. Sidewalks aren't consistent across town. I wisher there were a 3-4 mile, safe stretch to walk, jog, walk dogs, bike, etc.   | 11/7/2016 2:14 AM   |
| 35 | More pet friendly spaces.  | 11/7/2016 1:14 AM   |
| 36 | Need to clean up the overgrown bushes and trees on the side of our roads   | 11/6/2016 10:39 AM  |
| 37 | None of these fit my needs but it is impossible to continue without choosing 3, so my 3 are just the first 3 on the list.  | 11/6/2016 5:28 AM   |
| 38 | BR's track is awful. It's a shame to see grass growing up from the cracks.   | 11/5/2016 11:41 AM  |
| 39 | Location for pickleball which has become very popular in the last few years.   | 11/5/2016 3:45 AM   |
| 40 | Stop building houses and adding more people and traffic to this town. We avoid town sports and town activities because it's so hard to get to anything in this town.   | 11/5/2016 1:57 AM   |
| 41 | Have more recreation facilities that are good for all ages.  | 11/4/2016 3:52 PM   |
| 42 | dog park   | 11/4/2016 12:32 PM  |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 43 | Marathon park has a constant overflow of trash.   | 10/31/2016 4:35 AM |
| 44 | It's always seemed a shame to me that it's so hard for kids and parents to drive to recreational activities when they are often less than a mile or two from where they live.   | 10/31/2016 4:13 AM |
| 45 | Some of the smaller parks in the outskirts of Bridgewater (ie Cherry St., Rainbows end, the canoe landing area off of Spring St. by Cable 8, Stanley Ironworks...have fallen into disrepair and/or lack maintenance. Sadly, these spots become less attractive to visitors and that is a shame to lose what resources we do have. Some type of volunteer sign up either uptown or online may be a good way to provide intermittent care for these areas when funding is not available for more frequent maintenance. Some people enjoy volunteering in this way to do something worthwhile for their home town. | 10/28/2016 7:49 AM |
| 46 | N/A   | 10/5/2016 2:27 PM  |
| 47 | We need more sidewalks. And we need to do more to make crossing the street in Bridgewater Center and less stressful and dangerous for pedestrians. Whatever we can do to give priority to walking will benefit the environment as well as the individual.   | 10/3/2016 12:44 PM |
| 48 | I don't know, since I don't use the listed facilities.  | 10/3/2016 11:12 AM |
| 49 | More events beyond organized sports for kids  | 10/3/2016 10:37 AM |
| 50 | rebuild Rainbows End  | 10/3/2016 9:22 AM  |
| 51 | none of above   | 10/3/2016 6:40 AM  |
| 52 | Expanded trails and connections.  | 10/3/2016 6:37 AM  |
| 53 | B-R track needs to be replaced!   | 10/3/2016 4:55 AM  |
| 54 | Add biking and walking trails. All of these sites already provide parking capabilities, and a general openness (for safety).  | 10/3/2016 4:51 AM  |

**Q7 What additional active recreation facilities do you think the town needs?  
Please specify.**

Answered: 217 Skipped: 139

| Answer Choices                          | Responses  |
|---|------------|
| Children and teens sports fields/courts | 30.41% 66  |
| Adult sports fields/courts              | 20.74% 45  |
| Playgrounds                             | 23.50% 51  |
| Swimming pools                          | 40.09% 87  |
| Ice skating rink                        | 14.29% 31  |
| Dog park                                | 50.69% 110 |
| Other                                   | 26.27% 57  |

| #  | Children and teens sports fields/courts  | Date                |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 1  | Improvement to and or additional basketball courts at legion field   | 11/20/2016 8:52 AM  |
| 2  | Skateboarding/biking trail   | 11/19/2016 1:12 PM  |
| 3  | I think the high school and junior high could benefit from their own ice rink and/pool   | 11/16/2016 11:40 PM |
| 4  | Soccer practice space, need more available times   | 11/16/2016 9:16 PM  |
| 5  | Basketball and baseball  | 11/16/2016 5:19 PM  |
| 6  | More/better baseball, football facilities  | 11/16/2016 1:29 PM  |
| 7  | Redo baseball fiends football field  | 11/16/2016 10:10 AM |
| 8  | Better Basketball ball courts  | 11/16/2016 9:39 AM  |
| 9  | Yes  | 11/16/2016 8:51 AM  |
| 10 | Legion Field Lighting for Baseball Fields. Senior Legion Baseball Field could also use lights which would expand usage and create town revenue from clubs and leagues. Football practice fields/space much needed. | 11/15/2016 11:26 PM |
| 11 | Utilize Flagg Street and Legion field street for multiple sports   | 11/15/2016 10:49 PM |
| 12 | Lacrosse field   | 11/15/2016 10:39 PM |
| 13 | Refurbish playground legion field  | 11/15/2016 10:11 PM |
| 14 | additional little league baseball fields, refurbish current minor division fields, i coached and there was inadequate availability for weekday practices   | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 15 | Tennis courts  | 11/15/2016 8:50 PM  |
| 16 | They need space to socialize, exercise while staying out of trouble.   | 11/15/2016 8:42 PM  |
| 17 | Childrens Sports facilities are outdated and have limited parking  | 11/15/2016 8:38 PM  |
| 18 | Lacrosse fields  | 11/15/2016 7:24 PM  |
| 19 | Teen sports - skate park?  | 11/15/2016 6:24 PM  |
| 20 | High school track dangerous and unusable   | 11/15/2016 3:57 PM  |
| 21 | Additional baseball fields for LL  | 11/15/2016 2:45 PM  |
| 22 | Tennis Facility/Courts   | 11/15/2016 12:31 PM |
| 23 | Dedicated football/tee-ball/baseball fields  | 11/15/2016 12:19 PM |



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|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 24 | Yes  | 11/15/2016 11:48 AM |
| 25 | Free field, gym, court times   | 11/15/2016 9:40 AM  |
| 26 | Fields to use for football practice to lessen the toll on baseball fields. Improve conditions of baseball fields especially stone dust fields at Legion. | 11/15/2016 9:29 AM  |
| 27 | A football field for the kids to practice on without ripping up the baseball fields  | 11/15/2016 9:25 AM  |
| 28 | a new track ar BRRHS   | 11/15/2016 9:08 AM  |
| 29 | football and lacrosse need fields  | 11/15/2016 8:54 AM  |
| 30 | Football fields for badgers  | 11/15/2016 7:22 AM  |
| 31 | More outdoor activity. Basketball courts, street hockey, as hockey is big in the town.   | 11/15/2016 6:54 AM  |
| 32 | More utility fields for football and lacross   | 11/15/2016 6:49 AM  |
| 33 | Dedicated Football complex   | 11/14/2016 11:27 PM |
| 34 | New football field for badger practice   | 11/14/2016 11:21 PM |
| 35 | Football and lax need own facilities   | 11/14/2016 11:20 PM |
| 36 | Badgers need a legitimate practice facility  | 11/14/2016 11:14 PM |
| 37 | Lacross needs a place to practice  | 11/14/2016 11:13 PM |
| 38 | Football fields so the baseball fields aren't used for football; improve legion field  | 11/14/2016 10:57 PM |
| 39 | 2  | 11/14/2016 10:17 PM |
| 40 | Football needs its own fields to practice on   | 11/14/2016 9:44 PM  |
| 41 | Public tennis coirts   | 11/14/2016 9:42 PM  |
| 42 | Sports complex like Fore kicks   | 11/8/2016 7:15 AM   |
| 43 | Volleyball   | 11/7/2016 7:18 PM   |
| 44 | Indoor Athletic Space/Gyms for kids' birthday parties or sport tournaments   | 11/7/2016 1:48 PM   |
| 45 | Definitely   | 11/7/2016 1:45 PM   |
| 46 | Hockey Court   | 11/7/2016 10:30 AM  |
| 47 | need a specific field for football practices so they dont eat up the baseball fields   | 11/6/2016 10:19 PM  |
| 48 | Tennis courts  | 11/6/2016 9:46 PM   |
| 49 | Bike path  | 11/6/2016 8:47 PM   |
| 50 | More access to off road recreation   | 11/6/2016 6:39 PM   |
| 51 | After school spot for teens  | 11/6/2016 4:56 PM   |
| 52 | Basketball or skateboarding  | 11/5/2016 9:57 AM   |
| 53 | It was sad when the skate park was closed. Something for teens to do besides hang out in parking lots would be a blessing.                               | 11/5/2016 9:49 AM   |
| 54 | Deck hockey  | 11/5/2016 1:23 AM   |
| 55 | Lacrosse fields  | 11/4/2016 11:08 PM  |
| 56 | more open space  | 11/4/2016 8:24 PM   |
| 57 | Tennis courts  | 11/4/2016 6:01 PM   |
| 58 | Skate board park   | 11/4/2016 3:50 PM   |
| 59 | Paved path dual use (bike/walk)  | 10/31/2016 8:50 PM  |
| 60 | Yes ... open fields with parking can be used for multiple activities for almost ebeyone  | 10/31/2016 12:11 PM |
| 61 | more lacrosse fields   | 10/21/2016 9:51 AM  |
| 62 | Unsure   | 10/12/2016 10:18 PM |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|          |  |                     |
|----------|--|---------------------|
| 63       | We need more fields. The overuse and overlap is destroying our current fields. | 10/6/2016 8:03 AM   |
| 64       | skate park   | 10/3/2016 7:55 PM   |
| 65       | Definitely needed for casual (non school) play                                 | 10/3/2016 5:17 PM   |
| 66       | Basketball, baseball   | 10/3/2016 1:03 PM   |
| <b>#</b> | <b>Adult sports fields/courts</b>  | <b>Date</b>         |
| 1        | Track to walk  | 11/19/2016 5:12 AM  |
| 2        | Another indoor facility such as sports dome                                    | 11/16/2016 3:40 PM  |
| 3        | Yes  | 11/16/2016 4:50 AM  |
| 4        | More basketball courts   | 11/16/2016 4:09 AM  |
| 5        | outdoor soccer   | 11/15/2016 3:40 PM  |
| 6        | Better Tennis Courts.  | 11/15/2016 1:24 PM  |
| 7        | Shuffle board  | 11/15/2016 8:36 AM  |
| 8        | Additional golf course, biking trails  | 11/15/2016 4:19 AM  |
| 9        | Better tennis courts   | 11/15/2016 1:54 AM  |
| 10       | Tennis courts  | 11/15/2016 1:40 AM  |
| 11       | Hiking, biking, fields   | 11/15/2016 1:21 AM  |
| 12       | Tennis courts  | 11/15/2016 12:11 AM |
| 13       | Basketball and street hockey courts/ rink                                      | 11/14/2016 10:54 PM |
| 14       | Yes, tennis  | 11/14/2016 10:49 PM |
| 15       | 1  | 11/14/2016 2:17 PM  |
| 16       | Public Tennis courts   | 11/14/2016 1:21 PM  |
| 17       | More funding for upkeep and expanded resources                                 | 11/14/2016 1:19 PM  |
| 18       | Volleyball   | 11/7/2016 11:18 AM  |
| 19       | A golf driving range in better condition than Deer Hollow (across from dump)   | 11/7/2016 5:47 AM   |
| 20       | Definitely   | 11/7/2016 5:45 AM   |
| 21       | Hockey Court   | 11/7/2016 2:30 AM   |
| 22       | yes  | 11/7/2016 12:49 AM  |
| 23       | Volleyball   | 11/6/2016 1:46 PM   |
| 24       | More outdoor adult leagues   | 11/6/2016 7:51 AM   |
| 25       | Track  | 11/6/2016 6:47 AM   |
| 26       | A town track not connected to a school   | 11/5/2016 6:36 AM   |
| 27       | Court for pickleball   | 11/5/2016 3:45 AM   |
| 28       | Deck hockey  | 11/4/2016 5:23 PM   |
| 29       | Access to turf fields for adult recreational sport use.                        | 11/4/2016 2:43 PM   |
| 30       | Tennis courts  | 11/4/2016 10:01 AM  |
| 31       | Bike paths to ride safely  | 11/4/2016 9:21 AM   |
| 32       | Tennis courts  | 11/4/2016 7:50 AM   |
| 33       | Yes  | 11/2/2016 3:50 AM   |
| 34       | Paved paths  | 10/31/2016 12:50 PM |
| 35       | Yes  | 10/31/2016 4:35 AM  |
| 36       | No   | 10/31/2016 4:11 AM  |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

| 37 | Bocce   | 10/31/2016 2:58 AM  |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 38 | Yes   | 10/17/2016 8:53 PM  |
| 39 | NOt that I would use one, but there seem to be very few good options for adults .   | 10/13/2016 2:20 AM  |
| 40 | Improved track for running  | 10/12/2016 2:18 PM  |
| 41 | Same as above   | 10/6/2016 12:03 AM  |
| 42 | pickle ball courts, fitness course  | 10/3/2016 11:55 AM  |
| 43 | Walking paths   | 10/3/2016 11:08 AM  |
| 44 | Tennis courts   | 10/3/2016 10:37 AM  |
| 45 | Street hockey rink  | 10/3/2016 5:03 AM   |
| #  | Playgrounds   | Date                |
| 1  | There is really only 1 playground not at a school. More would be nice.  | 2/9/2017 3:23 AM    |
| 2  | Clean well made playgrounds for all ages  | 11/19/2016 1:44 AM  |
| 3  | I think a playground with maintained bathroom facilities  | 11/16/2016 3:40 PM  |
| 4  | With the rainbow end being shut down only 1 good playground will make it very busy  | 11/16/2016 11:32 AM |
| 5  | Please add mulch to the legion field playground. This playground was never quite finished and is too high without the base level mulch. | 11/16/2016 10:10 AM |
| 6  | Something to replace Rainbows End would be great. So families on this side of town have an option to walk to s playground.              | 11/16/2016 8:23 AM  |
| 7  | The only playground I know of is Marathon Park.   | 11/16/2016 4:09 AM  |
| 8  | Improving them  | 11/16/2016 1:39 AM  |
| 9  | Yes   | 11/15/2016 12:50 PM |
| 10 | Additional or improve current. Legion field playground is dangerous   | 11/15/2016 12:47 PM |
| 11 | New one near Flagg street fields  | 11/15/2016 11:24 AM |
| 12 | Replace Rainbow's End   | 11/15/2016 7:11 AM  |
| 13 | Replace rainbows end  | 11/15/2016 6:23 AM  |
| 14 | perhaps a playground near the Nip   | 11/15/2016 4:19 AM  |
| 15 | Yes   | 11/15/2016 3:48 AM  |
| 16 | Handicap accessible play structures   | 11/15/2016 1:40 AM  |
| 17 | Rebuild Rainbows end.   | 11/15/2016 1:29 AM  |
| 18 | Bathrooms at marathon park.   | 11/15/2016 1:25 AM  |
| 19 | Redo rainbow playground   | 11/14/2016 11:30 PM |
| 20 | Playground for special needs children   | 11/14/2016 11:13 PM |
| 21 | More playgrounds - replace Rainbows End   | 11/14/2016 10:49 PM |
| 22 | Replacement/rebuild of rainbow park   | 11/14/2016 3:20 PM  |
| 23 | 3   | 11/14/2016 2:17 PM  |
| 24 | Yes   | 11/14/2016 1:40 PM  |
| 25 | yes   | 11/14/2016 1:17 PM  |
| 26 | Yes   | 11/7/2016 11:55 PM  |
| 27 | Something to replace Rainbow's End.   | 11/7/2016 9:39 PM   |
| 28 | Tetherball  | 11/7/2016 11:18 AM  |
| 29 | The Jenny Leonard Park is in our neighborhood, it is sad to see its condition.  | 11/7/2016 6:11 AM   |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|          |  |                     |
|----------|--|---------------------|
| 30       | Definitely   | 11/7/2016 5:45 AM   |
| 31       | Adequate   | 11/7/2016 2:30 AM   |
| 32       | improve the area at Rainbows end   | 11/6/2016 2:19 PM   |
| 33       | More & bathrooms   | 11/6/2016 6:53 AM   |
| 34       | More accessible playgrounds  | 11/6/2016 6:53 AM   |
| 35       | Maintain marathon  | 11/6/2016 6:47 AM   |
| 36       | It makes me very sad to see Jenny Park abandoned.  | 11/6/2016 5:10 AM   |
| 37       | A playground for bigger kids like rainbows end. Marathon park is too little for my kids and people don't clean up after themselves.  | 11/5/2016 1:57 AM   |
| 38       | The crowds at Marathon Park show the need for additional playgrounds. Legion field has a very small park that is crowded during games but only really usable for 5 yrs or under. Something for kids through 12 would be good.                                | 11/5/2016 1:49 AM   |
| 39       | Preserve rainbows end!   | 11/4/2016 3:52 PM   |
| 40       | If rainbows end is to be demolished another park should be built in its place. One is not enough   | 11/4/2016 12:24 PM  |
| 41       | Natural playgrounds (non plastic!)   | 10/31/2016 12:50 PM |
| 42       | In town, near where people live. This would help bring people to the center of town so they could support local businesses.  | 10/31/2016 4:13 AM  |
| 43       | Enough with these. Stop building and not maintainin and returning to the well to rebuild what was destroyed  | 10/31/2016 4:11 AM  |
| 44       | 1 close to all areas of town   | 10/27/2016 1:36 PM  |
| 45       | Fix, don't demolish Raindbows End.   | 10/12/2016 2:18 PM  |
| 46       | Maintaining existing playgrounds would be a start.   | 10/12/2016 1:57 PM  |
| 47       | One on the West Side of town wouldn't hurt   | 10/6/2016 12:03 AM  |
| 48       | Wooden, interesting playground - not cookie cutter   | 10/3/2016 10:37 AM  |
| 49       | Love Marathon Park, another would be great.  | 10/3/2016 7:49 AM   |
| 50       | Need a replacement for Rainbow's End   | 10/3/2016 4:55 AM   |
| 51       | Additional needed  | 10/3/2016 3:40 AM   |
| <b>#</b> | <b>Swimming pools</b>  | <b>Date</b>         |
| 1        | There is no town pool. Something for the people that don't have swimming pools.  | 2/9/2017 11:23 AM   |
| 2        | Splash pad   | 11/16/2016 9:16 PM  |
| 3        | A splash pad would be great!   | 11/16/2016 6:10 PM  |
| 4        | x  | 11/16/2016 2:36 PM  |
| 5        | Is there one?  | 11/16/2016 12:09 PM |
| 6        | Since the only public swimming pool in Bridgewater belongs to the college so it's not even really public, I think it would be great to have one that the whole town could use. Would also provide excellent job opportunities for teenagers (life guarding!) | 11/16/2016 10:43 AM |
| 7        | A town pool would be awesome!  | 11/15/2016 10:06 PM |
| 8        | Yes  | 11/15/2016 9:58 PM  |
| 9        | Or splash pad  | 11/15/2016 9:14 PM  |
| 10       | Yes. This  | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 11       | Public pool  | 11/15/2016 8:47 PM  |
| 12       | Man made lake with town sticker??  | 11/15/2016 8:42 PM  |
| 13       | Yes please outdoor community pool  | 11/15/2016 7:24 PM  |
| 14       | Town pool  | 11/15/2016 6:52 PM  |
| 15       | Town pool with swimming lessons would be ideal   | 11/15/2016 6:32 PM  |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 16 | Town pool would be great   | 11/15/2016 6:24 PM  |
| 17 | Town pool  | 11/15/2016 4:36 PM  |
| 18 | Many Bridgewater residents pay BIG money to go to Edgewood in Raynham. Would be nice to keep that in town.   | 11/15/2016 4:03 PM  |
| 19 | No community swim location   | 11/15/2016 3:57 PM  |
| 20 | needed   | 11/15/2016 3:14 PM  |
| 21 | Public pool or lake facility   | 11/15/2016 2:50 PM  |
| 22 | A town pool would be nice  | 11/15/2016 2:45 PM  |
| 23 | Swimming Pool  | 11/15/2016 1:34 PM  |
| 24 | Town Swimming Facility   | 11/15/2016 12:31 PM |
| 25 | Yes  | 11/15/2016 11:48 AM |
| 26 | Public swimming pool   | 11/15/2016 11:44 AM |
| 27 | or splash pad  | 11/15/2016 9:54 AM  |
| 28 | Town pool  | 11/15/2016 9:53 AM  |
| 29 | A pool in town   | 11/15/2016 9:40 AM  |
| 30 | town pool  | 11/15/2016 9:08 AM  |
| 31 | A town pool with a splash pad, and a few water slides  | 11/15/2016 8:11 AM  |
| 32 | Yes  | 11/15/2016 7:48 AM  |
| 33 | Community swimming pool would be great. N  | 11/15/2016 7:36 AM  |
| 34 | Town swimming would be excellent   | 11/15/2016 7:21 AM  |
| 35 | Would love a town pool/ splash pad   | 11/15/2016 6:54 AM  |
| 36 | No we have the college   | 11/15/2016 6:49 AM  |
| 37 | Pool   | 11/14/2016 11:21 PM |
| 38 | 4  | 11/14/2016 10:17 PM |
| 39 | Yes  | 11/14/2016 9:40 PM  |
| 40 | It would be nice if there were a gym in town that more closely resembled the East Bridgewater YMCA   | 11/14/2016 9:21 PM  |
| 41 | public/private lessons   | 11/14/2016 9:17 PM  |
| 42 | Yes  | 11/8/2016 7:55 AM   |
| 43 | Yes  | 11/8/2016 12:11 AM  |
| 44 | outdoor community pool   | 11/7/2016 7:18 PM   |
| 45 | Currently travelling to Raynham to get swim lessons for children. Open pool times for adult exercise would be a health benefit.  | 11/7/2016 1:47 PM   |
| 46 | Yes we need a pool. Even a private pool. A town this large should have at least one pool that is open to the public all day (as opposed to the college pool with limited hours.) | 11/7/2016 11:05 AM  |
| 47 | Unnecessary  | 11/7/2016 10:30 AM  |
| 48 | YES!!  | 11/7/2016 9:14 AM   |
| 49 | A town pool would be awesome   | 11/6/2016 10:19 PM  |
| 50 | Yes, please.   | 11/6/2016 9:46 PM   |
| 51 | Splash pad   | 11/6/2016 8:47 PM   |
| 52 | A splash pad in front of the academy building or legion field or marathon park!  | 11/6/2016 5:51 PM   |
| 53 | We need a town swimming pool. You can charge a yearly fee.   | 11/6/2016 5:33 PM   |
| 54 | For all ages   | 11/6/2016 4:56 PM   |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|          |   |                     |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| 55       | Pool  | 11/6/2016 4:23 PM   |
| 56       | A pool would be nice  | 11/6/2016 4:09 PM   |
| 57       | Town Access   | 11/6/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 58       | No  | 11/6/2016 2:47 PM   |
| 59       | Would be nice to have a town pool!  | 11/5/2016 2:36 PM   |
| 60       | A life saving skill all should be taught  | 11/5/2016 12:33 PM  |
| 61       | This would be nice  | 11/5/2016 9:57 AM   |
| 62       | 1   | 11/5/2016 9:32 AM   |
| 63       | The public hours at the BSU pool are restrictive, so a public swimming pool would be incredible!  | 11/5/2016 9:28 AM   |
| 64       | This could be a nice option for the town  | 11/4/2016 10:06 PM  |
| 65       | We certainly could use a public pool.. how about right next to that empty area outside the Campus Plaza (across from the side of 99 Restaurant) | 11/4/2016 7:58 PM   |
| 66       | Yes   | 11/4/2016 5:46 PM   |
| 67       | Yes on a pool   | 11/4/2016 4:46 PM   |
| 68       | Splash pad  | 10/31/2016 8:50 PM  |
| 69       | Yes   | 10/31/2016 12:35 PM |
| 70       | This is too seasonal and an insurance issue   | 10/31/2016 12:11 PM |
| 71       | x   | 10/28/2016 3:34 PM  |
| 72       | Public pool   | 10/27/2016 9:36 PM  |
| 73       | Public town pool  | 10/12/2016 10:18 PM |
| 74       | NO  | 10/6/2016 8:03 AM   |
| 75       | town owned  | 10/4/2016 7:40 PM   |
| 76       | Indoor pool   | 10/4/2016 7:46 AM   |
| 77       | A splash pad  | 10/3/2016 9:05 PM   |
| 78       | Someplace outside to swim   | 10/3/2016 7:55 PM   |
| 79       | We could definitely use a pool. The BSU pool's hours aren't helpful.  | 10/3/2016 7:12 PM   |
| 80       | Outdoor pool!!!   | 10/3/2016 6:37 PM   |
| 81       | That would be great for swimming lessons and exercise.  | 10/3/2016 6:29 PM   |
| 82       | Huge need.  | 10/3/2016 5:17 PM   |
| 83       | Yes   | 10/3/2016 4:52 PM   |
| 84       | Public outdoor pool   | 10/3/2016 4:36 PM   |
| 85       | TOWN POOL   | 10/3/2016 4:28 PM   |
| 86       | Public pool   | 10/3/2016 12:41 PM  |
| 87       | Public use indoor lap pool (BSU doesn't have great hours)   | 10/3/2016 12:02 PM  |
| <b>#</b> | <b>Ice skating rink</b>   | <b>Date</b>         |
| 1        | An outdoor rink option would be nice.   | 11/16/2016 11:40 PM |
| 2        | Yes   | 11/15/2016 9:58 PM  |
| 3        | town run rink, possible outdoor skating facility, synthetix ice or inline sport court rink  | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 4        | Yes   | 11/15/2016 8:50 PM  |
| 5        | This would be great!  | 11/15/2016 7:39 PM  |
| 6        | BIA is a great facility   | 11/15/2016 12:19 PM |



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| 7  | Already have one   | 11/15/2016 6:54 AM  |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 8  | no   | 11/15/2016 6:49 AM  |
| 9  | Would be nice  | 11/14/2016 11:14 PM |
| 10 | 5  | 11/14/2016 10:17 PM |
| 11 | this would be nice   | 11/14/2016 12:17 PM |
| 12 | Fun  | 11/7/2016 7:18 PM   |
| 13 | X  | 11/7/2016 4:20 PM   |
| 14 | yes  | 11/7/2016 2:58 PM   |
| 15 | Redundant  | 11/7/2016 10:30 AM  |
| 16 | already have one   | 11/6/2016 10:19 PM  |
| 17 | Yes, please.   | 11/6/2016 9:46 PM   |
| 18 | Yes  | 11/6/2016 6:05 PM   |
| 19 | Yes  | 11/6/2016 2:47 PM   |
| 20 | This would be fun  | 11/6/2016 1:10 PM   |
| 21 | This would be amazing!   | 11/5/2016 7:41 PM   |
| 22 | Public during the winter pond ex   | 11/4/2016 11:08 PM  |
| 23 | We have one, but access to it is only by car. Perhaps we need a "real" shuttle bus for the town.   | 11/4/2016 7:58 PM   |
| 24 | Yes  | 11/4/2016 5:46 PM   |
| 25 | Need another   | 11/4/2016 3:50 PM   |
| 26 | Good clean fun to get kids and adults out of the house and active during the winter months. Isn't this fairly cheap?                       | 10/31/2016 12:13 PM |
| 27 | This is too seasonal   | 10/31/2016 12:11 PM |
| 28 | Area that could be seasonal possible offered by the rec department outdoors  | 10/5/2016 12:19 PM  |
| 29 | outdoor rink or clear off pond ice   | 10/3/2016 7:55 PM   |
| 30 | X  | 10/3/2016 7:16 PM   |
| 31 | Definite need. There are very few public skate times available at the ice arena.   | 10/3/2016 5:17 PM   |
| #  | Dog park   | Date                |
| 1  | This is definitely a necessity. Far too often, I see people walking their dogs at the Crescent St Fields where my child plays. It's GROSS. | 2/9/2017 11:23 AM   |
| 2  | Yes  | 11/21/2016 5:16 AM  |
| 3  | Yes  | 11/19/2016 1:12 PM  |
| 4  | Yes  | 11/17/2016 11:01 AM |
| 5  | Definitely a dog park or friendly area to exercise our pets  | 11/16/2016 11:40 PM |
| 6  | This would be great so people would have a designated place to walk their dog  | 11/16/2016 6:10 PM  |
| 7  | We could really use a dog park   | 11/16/2016 4:23 PM  |
| 8  | x  | 11/16/2016 2:36 PM  |
| 9  | That might be nice   | 11/15/2016 10:39 PM |
| 10 | I would love an area to take my dog!!  | 11/15/2016 10:06 PM |
| 11 | Yes  | 11/15/2016 10:03 PM |
| 12 | Would love a dog park  | 11/15/2016 9:30 PM  |
| 13 | Yes  | 11/15/2016 9:24 PM  |
| 14 | Would be nice so people don't keep bringing them to Marathon Park  | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |

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|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 15 | Would be a much needed addition   | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 16 | Yes   | 11/15/2016 8:51 PM  |
| 17 | Dog Park  | 11/15/2016 8:30 PM  |
| 18 | Definitely a dog park. One section for small then a separate for large. Bathrooms. Trash, water fountain for animals and humans. Bench for humans. Also a place that can shade animals on a hot day | 11/15/2016 8:04 PM  |
| 19 | A dog park would be wonderful   | 11/15/2016 7:39 PM  |
| 20 | Need one  | 11/15/2016 6:52 PM  |
| 21 | Yes!!   | 11/15/2016 6:24 PM  |
| 22 | Yes   | 11/15/2016 4:36 PM  |
| 23 | This would be very cool.  | 11/15/2016 4:03 PM  |
| 24 | none in town  | 11/15/2016 3:14 PM  |
| 25 | Need desperately  | 11/15/2016 2:50 PM  |
| 26 | Dog Park (indoor/outdoor)   | 11/15/2016 1:34 PM  |
| 27 | this would be a welcome feature in the community  | 11/15/2016 12:51 PM |
| 28 | Dog park  | 11/15/2016 11:44 AM |
| 29 | Please.   | 11/15/2016 11:00 AM |
| 30 | yes!  | 11/15/2016 9:54 AM  |
| 31 | dog park, walking area  | 11/15/2016 9:08 AM  |
| 32 | a place where dogs can roam off lease and be able to meet people would be great   | 11/15/2016 8:44 AM  |
| 33 | Yes   | 11/15/2016 7:48 AM  |
| 34 | Yes yes yes   | 11/15/2016 7:31 AM  |
| 35 | We do not have a designated area and this is needed   | 11/15/2016 7:30 AM  |
| 36 | Dog park would be excellent   | 11/15/2016 7:21 AM  |
| 37 | A dog park would be a great addition.   | 11/15/2016 6:55 AM  |
| 38 | Yes   | 11/15/2016 6:49 AM  |
| 39 | Would be nice   | 11/14/2016 11:14 PM |
| 40 | 6   | 11/14/2016 10:17 PM |
| 41 | Yes   | 11/8/2016 6:25 AM   |
| 42 | Yes!  | 11/8/2016 12:11 AM  |
| 43 | Yes would be great!   | 11/7/2016 7:18 PM   |
| 44 | Yes   | 11/7/2016 5:37 PM   |
| 45 | absolutely NO   | 11/7/2016 2:58 PM   |
| 46 | Lots of dogs in B'water, but no space to play. Increase license fee to offset some costs.   | 11/7/2016 1:47 PM   |
| 47 | Yes   | 11/7/2016 11:53 AM  |
| 48 | I hear this all the time. I don't even have a dog but I know we need a dog park.  | 11/7/2016 11:05 AM  |
| 49 | That would be great   | 11/7/2016 10:30 AM  |
| 50 | yes!  | 11/7/2016 10:14 AM  |
| 51 | YES!  | 11/7/2016 9:14 AM   |
| 52 | yes   | 11/7/2016 8:49 AM   |
| 53 | great idea  | 11/6/2016 10:19 PM  |
| 54 | Fenced area for dogs  | 11/6/2016 8:47 PM   |

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|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 55 | dog park, or fenced area in a common area for dogs off leash  | 11/6/2016 5:51 PM   |
| 56 | Dog Park  | 11/6/2016 4:23 PM   |
| 57 | Would love a dog park   | 11/6/2016 4:09 PM   |
| 58 | Waste of taxpayers money...you have a dog walk them on the streets  | 11/6/2016 3:51 PM   |
| 59 | This would be nice  | 11/6/2016 3:39 PM   |
| 60 | Yes   | 11/6/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 61 | Closed in dog park  | 11/6/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 62 | Yes   | 11/6/2016 2:47 PM   |
| 63 | Yes   | 11/6/2016 1:28 PM   |
| 64 | Would love to see a dog park - look into provincetown - they had the town donate land and trash pick up and raised money for the rest . It is voted one of the best in the country. | 11/6/2016 1:10 PM   |
| 65 | Dog park would be great   | 11/5/2016 9:51 PM   |
| 66 | Having one would make the town much cleaner   | 11/5/2016 9:33 PM   |
| 67 | I think many people would like space to let their dogs play and run!!   | 11/5/2016 7:41 PM   |
| 68 | Would love to see this happen .   | 11/5/2016 12:33 PM  |
| 69 | yes   | 11/5/2016 12:30 PM  |
| 70 | Safe location for dogs to run, be off leash   | 11/5/2016 11:45 AM  |
| 71 | This would be a great addition  | 11/5/2016 9:57 AM   |
| 72 | Lots of Dogs in town. I've seen Facebook posts of people wanting this.  | 11/5/2016 9:49 AM   |
| 73 | 1 or 2  | 11/5/2016 9:32 AM   |
| 74 | We don't have a dog, but people ask for this on Facebook all the time   | 11/5/2016 9:28 AM   |
| 75 | Yes   | 11/5/2016 1:23 AM   |
| 76 | nice idea where dogs can be off leash and are able to run   | 11/4/2016 10:06 PM  |
| 77 | Dog park  | 11/4/2016 9:06 PM   |
| 78 | dog park  | 11/4/2016 8:32 PM   |
| 79 | Yes, that would be great! Must be managed though.   | 11/4/2016 7:58 PM   |
| 80 | Yes   | 11/4/2016 6:01 PM   |
| 81 | Yes   | 11/4/2016 5:46 PM   |
| 82 | Would be amazing!!!!  | 11/4/2016 3:50 PM   |
| 83 | a dog park  | 11/4/2016 3:46 PM   |
| 84 | Yes   | 11/2/2016 11:50 AM  |
| 85 | YES PLEASE  | 11/1/2016 10:02 PM  |
| 86 | Yes yes yes   | 10/31/2016 12:35 PM |
| 87 | There is growing demand for this  | 10/31/2016 12:13 PM |
| 88 | Nice idea but who cleans this when dog owners do not?   | 10/31/2016 12:11 PM |
| 89 | Yes   | 10/31/2016 10:52 AM |
| 90 | same location but divided for convenience/accommodation of smaller and larger dogs  | 10/28/2016 3:49 PM  |
| 91 | x   | 10/28/2016 3:34 PM  |
| 92 | Several areas   | 10/27/2016 9:36 PM  |
| 93 | Yes   | 10/18/2016 4:53 AM  |

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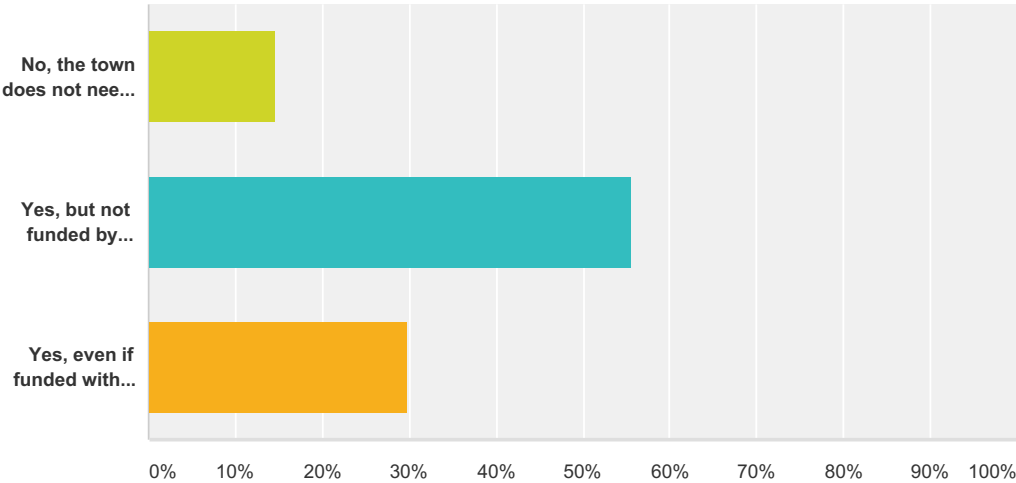
|          |   |                     |
|----------|---|---------------------|
| 94       | It would shut up the dog owners who think that the town should provide for the dogs they chose to have, but don't want to walk with.  | 10/13/2016 10:20 AM |
| 95       | Yes   | 10/12/2016 9:55 PM  |
| 96       | In a number of areas  | 10/12/2016 9:02 AM  |
| 97       | No  | 10/6/2016 8:03 AM   |
| 98       | A dog park would be a great idea.   | 10/5/2016 10:27 PM  |
| 99       | Designated area for dogs to play and relieve themselves.  | 10/5/2016 12:19 PM  |
| 100      | Jenny Leonard would be perfect  | 10/3/2016 10:25 PM  |
| 101      | My biggest wish. Use some prison land.  | 10/3/2016 7:55 PM   |
| 102      | I've heard others talking about wanting a dog park. If I had a dog, I probably would, too!  | 10/3/2016 7:12 PM   |
| 103      | Yes - provides an opportunity for community byielding and a way to meet people that doesn't revolve around children   | 10/3/2016 6:37 PM   |
| 104      | Would be great to be able to let dogs play.   | 10/3/2016 6:29 PM   |
| 105      | yes!  | 10/3/2016 5:22 PM   |
| 106      | Yes   | 10/3/2016 4:52 PM   |
| 107      | we need three or four widely spaced locations to serve the most dense populations. town clerck off can give you a set of addresses that have licensed dogs. this may be the easiest way to identify areas with high demand. | 10/3/2016 2:41 PM   |
| 108      | dog park  | 10/3/2016 1:06 PM   |
| 109      | Yes,  | 10/3/2016 12:41 PM  |
| 110      | Needed  | 10/3/2016 11:40 AM  |
| <b>#</b> | <b>Other</b>  | <b>Date</b>         |
| 1        | Open areas for jogging,walking  | 11/23/2016 7:30 AM  |
| 2        | Companies building near Lake Nippenicket should fund some recreational improvements to the lakefront for the use of the town.   | 11/21/2016 5:16 AM  |
| 3        | More houses being built cherry st and curve st, tons more kids coming!  | 11/19/2016 1:12 PM  |
| 4        | A lot of money gets paid to private owner of dome, would be nice if that money went to the town instead   | 11/16/2016 1:29 PM  |
| 5        | Picnic/Scenic areas   | 11/16/2016 12:50 PM |
| 6        | Adding viewing stands to legion field   | 11/16/2016 9:39 AM  |
| 7        | Paved biking/hiking/walking trails  | 11/15/2016 10:03 PM |
| 8        | Community garden  | 11/15/2016 9:30 PM  |
| 9        | Bike and walking trails   | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 10       | a community gym / fitness facility  | 11/15/2016 8:59 PM  |
| 11       | Hiking trails   | 11/15/2016 6:52 PM  |
| 12       | Park  | 11/15/2016 4:36 PM  |
| 13       | None  | 11/15/2016 4:33 PM  |
| 14       | Center for teens / adults to learn things like computer coding.   | 11/15/2016 4:03 PM  |
| 15       | Skate Park  | 11/15/2016 12:19 PM |
| 16       | Swimming area and picnic area at the Nip  | 11/15/2016 10:58 AM |
| 17       | Tennis courts; walking track not tied to a school for public use; bike paths  | 11/15/2016 9:29 AM  |
| 18       | Bike path/sidewalks   | 11/15/2016 7:53 AM  |
| 19       | Trails  | 11/15/2016 7:34 AM  |
| 20       | Archery range for sport shooting  | 11/15/2016 7:21 AM  |
| 21       | Bike and walking paths  | 11/15/2016 7:16 AM  |

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|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 22 | Hatch shell for music, plays, and dance   | 11/15/2016 7:00 AM  |
| 23 | Bike trail  | 11/14/2016 11:27 PM |
| 24 | walking trails for strollers and kids on bikes, more sidewalks  | 11/14/2016 9:17 PM  |
| 25 | new playGROUND AFTER rAINBOW IS TORN DOWN.  | 11/14/2016 12:17 PM |
| 26 | Something at the north street entrance to BR for young kids   | 11/8/2016 10:46 PM  |
| 27 | Off road bike trails and hiking/walking trails  | 11/8/2016 6:25 AM   |
| 28 | i think a food truck area, all together with space to picnic, frisbee, play music etc would be great. Near college  | 11/7/2016 7:18 PM   |
| 29 | Running/bike path   | 11/7/2016 2:19 PM   |
| 30 | Walking, biking, running, rollerblading trails. It is very dangerous when people do these things on the side of the road, often in the dark or in sub-prime weather conditions. | 11/7/2016 11:05 AM  |
| 31 | walking/jogging trails!   | 11/7/2016 10:14 AM  |
| 32 | Hiking trails   | 11/6/2016 2:47 PM   |
| 33 | I know there were issues in the past, but a skateboarding park would be great.  | 11/5/2016 9:28 AM   |
| 34 | Rc track and repair, atv/dirt bike trails   | 11/5/2016 1:23 AM   |
| 35 | more locations similar to Carver's Pond for walking hiking  | 11/4/2016 10:06 PM  |
| 36 | Maintain existing parks & recreation  | 11/4/2016 9:06 PM   |
| 37 | A park with walking trails, accessible, etc., to hold our annual festivals, outdoor music events, etc.  | 11/4/2016 7:58 PM   |
| 38 | Shuffle board , volley ball courts , bike paths , checker/chess   | 11/4/2016 5:21 PM   |
| 39 | bike trails   | 11/4/2016 3:46 PM   |
| 40 | paved walking paths, lengthy enough to enjoy longer walks safely off the roadway  | 10/28/2016 3:49 PM  |
| 41 | hiking, archery range?, camping spots   | 10/28/2016 3:34 PM  |
| 42 | Hiking areas/walking trails/ picnic spaces  | 10/18/2016 4:53 AM  |
| 43 | The town is growing by leaps and bounds. We need all of the above.  | 10/12/2016 9:57 PM  |
| 44 | splash pad  | 10/5/2016 1:02 PM   |
| 45 | Connected bike and walking path, better access to the rivers.   | 10/5/2016 12:19 PM  |
| 46 | Open fields, walking trails   | 10/4/2016 8:29 AM   |
| 47 | Bike paths  | 10/4/2016 7:46 AM   |
| 48 | town has walking trails, public not informed  | 10/3/2016 10:25 PM  |
| 49 | More passive recreation. Quite places for reflection  | 10/3/2016 8:44 PM   |
| 50 | More walking trails.  | 10/3/2016 7:12 PM   |
| 51 | Walking and bike trails   | 10/3/2016 4:36 PM   |
| 52 | BIKING AND WALKING TRAILS AS WELL AS SIDEWALKS  | 10/3/2016 4:28 PM   |
| 53 | maintain and increase open space for hiking, nature, etc.   | 10/3/2016 2:40 PM   |
| 54 | Cohesive trail system   | 10/3/2016 2:37 PM   |
| 55 | Indoor location for dance and music performances--an "indoor alley."  | 10/3/2016 12:55 PM  |
| 56 | biking and walking trails   | 10/3/2016 12:51 PM  |
| 57 | Bike path   | 10/3/2016 12:41 PM  |

**Q8 Do you favor converting town-owned properties into recreation facilities or purchasing available properties (e.g. undeveloped land) for additional active recreation needs?**

Answered: 301 Skipped: 55

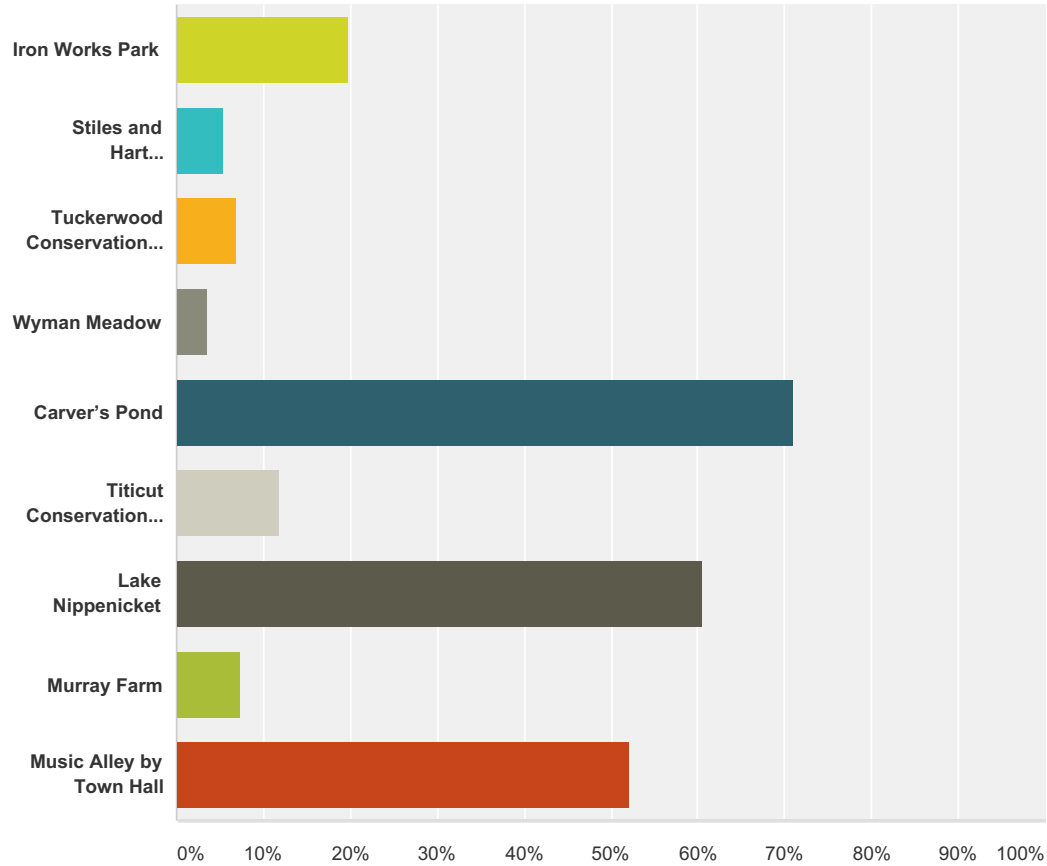


| Answer Choices   | Responses |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| No, the town does not need additional active recreation land | 14.62%    | 44  |
| Yes, but not funded by higher taxes                          | 55.48%    | 167 |
| Yes, even if funded with higher taxes                        | 29.90%    | 90  |
| Total  |           | 301 |



**Q9 What are your TOP THREE favorite passive recreation/conservation areas in town? Choose up to three.**

Answered: 276 Skipped: 80



| Answer Choices                    | Responses  |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Iron Works Park                   | 19.93% 55  |
| Stiles and Hart Conservation Area | 5.43% 15   |
| Tuckerwood Conservation Area      | 6.88% 19   |
| Wyman Meadow                      | 3.62% 10   |
| Carver's Pond                     | 71.01% 196 |
| Titicut Conservation Parkland     | 11.96% 33  |
| Lake Nippenicket                  | 60.51% 167 |
| Murray Farm                       | 7.25% 20   |
| Music Alley by Town Hall          | 52.17% 144 |
| <b>Total Respondents: 276</b>     |            |

| # | Other (please specify) | Date |
|---|------------------------|------|
|---|------------------------|------|

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

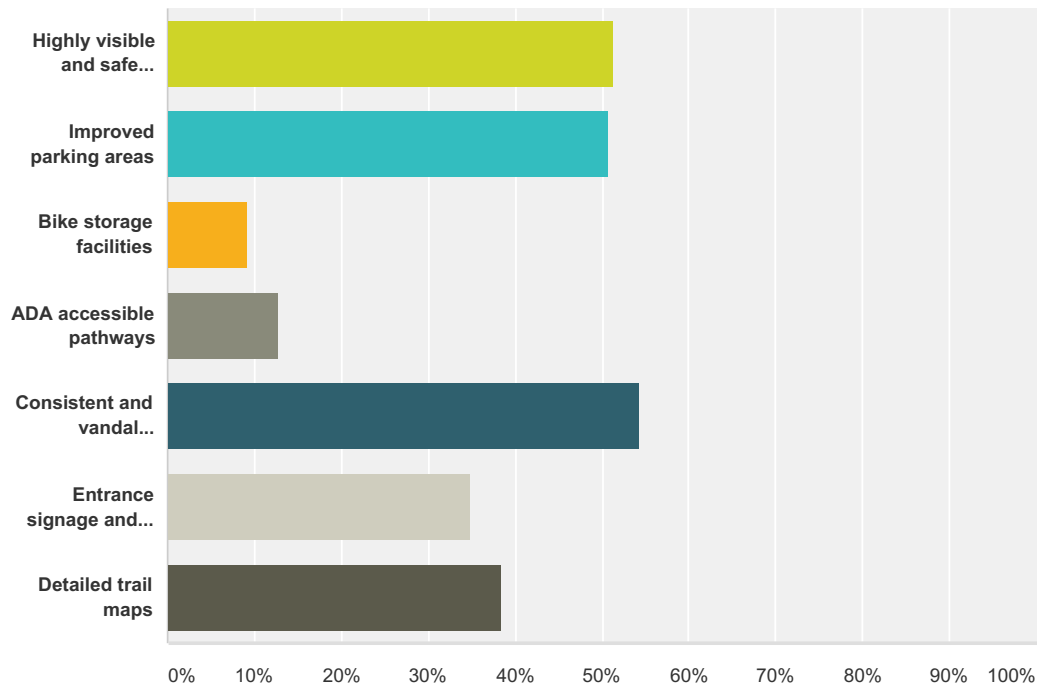
|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1  | Great River Preserve  | 11/22/2016 11:31 PM |
| 2  | Have never visited any of these parks with my 3 kids. My time here I'm Bridgewater is at legion field spring thru fall.   | 11/20/2016 12:54 AM |
| 3  | I don't even know where most of these are. I didn't know they existed.  | 11/16/2016 8:26 AM  |
| 4  | I've never used any of them and am not sure where MOST are located. (Have lived in Bridgewater for 25 years).   | 11/16/2016 5:31 AM  |
| 5  | Never heard of some. Would be great to have site that lists all with street addresses   | 11/15/2016 2:13 PM  |
| 6  | Possibly walking/biking trails around the nip   | 11/15/2016 2:06 PM  |
| 7  | Wild land trust on Auburn street  | 11/15/2016 1:27 PM  |
| 8  | I moved to Bridgewater 1.5 years ago and am only familiar with Carver Pond and Music Alley. It would be nice if there was some kind of Welcome Packet distributed to new home owners with information about Bridgewater. I feel as though the Town website does do not a good job of promoting all that Bridgewater has to offer.   | 11/15/2016 12:47 PM |
| 9  | Have not heard of half of these places  | 11/15/2016 12:06 PM |
| 10 | I don't know any by name  | 11/15/2016 10:22 AM |
| 11 | Hanson farm   | 11/15/2016 8:39 AM  |
| 12 | I know nothing about the other places.  | 11/15/2016 8:05 AM  |
| 13 | Town Center memorials and fountain outside Academy Building   | 11/15/2016 4:21 AM  |
| 14 | I don't use any of these and actually have never heard of most and have lived here for almost 20 years! I think music alley was a stupid addition. If the center of town was worth going to then maybe, but the town center has a bunch of useless stores that no one shops at. Parking is awful never mind just driving through that area. The Nip doesn't have any value unless you canoe or kayak. There are no actual trails to walk, you can't swim there. How about offering boating there in the summer. Learn to kayak or sail? Make it a place people want to go with trails and some open space . | 11/15/2016 12:12 AM |
| 15 | Add parking to Titcut Parkland  | 11/14/2016 11:55 PM |
| 16 | Hard to pick just 3. Also, haven't been to all.   | 11/14/2016 11:21 PM |
| 17 | Would like a drudging funding and execution at the Nip. Return this area to a swimming friendly venue and vastly scale down tournament fishing. Make the Nip only accessible view town sticker/permit. Annual fee for sticker to help upkeep. This would help the allure of the town and provide a great recreational focal point in the town!  | 11/14/2016 1:26 PM  |
| 18 | aUBURN sT. CONSERVATION LAND  | 11/14/2016 4:19 AM  |
| 19 | The town should put together a mailer to let people know what these places are and why  | 11/8/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 20 | Never been to any   | 11/8/2016 12:25 AM  |
| 21 | I don't know most of those places   | 11/7/2016 11:18 PM  |
| 22 | Don't think most people know about the others or what to do at them.  | 11/7/2016 11:20 AM  |
| 23 | I can't decide! They are all wonderful. But the best is the stretch of road on Summer Street between the corn fields. I wish it were safer.   | 11/7/2016 3:08 AM   |
| 24 | You really should have included a location. Not all residents know them by names.   | 11/6/2016 9:35 AM   |
| 25 | Area at end of Auburn St.   | 11/5/2016 3:47 AM   |
| 26 | I can't choose three because I only know of the Lake. And it's nasty.   | 11/5/2016 2:00 AM   |
| 27 | Besides Lakle Nippenicket I've not heard of the others. I'm now going to check the town website & the internet for more info about where they are & what's available there. If we don't advertise these places, we should.  | 11/5/2016 1:53 AM   |
| 28 | Congratulations with the Music Alley... we need many more of these types of events downtown.  | 11/4/2016 12:01 PM  |
| 29 | These are not listed in the Parks and Facilities page of the town website. I want to be familiar with some of these, but the town is not supporting me in this. :(  | 11/4/2016 7:53 AM   |
| 30 | I don't even know where most of these are. Is there a map easily found on the Town web site? There should be.   | 11/1/2016 2:04 PM   |
| 31 | Great River Preserve  | 10/31/2016 4:43 AM  |
| 32 | Haven't been to any of these, didn't know 6 even existed  | 10/31/2016 4:37 AM  |
| 33 | The Great River Preserve is by far the nicest place for outdoor passive recreation.   | 10/31/2016 4:15 AM  |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 34 | Great River Preserve   | 10/31/2016 3:00 AM |
| 35 | Great River Preserve   | 10/21/2016 2:13 AM |
| 36 | Music Alley is a great option, also- not everyone wishes to run and jump and compete, and another option for using the downtown area for social//cultural options is a good one.   | 10/13/2016 2:30 AM |
| 37 | Don't use any  | 10/12/2016 1:56 PM |
| 38 | When the Bridgewater Preserve and the Letohla properties are joined together ( over 150 acres ) a running trail can be made and done by the trail runners group, BR cross country, BSU , and local residents also cross country skiing | 10/3/2016 2:40 PM  |
| 39 | Wildland Trust land on Auburn St.  | 10/3/2016 11:58 AM |
| 40 | Again, never heard of most of these places. This survey should have defined active/passive use...I ride my bike at carver, that doesn't seem passive.  | 10/3/2016 10:39 AM |
| 41 | NEED OPEN SPACE FOR NATURE!  | 10/3/2016 8:30 AM  |
| 42 | Wild lands trust. Do you people even live in Bridgewater? To not put that on the list yet put music alley (which is not passive recreation/conservation) is a travesty.  | 10/3/2016 7:28 AM  |
| 43 | Great River Reserve.   | 10/3/2016 6:41 AM  |

**Q10 In general, what do you think are the TOP THREE most needed improvements to the town's existing passive recreation/conservation areas? Choose up to three.**

Answered: 284 Skipped: 72



| Answer Choices  | Responses |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Highly visible and safe vehicular and pedestrian entrances  | 51.41%    | 146 |
| Improved parking areas  | 50.70%    | 144 |
| Bike storage facilities   | 9.15%     | 26  |
| ADA accessible pathways   | 12.68%    | 36  |
| Consistent and vandal resistant furnishings such as benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles | 54.23%    | 154 |
| Entrance signage and uniform interpretive/wayfinding signage                                      | 34.86%    | 99  |
| Detailed trail maps   | 38.38%    | 109 |
| Total Respondents: 284  |           |     |

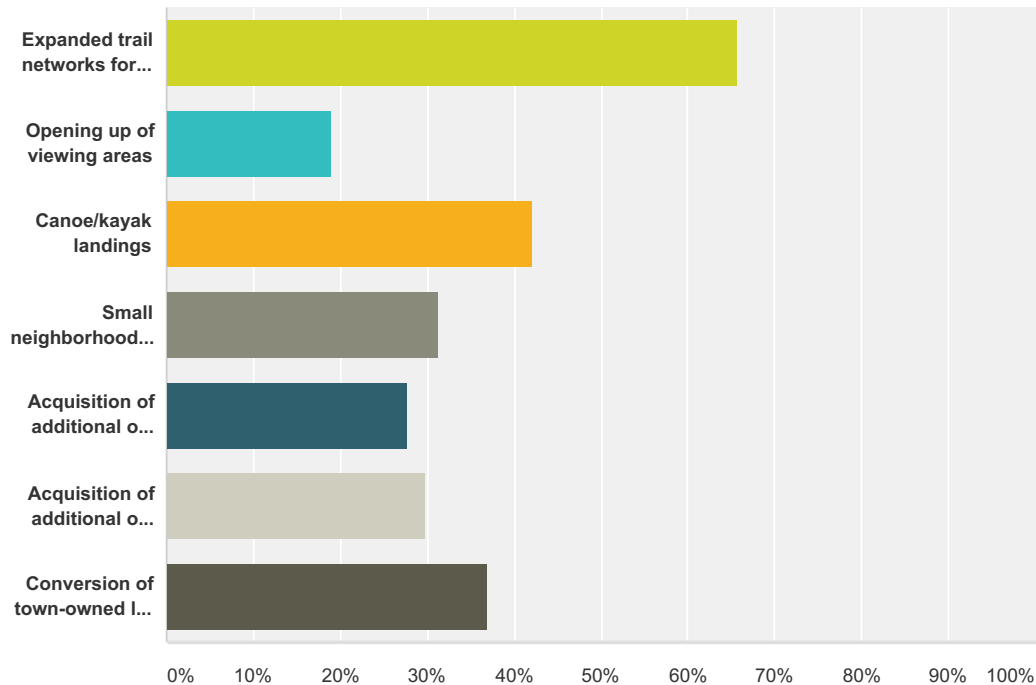
| # | Other (please specify)   | Date                |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Trash removal and police patrols to keep out vandals   | 11/19/2016 1:47 AM  |
| 2 | Better lighting for fields.  | 11/16/2016 4:12 AM  |
| 3 | not sure   | 11/15/2016 3:08 PM  |
| 4 | Detering people from using drugs in public areas with more frequent police presence, keeping areas clean | 11/15/2016 1:34 PM  |
| 5 | Security due to drug activity. Maintenance so that needles used for drugs are at a minimal.              | 11/15/2016 12:45 PM |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 6  | Lighting  | 11/15/2016 12:06 PM |
| 7  | Playground update to legion field cottage street and add one for the middle school.   | 11/15/2016 11:25 AM |
| 8  | Put \$\$ into Mitchell school for bigger facilities for the town to use. Another auditorium would be great  | 11/15/2016 10:26 AM |
| 9  | Detailed maps , walking and bike trails   | 11/15/2016 8:39 AM  |
| 10 | Promote our Town parks better.. there were brochures in the past with locations and info. MORE litter control.. the trash is disgusting on the roads.   | 11/15/2016 8:37 AM  |
| 11 | Advertising to residents so that we know what is available to us.   | 11/15/2016 8:05 AM  |
| 12 | put lights on the big diamond at legion field and replace old lights on small diamond. So many teams play on the big diamond we need more time slots  | 11/15/2016 7:23 AM  |
| 13 | Clear the Nip for recreational public swimming.   | 11/15/2016 6:52 AM  |
| 14 | Portable bathroom at Marathon Park.   | 11/15/2016 6:30 AM  |
| 15 | Bathroom facilities   | 11/14/2016 11:22 PM |
| 16 | Better baseball fields we slack compared to others  | 11/14/2016 2:19 PM  |
| 17 | Maybe some marketing to promote these venues to the townspeople so they know they exist and the benefit of these venues. Maybe pair with the mass Audubon society to have nature classes and promote the value of nature in our surroundings.                         | 11/14/2016 1:26 PM  |
| 18 | sidewalks   | 11/14/2016 1:18 PM  |
| 19 | Would be cool for the NIP to get a big face lift on both the beach side and Rt.104 entrance   | 11/8/2016 2:53 PM   |
| 20 | Community Garden area   | 11/7/2016 11:58 PM  |
| 21 | And how about special events at the locations to entice people to use them  | 11/6/2016 9:35 AM   |
| 22 | Safety  | 11/6/2016 6:48 AM   |
| 23 | It would be nice to have a website or something that lists all the trails in town for hiking. We moved here 2 years ago and are still discovering some.   | 11/6/2016 5:12 AM   |
| 24 | Carvers pond needs trash cans. I went there the other day and instead of trash cans there are plastic bags hanging from benches and trees full of trash.  | 11/4/2016 3:54 PM   |
| 25 | More publicity and community outreach... I have lived in this Town over 33 years and still an surprised we have such locations available to us.   | 11/4/2016 12:01 PM  |
| 26 | A web presence. Town website. Pages on Facebook with signs at each location encouraging visitors to Check-In.   | 11/4/2016 7:53 AM   |
| 27 | paved or compacted stonedust wide pathways for safe and easy walking  | 10/28/2016 7:52 AM  |
| 28 | I think it would be a good goal to choose at least one park that is fairly flat and proactively work to make it ADA accessible, including parking, access and trails.   | 10/21/2016 2:13 AM  |
| 29 | A serious plan for maintenance- even just regular trash removal. Before Rainbow's End was neglected into crap, even the trash barrels were not emptied every day- even though they were over filled every day. Yet all the ball fields all looked like Fenway Park... | 10/13/2016 2:30 AM  |
| 30 | Detailed trail maps   | 10/7/2016 2:13 AM   |
| 31 | I think we need more accessible information about the parks we have, since I'm still not sure how to find all of them.  | 10/3/2016 11:15 AM  |
| 32 | Consistently smooth bike paths  | 10/3/2016 10:39 AM  |
| 33 | Improved hiking/biking trails and bike lanes.   | 10/3/2016 6:41 AM   |

**Q11 What additional passive recreation opportunities do you think the town needs?  
Choose up to three.**

Answered: 284 Skipped: 72



| Answer Choices   | Responses  |
|--|------------|
| Expanded trail networks for walking, off-road biking or cross-country skiing | 65.85% 187 |
| Opening up of viewing areas  | 19.01% 54  |
| Canoe/kayak landings   | 42.25% 120 |
| Small neighborhood picnic parks  | 31.34% 89  |
| Acquisition of additional open land for conservation                         | 27.82% 79  |
| Acquisition of additional open land for agricultural (e.g. community garden) | 29.93% 85  |
| Conversion of town-owned land into passive recreation areas                  | 36.97% 105 |
| <b>Total Respondents: 284</b>  |            |

| # | Other (please specify)  | Date                |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1 | NA  | 11/20/2016 8:54 AM  |
| 2 | Land on 104 donated to town with money years ago still sitting.....   | 11/16/2016 4:41 PM  |
| 3 | None  | 11/16/2016 1:31 PM  |
| 4 | I'd love to see a field designated for boys and girls lacrosse. Baseball, football, soccer, softball.....all have beautiful facilities in town. | 11/15/2016 10:54 PM |
| 5 | Community garden!!!   | 11/15/2016 6:52 PM  |
| 6 | None  | 11/15/2016 4:37 PM  |

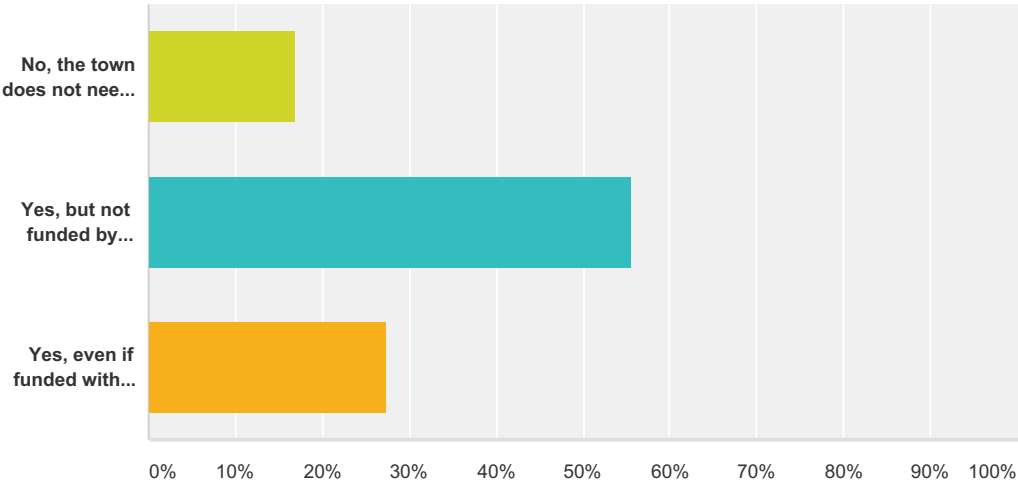


## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 7  | Don't know.   | 11/15/2016 4:05 PM  |
| 8  | Practice facilities for youth sports - football lax and another indoor basketball court (in absence of Mitchell)  | 11/14/2016 11:24 PM |
| 9  | None  | 11/14/2016 10:19 PM |
| 10 | sidewalks   | 11/14/2016 9:18 PM  |
| 11 | Dog park  | 11/7/2016 5:40 PM   |
| 12 | Stop building houses!!!!  | 11/6/2016 2:48 PM   |
| 13 | Not sure  | 11/5/2016 10:00 AM  |
| 14 | an open-space social network  | 11/4/2016 3:53 PM   |
| 15 | I have had some experience with our current community garden- consistent leadership and cooperation by "members" is hard- volunteer jobs that require lots of physical effort and problem solving and equipment acquisition become really tiresome when people expect everything to be ready/ done/ in place instantly, while often not tending their own "gardens" in accordance with regulations. BTW, I was NOT ever a volunteer or manager of a Community Garden- just a gardener at the local one. | 10/13/2016 10:30 AM |
| 16 | It's so sad how land that was supposed to be conservation is now being developed. We need to keep some open areas.  | 10/12/2016 9:59 PM  |

**Q12 Do you favor purchasing supporting acquisition of available properties (e.g. undeveloped land) by conservation minded entities for conservation/passive recreation purposes?**

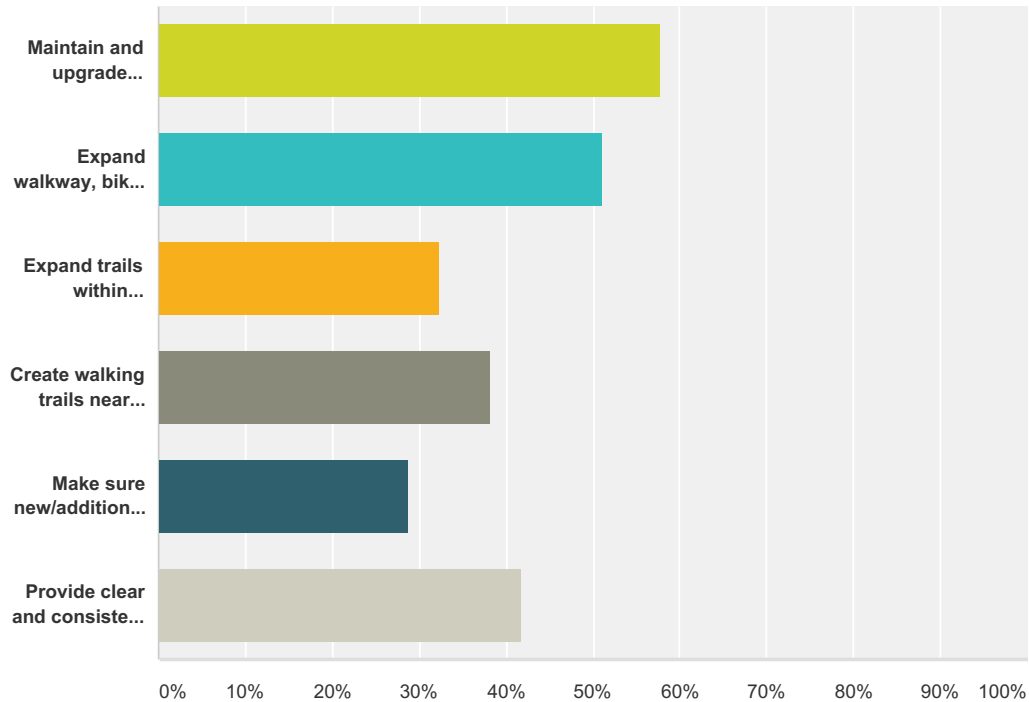
Answered: 288 Skipped: 68



| Answer Choices  | Responses |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| No, the town does not need additional conservation land | 17.01%    | 49  |
| Yes, but not funded by higher taxes                     | 55.56%    | 160 |
| Yes, even if funded with higher taxes                   | 27.43%    | 79  |
| Total   |           | 288 |

**Q13 When creating a comprehensive walkway/bike path/trail system in town, which of the following is most important to you? Choose up to three.**

Answered: 278 Skipped: 78



| Answer Choices   | Responses  |
|--|------------|
| Maintain and upgrade existing walkways, paths and trails   | 57.91% 161 |
| Expand walkway, bike path, and trail connections from neighborhoods to recreation and conservation areas | 51.08% 142 |
| Expand trails within conservation/passive recreation areas (upland and/or riverfront)                    | 32.37% 90  |
| Create walking trails near active recreation facilities  | 38.13% 106 |
| Make sure new/additional walkways and trails are integrated with the existing network                    | 28.78% 80  |
| Provide clear and consistent wayfinding signage and trail marks  | 41.73% 116 |
| <b>Total Respondents: 278</b>  |            |

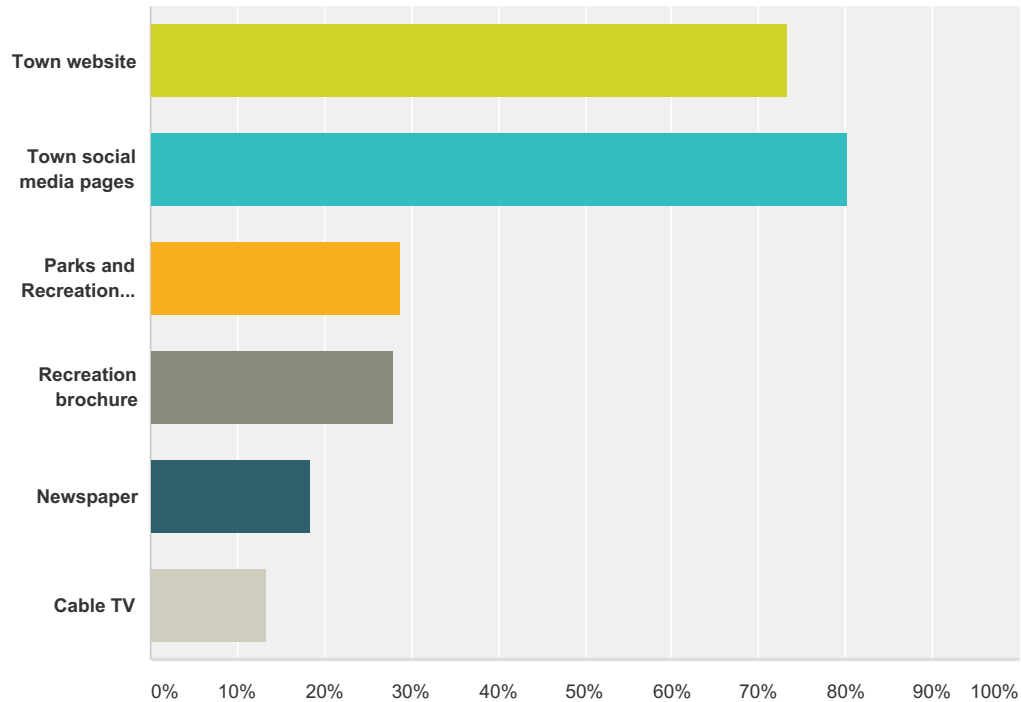
| # | Other (please specify)  | Date               |
|---|---|--------------------|
| 1 | You could get Eagle scout candidates to work on these projects as was done at the BSU trails.   | 11/23/2016 7:33 AM |
| 2 | Handicapped accessible  | 11/16/2016 4:42 PM |
| 3 | Promote the Town parks so residents know where they are.  | 11/15/2016 4:38 PM |
| 4 | Bike paths through neighborhoods can also bring in criminal activity. These need to be well lit and have security cameras to keep users safe. | 11/15/2016 4:06 PM |
| 5 | consider trail along rail; from BSU station to High St.; linking university, our downtown and three parklands                                 | 11/15/2016 3:22 PM |
| 6 | Maybe have some of the trail lighted and paved.   | 11/15/2016 8:17 AM |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 7  | Yep  | 11/8/2016 10:55 PM  |
| 8  | Wish we had paved bike paths off the street.   | 11/7/2016 7:22 PM   |
| 9  | Safety. Street Lighting. Blue emergency lighting (like colleges have.)   | 11/7/2016 11:10 AM  |
| 10 | Some of the trails are very short. We don't walk caver pond often because it is just a short walk.                           | 11/6/2016 1:13 PM   |
| 11 | Our website should list the trails available all throughout Bridgewater.   | 11/4/2016 3:55 PM   |
| 12 | wide enough with suitable material so trails aren't muddy, overgrown or infested with poison ivy or littered with trash.     | 10/28/2016 3:58 PM  |
| 13 | Make sure that trails and trash are maintained regularly. Sadly, people do not always respect the properties they are using. | 10/13/2016 10:33 AM |
| 14 | we can not maintain the recreation areas we have. would be nice to come up with a plan that would address this               | 10/3/2016 9:47 PM   |
| 15 | MAKE BRIDGEWATER ROADS FRIENDLY AND SAFE FOR BIKERS. OUR DOWNTOWN IS SO UNAPPEALING BECAUSE OF ALL THE CARS!!!               | 10/3/2016 6:41 PM   |
| 16 | Signage about a carry in/carry out policy. Leave only footprints type thing.   | 10/3/2016 2:44 PM   |

**Q14 How would you prefer to get information on the town's open space and recreation opportunities? Check all that apply.**

Answered: 278 Skipped: 78



| Answer Choices                  | Responses  |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Town website                    | 73.38% 204 |
| Town social media pages         | 80.22% 223 |
| Parks and Recreation Department | 28.78% 80  |
| Recreation brochure             | 28.06% 78  |
| Newspaper                       | 18.35% 51  |
| Cable TV                        | 13.31% 37  |
| Total Respondents: 278          |            |

| # | Other (please specify)  | Date                |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Mail  | 11/27/2016 11:34 AM |
| 2 | Many people don't use social media - please keep information on town website.   | 11/21/2016 5:18 AM  |
| 3 | Facebook - Bridgewater residents  | 11/15/2016 10:55 PM |
| 4 | Another outlet for distribution of information could be by sending informational packet home with children from school. | 11/15/2016 8:52 PM  |
| 5 | I currently follow "around the common" via e-mail and twitter.  | 11/15/2016 10:22 AM |

## Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2016 - Community Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 6  | I think a brochure sent to every resident with detailed info would be great. Name, location, what activities can be done there, hours, specific directions. If people have it on hand hey are more likely to use it. If they don't know about it, they wont know to look for it on a website, and our town websites are already not the easiest to navigate. | 11/15/2016 8:17 AM  |
| 7  | email  | 11/14/2016 12:20 PM |
| 8  | Details in the mail  | 11/8/2016 10:55 PM  |
| 9  | Would love to have it come in the mail - maybe one of the holiday brochures?   | 11/6/2016 1:13 PM   |
| 10 | Any and all forms of reaching every home owner should be used. The conveyance of information is the important factor in ANY town "project" or improvement. INCLUDING phones. The police use reverse 911 to remind us of EB events and fundraising try using it for our CPA spending  | 10/31/2016 12:20 PM |
| 11 | Facebook Bridgewater residents page  | 10/12/2016 9:57 PM  |
| 12 | A program showing the different recreation areas an what is offered at those locations.  | 10/12/2016 9:13 AM  |
| 13 | email  | 10/3/2016 5:19 PM   |



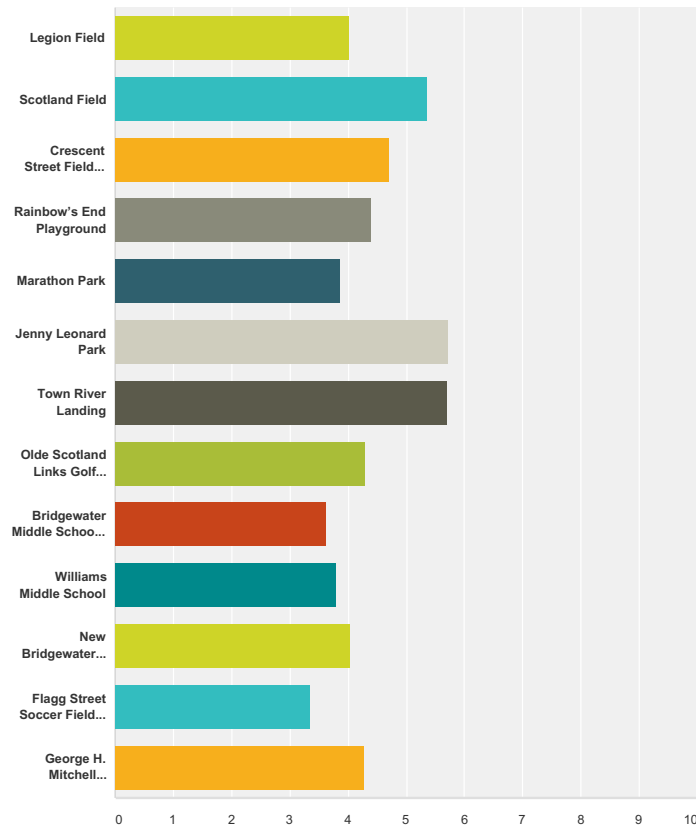
## **Appendix II:**

### Recreation Needs Assessment Community Survey Results Summary

# Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

**Q1 Which of the following recreation facilities do you use on a regular basis and how often do you use them? Choose all that apply.**

Answered: 122 Skipped: 5

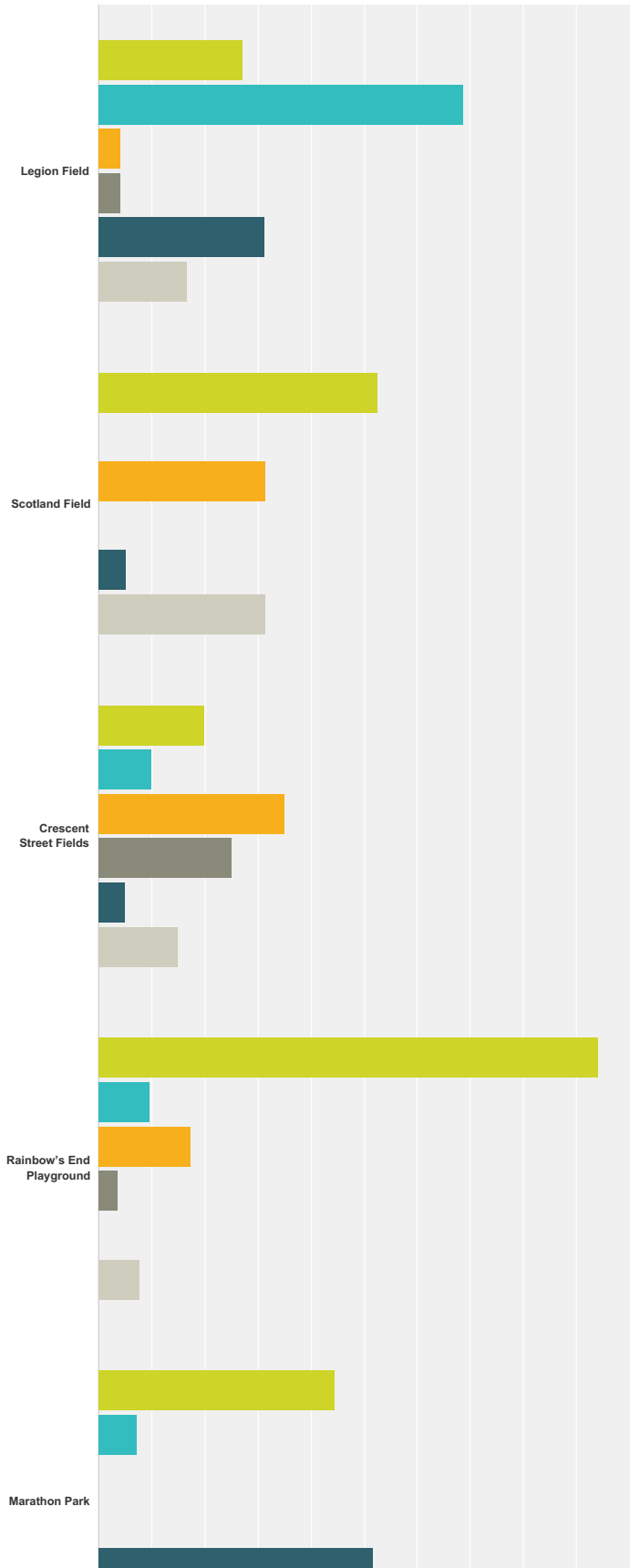


|  | Daily        | Weekly       | Bi-weekly    | Monthly      | Once in a while | I'm not aware of this recreation resource in town. | N/A          | Total | Weighted Average |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--|--------------|-------|------------------|
| Legion Field   | 5.77%<br>6   | 7.69%<br>8   | 2.88%<br>3   | 10.58%<br>11 | 31.73%<br>33    | 2.88%<br>3   | 38.46%<br>40 | 104   | 4.03             |
| Scotland Field   | 0.00%<br>0   | 1.05%<br>1   | 0.00%<br>0   | 1.05%<br>1   | 21.05%<br>20    | 20.00%<br>19                                       | 56.84%<br>54 | 95    | 5.37             |
| Crescent Street Fields (former Hogg's Farm)  | 1.02%<br>1   | 6.12%<br>6   | 1.02%<br>1   | 6.12%<br>6   | 24.49%<br>24    | 15.31%<br>15                                       | 45.92%<br>45 | 98    | 4.72             |
| Rainbow's End Playground   | 0.00%<br>0   | 3.13%<br>3   | 4.17%<br>4   | 7.29%<br>7   | 16.67%<br>16    | 4.17%<br>4   | 64.58%<br>62 | 96    | 4.41             |
| Marathon Park  | 2.80%<br>3   | 12.15%<br>13 | 11.21%<br>12 | 17.76%<br>19 | 20.56%<br>22    | 6.54%<br>7   | 28.97%<br>31 | 107   | 3.86             |
| Jenny Leonard Park   | 0.00%<br>0   | 0.00%<br>0   | 1.06%<br>1   | 4.26%<br>4   | 6.38%<br>6      | 50.00%<br>47                                       | 38.30%<br>36 | 94    | 5.71             |
| Town River Landing   | 0.00%<br>0   | 0.00%<br>0   | 1.06%<br>1   | 2.13%<br>2   | 9.57%<br>9      | 44.68%<br>42                                       | 42.55%<br>40 | 94    | 5.70             |
| Olde Scotland Links Golf Course (Town-owned)   | 2.08%<br>2   | 5.21%<br>5   | 5.21%<br>5   | 11.46%<br>11 | 21.88%<br>21    | 8.33%<br>8   | 45.83%<br>44 | 96    | 4.31             |
| Bridgewater Middle School (former Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School)                      | 14.14%<br>14 | 6.06%<br>6   | 2.02%<br>2   | 3.03%<br>3   | 24.24%<br>24    | 6.06%<br>6   | 44.44%<br>44 | 99    | 3.64             |
| Williams Middle School   | 9.47%<br>9   | 2.11%<br>2   | 2.11%<br>2   | 4.21%<br>4   | 14.74%<br>14    | 6.32%<br>6   | 61.05%<br>58 | 95    | 3.81             |
| New Bridgewater Raynham High School  | 4.00%<br>4   | 6.00%<br>6   | 7.00%<br>7   | 7.00%<br>7   | 24.00%<br>24    | 5.00%<br>5   | 47.00%<br>47 | 100   | 4.06             |
| Flagg Street Soccer Fields (owned by DOC and leased back to Town)                                | 3.88%<br>4   | 19.42%<br>20 | 6.80%<br>7   | 3.88%<br>4   | 18.45%<br>19    | 1.94%<br>2   | 45.63%<br>47 | 103   | 3.36             |
| George H. Mitchell Elementary School (roof collapsed in 2015, not in service for next 2-3 years) | 2.06%<br>2   | 1.03%<br>1   | 4.12%<br>4   | 4.12%<br>4   | 11.34%<br>11    | 4.12%<br>4   | 73.20%<br>71 | 97    | 4.27             |

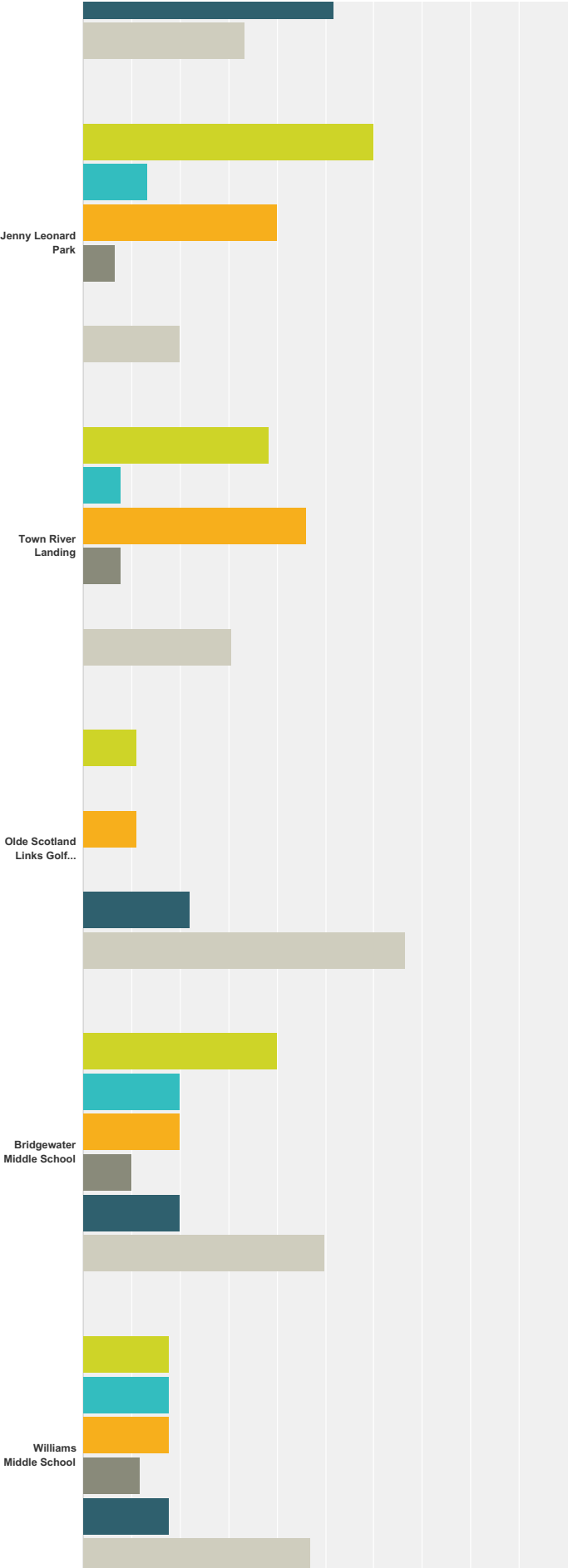
Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

Q2 What issues have you found in using these recreation facilities, if any? Choose all that apply.

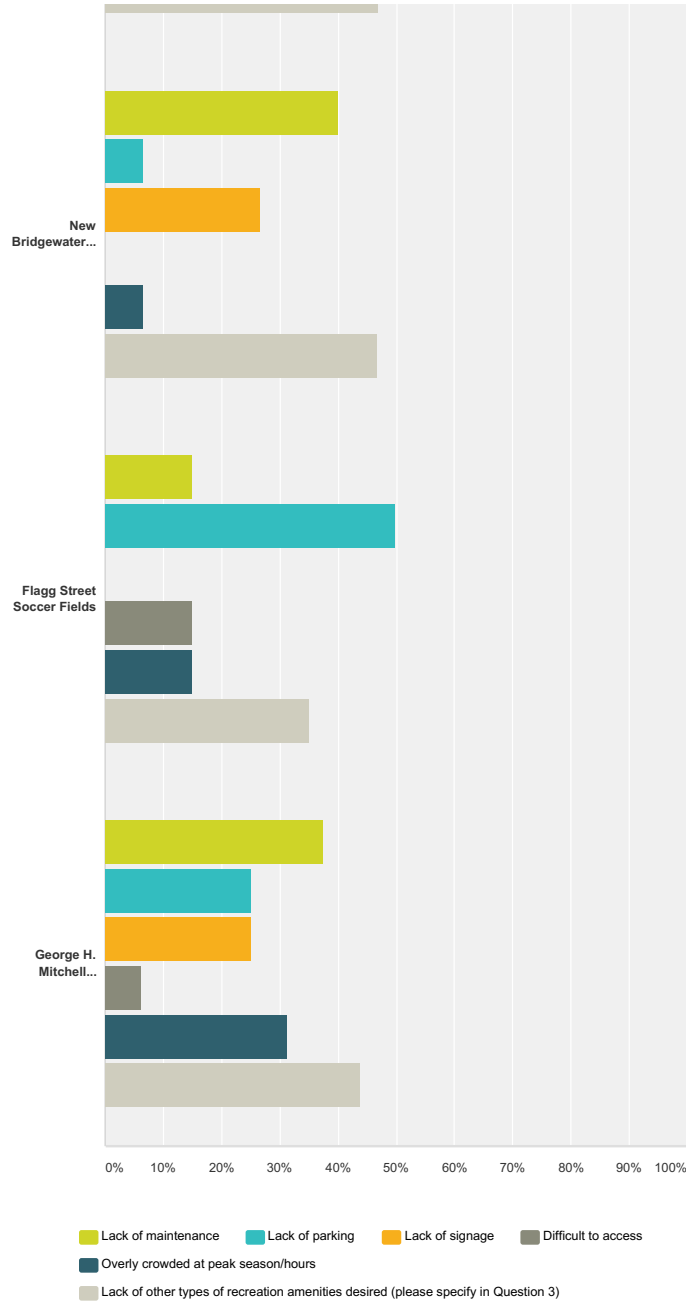
Answered: 76 Skipped: 51



Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey



## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey



|                                 | Lack of maintenance | Lack of parking | Lack of signage | Difficult to access | Overly crowded at peak season/hours | Lack of other types of recreation amenities desired (please specify in Question 3) | Total Respondents |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Legion Field                    | 27.08%<br>13        | 68.75%<br>33    | 4.17%<br>2      | 4.17%<br>2          | 31.25%<br>15                        | 16.67%<br>8  | 48                |
| Scotland Field                  | 52.63%<br>10        | 0.00%<br>0      | 31.58%<br>6     | 0.00%<br>0          | 5.26%<br>1                          | 31.58%<br>6  | 19                |
| Crescent Street Fields          | 20.00%<br>4         | 10.00%<br>2     | 35.00%<br>7     | 25.00%<br>5         | 5.00%<br>1                          | 15.00%<br>3  | 20                |
| Rainbow's End Playground        | 94.23%<br>49        | 9.62%<br>5      | 17.31%<br>9     | 3.85%<br>2          | 0.00%<br>0                          | 7.69%<br>4   | 52                |
| Marathon Park                   | 44.44%<br>12        | 7.41%<br>2      | 0.00%<br>0      | 0.00%<br>0          | 51.85%<br>14                        | 33.33%<br>9  | 27                |
| Jenny Leonard Park              | 60.00%<br>9         | 13.33%<br>2     | 40.00%<br>6     | 6.67%<br>1          | 0.00%<br>0                          | 20.00%<br>3  | 15                |
| Town River Landing              | 38.46%<br>5         | 7.69%<br>1      | 46.15%<br>6     | 7.69%<br>1          | 0.00%<br>0                          | 30.77%<br>4  | 13                |
| Olde Scotland Links Golf Course | 11.11%<br>1         | 0.00%<br>0      | 11.11%<br>1     | 0.00%<br>0          | 22.22%<br>2                         | 66.67%<br>6  | 9                 |
| Bridgewater Middle School       | 40.00%<br>8         | 20.00%<br>4     | 20.00%<br>4     | 10.00%<br>2         | 20.00%<br>4                         | 50.00%<br>10   | 20                |

## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

|                                      |             |              |             |             |             |             |    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----|
| Williams Middle School               | 17.65%<br>3 | 17.65%<br>3  | 17.65%<br>3 | 11.76%<br>2 | 17.65%<br>3 | 47.06%<br>8 | 17 |
| New Bridgewater Raynham High School  | 40.00%<br>6 | 6.67%<br>1   | 26.67%<br>4 | 0.00%<br>0  | 6.67%<br>1  | 46.67%<br>7 | 15 |
| Flagg Street Soccer Fields           | 15.00%<br>3 | 50.00%<br>10 | 0.00%<br>0  | 15.00%<br>3 | 15.00%<br>3 | 35.00%<br>7 | 20 |
| George H. Mitchell Elementary School | 37.50%<br>6 | 25.00%<br>4  | 25.00%<br>4 | 6.25%<br>1  | 31.25%<br>5 | 43.75%<br>7 | 16 |

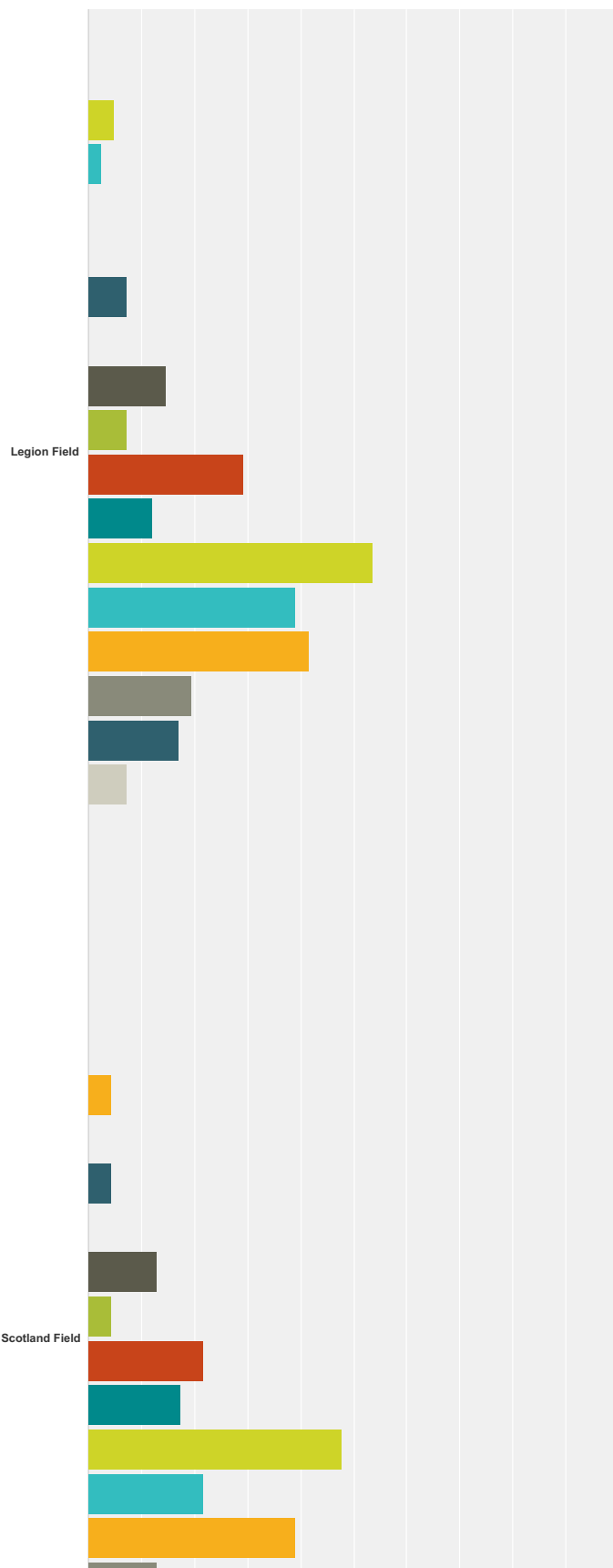
| #  | Other (please specify)   | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | B-R track needs maintenance  | 10/20/2015 3:02 PM |
| 2  | How would anyone but students and their families use the school facilities? Why didn't you list the parks and trails the Town owns? I have no children or pets. Recreation for me is walking. Why didn't you list walking trails and bike paths? | 10/9/2015 8:36 AM  |
| 3  | lacking restroom facilities. River Landing is in deplorable condition. Jenny Leonard park has been forgotten. Rainbow's end needs maintenance and should be revitalized. All our parks lack basic trash pickup programs.                         | 10/1/2015 2:09 PM  |
| 4  | These are used for softball-baseball not for recreation purposes for all children  | 9/27/2015 5:14 PM  |
| 5  | Why aren't there choices for theatres of recreation I use? Great River, Murray Farm, Stanley Ironworks, Titticut! Carvers Pond, etc.   | 9/27/2015 5:12 PM  |
| 6  | trash is always overflowing  | 9/27/2015 11:58 AM |
| 7  | I don't use any of them  | 9/27/2015 11:36 AM |
| 8  | In general I have 5 grown children so we do use the schools or playground HOWEVER I would love to see these facilities up and running.   | 9/27/2015 9:08 AM  |
| 9  | Lack of public education on availability   | 9/26/2015 9:57 AM  |
| 10 | I'd like the town to keep up on the trash at marathon park   | 9/25/2015 9:30 PM  |
| 11 | Why did the tennis courts get removed except at one area   | 9/25/2015 9:14 PM  |



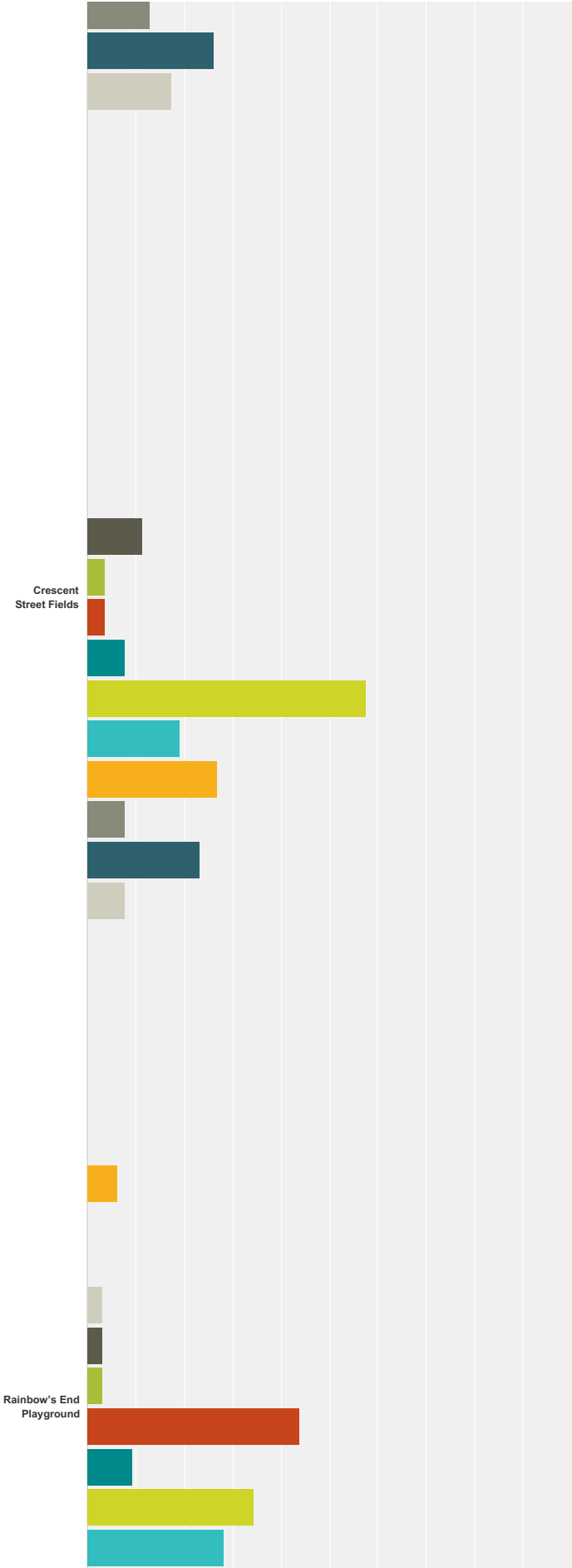
# Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

**Q3 What additional fields or features would be desirable in the future, if any, provided there is adequate space at the facility?**

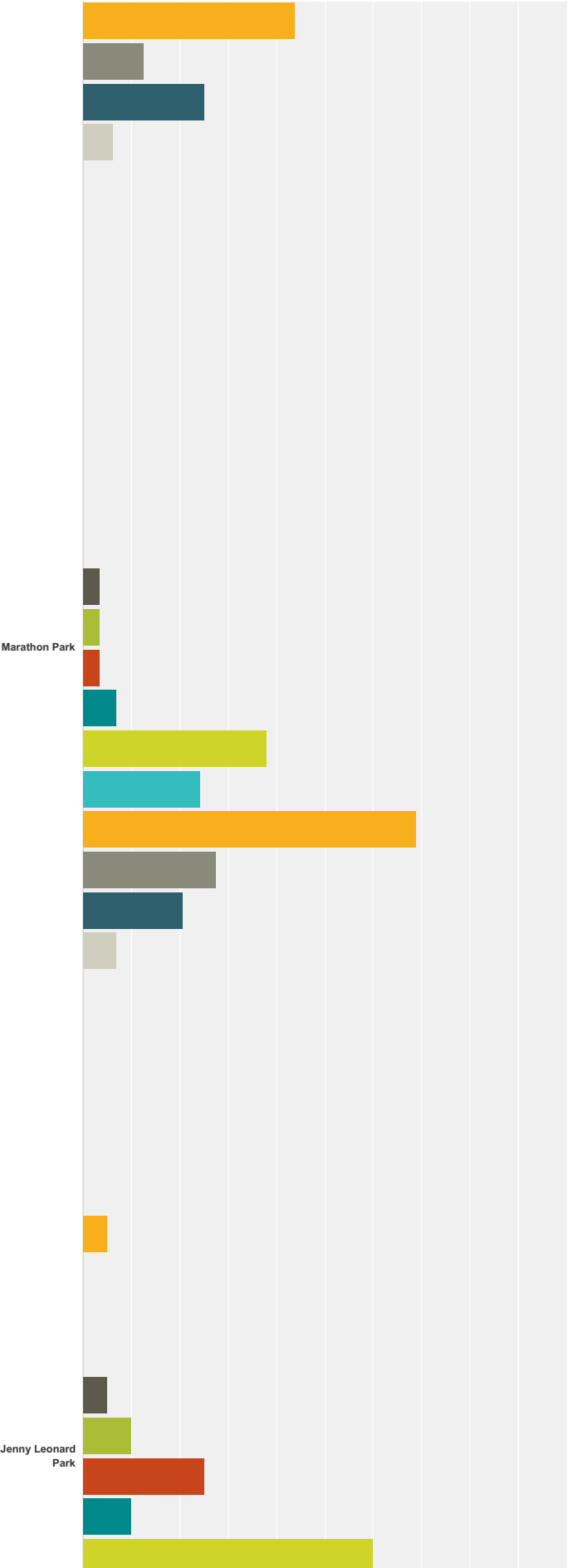
Answered: 60 Skipped: 67



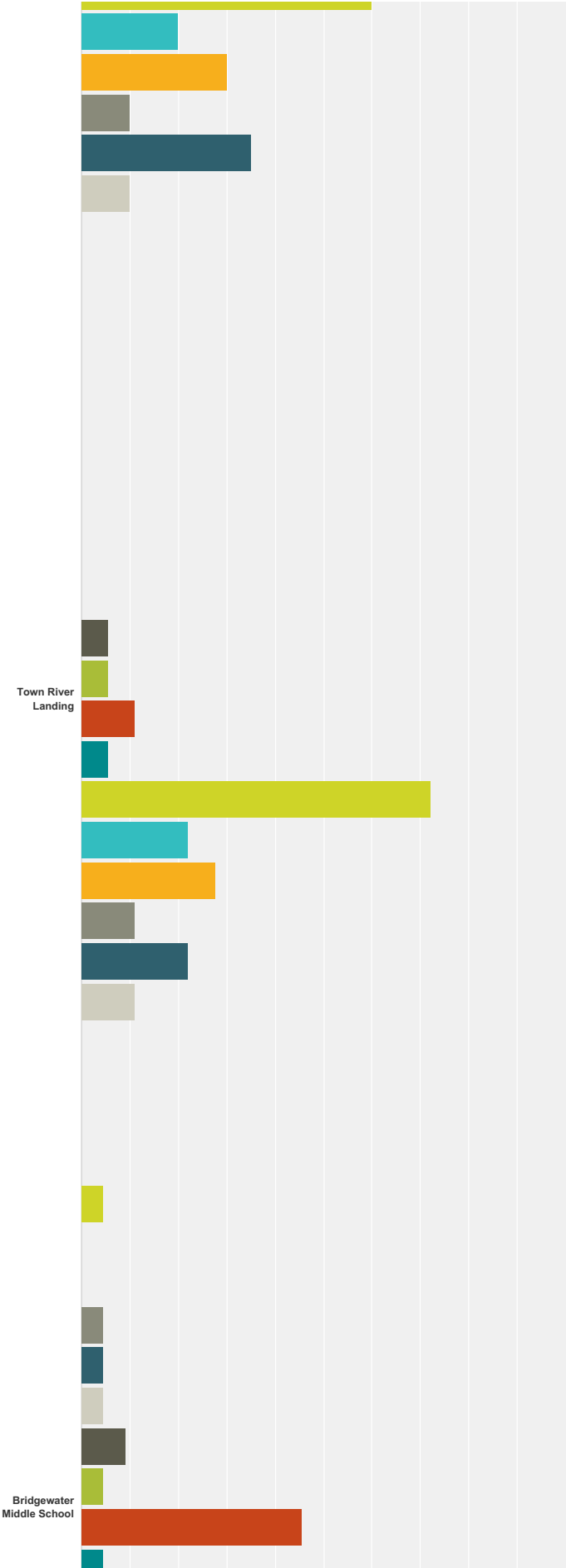
Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey



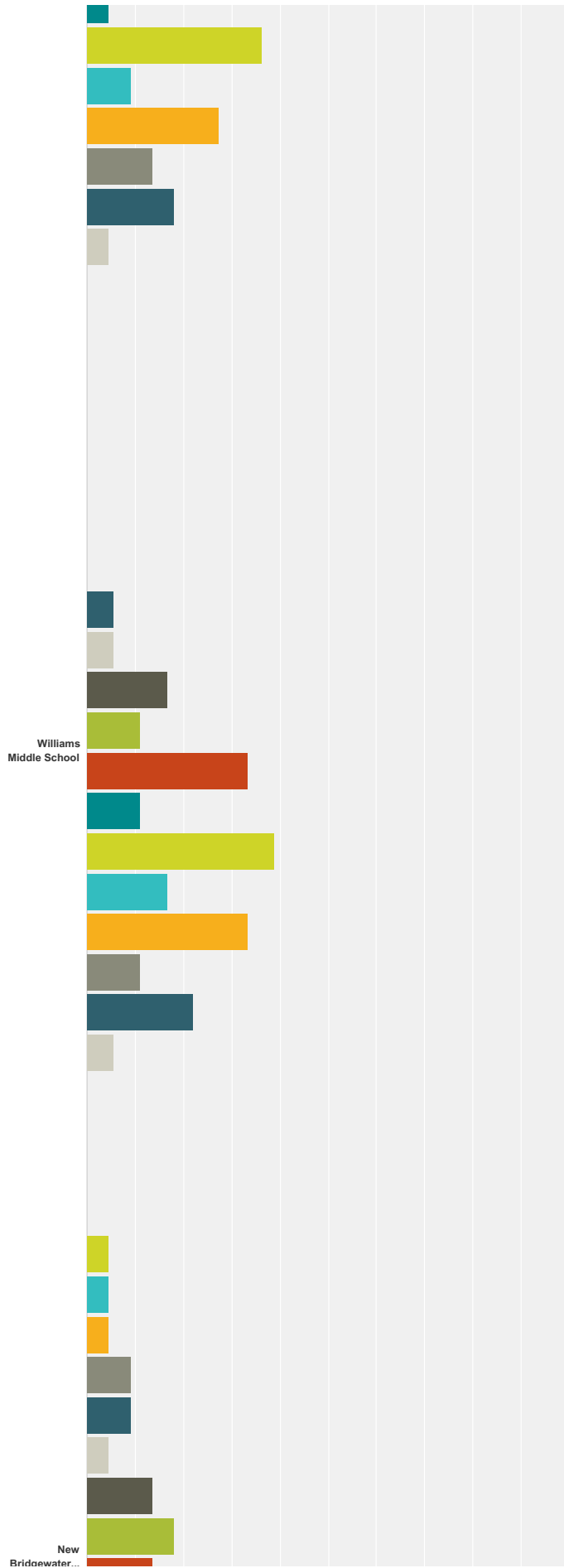
Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey



Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

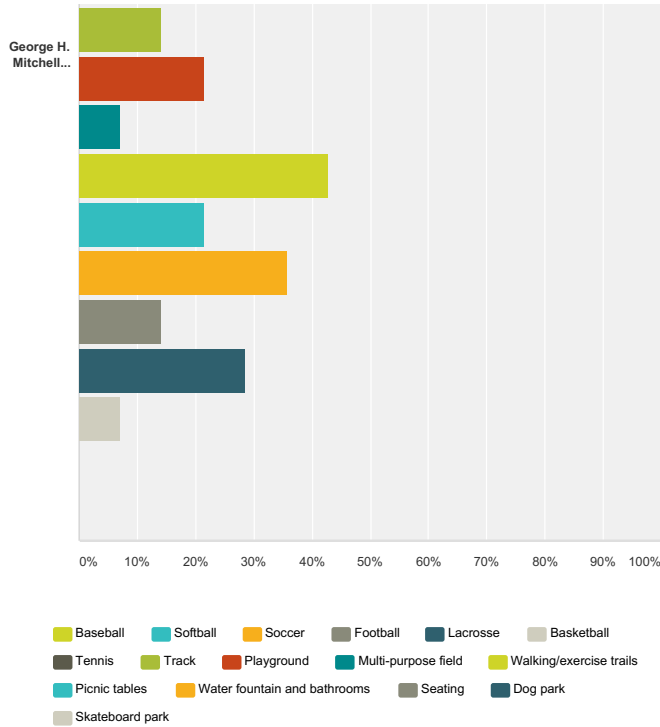


# Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey



| Category                   | 0-4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65-69 | 70-74 | 75-79 | 80-84 | 85-89 | 90-94 | 95-99 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All                        | 10  | 15  | 12    | 18    | 14    | 16    | 13    | 11    | 17    | 15    | 12    | 10    | 8     | 6     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 1     | 0     |       |
| Flagg Street Soccer Fields | 5   | 8   | 6     | 10    | 7     | 9     | 6     | 5     | 8     | 7     | 5     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 1     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |
| Flagg Street Soccer Fields | 2   | 3   | 2     | 4     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 2     | 3     | 3     | 2     | 1     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |

# Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey



|                                      | Baseball   | Softball   | Soccer     | Football   | Lacrosse   | Basketball | Tennis      | Track       | Playground   | Multi-purpose field | Walking/exercise trails | Picnic tables | Water fountain and bathrooms | Seating     | Dog park    | Skateboard park | Total Responder |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Legion Field                         | 4.88%<br>2 | 2.44%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 7.32%<br>3 | 0.00%<br>0 | 14.63%<br>6 | 7.32%<br>3  | 29.27%<br>12 | 12.20%<br>5         | 53.66%<br>22            | 39.02%<br>16  | 41.46%<br>17                 | 19.51%<br>8 | 17.07%<br>7 | 7.32%<br>3      |                 |
| Scotland Field                       | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 4.35%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 4.35%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 13.04%<br>3 | 4.35%<br>1  | 21.74%<br>5  | 17.39%<br>4         | 47.83%<br>11            | 21.74%<br>5   | 39.13%<br>9                  | 13.04%<br>3 | 26.09%<br>6 | 17.39%<br>4     |                 |
| Crescent Street Fields               | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 11.54%<br>3 | 3.85%<br>1  | 3.85%<br>1   | 7.69%<br>2          | 57.69%<br>15            | 19.23%<br>5   | 26.92%<br>7                  | 7.69%<br>2  | 23.08%<br>6 | 7.69%<br>2      |                 |
| Rainbow's End Playground             | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 6.25%<br>2 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 3.13%<br>1 | 3.13%<br>1  | 3.13%<br>1  | 43.75%<br>14 | 9.38%<br>3          | 34.38%<br>11            | 28.13%<br>9   | 43.75%<br>14                 | 12.50%<br>4 | 25.00%<br>8 | 6.25%<br>2      |                 |
| Marathon Park                        | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 3.45%<br>1  | 3.45%<br>1  | 3.45%<br>1   | 6.90%<br>2          | 37.93%<br>11            | 24.14%<br>7   | 68.97%<br>20                 | 27.59%<br>8 | 20.69%<br>6 | 6.90%<br>2      |                 |
| Jenny Leonard Park                   | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 5.00%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 5.00%<br>1  | 10.00%<br>2 | 25.00%<br>5  | 10.00%<br>2         | 60.00%<br>12            | 20.00%<br>4   | 30.00%<br>6                  | 10.00%<br>2 | 35.00%<br>7 | 10.00%<br>2     |                 |
| Town River Landing                   | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 5.56%<br>1  | 5.56%<br>1  | 11.11%<br>2  | 5.56%<br>1          | 72.22%<br>13            | 22.22%<br>4   | 27.78%<br>5                  | 11.11%<br>2 | 22.22%<br>4 | 11.11%<br>2     |                 |
| Bridgewater Middle School            | 4.55%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 4.55%<br>1 | 4.55%<br>1 | 4.55%<br>1 | 9.09%<br>2  | 4.55%<br>1  | 45.45%<br>10 | 4.55%<br>1          | 36.36%<br>8             | 9.09%<br>2    | 27.27%<br>6                  | 13.64%<br>3 | 18.18%<br>4 | 4.55%<br>1      |                 |
| Williams Middle School               | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 5.56%<br>1 | 5.56%<br>1 | 16.67%<br>3 | 11.11%<br>2 | 33.33%<br>6  | 11.11%<br>2         | 38.89%<br>7             | 16.67%<br>3   | 33.33%<br>6                  | 11.11%<br>2 | 22.22%<br>4 | 5.56%<br>1      |                 |
| New Bridgewater Raynham High School  | 4.55%<br>1 | 4.55%<br>1 | 4.55%<br>1 | 9.09%<br>2 | 9.09%<br>2 | 4.55%<br>1 | 13.64%<br>3 | 18.18%<br>4 | 13.64%<br>3  | 0.00%<br>0          | 36.36%<br>8             | 9.09%<br>2    | 27.27%<br>6                  | 9.09%<br>2  | 18.18%<br>4 | 4.55%<br>1      |                 |
| Flagg Street Soccer Fields           | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 10.00%<br>2 | 5.00%<br>1  | 35.00%<br>7  | 5.00%<br>1          | 45.00%<br>9             | 25.00%<br>5   | 40.00%<br>8                  | 10.00%<br>2 | 20.00%<br>4 | 5.00%<br>1      |                 |
| George H. Mitchell Elementary School | 7.14%<br>1 | 7.14%<br>1 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 0.00%<br>0 | 14.29%<br>2 | 14.29%<br>2 | 21.43%<br>3  | 7.14%<br>1          | 42.86%<br>6             | 21.43%<br>3   | 35.71%<br>5                  | 14.29%<br>2 | 28.57%<br>4 | 7.14%<br>1      |                 |

| # | Other (please specify)   | Date               |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | Off road bicycling area. I understand there are walking trails. Is there a pamphlet available with locations and maps of the trails? | 10/12/2015 6:51 PM |



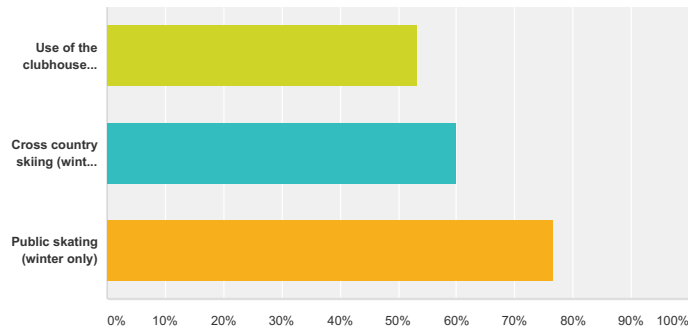
## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

|    |  |                    |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 2  | Great River Preserve is a great Town resource. The Murray Farm and the Hockomock Swamp at the Keith Homestead have good potential. Can't we develop and maintain better trails on the 5 Parks Bridgewater owns? Thanks for the private improvements at Carver's Pond. Is more planned on that? What swimming facilities are provided here in town? Can we still use the University Facilities? What are the parameters for use of the University facilities? What is being done to promote kayaking and canoing? Is the Town River Landing being cleared for that type of travel? What is planned at Child Bridge? | 10/9/2015 8:39 AM  |
| 3  | Conservation land for enjoyment of walkers   | 10/5/2015 4:42 PM  |
| 4  | Olde Scotland Links Paved cart paths and parking lot, bathrooms on the course  | 9/28/2015 11:59 AM |
| 5  | Need more tennis courts. Should install lights on courts   | 9/28/2015 8:47 AM  |
| 6  | Clean weeds out of carvers pond. police carvers pond better  | 9/27/2015 5:19 PM  |
| 7  | Improvements to trails on many listed at the end of the last question. Also need a dog park. Perhaps at Stanley or out on the Town land near Stone Meadow, or perhaps at the land given by Starr's which came with \$50,000 for improvements when the Town accepted it.  | 9/27/2015 5:15 PM  |
| 8  | I don't use any of them  | 9/27/2015 11:37 AM |
| 9  | Street Hockey  | 9/26/2015 9:56 PM  |
| 10 | Why does this focus on the know parks when its more appoarite to focus on new areas? Not all options are visiible on my computer screen!! It hard to classify given that I dont use most of these at my age (senior citizen)   | 9/26/2015 10:02 AM |
| 11 | Football practice fields are a priority.   | 9/25/2015 6:51 PM  |

## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

### Q4 What additional amenities would be desirable in the future, if any, at the Town Golf Course?

Answered: 60 Skipped: 67



| Answer Choices                     | Responses |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Use of the clubhouse function area | 53.33% 32 |
| Cross country skiing (winter only) | 60.00% 36 |
| Public skating (winter only)       | 76.67% 46 |
| Total Respondents: 60              |           |

| #  | Other (please specify)  | Date                |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1  | Dog park  | 1/3/2016 1:00 PM    |
| 2  | snow shoe   | 10/20/2015 3:05 PM  |
| 3  | Group childrens golf classes  | 10/13/2015 10:19 AM |
| 4  | Town pool   | 10/12/2015 7:40 PM  |
| 5  | It would be an excellent idea to rent out the clubhouse for functions to help the golf course budget.   | 10/12/2015 6:52 PM  |
| 6  | Cross Country skiing access is a perfect fit for the land. Currently I use the Flag St. Soccer Fields without authorization. This is also a perfect location for winter use when snow pack affords adequate coverage for turf protection (which was most of last winter).                                   | 10/1/2015 2:20 PM   |
| 7  | golf cart drive in movies   | 9/27/2015 5:21 PM   |
| 8  | Covered picnic areas with bar-b-que facilities. Splash pads for children  | 9/27/2015 5:16 PM   |
| 9  | Splash pad  | 9/27/2015 10:33 AM  |
| 10 | When the mortgage is paid. Invest in a robust youth golfing program. Allow resident children to "check out" youth clubs like a library book and play for free or drastically reduced rates. Create youth tee boxes to shorten the course for elementary school ages. Liability of ice skating is too risky. | 9/27/2015 8:08 AM   |
| 11 | Lessons to create more interested locals  | 9/27/2015 7:40 AM   |
| 12 | Not so much use as advertizing on availability, especially in the winter when the snak bar/bar is closed!   | 9/26/2015 10:03 AM  |
| 13 | Splash pad  | 9/25/2015 9:31 PM   |
| 14 | Public indoor swimming pool   | 9/25/2015 5:10 PM   |

# Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

**Q5 Which precinct (or neighborhood) do you live in and what other recreation issues and needs do you think your neighborhood has? Leave comments after your precinct.**

Answered: 50 Skipped: 77

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Precinct 1     | 22.00% 11 |
| Precinct 2     | 26.00% 13 |
| Precinct 3     | 20.00% 10 |
| Precinct 4     | 4.00% 2   |
| Precinct 5     | 12.00% 6  |
| Precinct 6     | 2.00% 1   |
| Precinct 7     | 14.00% 7  |

| #  | Precinct 1  | Date               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | None  | 9/27/2015 1:00 PM  |
| 2  | Camp Titicut  | 9/27/2015 11:40 AM |
| 3  | I'm not sure what precinct. Live on Bedford street.   | 9/27/2015 11:06 AM |
| 4  | Main st   | 9/27/2015 10:33 AM |
| 5  | None that I can think of  | 9/27/2015 9:11 AM  |
| 6  | Update & expand playground at Scotland park.  | 9/27/2015 8:10 AM  |
| 7  | X   | 9/26/2015 4:53 PM  |
| 8  | Don't know my precinct - Springhill Ave & Worcester St - Speed Humps, to make the roads safer to walk, please.  | 9/26/2015 4:29 PM  |
| 9  | Titi cut Park needs better maintenance. The town, in general, needs more nature parks for walking (like Carver Pond)  | 9/26/2015 12:46 PM |
| 10 | Would love to see walking trails and biking trails  | 9/25/2015 5:11 PM  |
| 11 | High St. No Skatepark in town.  | 9/25/2015 12:37 PM |
| #  | Precinct 2  | Date               |
| 1  | More playgrounds!!  | 3/18/2017 11:59 PM |
| 2  | hard walking down 18 without sidewalks  | 10/21/2015 8:48 AM |
| 3  | we need walking trails and cross country skiing trails  | 10/14/2015 8:02 PM |
| 4  | Safe side walks , place for Tweens and teens  | 10/12/2015 7:40 PM |
| 5  | would like to have bike trails, similar to the cape rail trail  | 9/29/2015 9:21 AM  |
| 6  | There are plenty of recreation opportunities in downtown area. Pedestrian access is a big issue. Crossing roads such as Bedford St. can be dangerous for people walking or biking. Speeding and aggressive traffic is an issue when trying to access any Town resources on foot or bike in the downtown area. | 9/28/2015 6:03 PM  |
| 7  | The noise from Legion field during football season (the loudspeaker) has driven us out of our home on the weekends. There is no reason for the games to be broadcast to the entire neighborhood.  | 9/28/2015 4:20 PM  |
| 8  | Better street lighting and fixed roads (paving potholes) also you have an extremely obstructed view pulling onto Vernon st from robin road. You risk an accident EVERY time, people fly around the corner and you can't see with the bushes   | 9/28/2015 9:35 AM  |
| 9  | Safe place to take kids for walks with strollers and bikes  | 9/27/2015 10:29 PM |
| 10 | Splash pad  | 9/27/2015 9:51 AM  |
| 11 | Center st   | 9/26/2015 2:10 PM  |
| 12 | None  | 9/25/2015 9:32 PM  |
| 13 | Deteriorated sidewalks  | 9/25/2015 9:24 AM  |
| #  | Precinct 3  | Date               |
| 1  | Fix Jenny Leonard park  | 10/20/2015 7:06 AM |
| 2  | renovate rainbows end, would love to see tennis courts and tracks   | 10/14/2015 7:55 AM |
| 3  | More info on conservation land so people can use  | 10/5/2015 2:42 AM  |
| 4  | Sidewalks! We can't walk in most of our precinct except on the street - dodging cars.   | 10/1/2015 2:44 AM  |
| 5  | We are by Marathon park, I think Precinct 3. Tennis courts and a dog park would be great.   | 10/1/2015 1:54 AM  |
| 6  | Clean up of Playground on Cherry Street   | 9/30/2015 2:45 AM  |
| 7  | We have to travel elsewhere for our rec needs. There's no where we can just walk to   | 9/28/2015 2:01 AM  |
| 8  | ***   | 9/27/2015 12:37 PM |
| 9  | Walnut needs sidewalks  | 9/27/2015 9:51 AM  |
| 10 | No facilities whatsoever in precinct 3.   | 9/25/2015 10:52 AM |
| #  | Precinct 4  | Date               |
| 1  | I would like more opportunities for safe walking and cycling in my precinct and the rest of the town.   | 10/21/2015 2:37 PM |
| 2  | bike path   | 9/27/2015 8:48 PM  |
| #  | Precinct 5  | Date               |
| 1  | Looking for a dog park. Need more safe places to bring dogs   | 1/3/2016 1:01 PM   |

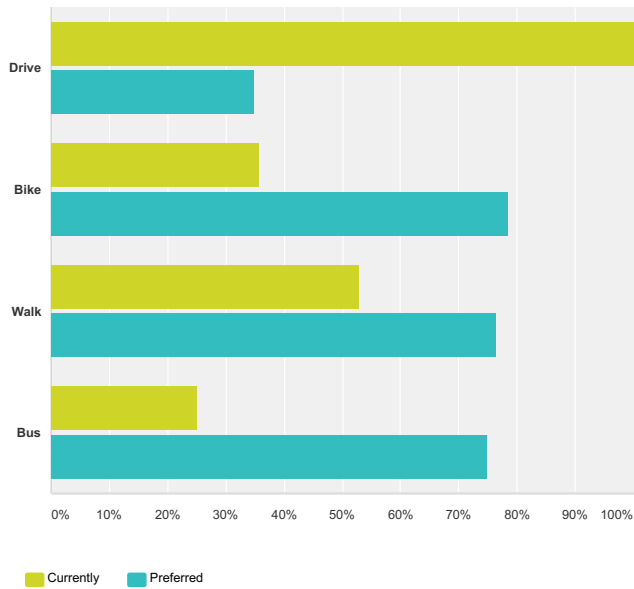
## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

|   |  |                    |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 2 | Open space to be used for dog/people walking   | 10/5/2015 4:44 PM  |
| 3 | Side walks for safe travel to open space areas.  | 10/1/2015 2:21 PM  |
| 4 | Jenny Lind and Rainbow's End playgrounds in state of disrepair.  | 9/28/2015 8:28 AM  |
| 5 | this town needs a dog park   | 9/28/2015 6:18 AM  |
| 6 | carvers pond needs stronger police presence to deter illegal activities. clean weeds out of pond so it can do boating. Also clean weeds from skeeter mill pond and have hiking trail around skeeter mill pond. also post no hunting signs at carvers and skeeter.  | 9/27/2015 5:23 PM  |
| # | <b>Precinct 6</b>  | <b>Date</b>        |
| 1 | I understand the Murray Farm has trails. Are they marked, is there a map?  | 10/12/2015 6:54 PM |
| # | <b>Precinct 7</b>  | <b>Date</b>        |
| 1 | Rainbows End and Jenny Leonard are in complete disrepair, they are eye sores that could be assets to the community. With the large Bridgewater Preserve development currently underway it will create further need for more playgrounds and other recreational opportunities in our area of town.                                    | 10/12/2015 6:42 PM |
| 2 | Walkable parks (off of Aldrich Road?---a dog park or walking trails). We are one of the only precincts that actually has sidewalk access to Marathon Park. There is a desperate need for more sidewalks (and winter-time sidewalk clearing) to promote walking to town and businesses---and just walking for exercise and enjoyment. | 10/9/2015 8:41 AM  |
| 3 | need my lights back on and sidewalks repaired  | 9/30/2015 7:31 AM  |
| 4 | please fix rainbows end! conceptually, it still is the best playground in town.  | 9/28/2015 8:23 AM  |
| 5 | XX   | 9/27/2015 5:17 PM  |
| 6 | Cross walk at Center/Mary, Play areas at Williams and BMS equal to RMS and LaLiberte   | 9/27/2015 10:32 AM |
| 7 | Walking and bikeing trails, dog park   | 9/26/2015 10:04 AM |

## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

### Q6 How do you currently get to the Town's recreation facilities and how do you prefer to get there in the future?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 50



|       | Currently     | Preferred    | Total Respondents |
|-------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Drive | 100.00%<br>69 | 34.78%<br>24 | 69                |
| Bike  | 35.71%<br>10  | 78.57%<br>22 | 28                |
| Walk  | 52.94%<br>27  | 76.47%<br>39 | 51                |
| Bus   | 25.00%<br>1   | 75.00%<br>3  | 4                 |

| # | Other (please specify)   | Date               |
|---|--|--------------------|
| 1 | More sidewalks would be needed   | 10/14/2015 3:56 PM |
| 2 | If I thought I could safely bike, I might but the way people drive makes it scary.   | 10/12/2015 6:55 PM |
| 3 | Side walks are needed on more of the primary roads to offer a safe recreational environment. Roads are being redone throughout town with no forethought to making this community more pedestrian/biker friendly. | 10/1/2015 2:25 PM  |
| 4 | The Town has hardly any sidewalks leading to the recreation areas. Marathon Park, which is extremely limited in offering and age appropriateness, and Iron Works are the only ones I can walk to safely.         | 9/27/2015 5:19 PM  |
| 5 | We're miles from all the facilities, so walking isn't realistic, and I'm too nervous biking anywhere except trails.  | 9/26/2015 4:55 PM  |
| 6 | We need more sidewalks!  | 9/26/2015 12:46 PM |

# Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

## Q7 Are there any other comments you would like to make in regards to the Town's recreation resources and needs? Leave comments below.

Answered: 36 Skipped: 91

| #  | Responses  | Date               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | More playgrounds and a dog park would be fantastic!!!  | 3/19/2017 12:00 AM |
| 2  | I think that bridgewater could greatly benefit from having a dog park for its residents. A dog park provides a safe place for dogs.  | 1/3/2016 1:02 PM   |
| 3  | I would like to see paved trails developed so that citizens can walk/run/cycle safely. This would be a resource that a majority of citizens would be able to access and enjoy. The manner and speed in which motorists drive now days makes walking and cycling dangerous and not enjoyable as in the past.  | 10/21/2015 2:41 PM |
| 4  | We are not a very bike friendly Town; not sure how to make it so. Work with BSU, perhaps, to share spaces.   | 10/20/2015 3:09 PM |
| 5  | I would like to see more fields, tennis courts and tracks available to residents in well light areas.  | 10/14/2015 3:56 PM |
| 6  | Bike trails and town pool  | 10/12/2015 7:41 PM |
| 7  | I think this survey is very limited. There is much more to recreation in Bridgewater than playgrounds. I hope we can establish a recreation commission that will be responsive to the needs of all citizens not just sports players, their families and golfers. What about concerts, Shakespeare in the Park, out-door pajama movies and other such events that help develop a community?   | 10/9/2015 8:45 AM  |
| 8  | to become a unified and social community, the town needs to put sidewalks on all roads that service side road developments to enable people to walk/bike with their children and pets. This will help provide interaction and strengthen a sense of community.   | 10/5/2015 4:47 PM  |
| 9  | Soccer fields are best in Southeastern MA  | 10/5/2015 10:43 AM |
| 10 | See previous comments.   | 10/1/2015 2:26 PM  |
| 11 | Where can we find more information on the Scotland field, the Jenny field?   | 10/1/2015 10:45 AM |
| 12 | I enjoy walking local conservation areas and sometimes travel out of Town to trail walk. I am in favor of Open Space and having trails accessible for walking which also allow for dog walking and also horseback riding.  | 9/30/2015 11:52 AM |
| 13 | Keep up the good work.   | 9/28/2015 6:04 PM  |
| 14 | Sailing program on the Nip like the programs in Boston on the Charles river could teach children a great life skill and be a benefit to all.   | 9/28/2015 12:03 PM |
| 15 | Skate park in better location so not vandalized would be awesome. A bowling alley or indoor activity place down town in abandoned buildings would be great place for the kids to go and get off the street and stay out of trouble and off drugs and alcohol. An outdoor ice rink would be fun in winter. A dog park is needed   | 9/28/2015 9:39 AM  |
| 16 | we need to include funding for 10 yrs maintenance for any new facility proposal.   | 9/28/2015 8:25 AM  |
| 17 | More dog welcome places  | 9/27/2015 10:30 PM |
| 18 | I think a bike bath thru town would be a phenomenal resource. There were some areas listed that I was not even aware of. I think right now things are good...baseball has legion field, softball has Crescent street, soccer has Flagg St, basketball has the use of the schools and legion field basketball court, lacrosse has the middle school. My daughter played years back when softball and baseball shared legion field. It was not a very good system. Both sides seemed to fight each other and it seemed softball always got the short end of the stick. It was great for both sports to get their own fields. I think if you have sports sharing fields, it is a recipe for disaster and dislike. | 9/27/2015 8:52 PM  |
| 19 | Carvers pond really needs a police presence to deter homeless use, drug use, and promiscuous activity. I loved bringing my kids there, but the last two times we stumbled across people in bushes, a scary homeless guy with a bike, and people dealing drugs, so we don't go there anymore. Also really need to take care of water resources to remove weeds. The weeds are so thick in our ponds that you can't really paddle at all on our ponds.   | 9/27/2015 5:28 PM  |
| 20 | Need to address parking at legion fails. Move the basketball courts to where the old scare park was and use the basketball court area for parking  | 9/27/2015 11:53 AM |
| 21 | I think that the older kids have no where to go so they gather at places meant for younger children, and end up ruining it. Marathon park isn't even a year old and has been ruined by the older kids. We need a place for them to go that is meant for them. Like a skatepark or something of that nature.  | 9/27/2015 11:07 AM |
| 22 | overall, I think we have it pretty good when compared to other towns.  | 9/27/2015 10:40 AM |
| 23 | We need a dog park   | 9/27/2015 10:37 AM |
| 24 | We would love to see a splash pad and bike path. We have been advocating for playground equipment at Williams and at BMS (even more so w Mitchell there now). There is some space near the Badger Shed for a playground component. Looking at Basketball hoops for WIS. Would love the BMS tennis courts to be restored. Play area at Legion Field needs reworking done (roots and fill are needed) Rainbows End area needs overhaul. Great area to open up for soccer families AND be able to watch practice. Splash pad space there too. We appreciate the time people are taking to look into the needs.  | 9/27/2015 10:36 AM |
| 25 | Live on Plymouth near High and Old Plymouth wish there was a place for my kids to play on this side of town.   | 9/27/2015 10:26 AM |
| 26 | I think they should tear down Rainbow park. I think it was nasty when it first opened I haven't been there in years but I've heard it's only gotten worse. I think the town should have a playground for children with special needs.  | 9/27/2015 9:38 AM  |
| 27 | I believe that Rainbow's End would be a great facility to get up and running again - there are many people who want to see it up and running again !! LOTS of support to get it done !!  | 9/27/2015 9:13 AM  |
| 28 | Rainbow's End must be saved! Stop delaying the repairs. Now that the new car smell had worn off of marathon park, Rainbow's End is once again the most desired playground in town. Why haven't the trees been cleared yet? What is taking so long?   | 9/27/2015 8:14 AM  |
| 29 | I was part of a group who played street hockey just for fun/exercise at scotland field basketball courts. It worked well until the skateboarders put cinder blocks in there. It would be great to have a place to play again   | 9/26/2015 9:59 PM  |
| 30 | We need more nature parks like Carver Pond.  | 9/26/2015 12:47 PM |

## Bridgewater Recreation Needs Assessment - Community Survey

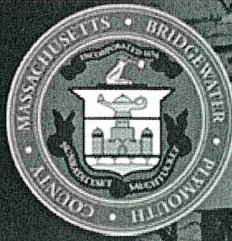
|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 31 | This survey should have provide a comprehensive list of possible recreation activities with the ability to assign the respondents assessment of need/priority. i.e., lacking in town, adequate, distribution poor, greatly needed. The survey tends to drive the review into what is available rather than provide an expansive view of what is possible. For example, what of none traditional recreational needs like cart tracks, more paintball locations, kayaking, canoe launches, access to the town parks, trail connections.   | 9/26/2015 10:10 AM |
| 32 | The recreation department is woefully underfunded and mismanaged.   | 9/25/2015 6:52 PM  |
| 33 | Marathon park has a dirty sandbox and has metal left in the ground from broken ride on toys and constantly has overflowing trash  | 9/25/2015 5:43 PM  |
| 34 | I don't know what precinct i live in, but i live on Cherry Street. My kids love to walk to the "Abandoned Playground" on our street. Pretty sure they think it's haunted, it's very sad that to see the state of that park. I imagine it could have very pretty walking trails through the wooded area. It could be a very nice nature area/park, especially in the midst of the insane amount of housing projects that are currently in construction in the area. I would love to see that revitalized, even in a very small scale. We have the same concerns with the Flagg Street playground. My kids think it's amazing. I think it's amazing! I did not have playgrounds like that in the city i grew up in. Every weekend at soccer they beg me to go there, they were incredibly disappointed that is is deemed "closed" now. I personally prefer the woodsy shaded location of this park to the full sun of Marathon park. Marathon park is great! My only concern is that it is almost too big :) Lots of people want a dog park in the area. I have to disagree. I am a dog owner, I've lived in cities where dog parks are necessary, but in a town where most people have large yards like bridgewater? Not necessary. My dog gets plenty of exercise in my large backyard. If I wanted him to socialize with other dogs, I'd get another dog :) Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for putting together this survey! | 9/25/2015 1:17 PM  |
| 35 | Town needs a Skatepark.   | 9/25/2015 12:37 PM |
| 36 | Tear down Rainbow's End and scrape the ground clean.  | 9/25/2015 9:25 AM  |



### **Appendix III:**

#### Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance and Self-Evaluation

*Note: The ADA Self-Evaluation facility inventory forms are not included here due to its large size (181 pages). It is available separately upon request.*



Town Manager's Office

**Municipal Office Building**  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324  
508-697-0919

January 18, 2018

Town of Bridgewater  
Conservation/ZBA Office  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater MA 02324  
Attn: Azu Etoniru, Town Engineer/Conservation Agent

Town of Bridgewater  
Recreation Department  
90 Cottage Street  
Bridgewater MA 02324  
Attn: Charles Simonds, Recreation Superintendent

Dear Azu and Charlie:

This is to attest that the Town of Bridgewater's employment practices, including recruitment, personnel actions, leave administration, training, tests, medical exam/questionnaires, social and recreational programs, fringe benefits, collective bargaining agreements and wage and salary administration are in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

Michael Dutton  
Town Manager



Town Manager's Office

Municipal Office Building  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324  
508-697-0919

**ADA Coordinator Designation Form**

ADA Coordinator Name: Steven Solari

Name of City/Town Department that ADA Coordinator Works: Town of Bridgewater

Job Title: Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer

E-Mail: [ssolari@bridgewaterma.org](mailto:ssolari@bridgewaterma.org)

Phone: (508) 697-0904

Address: 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324

Date Appointed: 02.28.2017

Is This Appointment: Permanent

Does this ADA Coordinator report directly to the appointing authority? Yes

Are the ADA Coordinator Duties Full-Time OR Part-Time: Full Time

Direct Supervisor (Name and Title): Michael Dutton, Town Manager

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date: 11.17.17

ADA Coordinator Signature:

Date: 11.17.17

Please send copy of completed form to:  
The Massachusetts Office On Disability, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1305  
or email to [mod-info@state.ma.us](mailto:mod-info@state.ma.us), or fax to 617 727-0965

***Bridgewater:***

*Preserving Our Past. Enriching Our Present. Building Our Future.*

# **Town of Bridgewater**

## **Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act**

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the **Town of Bridgewater**. The Town's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

**Steven Solari**  
**ADA Coordinator, Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer**  
**66 Central Square, Bridgewater, MA 02324**

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, *Steven Solari* or *his* designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, *Steven Solari* or *his* designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the **Town of Bridgewater** and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by *Steven Solari* or *his* designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the **Town Manager** or *his* designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the **Town Manager** or *his* designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the **Town Manager** or *his* designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by *Steven Solari* or *his* designee, appeals to the **Town Manager** or *his* designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the **Town of Bridgewater** for at least three years.

## **Town of Bridgewater**

### **NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the **Town of Bridgewater** will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** The **Town of Bridgewater** does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

**Effective Communication:** The **Town of Bridgewater** will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in **the Town's** programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

**Modifications to Policies and Procedures:** The **Town of Bridgewater** will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in **Town of Bridgewater** offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of **Town of Bridgewater**, should contact the Town of Bridgewater's **ADA Coordinator, Steven Solari, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324** as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the **Town of Bridgewater** to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of **the Town of Bridgewater** is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to ***ADA Coordinator, Steven Solari, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater MA 02324***

**The Town of Bridgewater** will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



## **Appendix IV:**

### State of Water Supply Conservation

# TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Water Department  
T: 508-697-0910  
F: 608-279-1307  
water@bridgewaterma.org



Sewer Department  
T: 508-697-0937  
F: 508-697-0938  
sewer@bridgewaterma.org

90 Cottage Street  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

## State of Water Supply Conservation

The Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners would like to inform its residents that the Board is invoking its right to declare a State of Water Supply Conservation. The Board voted unanimously to enforce:

Under Section 5 Paragraph E Automatic Sprinkler Use: The use of automatic sprinkler systems connected to the Town's Water Supply is prohibited. The Board is allowing hand held hoses at this time only. Sprinklers attached to a handheld hose is not allowed. This is a water restriction only, not a water ban.

Under Section 10 Penalties: Any person violating this by-law shall be liable to the Town in the Amount of \$50.00 for the first violation and \$100.00 for each subsequent violation, which shall inure to the Town for such uses as the Board of Water Commissioners may direct. Fines shall be recovered by indictment or on complaint before District Court, or by non-criminal disposition in accordance with section 21D of Chapter 40 of the General Laws. Each Day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

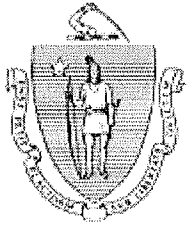
This warrant Article #12 was passed at the May 1, 2000 Annual Town Meeting and forwarded to and approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this by-law, please feel free to contact the Water Department Office at (508) 697-0910.

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners  
*Effective 8/1/2000*

## Appendix V:

### Letters of Approval



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

Charles D. Baker  
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Matthew A. Beaton  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

September 18, 2018

Renee Guo  
VHB  
101 Walnut Street  
Watertown, MA 02472

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Guo:

Thank you for submitting Bridgewater's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Bridgewater to participate in DCS grant rounds through April 2025.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Cryan".

Melissa Cryan  
Grant Programs Supervisor



## Bridgewater Town Council

In Town Council, Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Council Order: O-2017-037

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|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Introduced By:      | Town Manager     |
| Date Introduced:    | June 6, 2017     |
| First Reading:      | June 6, 2017     |
| Second Reading:     | October 3, 2017  |
| Amendments Adopted: | None             |
| Date Adopted:       | October 3, 2017  |
| Date Effective:     | November 3, 2017 |

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### Order O-2017-037

#### **TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTANCE OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN UPDATE**

**ORDERED;** that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to accept the attached Open Space and Recreation Plan as updated January 2017.

Explanation:

*An affirmative vote will formally accept the attached plan updated January 2017*

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

| Referral(s)  | Disposition(s)  |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community &amp; Economic Development Committee</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>9/28/17: Vote 3-0 recommend approval.</li></ul> |

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, to approve the aforementioned Order by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST:**

---

Ann M. Holmberg  
Town Council Clerk

**ROLL CALL VOTE – REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.**



## BRIDGEWATER RECREATION COMMITTEE

Town Hall Building - 66 Central Square

Bridgewater, MA 02324

508.697.8020

Website: [www.bridgewaterma.org/169](http://www.bridgewaterma.org/169)

Michael F. Flaherty, III  
Chairman

Gina Guasconi  
Vice-Chairman

Thomas P. Arrighi

Daniel Buron

James P. Campbell

Charles Simonds  
Superintendent

January 18, 2018

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

Re: Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed the Town's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update and offers its unanimous support for the update.

The Commission appreciates the time and effort invested in the development of the update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Conservation Commission, town staff and members of the community who participated in the update process. The Commission believes the update to the Plan provides a clear path forward for the Town's open space and recreation planning needs and looks forward to some of the plans being implemented.

Respectfully for the Commission

*Michael F. Flaherty, III*

Michael F. Flaherty, III



**Community & Economic Development Division**  
Economic Development/Planning

**Municipal Office Building**  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324  
508-697-0950

January 18, 2018

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

Re: Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Conservation Commission has reviewed the Town's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update and approved its unanimous support for the update at its meeting held on December 14, 2017. The Commission believes the update adequately seeks to address outstanding issues of open space and recreational needs for the Town of Bridgewater.

The Commission appreciates the time and effort invested in the development of the update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan by the town staff and members of the community who participated in the update process. The Commission further believes the update will serve as an important tool for the Town of Bridgewater to use in its efforts to preserve current open space and recreational resources.

Respectfully for the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry E. Bailey, Jr." in a cursive script.

Harry E. Bailey, Jr.  
Conservation Commission, Vice-Chair





**Community & Economic Development Division**  
Economic Development/Planning

**Municipal Office Building**  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 01923  
508-697-6100

January 18, 2018

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

Re: Town of Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan Update 2017

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Planning Board has reviewed the Town's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update and approved it at its meeting held on January 17, 2018.

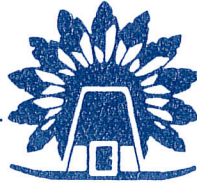
The Board appreciates the time and effort invested in the development of the update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Conservation Commission, town staff and members of the community who participated in the update process.

Respectfully for the Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Driscoll", is written over the typed name.

Patrick Driscoll  
Planning Board Chairman

# Old Colony Planning Council



Frank P. Staffier  
President

70 School Street  
Brockton, MA 02301-4097

Pasquale Ciaramella  
Executive Director

Telephone: (508) 583-1833  
Fax: (508) 559-8768  
Email: [information@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:information@ocpcrpa.org)  
Website: [www.ocpcrpa.org](http://www.ocpcrpa.org)

February 15, 2018

Mr. Michael Dutton  
Town Manager, Town of Bridgewater  
Town Hall  
66 Central Square  
Bridgewater, MA 02324

Dear Mr. Dutton,

The Old Colony Planning Council has reviewed the 2017 update of the Bridgewater Open Space and Recreation Plan and supports the approval and implementation of the completed plan by the town.

The plan is well-organized and quite thorough, covering all the required background data on the population, geography, and environmental resources. The plan does an excellent job of inventorying open space and recreation parcels, identifying and detailing the major parcels in town, analyzing the needs of the community, and establishing comprehensive goals and action items with timetables attached to each action item.

The plan does a good job of utilizing input from the public to guide its needs analysis and overall goals. The plan's section on important open space and recreational resources is notable for its exhaustive descriptions of each parcel and identification of potential additional uses for the properties. With this breadth of depth, the plan should well serve the town in dealing with the challenges and opportunities in meeting Bridgewater's open space and recreation needs and in protecting key environmental assets over the long term.

It is a pleasure to be assisting the Town of Bridgewater with this project. The Council wishes Bridgewater the best of luck in implementing the plan, and hopes to be able to assist in any future efforts.

Sincerely,

Pasquale Ciaramella  
Executive Director

c.c.: Ms. Sandra Wright, Delegate  
Mr. Kevin Mandeville, Open Space Committee  
Ms. Marilyn MacDonald, Conservation Commission





