

2018

# Open Space & Recreation Plan



Town of West Newbury, Massachusetts

Prepared by the West Newbury Open Space Committee





John Dodge photo

## Brown Spring Farm

A For Sale sign posted in front of an iconic farm on Main Street portends the passing of a cherished era. In spite of wide community support, thus far, efforts to preserve the 10-acre property in active agriculture have been unsuccessful.



Frank S. Vetere photo

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** *Jocelyne Cosentino captures the essence of the Brown Spring Farmstand with her painting that graces the cover of the 2018 West Newbury Open Space and Recreation Plan. In her own words, Jocelyne speaks to the sentiments expressed by so many West Newbury residents.*

**“We** moved here in 1995. We bought our property from the Prebbles, and it had been farmed previously.

“We tried to build a house that would work with the landscape, knowing that people love “the field” at the corner of Tewksbury Lane and Crane Neck Street. We left the old apple trees, which are all over West Newbury.

“A lot has changed since we moved; there definitely was a lot more open land. We’ve watched corn fields turn into houses, but what can we say?! We’ve watched our field’s ecology change with the help of the beavers. I love listening to the kingfishers and red tail hawks join the many other bird songs while I garden. I love falling asleep to the owls hooting. I am lucky, “as the field I look out over was put in Greenbelt [protection] before our neighbor Clark Gowan passed away.

“One of the things I’ve loved about West Newbury is the farming tractors. Brown Spring Farm is iconic. I often stop there in the summer, even though I also have a garden. I appreciate all the hard work that goes into growing both food and flowers. We have been so lucky to have this little gem at the side of the road guarded over by those big trees. In the summer, it’s often the last stop before I head out of town and one of the first stops on the way back.

“I think the town has lost some open space since we moved here but, honestly, I love what has been done with some of the open space the town has preserved and developed with trails. We are so lucky. I walked up the field towards the water tower off of Hilltop Circle and tramped along the trails for over an hour yesterday. I came home and later rode my mountain bike along the roads, but also through Riverbend (until the high tide mark claimed the trail!), and then back on roads, and through the Dunn Fields, back to the road.

“My eldest daughter graduated from Pentucket in 2005. The Valedictorian talked about plowing the fields on a tractor and how important it was to look back as well as forward to get a nice straight row. I love this image. I hope that even if Brown Spring must change, we still can keep some of that agricultural past, just like our old apple trees that frame our property.”







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## SECTION 1 • PLAN SUMMARY

The collaborative process of updating and reporting the information in the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) involved contributions of data and vision from citizens, town officials and numerous interested groups. Since the last plan was filed in 2009, the areas of responsibility for the Open Space Committee (OSC) and Park and Recreation Commissioners (PRCom) have significantly evolved. Following on the 5-year Action Plan of the 2009 OSRP, West Newbury has permanently protected a significant number of acres and has developed an extensive, popular trails system. Recreational space also has been improved and expanded through a basketball court off Bachelor Street, a playing field at Page School, and upgrades and renovations to the well-loved playground at Action Cove.

The 2018 OSRP is designed to assist in the dynamic process by which the town evaluates and addresses its open space and recreation needs. The plan's overarching intent is to guide West Newbury as it endeavors to preserve its rural character and plan recreational spaces while community needs change and development increases.

The 7-Year Action Plan in Section 9 of the 2018 OSRP identifies specific measures that the OSC and PRCom recommend be adopted in order to accomplish the following three goals:

- 1) **Preserve** the town's charm, rural character, and sense of community by encouraging sensitive development and encouraging preservation of working farms.
- 2) **Protect** and manage natural resource areas, including water and large, contiguous undeveloped land. Continue to create and foster stewardship programs for trails and open spaces. Support protection of water resources, and identify wildlife corridors to facilitate keeping them open. Put climate resilience measures into place.
- 3) **Provide** accessible passive and active recreational opportunities for townspeople of all ages and abilities. To this end, pursue better access to the Merrimack River and develop more diverse youth activities. In concert with the PRCom, identify trails and open space suitable for people with limited mobility. Work with other town entities to make adaptations consistent with ADA regulations that will achieve better access to passive and active recreation areas.



In a climate of increased interest in land development, pastoral scenes like this could become a thing of the past.

Annie Madden photo



## **SECTION 2 • INTRODUCTION**



John Dodge photo

A 164-acre parcel of rolling open fields and mature woodland with extensive river frontage is the setting for a retreat center overseen by The Society of Saint John the Evangelist.

### **A. Statement of Purpose**

West Newbury is a small town on the Merrimack River northeast of Boston near the New Hampshire border. It has an enviable abundance of rural beauty and waterfront, which residents, local government and nonprofit organizations have worked diligently to preserve in the face of development pressure. Now, an aging town population forecasts increasing sales of large tracts that will require creative acquisition approaches. Reflecting on the roles of the OSC and PRCom in the years since the last OSRP update was completed, much was accomplished in a widening scope of responsibility.

### **TRAILS**

- In collaboration with the Mill Pond Committee (MPC) and West Newbury Riding & Driving Club, the OSC drafted a Wetland Trail Corridor Maintenance Plan for maintaining trails in the wetlands areas throughout town. On behalf of the BOS, this Plan was submitted to and approved by the Conservation Commission (ConCom) and Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

- The OSC, through its Trails Subcommittee – and with the support of the town Public Works Department (DPW), Essex County Trails Association (ECTA), the ConCom, Scouts, and a host of other volunteers – made major strides in creating, improving and marking the growing town-wide trail system. A pack of Webelo Boy Scouts joined the OSC and volunteers to cut and mark trails from Brake Hill Terrace into the existing Brake Hill trail network, effectively connecting the Brake Hill system to Pentucket High School and Route 113.
- New trails were constructed from Coffin Street through Riverbend West to the Indian River and the rest of the Riverbend trail network. The connection was made possible because a trail easement had been negotiated, with the assistance of the Planning Board (PB), from the developer of house lots on Coffin Street.
- The Trails Subcommittee developed GPS-supported maps for all existing trails and made the trail maps easily accessible on the OSC website. In summer 2018, the contents of the OSC website were moved to the town website.
- A Management Plan for Riverbend was collaboratively devised by ECTA, the ConCom and OSC, and was updated. Trail markings and trail head maps were installed at Riverbend, Withers Conservation Area, Brake Hill and River Hill.
- The OSC received CPA funds for the purpose of constructing bridges in the Riverbend Conservation Area. Completed in 2014 for just over \$30,000, the project supports environmental science studies at the Page School. The project came in well under budget, thanks to 50 hardworking volunteers from Pentucket High School and AmeriCorps, ECTA, Weatherall Design, among many others.
- The second residential project approved according to the town's Open Space Preservation Development zoning bylaw (OSPD) was completed in 2015 and presented the opportunity to create new public trails in open space that the developer was required to set aside. Countless hours of volunteer time and ECTA funding subsequently built the Ocean Meadow boardwalk on a trail that connects to the town-owned Dunn Fields. The OSC marked the trails on the wooded, 71.5-acre Dunn Fields property adjacent to the popular Pipestave Hill recreation area, and the Ocean Meadow-to-Pipestave connection was achieved.

## **ADVISORY ACTIVITIES**

- The OSC advised the PB and ConCom on optimal trail locations, design and development issues during hearings for OSPD projects – Ocean Meadow, the Cottages at River Hill and Drake's Landing – as well as Estate Homes at River's Edge. When completed, trails in the new residential development on Follansbee Lane and at River's Edge will connect Whetstone Street and Sullivan Court to abutting conservation land along River Meadow Drive and will offer views of the Merrimack River.
- The OSC consulted with various boards and committees on matters related to land conservation and passive recreation, most notably, discussions with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on the protocol for committees to weigh in on Chapter 61 rights of first refusal when parcels enrolled in Chapter 61 are offered for sale or are converted from required uses. In particular, the OSC recommended that the town exercise 120-day review of an offer to purchase the Sullivan Farm off Whetstone Street and Sullivan Court in order to evaluate the parcel for possible municipal use because of its proximity to town Center. The review period also was intended to give land trusts an opportunity to explore preservation strategies. The OSC conferred with the BOS on the PRCOM's proposed purchase of the Daley property on Main Street using CPA funds.



- The OSC offered input to the PB when it drafted the Solar Overlay District zoning bylaw.
- The committee weighed in with the Water Department (WNWD), Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and BOS on proposed use of CPA funds for the Dole Place wellfield acquisition.
- The OSC was represented on the Land Working Group reviewing Town-owned land that might be sold to third parties.

## **ADVOCACY FOR CONSERVATION**

- The OSC advocated against Town Meeting warrant articles that would have reduced the CPA surcharge from 3 percent to 0.5 percent. The portion of the town CPA account designated for use solely for the purpose of open space and recreation, as defined by M.G.L. Ch. 44B, stands at \$382,142 (July 1, 2018) and the town's CPA unrestricted total is \$1,158,027.
- At annual Town meeting in 2014, \$25,000 was granted to Essex County Greenbelt (Greenbelt) to permanently conserve a portion of the Atherton property connecting Pike's Bridge Road to the Indian Hill Reservation. The town received a conservation restriction for this property.
- As part of its ongoing commitment to public access to the Merrimack River, a project at Ferry Lane Park was explored with what is now the Massachusetts Office of Fishing and Boating Access Massachusetts Fish & Game. The state had considered creating parking on town land and building a pier at the Rocks Village Bridge. OSC members were divided on the issue and at annual Town Meeting in April, 2014, it was voted to designate Ferry Lane for park purposes under Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 97. The Town Meeting vote effectively nullified the state proposal to use part of the park for boat trailers and vehicles. Selectmen appointed an OSC member to a newly formed River Access Committee (RAC). River access sites for car-top craft at Whetstone Street and River Meadow Drive, among others, has been explored by that committee, which continues to actively pursue better river access.
- The OSC worked closely with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Greenbelt on conservation efforts and strategies for large parcels that became available for sale, including the Sullivan Farm, now developed as Cottages at River Hill and Estate Homes at River's Edge.
- The OSC and Greenbelt continue to monitor priority properties for sale, including an 80-acre parcel on Coffin Street that could provide trail connections to Riverbend and parts west; parcels contiguous to existing trail systems and / or waterfront; and Brown Spring Farm, an iconic 10-acre actively farmed property on Main Street that has wide community support for preservation.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

- The OSC chose National Trails Day 2010 to launch its annual trail hike to make citizens aware of new or improved trails. Well received from the beginning, attendance at these treks tends to grow each year, bringing a diverse group of young and old, fit and not-so-fit. Two of the hikes were jointly hosted and / or led by Greenbelt. The town DPW also assisted the OSC in staging a unique full moon hike and campfire event at Pipestave Hill Recreation Area on a very cold night in 2011.

- OSC members attended and/or participated in conferences sponsored by Greenbelt (Land Conservation Conferences in 2016 and 2018 and its Chapter 61 Workshop in 2016), Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition Annual Conferences, state Department of Conservation and Recreation Annual Trail Conference, and the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Open Space Forum. Such events help members: to stay abreast of issues affecting land conservation efforts; to explore funding opportunities for conservation; to learn best practices for trail development and management; and to have the opportunity to provide input to the regional planning commission on the value of open space to the region's economic well-being.
- OSC members presented an economic case for the value of preserving open space to the Citizens for a Stronger Community. Exhibits were periodically installed in the library covering such topics as: the Chapter 61 tax program; conservation issues, such as grants of easements for trails and conservation purposes; an inventory of land uses in town, with maps; "Summer Places, Open Spaces," featuring maps of new and existing trails within our town-wide system; and our annual trail hikes.

## **B. Planning Process and Public Participation**

The 2018 OSRP is built on the plans completed in 1996, 2003 and 2009. Its aims reiterate and expand upon the objectives identified in these previous documents, but the goals of the 2018 OSRP were drafted with information derived from: a June 2016 town-wide survey; OSC deliberations during regular monthly meetings; the PRCom 2010 survey, playground improvement project and its efforts to expand recreation programs; OSC public forums (the last one in October 2018); and input from other local groups.

OSC members developed and wrote the updated OSRP from 2016 through 2018. The nine committee members, appointed by the BOS, include seven voting members and two associates. The Plan update was undertaken during OSC monthly meetings, with additional weekly workshops focused on particular sections. All monthly meetings were posted, and public participation was encouraged.

To gather data upon which to base this Plan, the committee sought input from the entire West Newbury community. It developed a new survey, drawing what remained useful from the previous OSRP community survey, and with input from the PRCom. It was mailed to all households in town in mid-June 2016 and was available online through Survey Monkey, a fact that was noted on the mailed copy along with the web address. Informative press releases were posted on the local Facebook page and printed in the *Newburyport Daily News*.

By the June 30, 2016 deadline, the response was 323 completed surveys –100 completed online and 223 mailed or left in collection boxes at the G.A.R. Library, 1910 Office Building, and West Newbury Food Mart. Results first were tabulated and the narrative responses were categorized. Analysis of the responses informed the survey narrative. Subsequently, an informational exhibit was created to explain the survey and summarize its results. The exhibit was on display at the Special Town Meeting in October 2016, followed by two months at the library. (See *Appendix A* for the survey.)

As the 2018 OSRP updates were finalized in October, the OSC held a final public forum to solicit input on community goals. The forum was publicized in the *Newburyport Daily News*, West Newbury Facebook page, town website, and by town wide email to citizenry. The forum is detailed in Section 6.

**FIGURE: 1      2018 WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN PARTICIPANTS****Open Space Committee**

Jessica Azenaro  
 Don Bourquard  
 Brad Buschur  
 Daniel Carlat (Associate)  
 John Dodge  
 Jean Lambert  
 Wendy Reed (Associate)  
 Patricia Reeser, Chair  
 Marlene Switzer

**Members during OSRP Drafting Period**

Dawne Fusco  
 Jennifer Germain  
 Steve Greason

**Special Thanks**

Essex County Greenbelt Association  
 Leah Zambernardi, West Newbury Town Planner  
 Michael Gootee, West Newbury Water Department Superintendent  
 Michael McCarron, West Newbury Town Clerk  
 Jay Smith, West Newbury Conservation Agent  
 West Newbury G.A.R. Library  
 Merrimac Valley Planning Commission  
 Jean Nelson, West Newbury CPC Administrator  
 Jill Gambon & Mike Mokrzycki, OSC website patrons  
 Angus Jennings, West Newbury Town Manager  
 Glenn Clohecy, West Newbury Building Inspector

**Park & Recreation Commission Liaisons**

Bill Bachrach  
 Tom Flaherty

## **SECTION 3 • COMMUNITY SETTING**



**Tricia Mansfield painting**

The Dr. John C. Page School, across from the Pipestave-Millpond Recreation Area, has received significant Community Preservation Act funding for modernization and preservation of the historical structure. The Riverbend Conservation Area behind the school stretches to the Merrimack River and provides real-life lessons for students.

### **A. Regional Context**

The town of West Newbury is located approximately 35 miles north of Boston in the Merrimack Valley region; a diverse 270-square-mile region along the Merrimack River of former industrial cities, seaside communities and rural villages. The town is a semi-rural, residential community bordered on the north and west by the Merrimack River, on the east by the city of Newburyport, and on the south by the towns of Newbury and Groveland. Across the Merrimack River are the cities of Haverhill and Amesbury, and the town of Merrimac. The northern section of town drains to the Merrimack River watershed, while drainage in the southwest section of town is to the Parker River Watershed.

West Newbury lies between the interstate highways of Route I-95 and I-495, as shown on *Map 3-A*. Encompassing an area of almost 15 square miles just inland of the coastal zone, the town is characterized by a rolling landscape of hills, open fields, and woods interlaced by freshwater wetlands. Other than a small commercial area in the center of town with a market, barber, shops, a restaurant, auto repair garage and bank, West Newbury is a residential community. Shopping is available nearby in Newburyport and Haverhill, as well as in areas along I-95 and I-495.

About 5 percent of residents work at home, but most residents take advantage of the nearby highways, the bus station in Newburyport, Commuter Rail stations in Haverhill and Newburyport, and MBTA parking in Newburyport and Haverhill to commute to work in more commercial and industrial areas throughout Massachusetts and adjacent states. While the ease in commuting that the region offers allows West Newbury to remain a residential community, it

ironically has increased the demand for housing, which is causing the loss of open space and agricultural fields that have given the town its rural character.

There are numerous municipal, state and federal recreational resources in the region that offer hiking, cycling, wildlife observation, swimming and boating, and ocean access. Some of these resources have shared boundaries between neighboring communities. For West Newbury, these include Maudslay State Park in Newburyport and adjacent to the West Newbury border; the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area in West Newbury, Groveland, Georgetown and Newbury; and the Martin Burns Wildlife Management Area in Newbury and adjacent to the West Newbury border. Several conservation areas entirely in West Newbury are used by town residents and those from neighboring communities for hiking, cycling, fishing, boating and bird watching.

West Newbury joined with the towns of Groveland and Merrimac to form the Pentucket regional middle and high schools in the late 1950s. The member towns expanded this partnership in the mid-1990s to include the elementary schools of each community. The Pentucket Regional School District's total student enrollment has decreased from a high of almost 3,400 in 2001 to 2,399 in 2017.

While enrollment is declining, many of the buildings are aging and have required significant expenditures to maintain and update the facilities. As a result, a building expansion/renovation project for the high school and middle schools campus between West Newbury and Groveland is being evaluated by the school district. The current campus includes several athletic fields, an outdoor track and tennis courts, with smaller athletic fields in each town.

Pipestave Hill in West Newbury provides recreational resources to the town and region. It offers an equestrian ring, as well as a jumping course and multiple trails, used for practicing and competitions for regional equestrian events several times a year, including an annual Myopia Hunt. The equestrians share the hilltop with the West Newbury Youth League soccer and lacrosse fields, and a Babe Ruth baseball diamond that also are used by the regional athletic league and school district. The fields host special events several times a year. The heavy field use often taxes the limited space for parking and can compromise access to the equestrian ring.

The PRCom proposed major expansion of the recreation area onto the adjacent land Dunn Fields. Voters at the Oct. 22, 2018 Special Town Meeting failed to approve CPA funding for an engineering feasibility study. See *Section 7C* for details.

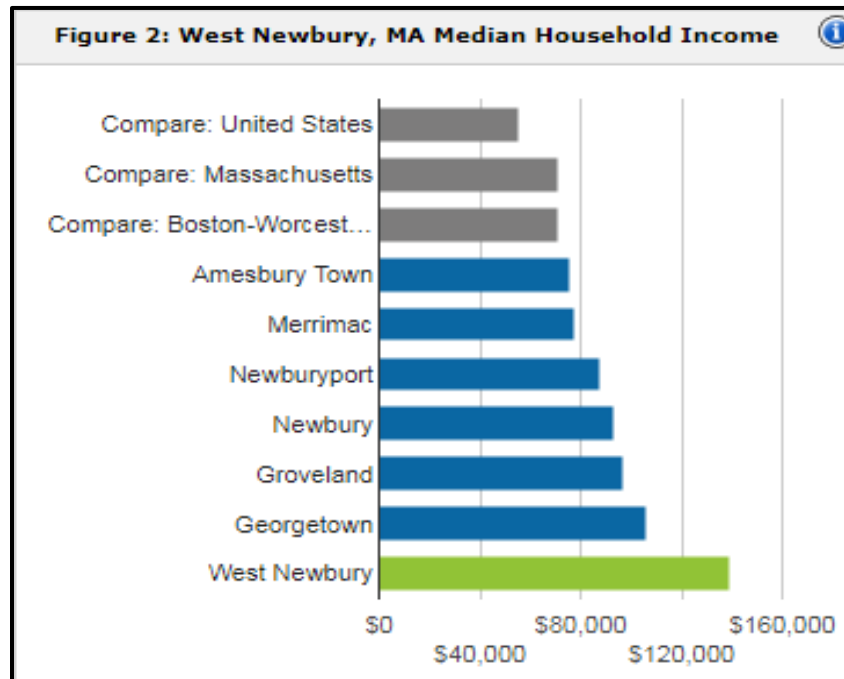
Another shared resource, although not in the traditional sense, is the water supply for the City of Newburyport. It primarily is sourced from reservoirs built along the Artichoke River watershed located in West Newbury. The West Newbury Water Department provides drinking water to about two-thirds of the town's residents from a well field adjacent to the Artichoke River Reservoir. Because the yield of this well field is not adequate to meet demand at all times of the year, the WNWD must purchase drinking water from the City of Newburyport at retail rates.

Surface water protection zones (Zone A and B) and groundwater protection zones (Zone I and II) in the region are shown on Map 3A. The fact that these zones often cross town boundaries illustrates their status as a shared resource and responsibility for protection of drinking water supplies for the region. These zones are further described in Section 4.

An attempt to secure reduced rates by enacting a surface water protection bylaw for property in the watershed failed because the City of Newburyport only would guarantee a price break for three years. While a more equitable financial arrangement does not seem imminent, West Newbury does benefit from having the watershed protected by state

regulations and made available for limited recreational use. The communities of Groveland and Newbury have wellfields to provide drinking water to their residents.

West Newbury is an affluent community, with the highest median household income in the region, as shown in Figure 2. Using 2017 census data, the following chart also shows a median income double that for the state and two-and-a-half times the United States median household income.



SOURCE: [www.towncharts.com/MassachusettsEconomy/WestNewbury-town-MA-Economy-data.html](http://www.towncharts.com/MassachusettsEconomy/WestNewbury-town-MA-Economy-data.html)

FIGURE 2

## B. History of the Community

West Newbury shares its early history with the neighboring communities of Newbury, Newburyport, Byfield and Plum Island, all of which were originally part of the Town of Newbury. Puritan emigrants from England established the original 1635 settlement in the area of today's Newbury Lower Green.

The development of West Newbury began when the Newbury "Upper Commons" was allotted to freeholders for pasture and woodlots in 1642. Twenty years later, a highway was laid out between the Artichoke River and the Bradford line, after which the remainder of the Upper Commons was divided into 111 parcels and assigned by lottery. These were laid out on either side of this road (now Main Street), 64 on the north side and 46 on the south side. Each was approximately 27 acres in size, and property owners were required to fence their boundaries. Many of the resulting stone walls are still evident throughout the town. West Newbury was incorporated as a separate town in 1819, originally named Parsons and then changed to West Newbury one year later.

This was a period of burgeoning prosperity and significant growth for the town. A variety of manufacturing enterprises were established, including the horn comb industry, shoe-making factories, carriage building, leather tanning and brickmaking.

During the 1800s, West Newbury developed a new character. Early improvements to services and infrastructure included a covered bridge at Rocks Village and a mail stage coach service between Haverhill and Newburyport. The



Town Hall and a large new Congregational Church were built close to Main Street. The second half of the century saw the beginning of a municipal water supply, with two public wells dug at the Town Square and the Training Field. In 1883, both the first firehouse and a sizeable wharf at the bottom of Whetstone Street were completed. Another major project was the construction of a rail line for horse cars from Haverhill to Newburyport that opened in 1886. This was subsequently replaced in 1897 by an electric trolley line that ran until the 1930s. These improvements connected West Newbury to neighboring towns and facilitated the expansion of residential development and commercial enterprises.

The first half of this century saw a decline in the town's population due to loss of most of the manufacturing industries, a nationwide economic depression, and two world wars. Agriculture once again became the mainstay of the town's economy. In 1919, there were 40 dairy herds in West Newbury, but these dwindled to four by 1969, and one at present.

Other significant agrarian businesses were Long Hill Orchard and Cherry Hill Nurseries. Between these operations, over 300 acres was still in cultivation near the end of the century. Parts of Long Hill Orchard remain in agricultural use, but some land has been subdivided for residential development. After Cherry Hill Nurseries closed, the farm was subdivided for residential use. This shift from agriculture to residential development resulted in the population more than doubling during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Settlement patterns dating from the 1600s and 1700s have defined West Newbury's present-day layout. An 1884 map is included as *Map 3-B* and shows striking similarities to today's West Newbury. With the exception of modern subdivisions, the town's present road system was well established by the early 1700s. As the map indicates, homes, businesses and community buildings were concentrated along Bradford Road, now Main Street/Route 113. By 1887, it was reported that half of the population lived on Main Street and the other half lived within a 5-minute walk.

### **C. Population Characteristics**

#### **POPULATION TRENDS**

The population of West Newbury has grown more slowly than that of other towns in the region. Population figures from the US Census show a 2.4 percent growth from 2000 to 2010, with a 1.8 percent growth from the 2010 census figure to the present population of 4,327 as reported by the town Clerk. Population projections completed by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute estimate an 11 percent decline in population from 2010 to 2035, while projections made by MVPC estimate a 2.5 percent increase from 2010 to 2040. Corresponding projections for the MVPC region estimate a 14 percent increase in population.

#### **DENSITY**

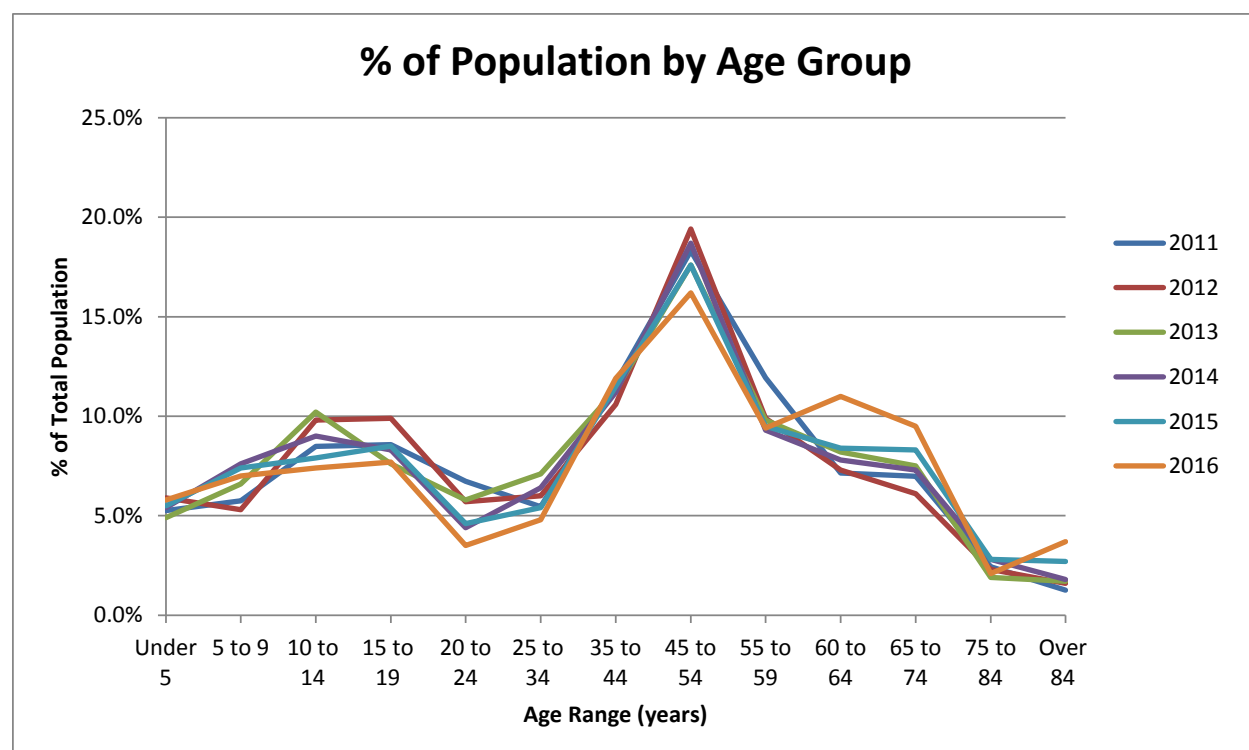
With a total area of 14.7 square miles, the density of population in West Newbury has ranged from a low of 282 people per square mile in 2000, to 294 people per square mile in 2018. This is relatively low compared to the statewide density of 862, calculated by the American Communities Survey in 2016. More remarkable, densities in the surrounding communities of Georgetown, Groveland and Merrimac are at least double that of West Newbury. Nearby Newburyport and Amesbury were found to be more densely populated than the statewide number, while Newbury was comparable to West Newbury.

The relatively low population density of West Newbury reflects its agricultural history, current landscape and past efforts to maintain open space. Of major importance has been the absence of a public sewer system and the poor quality of soils to support individual septic systems. Approximately 9 percent of the town's area is surface water and can't be developed. There also are extensive wetlands that are protected from alteration by state wetland regulations.

Although many farms have been subdivided for residential development, historical and currently operating farms still exist – two of which are protected from development by an agricultural preservation restriction (APR). Combined with the currently protected conservation areas and land with conservation restrictions, these factors contribute to the amount of undeveloped acreage in West Newbury that creates a relatively low population density. It is critical that existing protections remain in place and new ones are obtained whenever possible to preserve this low density and rural character that it reflects.

## AGE

The most recent data from the 2017 American Communities Survey (ACS) estimated the median age of West Newbury residents to be 45.8 years. From this dataset, age group population as a percentage of the total population of the town from 2011 to 2016 were calculated and are shown in Figure 3.



Source: 2017 American Communities Survey

FIGURE 3

According to these estimates, more than half of West Newbury residents were from 20 to 64 years old during this time frame, and the median-age and retirement-age populations are increasing. Assuming this trend continues, open space and recreation planning should consider the needs of older residents when deciding where to spend funds.

## FAMILY INCOME

West Newbury is a relatively affluent community, with about 80 percent of the households considered “family” (those with two or more people related by birth, marriage or adoption). The most recent median family household income was estimated to be \$157,331 in 2016, the majority greater than \$100,000. Both of these income measures have steadily increased since the last census. ACS estimates of family income over the study period of 2011 to 2016 follow:

INCOME DATA	YEAR					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
# Households	1,183	1,152	1,171	1,231	1,281	1,335
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,497</i>	<i>1,463</i>	<i>1,459</i>	<i>1,502</i>	<i>1,518</i>	<i>1,590</i>
Median Income	\$123,237	\$133,977	\$127,990	\$133,281	\$139,321	\$157,331
Mean Income	\$169,425	\$184,297	\$176,620	\$167,807	\$175,714	\$181,259
% over \$100,000	61.2	62.1	62.5	64.3	67.3	71.4

Source: 2017 American Communities Survey

FIGURE 4

**EMPLOYMENT**

Many West Newbury residents work in the greater Boston area; others commute to Newburyport, Haverhill, Lawrence and Lowell. The largest employers within the community are the Pentucket Regional School System, the Town of West Newbury, and the Children's Castle (a daycare facility).

There are no manufacturers in the community, but there are a variety of small service-oriented businesses, some home-based businesses and an assortment of agriculturally based businesses. Because of current zoning regulations, as well as town and state ownership of most of the IR land, soil quality and market demand, it is unlikely that West Newbury will support a major manufacturing or commercial employer in the foreseeable future.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POPULATIONS**

The Massachusetts Environmental Justice Policy is intended to improve environmental quality for populations with lower-income people and communities of color. This is to be accomplished both through protection from environmental pollution and ensuring access to parks, green spaces and recreational opportunities. These populations are identified based on income, minority status and English language isolation as identified in the most recent census. West Newbury does not have any population blocks that qualify under this program.

Map 3-C shows Environmental Justice Populations in the Northeast region of Massachusetts as identified using 2010 Census data.

**D. Growth and Development Patterns**

The town of West Newbury originally was developed in 27-acre lots along Main Street. As the town economy changed from agriculture to manufacturing, these lots were divided into residential lots. Roadways to the river and the interior portions of town also were built, followed by residences there. In spite of this expansion, large undeveloped areas of town remained in abundance. These open fields and heavily wooded areas gave the town its rural character for many years but gradually are being converted to residential development.

According to the state Department of Revenue (DOR) Municipal Databank, for fiscal year 2018, the following land uses (by parcel) exist.

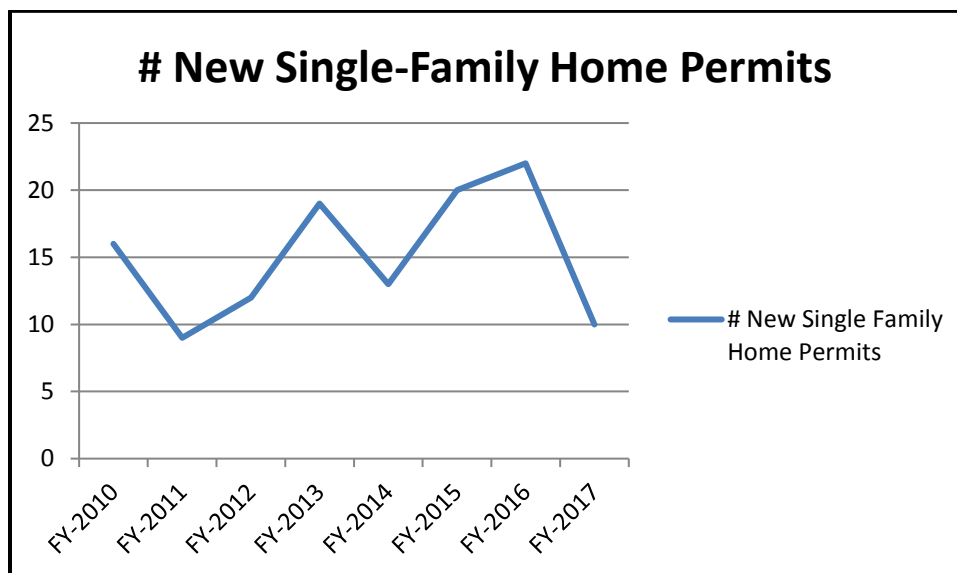
LAND USE	# OF PARCELS	% OF TOTAL
Residential	1,536	83.2
Commercial	13	0.7
Industrial	17	0.9
Vacant	176	9.5
Miscellaneous/Other	104	5.6
Total	1,846	100

Source: Massachusetts DOR Municipal Databank

FIGURE 5

The majority of land use in West Newbury is residential. Of the 1,536 residential use parcels, 1,370 were single family homes, 66 were multifamily homes and 100 were condominiums. Data since fiscal year 2003 shows that these residential uses on a percentage basis have been relatively constant. The exception is condominium use, which has increased from 0.4 percent of total in FY2003 to 5.4 percent of total in fiscal year 2018. The number of new single-family homes permitted for construction in West Newbury peaked at 40 in the 1990s and has fluctuated between 10 and 20 since.

Based on Annual Town Reports, the number of new single-family homes built, their reported value, and an average value for these homes since the 2009 OSRP is shown in the following chart.



Source: West Newbury Annual Town Reports

FIGURE 6

The fiscal years of 2013, 2015 and 2016 had the highest number of new homes permitted. These years correspond to the buildout of the Ocean Meadow and Cottages at River Hill projects according to provisions of the town's Open Space Preservation and Development zoning bylaw (OSPD). Under this bylaw, the homes are smaller and clustered, and open space is set aside in the development at a threshold of 60 percent of the tract shown on the development

plan. This is reflected in the lower average reported value for these years. A third OSPD project is being built on Main Street; Drake's Landing will have a total of 34 homes and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

The current and anticipated trend for new home development is on parcels that were included in the Chapter 61 program. The developments mentioned previously, as well as a number currently being considered for development, were all Chapter 61 properties. These tend to be large parcels, some with scenic and environmental value but which, for various reasons, the town did not exercise its right of first refusal to purchase. The development of these parcels, even under OSPD requirements, may not be consistent with the objectives of maintaining the rural character of the community and protecting its natural resources.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Transportation**

Public transportation into Boston also is available in the neighboring cities of Newburyport and Haverhill, with associated access to Logan Airport and national and international travel. The Merrimac Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) offers an on-call van service, "Ring and Ride," for riders of all ages within West Newbury and nearby towns. Transportation services for the town's elderly residents are available from the West Newbury Council on Aging (COA). While the COA does not provide regularly scheduled transportation service to its members, it does offer transportation for special group outings. It also provides individual transportation by prior arrangement. West Newbury's location makes it an ideal home for commuters, with nearby access to the federal, state and local highways shown on *Map 3-A*.

Transportation within the town is generally limited to automobile use. While the winding and scenic roadways off Route 113 have low traffic and are used recreationally by walkers, joggers and bicyclists, no public transportation is available for residents wishing to access municipal services, recreational opportunities, or the commercial center. Sidewalks are only available along Route 113 from the Training Field area to the regional middle and high school complex on the west side of town. This allows pedestrian use through the middle of town but does not extend east to the Page School and Pipestave Hill Recreational Area. There are no established bicycle lanes along town roadways to encourage and ensure safe bicycling use.

The increasing value of West Newbury roadways for commuting and access to town center is in conflict with the expressed desire to maintain their rural and scenic character. The main roads providing access to the nearby highways - such as Bachelor to Indian Hill streets and Ash Street to Interstate 95, and Bridge and Church streets to Interstate 495 - have seen an increase in the number and speed of vehicle traffic in recent years. This makes them less desirable and safe for non-commuting use and has required road improvements. The installation of sidewalks on town roadways to Route 113 would enhance pedestrian access to town services but would require the widening and possible improvement of these roadways.

The existing roadway infrastructure in West Newbury reaches most of the remaining undeveloped land. As a result, transportation is not a limiting factor in their development. As the community grows, however, and the number of residents, vehicles, and desired access to town services increases, the recreational use and scenic value of the town's roadways will continue to be negatively impacted.

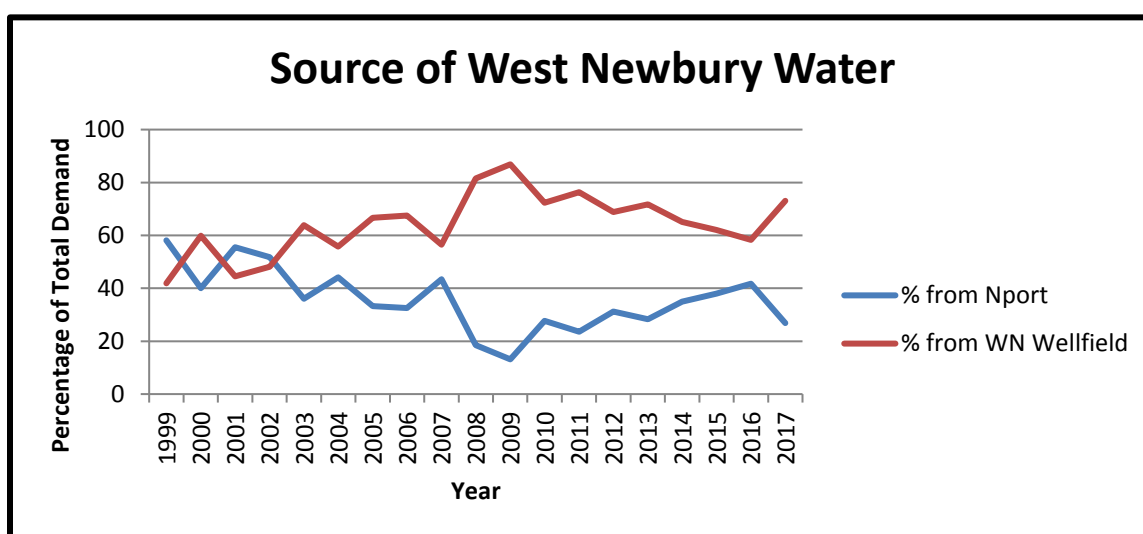
### **Water Supply**

West Newbury maintains a public water supply for residences located within the town service area. This includes the approximately two-thirds of residents who live in the western section of town and along Main Street to the border with

Newburyport. Planning Board regulations require that new residences within 1,000 feet of water service are required to connect to the water supply.

The town historically purchased water from the Town of Groveland and the City of Newburyport. In December 1990, the West Newbury wellfield, located adjacent to the Artichoke Reservoir and on the border with Newburyport, was brought on line. Because this supply is not adequate to provide all of the service area's water needs, especially during the summer months, the town has maintained its connection to Newburyport's water supply and continues to purchase water to supplement its own supply when needed.

The following graph shows the source of water used by West Newbury residents who are on the town water supply as a percentage of the total demand from 1999 through 2017. While there is fluctuation depending on the amount of precipitation and groundwater table for any given year, an average of 64 percent of the demand was satisfied by the West Newbury wellfield over this time period.



SOURCE: West Newbury Water Department

FIGURE 7

Given the high cost associated with purchasing additional water, and competing demands for Newburyport's supply from its own residents and other towns purchasing its water, the WNWD has continued to identify and investigate possible additional sources of water supply within the town. An expansion of the existing wellfield to include a bedrock well is scheduled to begin in 2018.

Additionally, pumping tests for a well on the Merrimack River have been successful and received preliminary approval from the DEP, and the town is in discussions with the property owner for the purchase of this property. Incorporation of both of these additional sources of water supply would greatly reduce the town's dependence on other water supplies.

In addition to increasing the water supply by adding new sources, the WNWD uses administrative measures to conserve water. In 1999, the town adopted a bylaw requiring rain sensors on irrigation systems to prevent unnecessary watering. In 2003, the town adopted the In-Ground Irrigation Bylaw which prohibits new irrigation systems from being connected to the municipal water system.



Additionally, the use of town water for outside watering may be restricted under the Water Use Restriction Bylaw adopted by Town Meeting in 1978, and most recently amended in 2003. (This is conditioned on the declaration of a state of water emergency by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP))

The residents of West Newbury who do not live within the service area must provide their own water supply through the installation of a well. Both shallow sand and gravel aquifers and deep bedrock aquifers are located throughout town, and the type of well and cost for installation is dependent on which type of aquifer is most easily accessed for each property. The need to install a private water supply for new residences outside the town water supply service area generally does not preclude development of these properties. Groundwater quality throughout the town is suitable for drinking water use, and installing a well is considered to be part of the construction cost.

### **Sewage Disposal**

West Newbury does not have a municipal sewer system, and there are no plans to construct one in the future. Like many small towns, property owners are required to install and maintain onsite systems for sewage disposal in accordance with state Title 5 requirements and local bylaws. Given the abundance of clay and bedrock in West Newbury, and the proximity of many properties to protected wetland areas, the requirement for onsite sewage disposal systems has the potential to limit development of some properties. However, the technology of treatment systems has rapidly evolved, and the DEP has evaluated and approved a number of Innovation/Alternative Technologies for use in the state.

In addition to the use of new technologies to meet the requirement for onsite sewage disposal and allow development, combined treatment systems also have become more common. Known as package plants, they provide a single treatment system for multiple dwellings or businesses. The Housing Authority in West Newbury uses such a system, as do the recent residential developments built according to the town's OSPD bylaw (Ocean Meadow, Cottages at River Hill, and Drake's Landing). These systems meet the regulatory requirements of Title 5, but the effectiveness of their ongoing operation and maintenance by a third party, such as a homeowner's association, has not been established.

### **DHCD's Mass Downtown Initiative Technical Assistance Program.**

In 2017, the Town received a grant from the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Technical Assistance Program from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for a study evaluating shared sewer service for parcels in the center of West Newbury. Lack of sewer service was identified as a contributing factor to the limited growth of commercial uses or major renovation in the Town Center / Main Street area, so the intent of this study was to consider what a package treatment system would look like, what it would cost, who it could serve, and how it could be financed. A design and engineering firm was selected to complete the study, and a working group comprised of town board and committee members, residents and business/property owners in and around the Town Center was established to provide input and review the results of the study.

A series of public meetings were held to present information and receive public feedback before a draft incorporating comments from the working group was submitted. The final product is an educational report and presentation that provides guidance on using centralized sewage treatment in small/rural town centers as a way to affect economic development. No formal action was taken by the BOS or PB.

The study is available on the town website at [www.wnewbury.org/planning-board/webforms/town-center-planning-2017-2018](http://www.wnewbury.org/planning-board/webforms/town-center-planning-2017-2018). It is an educational product.

## **LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

### **Land use controls**

Land use controls in West Newbury are provided for through the Zoning Bylaw, most recently updated in October 2017. The town has three residential zoning districts, a business district and an industrial district. Additionally, there are three overlay districts: Floodplain, Groundwater Protection, and Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation. The commercial and industrial districts are very small and effectively limit land use within the town to residential. The boundaries of these districts are identified in the Town Zoning Map included here as *Map 3-D*.

The primary difference between the three residential districts is the lot size. Residence C lots (primarily for residences) must be a minimum of 20,000 square feet with 150 feet of road frontage. Found where the heaviest development is located along Main Street and in the center area of town, they tend to be on the town water supply. Residence A and B districts are characterized by lower-density development and include residential, rural and agricultural areas. Minimum lot sizes are 80,000 square feet and 40,000 square feet respectively, with 200 feet of road frontage. The majority of open space remaining in town is located in these zoning districts. The ability to apply for special permits and exceptions to these zoning requirements is provided for in the Zoning Bylaw.

### **Open Space Preservation Development Bylaw – Section 6.B.**

The Open Space Preservation Development (OSPD) Bylaw provides a means in which the town can work with developers to deviate from the conventional subdivision regulations and create a project that results in or maintains more open space for the enjoyment of development's occupants and the public, among other benefits. It is based on the model bylaw created by the Commonwealth, though the West Newbury Planning Board has continued to modify it in ways to better fit the needs of our town. The OSPD is a large tract development option for developers. It is not a requirement or a right, but can be allowed through a special permit process. The OSPD strives to strike a balance between the development and land protection goals of the town and landowner rights.

This bylaw was based on the Green Neighborhood model for land preservation, approved by Town Meeting in 2001 and most recently amended in February 2016. One of the primary purposes of the OSPD is to further the goals and policies of the West Newbury Comprehensive Open Space Plans (Section B.1.f). The special permit requires that at least 60 percent of the total tract be protected as open space by being deeded to the town or the ConCom or through a Conservation Restriction (CR). A total of 61.25 acres of land have been protected s under this bylaw since its implementation.

### **Floodplain Overlay District – Section 5.D.**

The Floodplain Overlay District was adopted to reduce the threat of injury, environmental impact, damage to personal property, disruption of utility services, and costs associated with flooding. It encompasses the areas designated as Zone A and AE by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and shown in *Map 4-F* in Section 4 of this plan. As a result, it is possible that this overlay bylaw could restrict the development of open land along the Merrimack and Artichoke rivers, and Beaver Brook. .

### **Groundwater Protection Overlay District – Section 10**

The purpose of this district bylaw is to protect existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. By controlling activities and land uses within the area over which the drinking water aquifer exists, this bylaw prevents the temporary or permanent contamination of the environment and drinking water supply. These restrictions are in addition to those described in the zoning district, and primarily include the use, storage or disposal of toxic or hazardous materials within the Zone II radius of the drinking water wellfield.

Given that this area is already zoned as residential, and the restricted uses are not normally associated with residential use, it is unlikely that this overlay would further prevent the development of open land for residential use.

#### **Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District – Section 5.G.**

The Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation Overlay District (LGSPI) is intended to address public safety and minimize the impacts on scenic, natural and historical resources by the installation of solar voltaic systems with a minimum capacity of 250 kW DC. In addition to dimensional controls for the system and appurtenant structures, and design standards regarding lighting, signage, utility connection and security, the bylaw stipulates that the systems must comply with state wetlands, storm water and noise regulations. In order to prevent erosion and disturbance of natural habitat, the bylaw also limits clearing of natural vegetation to only what is necessary for construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.

This overlay district has the potential to protect open space resources within West Newbury. The conversion of large undeveloped properties to solar production rather than residential use could maintain the environmental, scenic and recreational value of these parcels, but is dependent on the developer's willingness to be flexible in siting the array and consider conservation restrictions for areas of the property not necessary for solar production. In order to encourage this, the Planning Board could condition its recommendation for Town Meeting to adopt a new solar overlay district on the following:

1. Set aside excess land or buffer as permanent open space to allow public access or trails.
2. Allow public access or trails within the buffer zone.
3. Require land to be deeded to the town or a land trust as open space on decommissioning of the facility.

#### **PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT**

Several large parcels in town are being evaluated for their potential to be developed and/or subdivided in the near future. The parcels are generally within the service area of the town's public water system and are located in zoning districts A and B. The properties, their current status, and the potential impacts if developed are described below:

SITE NAME	LOCATION	ACREAGE	IMPACTS	OWNERSHIP	CURRENT USE
Beaucher Property	28 Coffin St.	72	Wetlands, Trails	Private	Open
Grew Property	River Road	63	Environmental, Floodplain	Private	Open
Brown Spring Farm	Main Street	10	Environmental, Agricultural	Private	Residential, Agricultural
Mullen Property	Church Street	35	Environmental, Trails	Municipal	Open
Hufnagel Property	River Road	32	Environmental, Floodplain	Private	Residential, Open
Dunn Property	317 Main St.	15	Agricultural	Private	Residential, Agricultural

SOURCE: West Newbury Conservation Commission & Planning Board

FIGURE 8

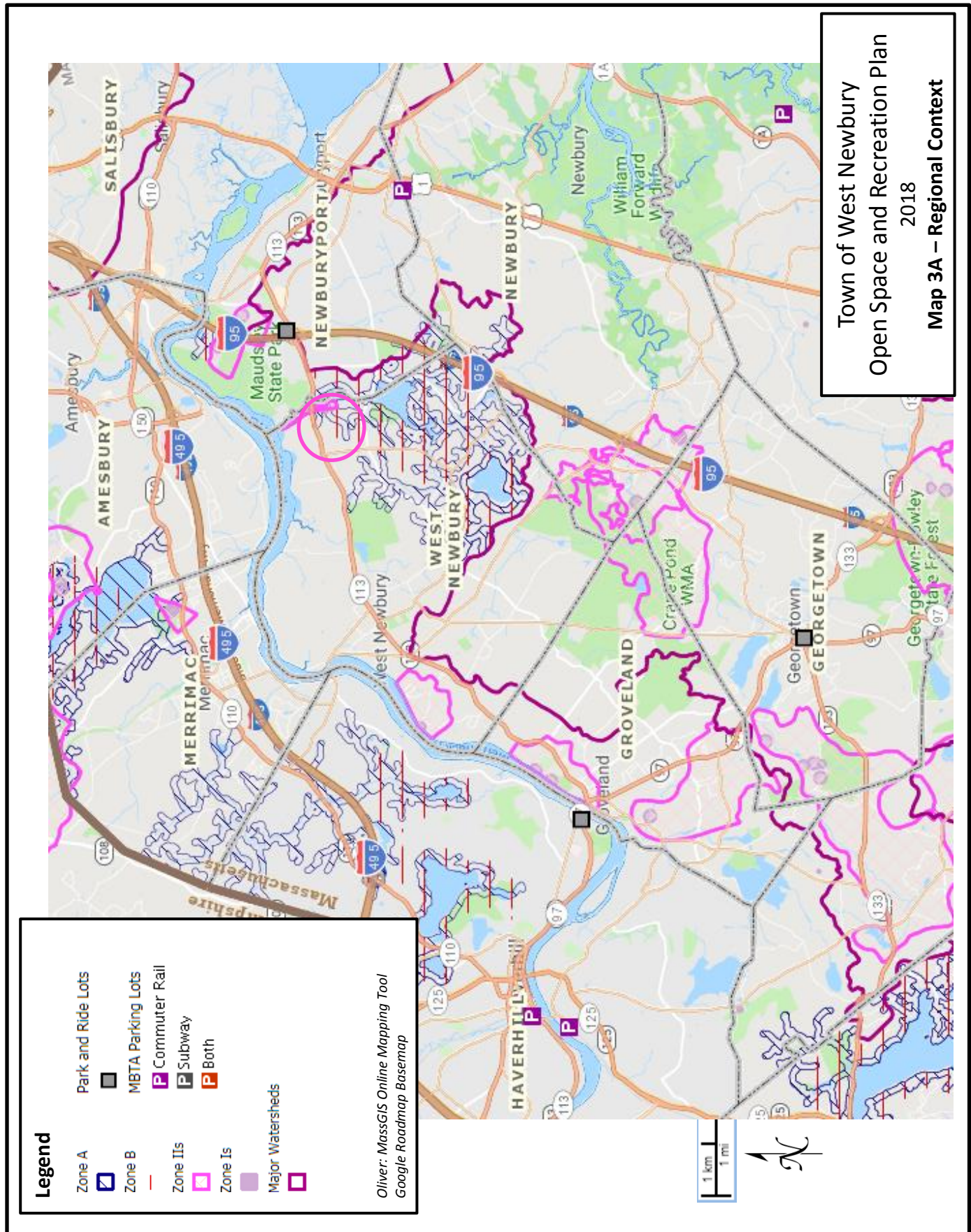
Each of these properties has the potential to be developed to include multifamily housing or cluster developments. Potential effect on the town could be: road improvements to facilitate additional traffic; creased demand on an already strained water supply; and an increase in the numbers of individual or package wastewater treatment systems in town which could impact groundwater quality and increase the administrative requirements for the Board of Health and Con Comm. Most of the properties include or are near wetlands, or could affect wildlife habitat and migration. Most also have existing trails or could provide trail connections for the town's recreational use. All of these impacts have the potential to decrease the amount and functional value of West Newbury's remaining open space.



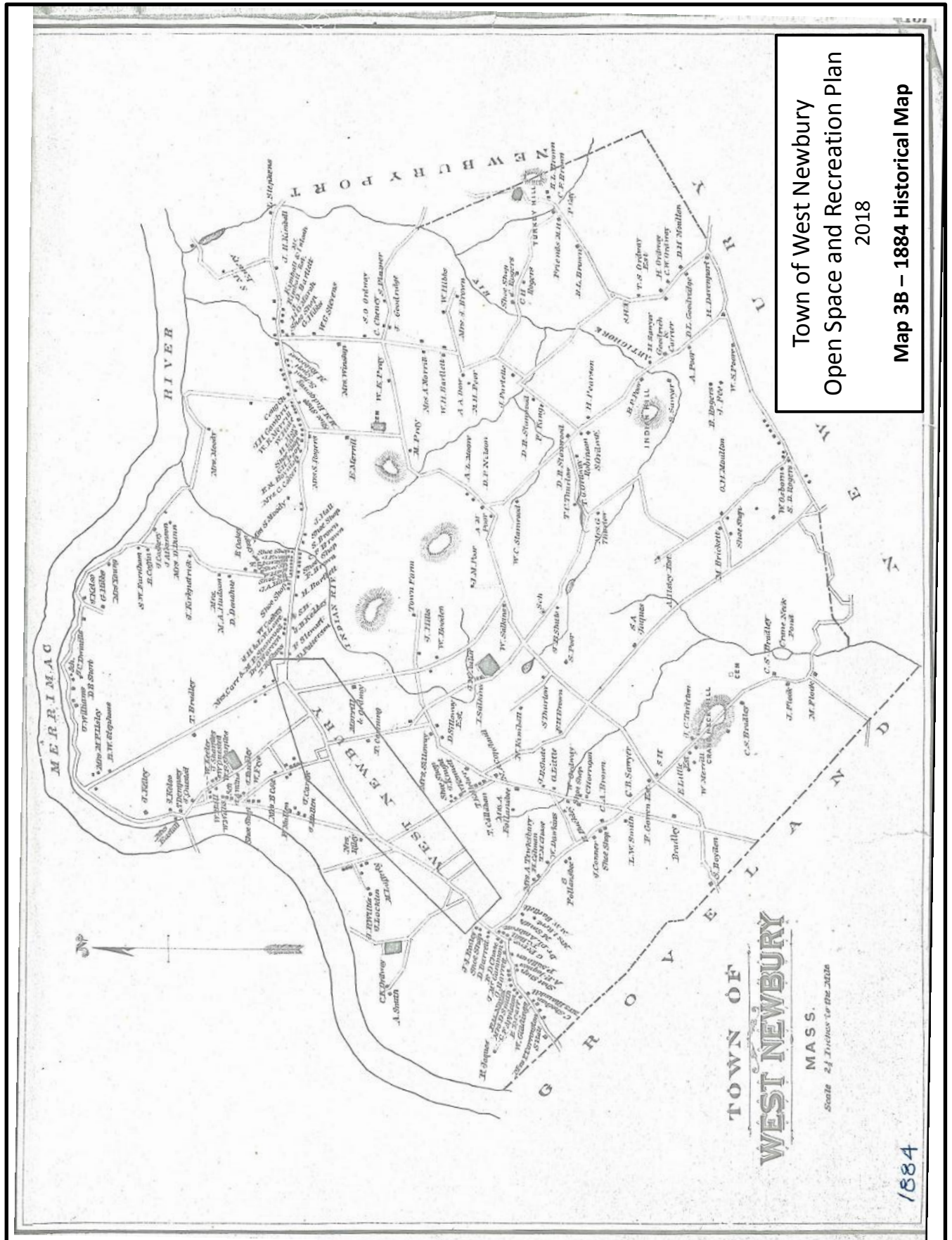
**John Dodge photo**

The Parker property bears remnants of a tenacious farmer who was undaunted by the difficult Brake Hill terrain. In 2018, residential development was proposed for the Main Street land.







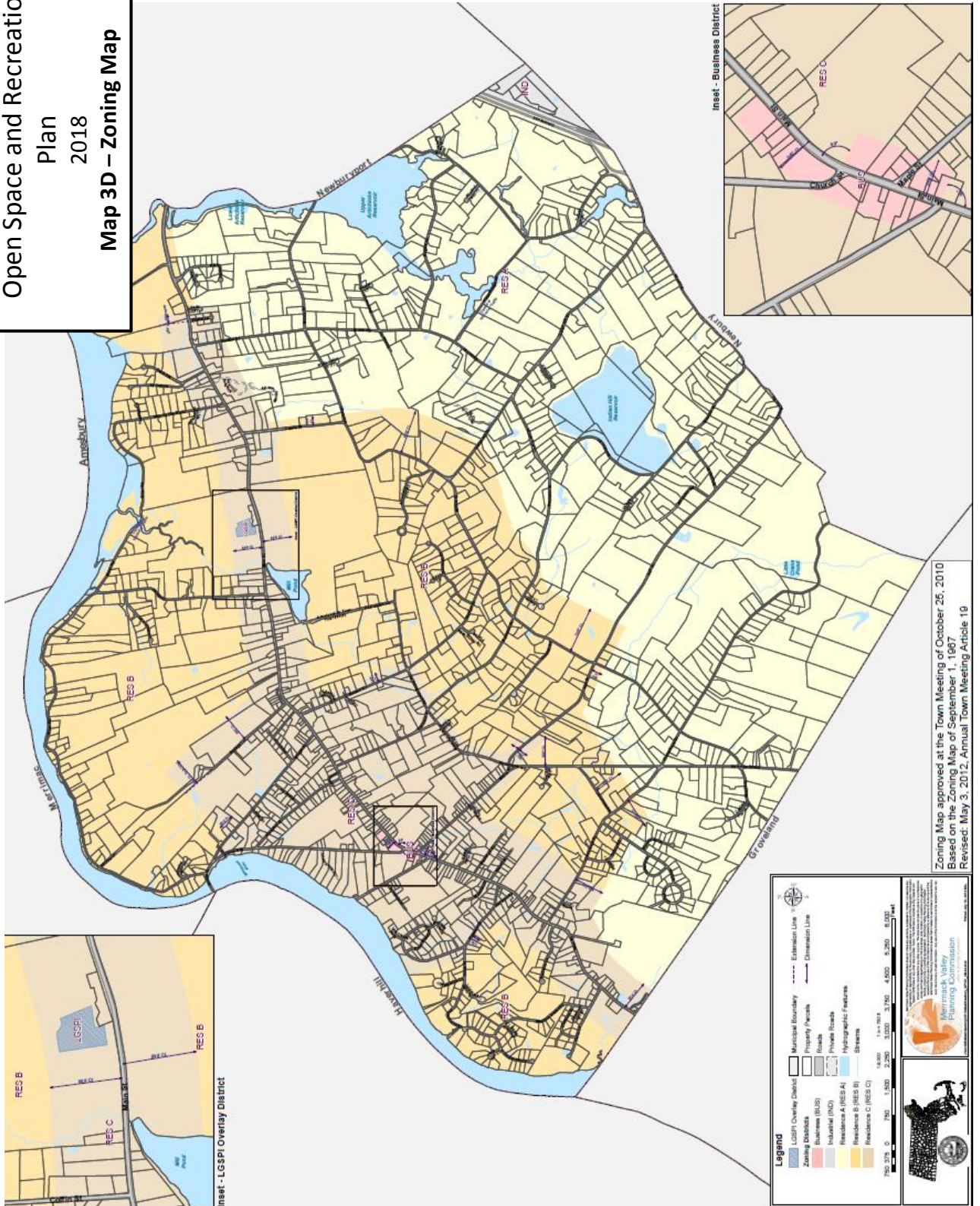








Town of West Newbury  
Open Space and Recreation  
Plan  
2018  
Map 3D – Zoning Map



Zoning Map approved at the Town Meeting of October 25, 2010  
Based on the Zoning Map of September 1, 1987  
Revised: May 3, 2012, Annual Town Meeting Article 19



## **SECTION 4 • ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS**



John Dodge photo

Deep in the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area, a stand of dead trees has served as a heron rookery for many years. Recent high winds have greatly reduced the number of nests perched high in the trees.

### **A. Geology, Soils and Topography**

The West Newbury terrain is gently rolling. The landscape consists of a series of elongated drumlin hills, upland terraces, and broad valleys formed by a succession of glacial ice advance and retreat. Elevation ranges from less than 50 feet above mean sea level (msl) along the Merrimack River to 260 feet above msl on Brake Hill. Surface drainage is north to the Merrimack River (along the town's northern boundary) and south to the Parker River basin.

Much of West Newbury is underlain by Merrimack Quartzite bedrock, a resistant formation of fine-grained slatey phyllite that extends in a wide belt along the Merrimack River from the western boundary of Essex County eastward to Newburyport and Salisbury. Much of this bedrock resisted glacial scour and now serves as the core of a plateau that stands somewhat above the terrain to the east and south. Atop this plateau is a series of elongated drumlin hills (examples are Archelaus Hill and Long Hill) composed of thick deposits of very clayey, slowly-permeable till. Away from the drumlins, in the lowland areas along stream courses and wetlands, the till is irregular and thin (in places less than several inches thick). Outcroppings of bedrock are found only in the far-southern part of town, and expansive deposits of sand and gravel are essentially absent. The Clinton-Newbury fault line runs from northeast to southwest across the southeastern corner of West Newbury.

The surficial geology and wetlands locations in West Newbury are shown in *Map 4-A*. Much of the town is characterized by till or bedrock, with small, isolated areas of sand and gravel deposits adjacent to surface water bodies and interspersed wetlands. This geology is not ideal for the septic systems and drinking water wells (outside of the water service area) that would be needed for new residential development. Given the advances in septic system design, however, this surficial geology is not necessarily limiting to new development.

The existence of prime agricultural farmland found throughout West Newbury should be considered for preservation. These include farmland of unique, as well as statewide, importance and are shown in *Map 4-B*. Given the central role agriculture has played in West Newbury's history and its current character, these soils should be maintained for agricultural use whenever possible.

## **B. Landscape Character**

The landscape of West Newbury includes rolling hills and fields, heavily forested areas, ponds, wetlands and rivers and quiet country roads. It is these features that give the town the unique rural character that many residents report first attracted them when looking for a home, and which provide numerous and varied opportunities for recreation. Some of these features are shown in *Map 4-C* and are described below.

West Newbury's long agricultural history, and continued farming today, is responsible for much of this rural character. Many of the long views of rolling hills and open fields were created by historical agricultural use. Today, there are still some farms, orchards, plant nurseries and equestrian properties that continue this history and maintain open view corridors. Brown Spring Farm is one of those properties; a long established farm and stand with an iconic farm house and outbuildings on Main Street near the town line with Newburyport. Unfortunately, this property is on the market for sale and, given the price for residential land, it is unlikely to be affordable as farmland. West Newbury is also well known for its Christmas tree farms that invite people from all over the state to cut their own trees between Thanksgiving and Christmas every year. Many town residents own horses and other livestock, and their open fields and paddocks contribute to the rural feel of the town.

Wooded areas also characterize the town, both around homes and in designated conservation areas. There are eight wooded areas owned by the town or local land protection groups that have networks of trails for recreational use. These trails are used by West Newbury residents as well as those of neighboring communities for hiking, dog walking, cycling, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and equestrian use.

The Mill Pond-Pipestave Hill-Dunn Fields Area is perhaps the best known of these wooded trail areas and provides trail opportunities for private use and organized events. The Riverbend Conservation Area also offers trails and serves as a natural study area for the Page Elementary School on its southeast border. Both of these trail areas have distinctive surface water feature — Mill Pond and the Merrimack River, respectively — that characterize the landscape on either side of Main Street. Indian Hill Farm, a recent joint town and Essex County Greenbelt Association acquisition, provides trails through open fields, wetlands and through forested areas on 18<sup>th</sup>-century carriage roads.

Another unique landscape characteristic of West Newbury is the large number of ponds, rivers and wetland areas. The Merrimack River borders the town and provides river vistas for home owners as well as other residents in areas where the road directly abuts the river. From the Rocks Village Bridge north, River Road runs along the river and provides the opportunity for wildlife sighting and river viewing for passing motorists and pedestrians. The Artichoke and Indian Hill reservoirs offer scenic views and bird watching from the road and trails. The Ash Street Swamp, part of the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area, is a popular bird-watching site for residents and organized groups.

All of these unique landscape features, and the quiet country roads that characterize the area south of Main Street in West Newbury, make the town a desirable destination for cycling and running. Many town and local residents are drawn to the roadways for its unique landscape and views. Both commercial and philanthropic cycling and running events, drawing participants from across the state and beyond, elect to pass through West Newbury.

Ironically, the unique landscape features that attract new residents to the town are being irreversibly changed by the development of previously open or wooded areas. New homes and housing developments continue to be marketed and built in areas that have been considered emblematic of the town's rural character.

## C. Water Resources

West Newbury has an abundance of water resources, both surface and groundwater. A diverse number of interconnected reservoirs, streams, ponds, and wetland areas serve important ecological functions, provide drinking water, and offer recreational opportunities. Groundwater supplies the town's drinking-water needs through a public water supply system and private wells.

### WATERSHEDS

The Town of West Newbury lies within the Merrimack River and Parker River watersheds, with approximately 76 percent of it draining to the Merrimack River and 24 percent to the Parker River, as shown in *Map 4-D*. Each watershed is divided into sub watersheds based on tributary drainage. Those within West Newbury are described below.

#### Merrimack River

The Merrimack River Watershed receives drainage from more than 5,000 square miles and 200 communities within Massachusetts and New Hampshire as it flows to the Atlantic Ocean, just downstream from West Newbury. The town falls within the Haverhill and Estuary regions of the watershed. While there are many small tributaries that discharge directly to the Merrimack River, the majority of drainage from the town is through the Indian and Artichoke rivers. The Merrimack River Watershed Coalition — a local group whose mission is to protect, improve and conserve the Merrimack River Watershed — sponsors monitoring, educational and recreational activities.

Under the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative, a Comprehensive Watershed Assessment Report for the Merrimack River Watershed was completed in 2001, with a follow-up 5-Year Watershed Action Plan in 2002. Along with protecting the quality and quantity of water in the Merrimack River, the priorities for this watershed are to:

- Promote growth management within the watershed
- Improve access to the river and the acquisition of open space

These priorities should be considered and accommodated whenever possible in planning new developments and other municipal decision-making in the town.

#### Parker River

The Parker River Watershed is an 82-square-mile coastal river watershed that includes part or all of nine communities between the Merrimack River and Ipswich River watersheds. There are nine sub watersheds, three including parts of West Newbury. The largest section of land is associated with the Beaver Brook sub watershed along the town's south and west borders. The Parker River Clean Water Association (PRCWA) is a community-based, non-profit group active in protecting the waters and environment of the Parker River Watershed.

West Newbury occupies only 5 percent of the watershed, most of it in the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area. The assessment did not identify water quality nor quantity concerns specific to the town that need to be addressed,

but storm water pollution prevention and water use conservation were two target areas with recommendations for best practices that West Newbury has adopted.

The recommended land-based priorities are consistent with those of the Merrimack River Watershed Action Plan and are relevant to West Newbury. These include:

- Create a setting for sustainable development
- Improve public access to opportunities in the watershed

## **SURFACE WATERS**

Surface water constitutes roughly 8 percent of West Newbury's 15 square miles. This includes ponds and reservoirs, perennial rivers and intermittent tributaries, and wetland areas. These water bodies form a rich network of fish and wildlife habitat; afford numerous opportunities for water-based outdoor recreation; and ultimately are sources for public drinking water. Surface water features are shown in *Map 4-D* and are described below.

The Merrimack River forms West Newbury's northern border and offers outstanding opportunities for boating, canoeing, fishing, wildlife observation, hunting, and scenic enjoyment. Near the Rocks Village Bridge at Ferry Park, the state owns a public access area most frequently used for fishing. There also is a small boat ramp (in need of repair) primarily used for launching kayaks and small fishing boats.

Under the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (314CMR 4.00), the Merrimack River along West Newbury is designated Class SB: coastal marine water suitable for habitat for fish, other aquatic life and wildlife, and for primary and secondary contact recreation. It is periodically affected by heavy rainfall combined with storm water and sewer overflows from cities upstream, but generally it has good aesthetic value.

The Upper and Lower Artichoke reservoirs form the eastern border of West Newbury with Newburyport. These reservoirs serve as the public water supply for the City of Newburyport, and indirectly for West Newbury, as some of the town supply is purchased from Newburyport. These reservoirs and all tributaries to them are designated Class A surface waters. This classification reflects excellent habitat for fish, aquatic life and wildlife; use for primary and secondary recreation contact (although recreational use is not allowed in the reservoirs); in addition to excellent aesthetic values.

The watershed for these reservoirs covers about one-third of the town and is connected to the Merrimack River by the Artichoke River. The Indian Hill Reservoir also is in this watershed and is connected to the Artichoke Reservoirs. A drinking water source for Newburyport, as well, it is designated a Class A surface water under the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards (314CMR 4.00). Land use within the watersheds of both of these reservoir systems is regulated under the Surface Water Protection Program (SWPP).

*Map 4-E* shows the extent of Zone A, the land area within 400 feet of the upper boundary of the surface water bank or 200 feet of tributary to it, and Zone B, the land area within one-half mile of the upper boundary of the bank.

The Indian River is a perennial, partially tidal river that collects drainage from south of Main Street, is impounded to form Mill Pond; and then drains north to the Merrimack River. As an impoundment, Mill Pond does not have a surface water class designation. Due to its shallow depth, it was previously on the EPA 303(d) compromised water body list for nutrients, siltation, and noxious aquatic plants. When it was drained in 2000, 54,000 cubic yards of sediment was dredged to return its depth to that of a functioning pond. Two sediment fore bays were installed to control the amount of new sediment entering the pond. Mill Pond is the centerpiece of a town-owned recreation area that provides access to the pond for boating and fishing in the summer, and ice skating and ice fishing in the winter.



Beaver Brook is a perennial stream originating in the western area of town that broadens to create Little Crane Pond near the town's southern border, before draining to the Parker River watershed in Newbury. As a relatively minor source of flow to the watershed, it has not been classified under the SWPP. Beaver Brook flows through Ash Swamp, a 600-acre wetland system of wooded, vegetated and open areas. An unpaved section of Ash Street runs through this area and is a popular destination for birdwatchers, hikers and cyclists.

## **AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS**

### **Existing drinking water supply**

The public water supply system in West Newbury provides drinking water to approximately two-thirds of its residents. The primary source for the public water supply system is Wellfield #1, a shallow unconsolidated aquifer located adjacent to the Artichoke Reservoir on the town's eastern border. Wellfield No. 1 consists of seven 2 ½-inch diameter tubular wells and one 12-inch by 6-inch gravel-packed well, ranging in depth from 32-47 feet. The on-site wellfield pump station houses chemical-fed equipment for pH adjustment, fluoridation, and chlorination. Wellfield #1 has a permitted withdrawal rate of 160,000 gallons per day (gpd), although the yield is far less during the drier summer months.

When public demand exceeds the yield of Wellfield #1, drinking water is purchased from the City of Newburyport. The public water supply in Newburyport is 80 percent surface water – the Indian Hill and Artichoke reservoirs, as well as Bartlett Spring Pond, and 20 percent groundwater from two gravel-packed wells. Water purchased from the City of Newburyport is pumped via a booster pump in the West Newbury wellfield station into the town water supply.

State drinking water regulations protect groundwater quality by controlling the use of land above the aquifer from which water is being drawn. The Zone I Protection Area is limited to water supply activities and is proportional to the well's pumping rate. In West Newbury, the Zone I for the tubular wells and the gravel pack well has a 250-foot radius around each wellhead. The Zone II area encompasses the extent of the aquifer contributing to the well output, and is determined by hydrogeological studies that must be approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Zone III area is the drainage area into Zone II for both groundwater and surface water. Land uses in this area are regulated by the Groundwater Protection Overlay District Bylaw passed by Town vote in 2006, and are limited to those that will not negatively impact groundwater quality. Passive recreational uses such as hiking, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and horseback riding are allowed within the Zone II protected area. The Zone I and Zone II protection areas are shown on *Map 4-E*.

The remaining one-third of the town's residents has private drinking water wells. Depending on site-specific property conditions, these wells may be installed in shallow sand and gravel aquifers or in deeper bedrock aquifers. The town's Board of Health (BOH) is responsible for the oversight and approval of any new private well before a building permit is obtained. Approval is based on the construction, water quality, and flow rate of the well meeting the standards set forth in the BOH Regulations for the Construction of Private Wells. These regulations are designed to protect the town's groundwater resources, as well as the health and general welfare of residents.

### **Potential Drinking Water Supply**

Given the inability of the existing town-owned public water supply to meet all of the town's drinking water needs on a year round basis, since 2001, the WNWD has been active in identifying and evaluating new water supplies. Two promising sources, the Andreas and Dunn well sites, were determined to provide adequate yields, but their development was postponed in 2008 when it became apparent that the costs for providing power and linking them to the water supply system would be too high. Two other potential supplies are discussed below.

In May 2011, a bedrock well was drilled close to Wellfield #1. The DEP has approved this well for a daily withdrawal volume of 81,000 gpd, with the stipulation that it be pumped with the existing wells or Newburyport water at all times to blend the sources for the best water quality. The construction design for this well has been approved by the DEP, and it was scheduled to start construction during the summer of 2018. When this well comes on line, it will have a Zone I radius of 386 feet around the wellhead. Because DEP has not yet approved a Zone II, an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) has been assigned for this well, with a radius of 2,200 feet from the wellhead.

Another promising source of water supply in the process of being evaluated is located on a private piece of property on Dole Place Extension along the Merrimack River. In February 2015, a 5-day pump test verified the expected yield and showed the water to be of generally good quality. The DEP approved the Source Final Report for this site in May 2017, allowing the permitting and approval process to proceed. The town is in discussions with the property owners to acquire the Dole land for use as a public water supply.

The aquifer this well draws from is identified as a medium yield aquifer by MassGIS and is shown in *Map 4-E*. The proposed Zone I and II land use restriction areas for this potential well site area also are shown in *Map 4-E*.

### **FLOOD HAZARD AREAS**

The FEMA flood hazard zones in West Newbury are shown in *Map 4-F*. The Merrimack River, Beaver Brook and Artichoke Rivers are mapped as regulatory floodways, and the adjacent land areas must be regulated to prevent development from increasing upstream flood elevations.

Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) also are shown on the map. These areas will be inundated by a flood event having a 1 percent-or-greater chance of being exceeded in any given year; they are located along the three floodways in varying extents depending on topography.

The map also shows areas with a 0.2 percent annual chance of flooding. These generally abut the SFHA and are less extensive, with the exception being the area south of the Upper Artichoke Reservoir. Given the potential for climate change impact on water body levels, these flood hazard zones will likely expand in the future. Maintaining open space in these areas will help to mitigate flooding and associated damage to residential property.

### **WETLANDS**

Wetlands perform a number of important functions, including habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, groundwater recharge, flood control, and recreational opportunities. West Newbury is fortunate to have a large number of freshwater wetland areas that have not yet been negatively impacted by human activity and development. These include many small herbaceous and forested wetlands throughout town, and larger interconnected wetland systems associated with surface water bodies and tributaries. The largest of these are along Beaver Brook, the Indian River and the Artichoke Rivers.

The National Wetlands Inventory completed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identifies both forested and non-forested wetlands in West Newbury, and these are shown in *Map 4-G*.

Active implementation and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act by the ConCom has been successful in protecting the town's wetlands resources. Commission policies, such as establishing a 25-foot no-disturb zone around wetland boundaries and requiring a 1:5-to-1 replacement ratio for wetlands disturbance mitigation, have minimized the impacts of residential development in areas adjacent to wetlands.

## D. Vegetation

### GENERAL INVENTORY

The vegetation of West Newbury reflects the historical agricultural use of the land, its proximity to water sources, and topography. In areas that have not been developed for residential or agricultural use, upland soils yield plant communities of pine and hardwood forests. Closer to wetlands and surface water, the plant communities include wooded and shrub swamps, marshes, and wet meadows.

Areas that were historically agricultural tend to be maintained as open fields with grassland plant communities. Active agricultural land is used for a variety of herbaceous and tree crops. Residential properties also exhibit diverse vegetation, including indigenous species and introduced plantings. Non-native species have become invasive in some areas, competing with naturally occurring vegetation.

### FOREST LAND

There is both public and private forested land in West Newbury. This includes mainly central hardwoods, with some transition hardwood forests and some elm-ash-red maple, and red and white pine forests. A total of 30 miles of trails in eight conservation areas provide opportunities for hiking, cycling, equestrian events, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. At present, the Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area is the only public area that allows hunting. Undeveloped forest land that is owned privately may be used for hunting with the owner's permission.

In addition to providing recreational opportunities, forested land in West Newbury is important in maintaining biodiversity and protecting ecosystems. Contiguous parcels of both public and private forested land beginning at the town's southern boundary in Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area extend west to the Brake Hill Conservation Area and north through the Mill Pond/Pipestave Hill/Dunn Fields area to Riverbend Conservation Area and the Merrimack River. With the exception of Route 113, many of these areas are unbroken by roadways or are crossed by roads with relatively little traffic. This allows a wide range of native plant and animal species to thrive and connections between habitats to occur, and it improves the resiliency of the entire forest community.

Some properties in West Newbury are enrolled in Chapter 61A for managed forestry lands, which requires a planned program to improve the quantity and quality of a continuous forest crop. Currently, there are 11 parcels with a total of 118.86 acres under this Chapter, including many of the local Christmas tree farms but also woodlots managed for firewood and habitat. These are shown in *Map 4-H*.

### PUBLIC SHADE TREES

West Newbury has an abundance of mature shade trees along almost all public roads and in its public spaces. These include grounds surrounding the Town Offices, the Public Safety Complex and Cammett Park, as well as the historic district Training Field. A 1975 survey of trees by the Town Historical Commission includes the Anniversary Oak, a tree planted at the Training Field in 1932 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Lay. Mature trees also are present in the large tracts of protected land like those at the Mill Pond Recreation Area and Riverbend Conservation Area.

The Tupelo Trail along the Merrimack River in the Riverbend Conservation Area exhibits one of the largest tupelo trees in Massachusetts. The Town Forest at the end of Poore Farm Lane is managed as a part of the Mill Pond Conservation Area.

The West Newbury Scenic Roads Bylaw, Section XXXII, was adopted by Town Meeting vote in November, 1999. This bylaw, designates all West Newbury roads (other than state Route 113) as scenic roads. In the course of road improvements, the removal of any tree greater than 10 inches in diameter at 1 foot off the ground or destruction of stone walls requires written permission of the PB after a required public hearing. The town's Tree Warden and DPW are responsible for the assessment and removal, if necessary, of structurally unsound trees along roadways and in public spaces but are subject to the provisions of this bylaw as well as the Public Shade Tree Act M.G.L. Ch. 87. The Planning Board is required to hold a joint public hearing with the Tree Warden.

Three ailing sugar maples were removed from the Training Field, and two Red Sunset maples and one American elm were planted as replacements on the historic green. Ten Red Sunset maples were planted at Pipestave Hill to define a line between the equestrian area and the new Highway Barn. Three pin oaks were planted between the equestrian area and the soccer/baseball field at Pipestave during the recent expansion of playing fields in that area. West Newbury does not have a Tree Committee or other such advocacy group for trees.

### **AGRICULTURAL LAND**

After a long history of agriculture, there are few agricultural operations in West Newbury. Those remaining include pasture for livestock and equestrian grazing, cropland for vegetable and cut flower production, plant nurseries/greenhouses, and orchards. In addition to providing an economic benefit to the owners, these agricultural lands provide scenic views and cover for wildlife and migrating birds. There are a total of 47 parcels taxed under Chapter 61A for agricultural use. This use must be renewed annually, and there is no guarantee that these parcels will remain in agricultural use.

There are 11 parcels with agricultural preservation restrictions that do protect their continued use for agriculture. Both of these categories of agricultural land are shown in *Map 4-H*. The fact that many of these parcels are contiguous amplifies their scenic views and wildlife cover benefits.

### **WETLAND VEGETATION**

Wetland types in town are characterized by their vegetation and include marshes and various types of swamps. The most common wetlands are deciduous wooded swamps. There are roughly equal numbers of shallow marshes and shrub swamps, a few deep marshes, and one wooded swamp with mixed coniferous and deciduous trees.

The vegetation in deciduous wooded swamps is typically dominated by red maple trees, with scattered birch, oak, pine, ash and cedar trees. Under this canopy are saplings of these tree species, as well as wetland shrubs such as winterberry, dogwood, highbush blueberry, and sweet pepper bush. At the ground surface, an herbaceous layer typically includes sensitive, royal and cinnamon ferns, skunk cabbage, sedges, and jewelweed. The existence of these three levels of vegetation makes wooded swamps important habitat for a wide range of birds and wildlife.

Shrub swamps in West Newbury typically mark a transition between wooded swamps and marshes, with a limited canopy of trees and sparse ground cover of herbaceous plants. The height and density of shrubs in these swamps is highly variable, with common species including alders, meadowsweet, silky dogwood, winterberry, sumac and arrow wood. Ground cover may include ferns, arrowhead, skunk cabbage, sedges, bur-reed and turtlehead. Given the openness, invasive species tend to appear in these swamps. They may include buckthorn, reed canary grass and purple loosestrife. Vegetation in shrub swamps provides cover and food for many small wildlife species and protected nesting habitat for birds.

Marshes are located in open, flat areas and are characterized by grasses and herbaceous plants. Deep marshes are usually flooded, with up to 3 feet of water, while shallow marshes have less than 6 inches of standing water. Both types of marshes exhibit species, such as cat tails, wool grass, Canada bluejoint and common three square. Other plants, such as bedstraw, arrowhead and golden rod, also may be present. When shrubs exist, they typically are limited to high bush blueberry and alders. Invasive species may include purple loosestrife and phragmites.

Wet meadows are a type of shallow marsh characterized by a single grass or sedge species that do not have standing water during the growing season. These meadows often historically have been mowed by residents and may actually be more prevalent than known. Marshes in general provide habitat for vertebrate and invertebrate wildlife feeding, nesting and movement, nesting and feeding for marsh and water bird species, and breeding for amphibians.

### RARE SPECIES

The vascular plants shown in Figure 9 have protected status in Massachusetts and have been identified to exist in West Newbury.

COMMON NAME	PROTECTION STATUS	COMMON NAME	PROTECTION STATUS
Eaton's Beggar-ticks	Endangered	Seabeach Dock	Threatened
Engelmann's Umbrella-sedge	Threatened	Swamp Dock	Threatened
Parker's Pipewort	Endangered	Estuary Arrowhead	Endangered
Vasey's Pondweed	Endangered	Long's Bulrush	Threatened

SOURCE: NHESP

FIGURE 9

### UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES

Vernal pools are a unique type of wetlands characterized by their water supply rather than vegetation. Frequently located in wooded areas, they are depressions that are filled by rainfall and rising groundwater in the spring but dry out over the summer. This prevents the establishment of permanent fish populations that would be predators to the amphibians and invertebrates that rely on them for breeding. Because of their unique habitat, vernal pools are certified by the NHESP and are protected by additional regulations. Five vernal pools have been certified in West Newbury, including one in 2018, and a large number of potential vernal pools are believed to exist.

### VEGETATION MAPPING PROJECTS

BioMap2, a biodiversity conservation plan jointly developed by the NHESP and the Massachusetts Nature Conservancy, provides data on endangered vegetation, as well as the habitat necessary to protect threatened wildlife on a statewide basis. This information is available as an interactive mapping feature on the NHESP website.

A report was generated by this program for West Newbury in 2012 that identifies protected vegetation, core habitats, and critical natural landscapes that must be protected in order to maintain the biodiversity of the town. The BioMap2 report for West Newbury also identifies 2,979 acres of core habitat, 788 acres or 26.5 percent of which was designated as open space or recreational use as of March 2012. Core habitat is considered critical for the long-term

persistence of protected species, and continued biodiversity in the natural communities in Massachusetts. Core habitats identified for West Newbury are shown in *Map 4-1* and are described as follows:

### **EXEMPLARY OR PRIORITY NATURAL COMMUNITY CORES**

These core habitats are significant because of their limited occurrence, both regionally and globally. BioMap2 identified two such habitats in West Newbury: an estuarine intertidal freshwater tidal marsh and a small-river floodplain forest.

A freshwater tidal marsh is located along the Merrimack River at and between the outlets of the Indian and Artichoke rivers. This type of freshwater marsh community is characterized by daily tidal flooding with freshwater. Typical plant species are salt intolerant and may include blue joint, sedges, narrow leaved cattail, wild rice, smart weeds and tear thumbs, false pimpernel, jewelweed, climbing hempweed, and sweet flag. All of the protected species listed above, with the exception of swamp dock and long's bulrush, occur in this community.

Given the proximity to brackish and coastal salt marshes, these freshwater marshes provide outstanding habitat for migratory and wintering waterfowl, as well as nesting marsh birds. This particular example of a freshwater tidal marsh is classified as a S1 - Critically Imperiled Community, meaning there are five or fewer such sites or very few remaining acres in the state. Threats to this marsh system include invasive species, such as phragmites, purple loosestrife and yellow iris; development associated with docks or landings, increased water withdrawal upstream, and rising sea level.

A small-river floodplain forest community is located along the Merrimack River. These communities occur in areas along small rivers and streams that are subject to annual flooding. Typically they are dominated by silver maple, green ash, false nettle, and sensitive fern plant species. The community identified in West Newbury is relatively small and unusual, in that it is dominated by green ash rather than silver maple.

Wildlife habitat value includes amphibian breeding, corridors for upland animals, and insect-rich habitat for songbirds. It has a protected status of S2 - Imperiled Community with six to 20 sites or few remaining acres in the state. The primary threat to this natural community is non-native plants. These typically include moneywort, forget-me-not, glossy alder-buckthorn, bush honeysuckles, Japanese barberry, and privet.

### **Forest Core**

There was one forest core habitat identified in West Newbury by the BioMap2 project. It is located within the Crane Pond WMA and is the northern edge of forest core habitat extending into the neighboring Towns of Groveland, Georgetown and Byfield. Forest core habitat is identified as the best examples of large forests that have been minimally impacted by roads and development. Forest core habitats provide critical habitat for bird species that are sensitive to human disturbance and support the ecological processes that occur in unfragmented forests.

### **Aquatic Core**

There are six aquatic core habitats in the Town of West Newbury. These are core habitats for the protection of aquatic species of concern, and generally include a 30-meter band around the water body being mapped, as well as any wetland located within the band. The largest of these habitats in West Newbury are associated with the wetland core habitats in the Crane Pond WMA and Indian River.

The Merrimack River along the town's northern border is also considered an aquatic core habitat. Part of a 127-acre aquatic core in Newburyport extends into West Newbury along Turkey Hill Road, and a 6-acre area south of Rogers



Street also was identified as an aquatic core habitat. Long's bulrush is a protected plant species associated with aquatic core habitats in West Newbury.

### **Wetland Core**

A total of six wetland core habitats were identified in West Newbury and *are shown in Map 4-I*. These are located along Ash Street in the Crane Pond WMA, along the Indian River close to its exit to the Merrimack River, and a 24-acre area west of the Lower Artichoke Reservoir. These wetlands are relatively unfragmented, are protected by intact upland buffers, and are minimally disturbed by roadways and development, which allows these wetlands to continue to perform the hydrologic functions of flood control, as well as provide habitat for diverse plant and animal species.

### **Vernal Pool Core**

Vernal pool core habitats are the most interconnected clusters of potential vernal pools. By protecting clusters of pools and the buffers around them, the entire life cycle of the habitat-dependent species, including overwintering, foraging and migration, will be protected. Two such clusters of potential vernal pools in town were identified by the BioMap2 project. Located in the Crane Pond WMA, they extend into West Newbury from Groveland and Byfield.

Critical Natural Landscapes surrounding and including these Core Habitats also are shown in *Map 4-I*. They total 1,785 acres, 582 acres or 32.6 percent of which was designated as open space and recreational use as of March 2012. These include one Landscape Block, five Wetland Core Buffers, and five Aquatic Core Buffers. The function of these designated landscapes is to provide buffers around the core habitat areas with which they are associated, thus protecting the habitat functions and species inhabiting them for the long term.

The combined critical natural landscapes in West Newbury form a corridor of undisturbed and critical habitat that begins at the town's southern border and extends through its middle to the Merrimack River on the north. This corridor incorporates forests, wetlands, rivers, and ponds. Its protection and possible expansion should be an important consideration in the evaluation of land use decision-making in the future.

## **E. Fisheries and Wildlife**

The undeveloped landscape of forests, surface waters and wetlands in West Newbury provides rich habitat for a number of wildlife species. Insects and spiders are found throughout developed and undeveloped areas of town; they play an important role in plant pollination and serve as a food source for a number of other species. Amphibians flourish in wetland areas and close to surface water supplies, and reptiles are present throughout the town.

A number of fish species populate the Merrimack River along West Newbury's border and various rivers, ponds and reservoirs throughout the town. Mammals including opossums, bats, rodents, rabbits, shrews, skunks, and raccoons are present in both developed and undeveloped areas, while deer, fishers, foxes, and coyotes are more prevalent in undeveloped areas, agricultural fields, and along the edges of development.

A large number of birds take advantage of West Newbury's habitat for feeding, nesting and migration. The Ash Street Swamp, Merrimack River and Indian Hill Reservoir are popular destinations for bird watchers from neighboring towns and from across the state.

### **VERNAL POOLS**

There currently are five certified vernal pools in West Newbury, and many potential vernal pools have been identified. These are unique wetland areas that fill with groundwater and precipitation over the fall and winter, providing

breeding habitat in the spring for amphibious and invertebrate species. They usually dry out over the summer, which ensures there are no fish populations to interfere with vernal pool breeding. In addition to breeding habitat for amphibians and invertebrates, vernal pools provide a source of water and foraging habitat for birds, reptiles and mammals. Protected species are often associated with vernal pools that have been found in West Newbury, including the Blanding's turtle and wood turtle.

Species requiring vernal pools in order to breed successfully are considered obligate species; evidence of their presence and/or breeding is used to certify vernal pools. Those that have been identified in West Newbury include wood frogs, blue-spotted salamanders and fairy shrimp. Other species, such as spring peepers, gray tree frog, American toad, and Fowler's toad, may use vernal pools for breeding but also can use other habitats.

These facultative species can be used to certify vernal pools if more than one is present and other vernal pool characteristics can be documented. In order for a vernal pool to be certified, biological and physical documentation must be submitted to the NHESP. The agency provides detailed documentation requirements and instructions for researchers, scientists or other interested parties to propose vernal pool certification. This is an important mechanism for protection of critical wildlife habitat that is available to town residents, as well regulatory or professional personnel. Details on this certification process can be found at [www.mass.gov/service-details/vernal-pool-certification](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/vernal-pool-certification).

## **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

Fragmentation of wildlife habitats by human activities or structures is a critical problem in maintaining biodiversity in populated areas. The stability and long-term success of many wildlife populations is threatened by not being able to move freely and safely between habitats in response to natural causes of food and water shortages and to seasonally migrate or to maintain genetic diversity by interbreeding with other populations.

Wildlife corridors are an attempt to mitigate the effects of human interruption in the natural movement of wildlife. These can be created as physical structures or accommodations that allow safe passage through an altered habitat area or through land use decisions that seek to maintain connectivity between habitat areas.

Maintaining the connectivity of open space parcels is a primary goal of the OSRP, and decisions concerning Chapter 61 removals, easement considerations, and land purchase recommendations should be made with it in mind. Many of the current open space and recreation areas are linked and provide an opportunity for wildlife to move between them. One example of this is the Riverbend Conservation Area to Mill Pond and Dunn Fields to the Ocean Meadow trails and Maina easement.

A second collection of open space and recreation areas extends from the South Street Woodlots to Indian Hill Reservation to the Atherton easement and Pikes Bridge Road. A large number of historical and active agricultural parcels also are contiguous, and while the human activity that corresponds with farming may be disruptive to some species, many mammal and bird populations do move between them.

National Grid has a 200-ft right of way for high capacity transmission lines that runs from the Merrimack River to the Crane Pond WMA on the town's southwestern border. Other than infrequent maintenance activities, human activity in this right of way is limited, so the right of way does provide a corridor from the wildlife management area to the Merrimack River. Several roads including Route 113 bypass it, so its usefulness as a corridor may be compromised.

There are several wildlife corridors in West Newbury that could be improved by physical structures or accommodations. Ash Street Swamp is crossed by a dirt road, and although it has a posted speed limit of 20 mph and is frequently closed due to ruts and washout, turtles and young birds often are struck by vehicles. Installation of a

drainage culvert that accommodates wildlife crossing may help to reduce these fatalities. Administrative measures, such as closure during key periods in the movement cycles of these populations, also may be effective.

### RARE SPECIES

The Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) maintains a list of all wildlife species with special protection status in the state. The criteria for inclusion on this list consider whether the species is native to the state and is supported by habitat within it; how recent are observations of it; population trends; rarity and geographical distribution; and special threats or vulnerability.

Any species on the Federal Endangered Species list also is included on the MESA list. Once on the list, each species is rated on its level of threat:

- Endangered, if it is likely to become extinct or no longer present in Massachusetts (E);
- Threatened, if it is likely to become endangered (T);
- Special Concern, when a declining trend in populations has been noted that could lead to a Threatened status if not corrected (SC).

The list is reviewed and updated every two years, with the most recent published March 10, 2017. Species currently on the MESA list that have been observed in West Newbury are shown the following Figure.

COMMON NAME	PROTECTION STATUS	COMMON NAME	PROTECTION STATUS
Blue-spotted Salamander	SC	Grasshopper Sparrow	T
Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	SC	Northern Harrier	T
Cow Path Tiger Beetle	SC	Bald Eagle	T
Wood Turtle	SC	Sedge Wren	E
New England Siltsnail	SC	Blandings Turtle	T
Common Moorhen	SC	Golden-winged Warbler	E
Shortnose Sturgeon	E, Fed E	Coppery Emerald (dragon/damselfly)	E
Atlantic Sturgeon	E, Fed T		

Source: NHESP

FIGURE 10

Areas where these species have been observed within the last 25 years are designated as Priority Habitat under MESA, and any alteration is subject to regulatory review by the NHESP. Additionally, Estimated Habitats is a subset of Priority Habitats that encompasses the geographical extent of the wetlands habitat of MESA-listed wildlife, and is codified under the Wetlands Protection Act. These areas, shown in *Map 4-J*, generally coincide with the core habitat and critical landscape areas that were described in the previous section.

If NHESP review of proposed alteration of these areas determines that the habitat and rare species could be impacted, relevant protection measures will be required; however, it does not necessarily preclude development of the designated areas.

## F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments

West Newbury is defined by its open vistas, wooded hilltops, farm lands, and historic homes. Readily viewed wide-open spaces coupled with true small-town charm endow the town with its identity among North Shore communities. The town's many scenic landscapes, vistas, and roadways include private property. A partial list follows.

ROAD / SCENE / VISTA	ATTRIBUTES / COMMENTS
River Road	views of the Merrimack River (from the entire length of the road); views of the Indian River from the unused portion of River Road
Rocks Village Bridge	views of the historic bridge from Church Street; views of the river from the bridge
Bailey's Lane Farm	views of the river, fields & pastures
Long Hill Farm	views of the orchard & river
Emery Lane	pastoral & woodland views
Bridge Street	view of the river from the street's base
Whetstone Street	views of hills across the river
Main Street	views of Brown Spring Farm, Parker Farm & Brake Hill
Church Street	pasture & river views from the top of hill; river view from base
Coffin Street	views of open lands
Cherry Hill / Indian Hill Reservoir	view across reservoir
Pipestave Hill / Mill Pond Rec Area	views of rolling farmland, woods & pond
Page School	views of hills, fields & river
Beaver Brook area	views from Middle Street, Tewksbury Lane
Crane Neck Street	views of farms, Ash Swamp & hills beyond
Crane Neck Hill	views of surrounding hills & the old Orland Farm
Ash Street	cuts through Ash Swamp
Rogers Street	views of open lands (Hayden Farm)
Indian Hill Street	Indian Hill Farm & meadows
Indian Hill	views to the ocean & Newburyport
Moulton Street	expansive views of reservoir, pasture lands & woods
Turkey Hill Road	farm & common pasture views
Pikes Bridge Road	meadow views
Georgetown Road hayfields	views from Georgetown Road, Crane Neck Street, Tewksbury Lane
Christmas tree farms	Crane Neck Street, Ash Street

SOURCE: 2009 West Newbury OSRP

FIGURE 11

In 1981, an inventory of scenic landscapes throughout the state was conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The intention for the inventory was to identify lands that should be prioritized for acquisition and conservation efforts.

Landscapes were classified into three categories: Distinctive (areas of highest visual quality); Noteworthy (areas of lesser, but nevertheless important, visual quality); and Common (areas that may contain smaller sections of scenic quality but lack consistently high levels). Examples of all three of these landscape categories were identified in West Newbury. Although the inventory is more than 30 years old, it still may be used as a benchmark for conservation efforts, and it has been digitized in the MassGIS system.

*Map 4-K* shows the location of these categories in West Newbury. More information may be found at <https://docs.digital.mass.gov/dataset/massgis-data-scenic-landscape-inventory>.

### **CHARACTERISTIC OR UNUSUAL GEOLOGIC FEATURES**

West Newbury's major geologic/geographic features are its drumlin hills and location along the Merrimack River. The drumlins are the first major hills to be found moving inland along the Merrimack River. These include Pipestave Hill, Archelaus Hill, Brake Hill, Ilsley Hill, Indian Hill, Long Hill, Crane Neck Hill and Meetinghouse Hill, the highest point in town being Brake Hill. An interesting geologic feature is the Clinton-Newbury fault line that extends into town from Groveland. The fault passes beneath the Elwell farm (on Moulton Street), into the Scotland Road area of Byfield, and then runs north to Seabrook. Active earthquakes were felt in Newbury in the 1700s, and several minor quakes have occurred and been noted in West Newbury in recent years.

### **CULTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC AREAS**

Areas of cultural, archeological and historic importance in West Newbury include: municipal buildings, schools, churches, recreation areas, homes, bridges, burial grounds, and remnants of historical buildings. The majority of these are located along Main Street and clustered in four general areas: Elwell Square, the Town Office Building area, the Training Field area, and the Pipestave Hill area. Each of these areas and the few outlying areas of significance is described below.

The Pentucket Regional Middle School, High School and district offices are located at the town border with Groveland. Only the high school is in West Newbury, but the athletic fields, track and tennis courts are used by the communities of both towns and Merrimac. Musical and drama performances open to the community are held at the high school auditorium several times a year.

Elwell Square is considered the town commercial center and is located at the intersection of Maple and Main streets. There have been public buildings and commercial enterprises located here since the early 1800s. Currently it features the post office and several commercial buildings, including an auto repair shop, bank, barber shop, small grocery store, and restaurant. Also in this area and at the intersection with Church Street are the St. Ann Catholic Church and West Newbury Congregational Church.

The Town Office Building at 385 Main Street centralizes municipal boards and committees, as well as the senior center and elderly housing. The main building was constructed in 1910 as the Central School and was converted to its current use in 1972. A multi-purpose annex to the building serves as a meeting space for scouts, the Community Band, fitness classes and Town Meeting. The Cammett Park ballfields, Gazebo and Action Cove playground are behind the Town Office Building Annex. A Public Safety Complex, built in 2007 near the Town Office Building, houses the police and fire departments, and emergency response services.

The town's only Historic District designated in town bylaws is the Training Field at 490 Main Street, which is surrounded by Revolutionary War vintage homes. The field was the site of training soldiers for the Battle of Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War, and was used again for Civil War training.

The G.A.R. Memorial Library is at one end of the Training Field. It has an active user base and numerous adult, teen and children's programs are offered throughout the year. Across Main Street from the library is the Town Hall. Built in 1842, it served as an armory during the Civil War and now is used for special events. Long Hill Farm, a vegetable farm and orchard, is on the opposite end of the Training Field. It was founded in 1915 as an apple orchard and now offers the public CSA memberships, a farm stand and ice cream.

The Manufacturers' Row Historic Area, to the east of Elwell Square on Main Street, is notable for its collection of handsome homes associated with the largest manufacturers in West Newbury in the mid-19th century. **Federal, Greek revival, and Italianate styles predominate.** Shoe manufacturers owned 331, 333, 335, 345, and 347 Main Street. Comb manufacturers in the Chase family owned 319 and 323 Main Street.

The Way to the River Historic Area contains some of the town's oldest structures. In Puritan times, residents were required to travel each Sunday to Newburyport for worship services. The distance became too great for some and in 1693, a group petitioned the freeholders for permission to hire their own minister. In 1698, the group erected a meeting house on Pipestave Hill, on Main Street a short distance west of the Way to the River Area. By 1711, approximately 50 families lived within one-half mile of the meeting house and 96 families lived "above the Artichoke River." By 1729, 181 houses containing 183 families lived in the area. In 1759, land was purchased at 806 Main Street and a new meeting house was constructed. In 1840, a new building was constructed on the same site. Residents of the Way to the River Area were predominately farmers, with the exception of Moses Ridgway's carriage shop at 801 Main Street.

The Pipestave Hill area is located across Main Street from the Page School. It includes athletic fields and an equestrian ring, the Town Highway Department Garage and recycling center. The Mill Pond Recreation Area and Dunn Fields abut Pipestave Hill and provide trails for hiking, cycling and equestrian use. Across Main Street at the top of Pipestave Hill is the Dr. John C Page School. This building was constructed in 1928 as an orphanage before becoming the Cardinal Cushing Academy for boys. It was purchased by the town in 1973 to be converted to an elementary school. Between the school and the Merrimack River is the Riverbend Conservation Area, a popular destination for hiking and equestrian use. It also offers an opportunity for Page School fifth- and sixth-grade science classes to conduct field work associated with their STEAM curriculum.

In addition to historic public buildings, West Newbury has many historic residences. Phase 1 of the Town's Historic Sites Survey, released in 2018, focuses primarily on structures on Main Street and includes a description of the three Historic Areas. The report provides photos and analyses of these homes' architecture, which ranges from First Period to Victorian, as well as stories about the farmers, factory workers, craftsmen, preachers, teachers, inventors, philanthropists, and others who built and lived in the 116 primary buildings and thirty-one outbuildings surveyed. The Survey recommends three areas and twenty-three individual properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Additionally, a total of 193 homes are listed on the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS). About half were built before the Revolutionary War, with the remaining post-Revolutionary architectural styles including Colonial, Italianate, Greek Revival and farm houses. The majority of these homes are located on Main Street, and the remaining houses are on other original roads, such as Crane Neck Street, Maple Street, Indian Hill



Street and Middle Street. In addition to those listed on MACRIS the town has many other 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century houses which should be added to the database. The West Newbury Historic Sites Survey is available at <https://www.wnewbury.org/historical-commission/pages/historic-sites-survey> and MACRIS maintains an older database of these houses with photos and application documentation at <http://mhc-macris.net/>.

A number of burial grounds and other building remnants of archeological interest can be found in West Newbury. These include a Quaker burial ground off Turkey Hill Road, a potter's field, and three other old burial grounds. Along the Merrimack River are the remnants of a commercial wharf and ferry landing. An old stone cellar in the Riverbend Conservation Area is the former 1729 Griffin Home Site, rumored to have been used for rum running during prohibition. (Local legend has pointed to it as evidence of Nordic explorers.) The remnants of a former sawmill and dam built by Sergeant Joseph Pike in 1706 is located in Riverbend on the Indian River. Remains of old quarries also are found in both the Mullen Woods, Atherton and South Street Woodlots conservation areas.

### UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

There are no state-recognized "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC) within West Newbury borders, but the town does have significant resource areas that have been described in previous sections and shown on corresponding maps. These resources include agricultural lands, surface waters with surrounding land, and large contiguous parcels of open space; they are highlighted in *Map 4-C*.

Agriculture in West Newbury plays an important role in establishing and maintaining the character of the community. Having been an integral component of the town's history and development, the remaining open fields are the basis for the rural feel that most townspeople and visitors associate with West Newbury. Along with current agricultural operations, these open fields provide scenic vistas and long views to undeveloped forests and the Merrimack River. Many of these agricultural properties are contiguous, and this provides the opportunity for wildlife to move through the developed landscape and protection for endangered species. The operating farms offer community and economic benefits by attracting visitors from within and outside the town to the many farm stands, plant nurseries, Christmas tree farms, and a dairy.

Brown Spring Farm is an example of all three of these benefits. Located on Main Street since 1865, its vegetable fields come right down to Main Street and an old farm stand that is still in use. The 10-acre parcel abuts undeveloped land on its east boundary and it is for sale.

A total of 1.3 square miles of the town's 14.7 square miles is water. These surface water bodies provide a number of important functions that are central to the goals of the OSRP. The Artichoke Reservoir system provides the City of Newburyport with drinking water, and indirectly to West Newbury when the Town purchases drinking water during high demand periods. The town wellfield is directly influenced by the adjacent Artichoke Reservoir system, which makes it critical to protect the water quality and quantity of the reservoir system. State and local restrictions on land use around the reservoir system and wellfield preserve its benefits for wildlife habitat.

The same dual benefits of protecting the water supply and wildlife habitat are true for the Indian Hill Reservoir. Boating and swimming are not allowed in any of the reservoirs, but the protected land around them is used for hiking, bird watching and fishing, which satisfies the goal of recreational use and access. The Merrimack River, Mill Pond, and other tributary streams and wetlands in West Newbury provide wildlife habitat and direct recreational use.

The many conservation areas and town-owned land that form large areas of contiguous open space are a vital resource in maintaining the biodiversity and recreational access unique to West Newbury in an area of rapid

residential development. These parcels are often linked by trail easements which greatly extends the possible range of hiking, cycling and equestrian riding. The BioMap2 Core Habitat shown in *Map 4-I* is almost continuous from Crane Pond WMA to the Merrimack River.

The town's willingness to protect and expand on this corridor will be critical in maintaining the biodiversity that is a unique characteristic of West Newbury.

## **G. Environmental Challenges**

The town faces a number of potential environmental challenges that affect open space and recreational use, as well as planning. These result from past land use and disposal practices, flooding, sedimentation and erosion along the Merrimack River, forestry, the potential for water pollution, recreational river access and climate change.

### **LAND USE AND DISPOSAL**

Past use and disposal practices have resulted in hazardous or solid waste contamination of soils in many towns. Although there are no federal- or state-listed hazardous waste sites in West Newbury, they do exist in neighboring communities. Because these are being remediated under government oversight, they do not pose a risk to open space and recreation in town. There were two listings of oil spills in West Newbury on the Massachusetts 21E list of hazardous and oil releases, but they were remediated in the late 1990s and determined to be of no further risk.

The town currently lacks bylaws regulating the importation of fill. The ConCom includes a requirement of clean fill in its standard conditions for all projects receiving an Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act. A town bylaw requiring all fill materials to be certified as "clean" (e.g., not containing hazardous substances or waste) and meaningful enforcement should be enacted to prevent the introduction of soil contamination through construction activities.

West Newbury offers residents curbside recycling and trash pickup through a contract with G. Mello Inc. Before 1985, the community was served by a municipal landfill in the southern portion of town at the intersection of Middle Street and Georgetown Road. That landfill was closed and capped in 1988, and the site is being monitored in accordance with DEP requirements. In January 2018, annual groundwater testing results showed the presence of a possible carcinogen. The abutting property owners were notified and samples from their drinking water wells collected for analysis. At the Oct. 22, 2018 Fall Special Town Meeting, voters approved a warrant article to fund installation of additional monitoring devices and more frequent testing.

After closure, the landfill property was deeded to the ConCom to be preserved as open space. Given the location and relatively small size of 5 acres, there is limited open space or recreational use opportunity for this property. It has been suggested as a possible location for a dog retreat park, however. An MVPC region-wide study in 2010 evaluated the parcel for solar or wind power generation. As a result of site characteristics, it was determined the landfill was not an economically viable location for alternative power generation.

### **FLOODING, EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION**

Given the large percentage of surface water acreage in West Newbury, flooding, erosion and sedimentation are potential challenges to maintaining good water quality and wildlife habitat. The areas prone to flooding are primarily located along the Merrimack River and are shown in *Map 4-F*. Erosion of the riverbanks caused by flooding and high speed boat traffic is an environmental concern. Along with destabilizing the riverbank and habitat it supports, erosion causes sedimentation downstream and affects water quality and wildlife habitat.

Some homeowners have attempted to correct erosion issues on their property by installing rock and wave barriers. These often end up causing more erosion or moving the erosion problem further down river. The ConCom considers remedial and preventative erosion control measures in any new riverfront work that it approves. It also strictly adheres to a policy of no new disturbance within 100 feet of the riverbank. Enforcement of boat speed limits on a regional basis would help reduce erosion and sedimentation issues in West Newbury, as well as other communities along the Merrimack River.

## **FORESTRY**

Many of the open space areas under town management in West Newbury are heavily forested and have not been maintained. As a result, trees and limbs often fall across established trails during storm events. Without a town-wide forestry management plan, trail traffic reroutes around the obstacles or unauthorized users remove them. This creates the potential for impact to sensitive resource areas as well as a liability for the town. A Forestry Management Plan, and coordinated implementation of it between the relevant town agencies would address this challenge.

## **DEVELOPMENT TRENDS**

West Newbury is a popular place to live, and the population grew 2.4 percent between the 2000 and 2010 US census. The most current population figure of 4,327 from July 2018 represents a 1.8 percent increase from 2010. Considered from a density point of view, this translates into 294 people per square mile. The relatively low density reflects the number of remaining large parcels of undeveloped land.

As more people desire to move to this region, and particularly West Newbury, the historically forested and agricultural properties will be altered by new residential construction. Existing wetlands protection and endangered species regulations should protect the undeveloped parcels that exist in state-recognized resource areas, whether the lost character and wildlife habitat of the open space is compensated for through the open space components of such developments. Outside these resource areas, however, new house lots and developments will destroy the long views and rural character people associate with the town, and could put stress on the wildlife habitat value that the undeveloped land offered.

Notably, two large subdivisions were permitted and built in recent years, and a third broke ground in the summer of 2018. All three of these properties were available to the town for purchase. In one case, a warrant article for purchase was defeated at Town Meeting. In the other two, the town chose not to purchase the parcels. While open space developments can increase the amount and contiguous nature of open space compared to standard lot development, it will be an ongoing challenge to make sure that the qualities of rural character, public recreational access and wildlife habitat that open spaces provide are truly maintained by these developments. Input from the OSC and other concerned parties will be critical during the project review and approval phase of future developments.

## **WATER POLLUTION**

Groundwater and surface water quality in West Newbury are very good, in large part due to the strict measures of the state drinking water protection standards. As shown in *Map 4-E*, land uses in large areas of town are regulated, and the possibility of contamination of these water resources is greatly reduced. The most significant risk to groundwater in those areas outside the zones of protection is from failing residential septic systems. One advantage to the brisk real estate market in town is that these systems are evaluated as part of the property transfer process, and failing systems must be upgraded under state Title 5 requirements.

The biggest risk to surface waters outside the protection zones is the nonpoint pollution created by storm water runoff. The pollutants washed off roadways, from active construction sites, and as a result of residential fertilizer and pesticide application have the potential to affect the quality of surface waters throughout the town.

This is a regional and statewide challenge to water quality, one being addressed by requiring communities to apply for permits under the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System to discharge storm water. These permits will dictate best management practices for the control of pollution related to storm water runoff and sampling and analysis requirements to document that the permitted towns are in compliance with water quality standards. West Newbury has appointed a Storm Water Committee that is in the process of complying with the requirements of this program. This program will help to ensure the long-term quality of surface waters in town, along with the wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities they provide.

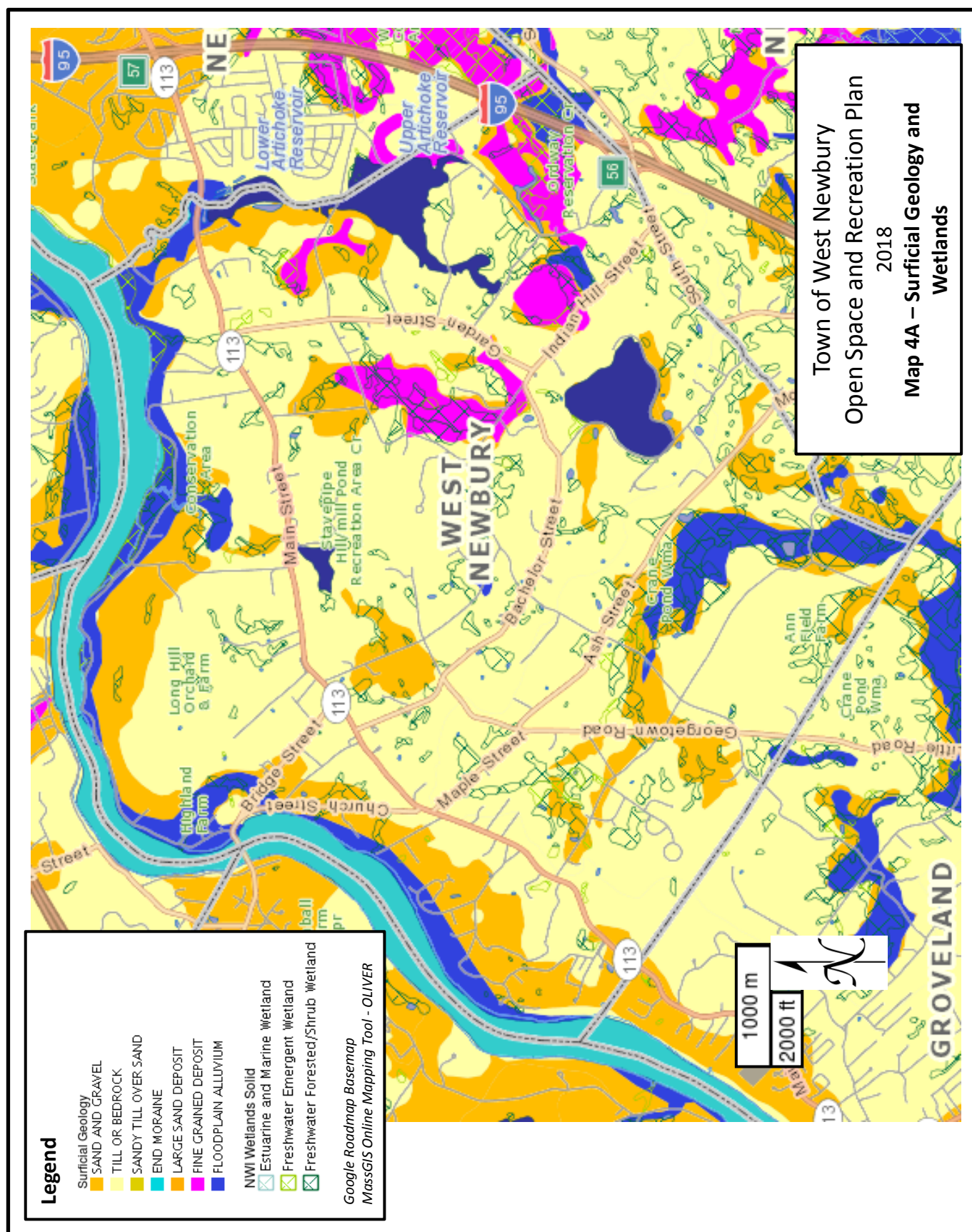
### **ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY**

As shown on *Map 4C*, open space areas with public access in West Newbury are evenly distributed across the town. This is not true for river access, however. Despite the Merrimack River forming the entire northern boundary of town, there are limited opportunities for public recreational access in West Newbury. While public land abuts the river in isolated spots and in the Riverbend Conservation Area, there are no practical designated fishing areas or boat launches other than the state boat launch at the Rocks Village Bridge. Selectmen appointed a River Access Committee to identify and evaluate possible locations for expanded public access. This is a high priority of the OSRP going forward.

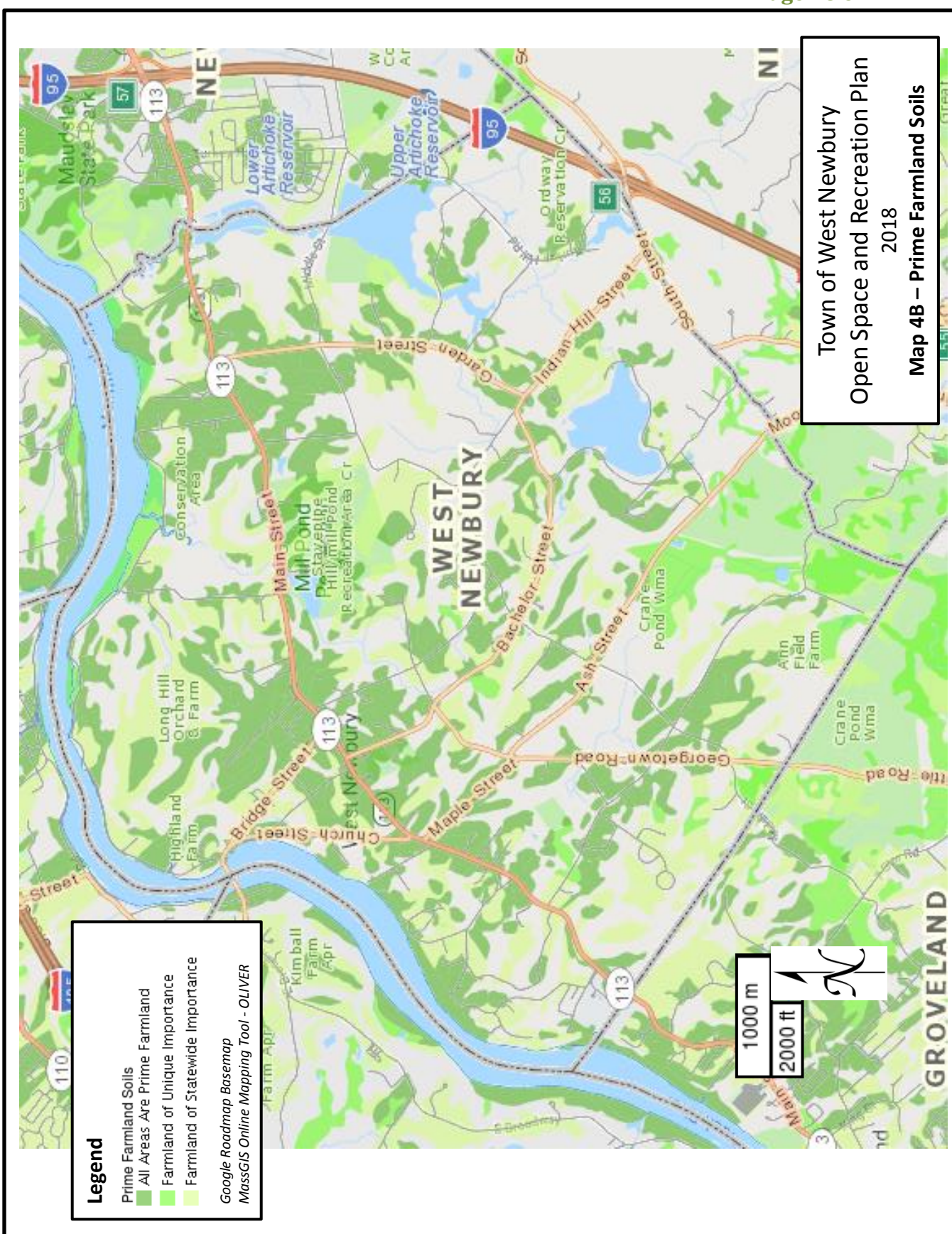
### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

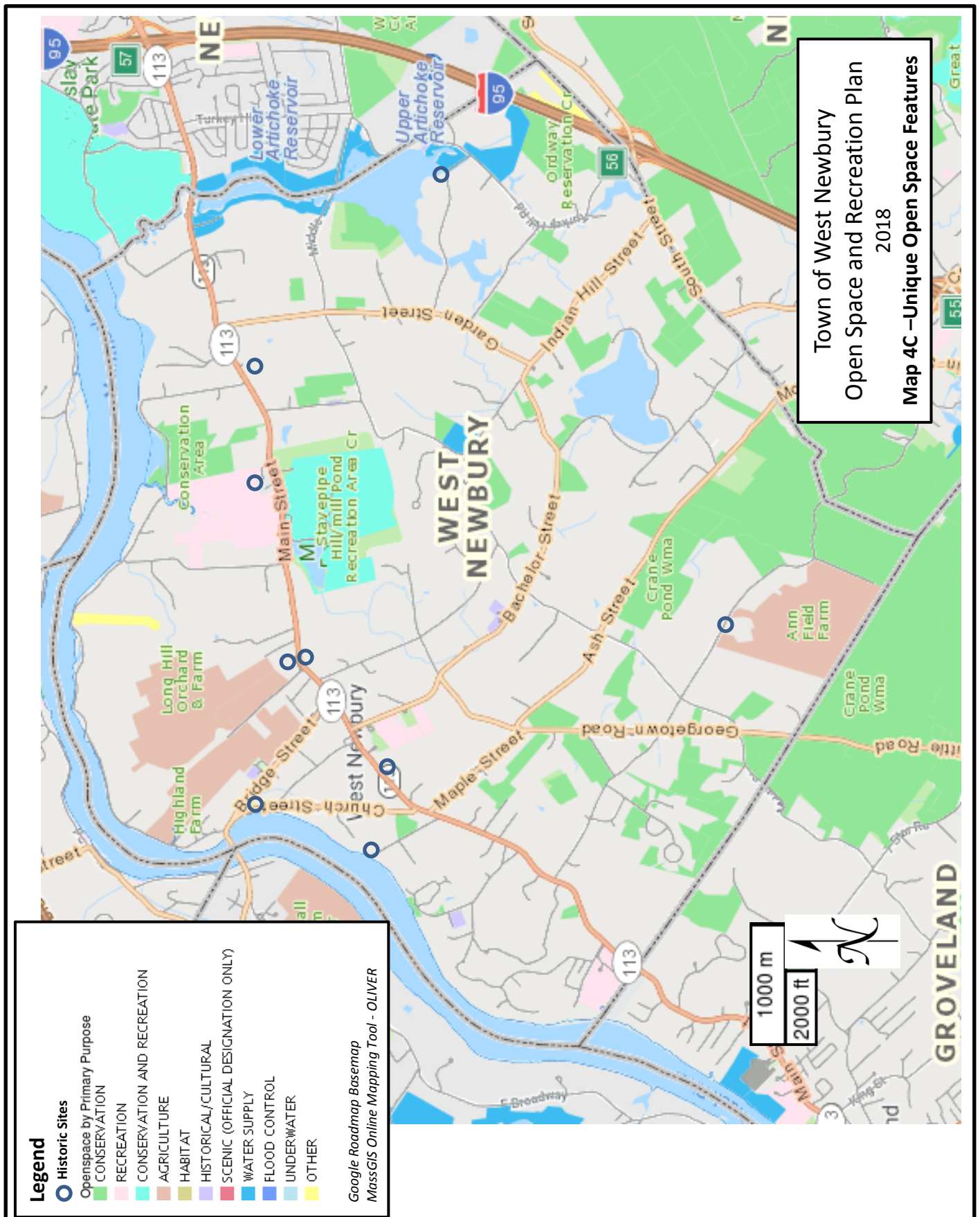
The Town of West Newbury is one of many communities in Massachusetts and across the country that can expect to be impacted by climate change. Given that 8 percent of the town's acreage is surface water and its proximity to the Merrimack River and the Atlantic Ocean, the rising temperatures, changes in precipitation, extreme weather and sea level rise that are associated with climate change have the potential to jeopardize the safety and health of its residents, as well as cause damage to privately owned and municipal property. Additionally, the health of critical environmental resources may be impacted. In order to minimize the health and economic impacts that climate change may cause in the town, it will be important for West Newbury to be proactive in preparing for climate change. A grant program which funds a community driven process to identify hazards and develop strategies to improve climate change resiliency (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) is newly available and participation in this program should be considered.



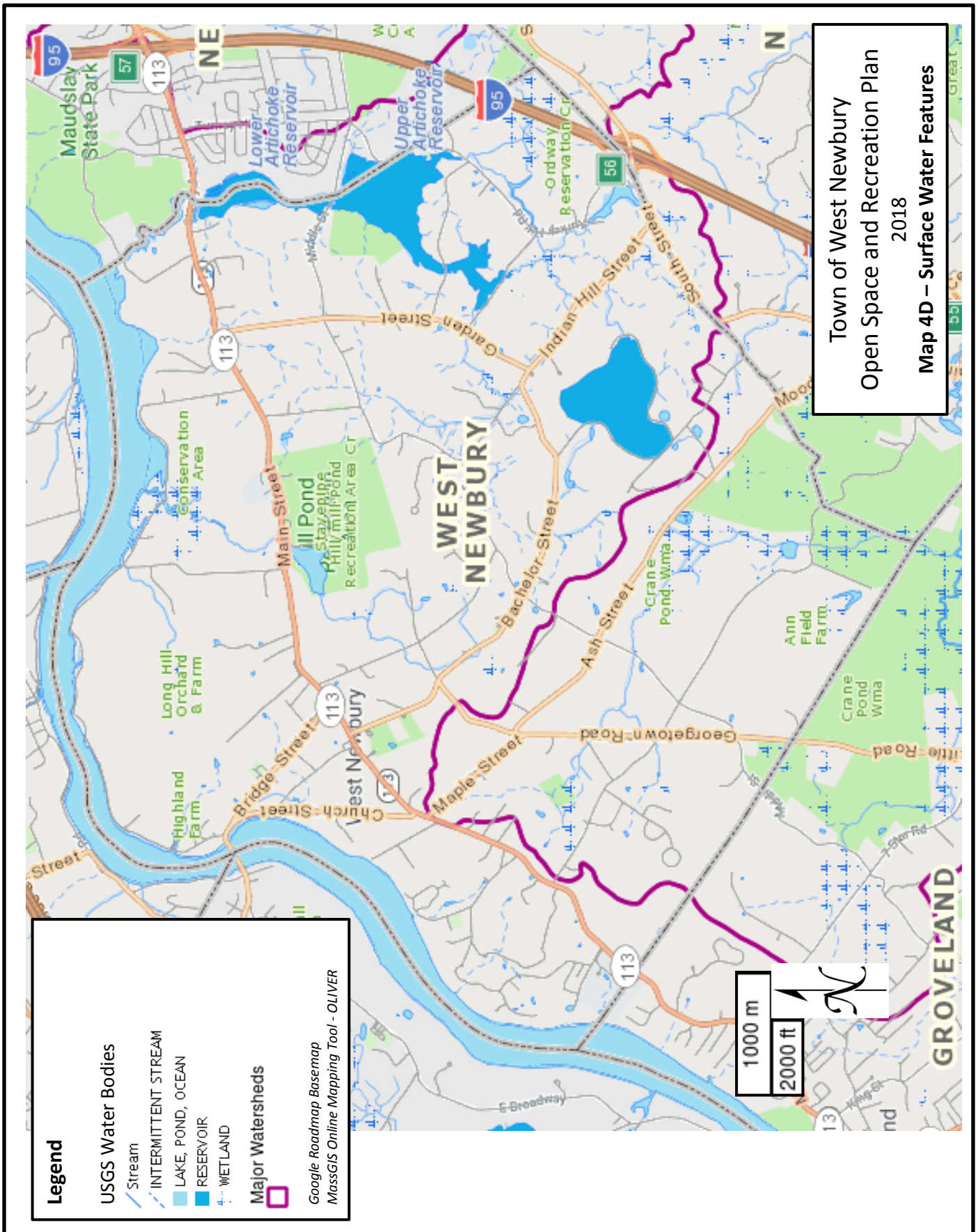


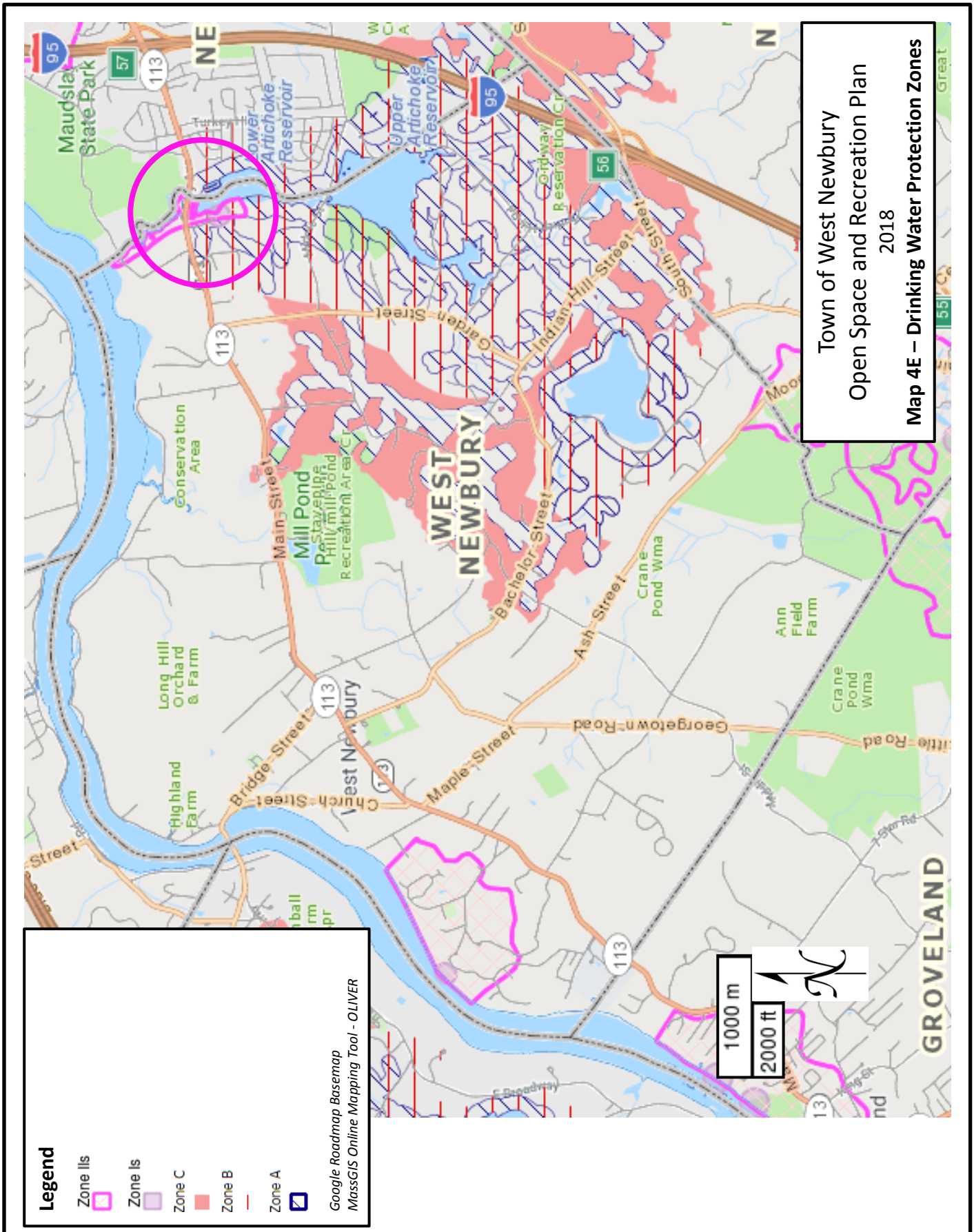




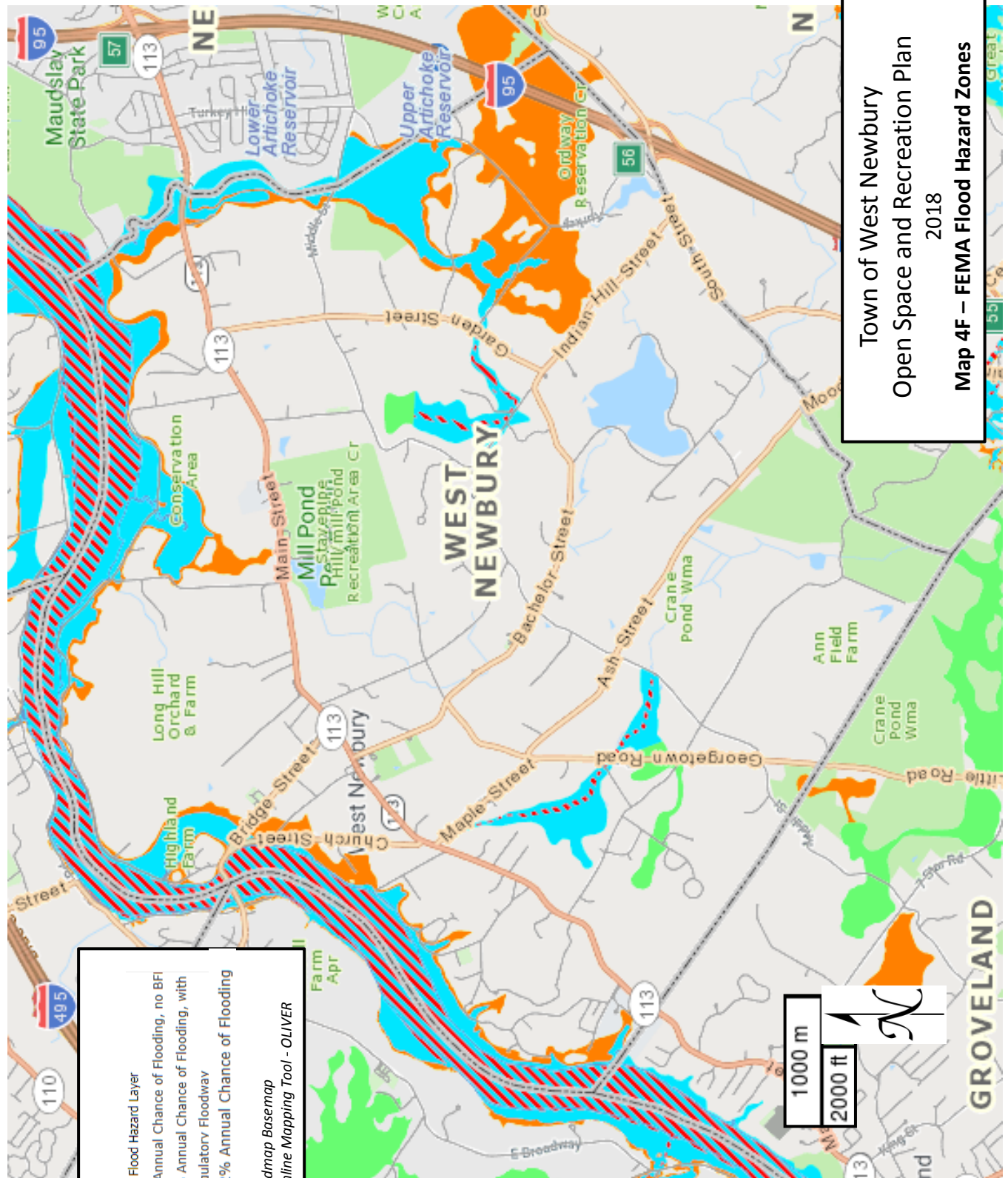




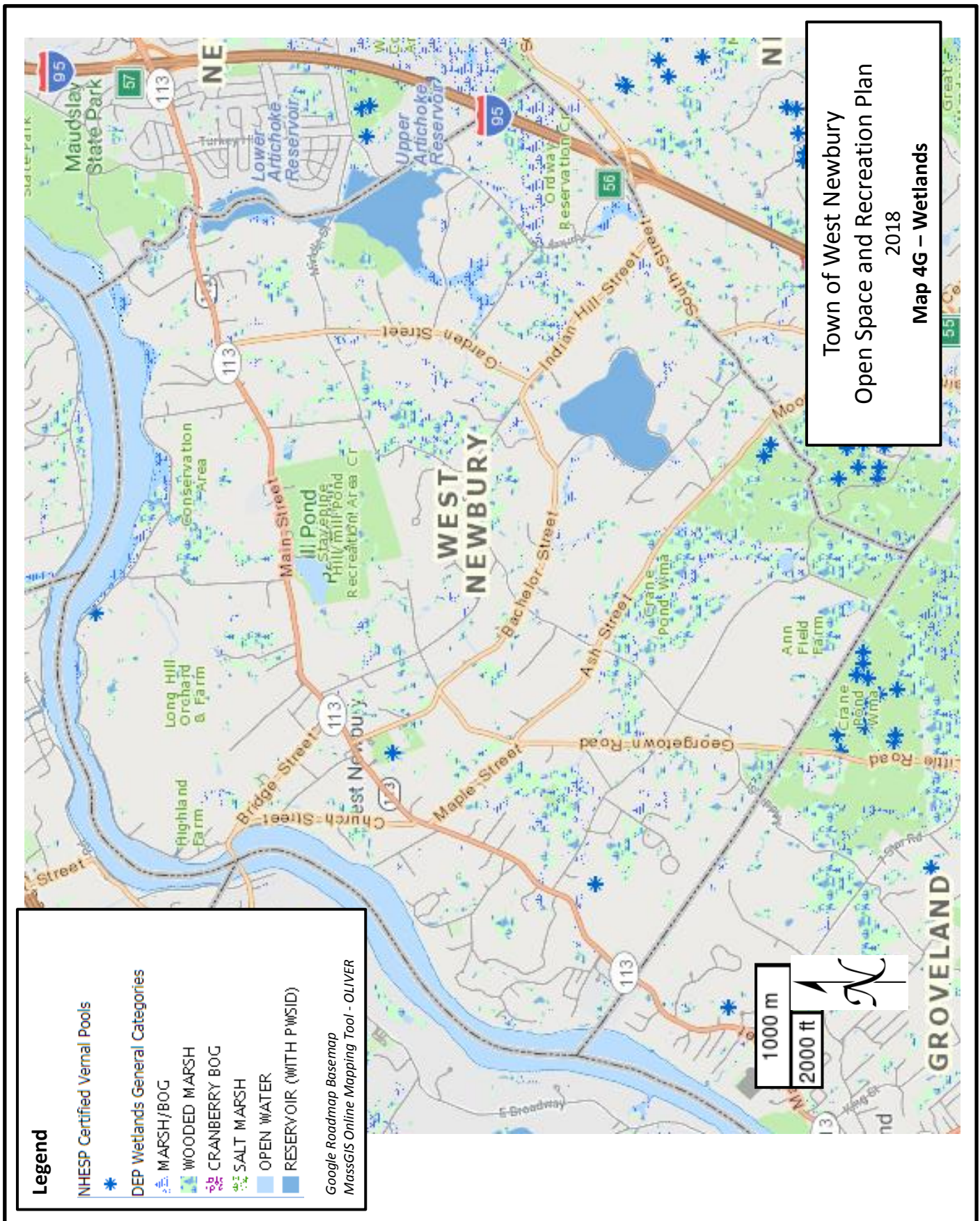




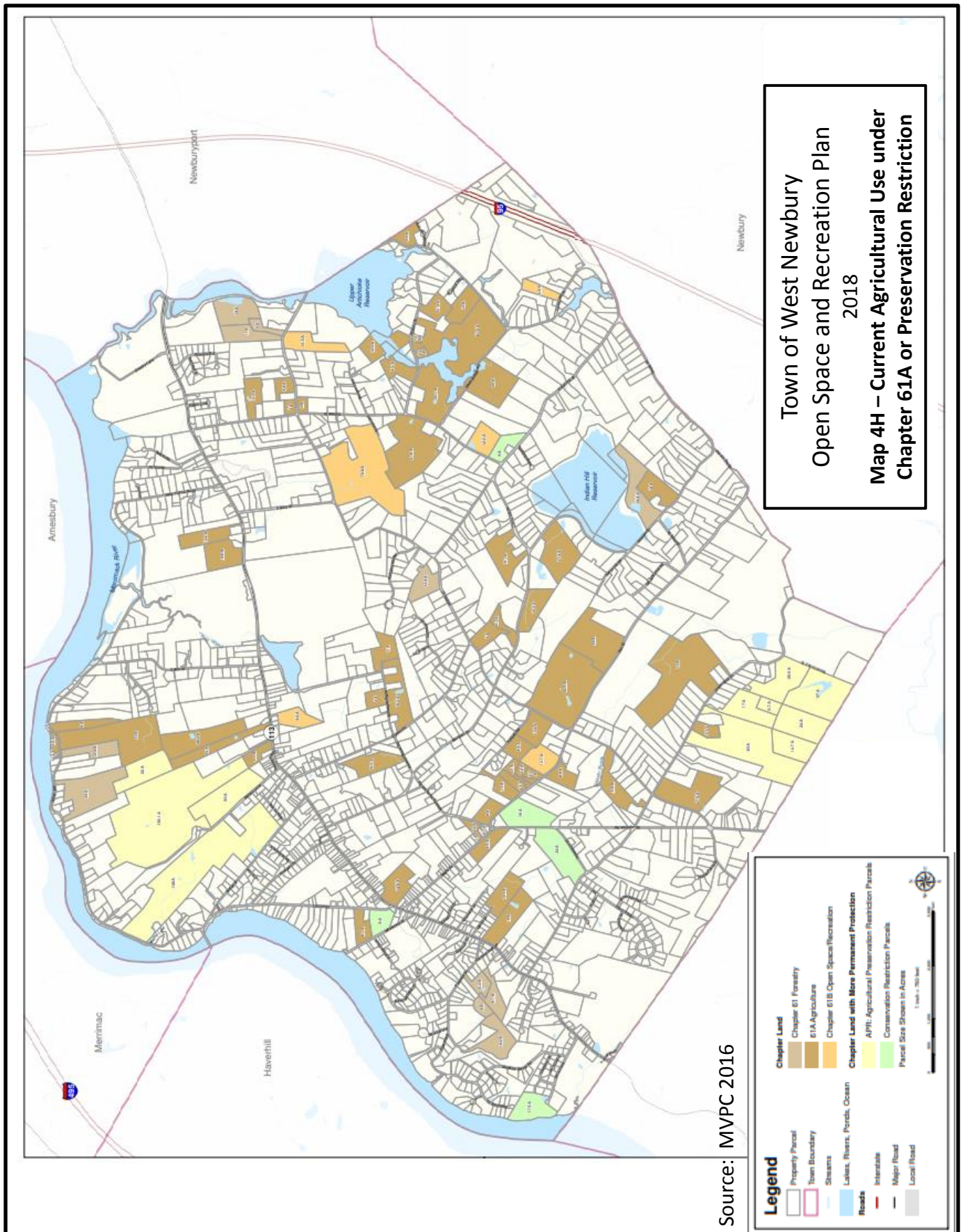


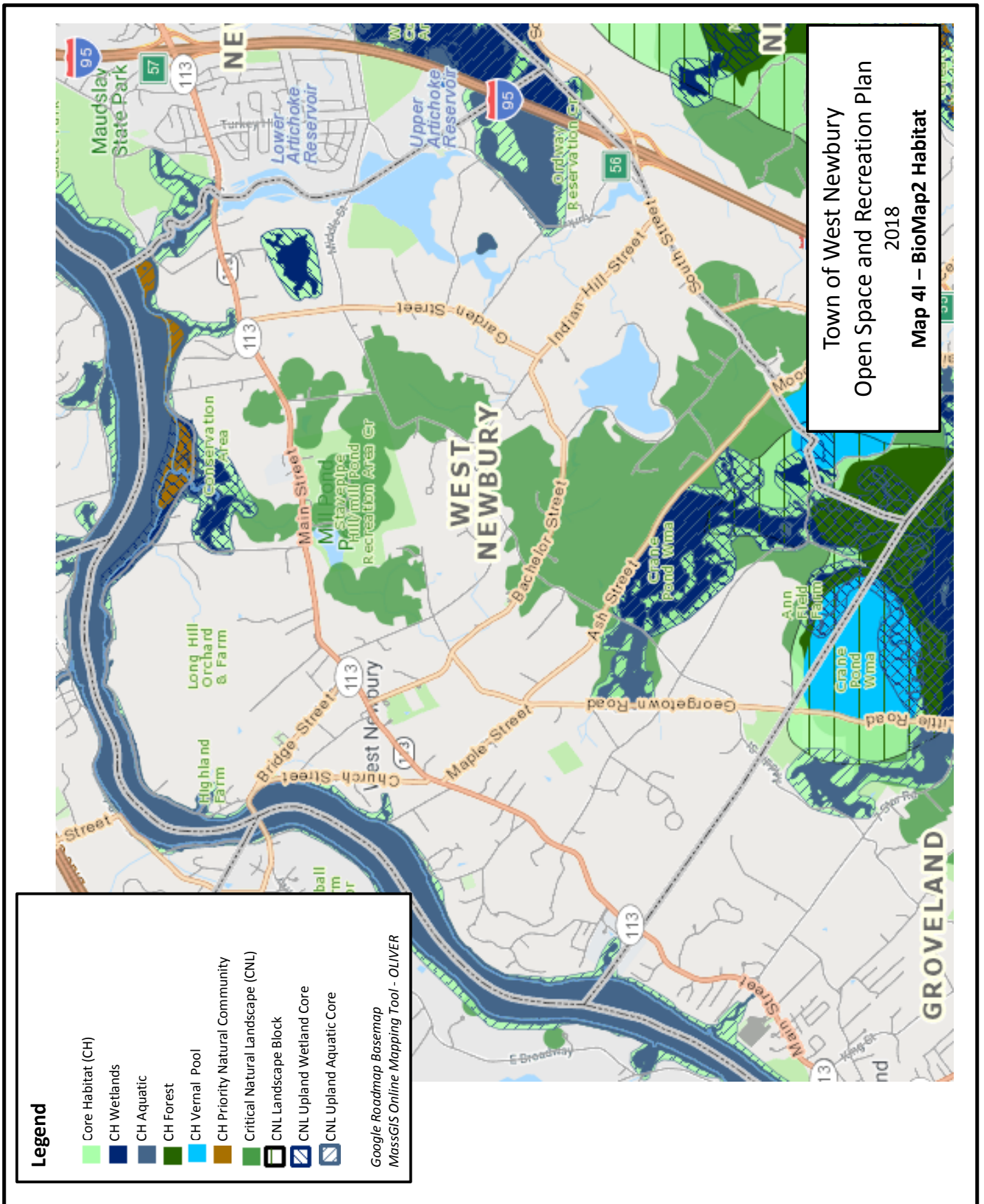




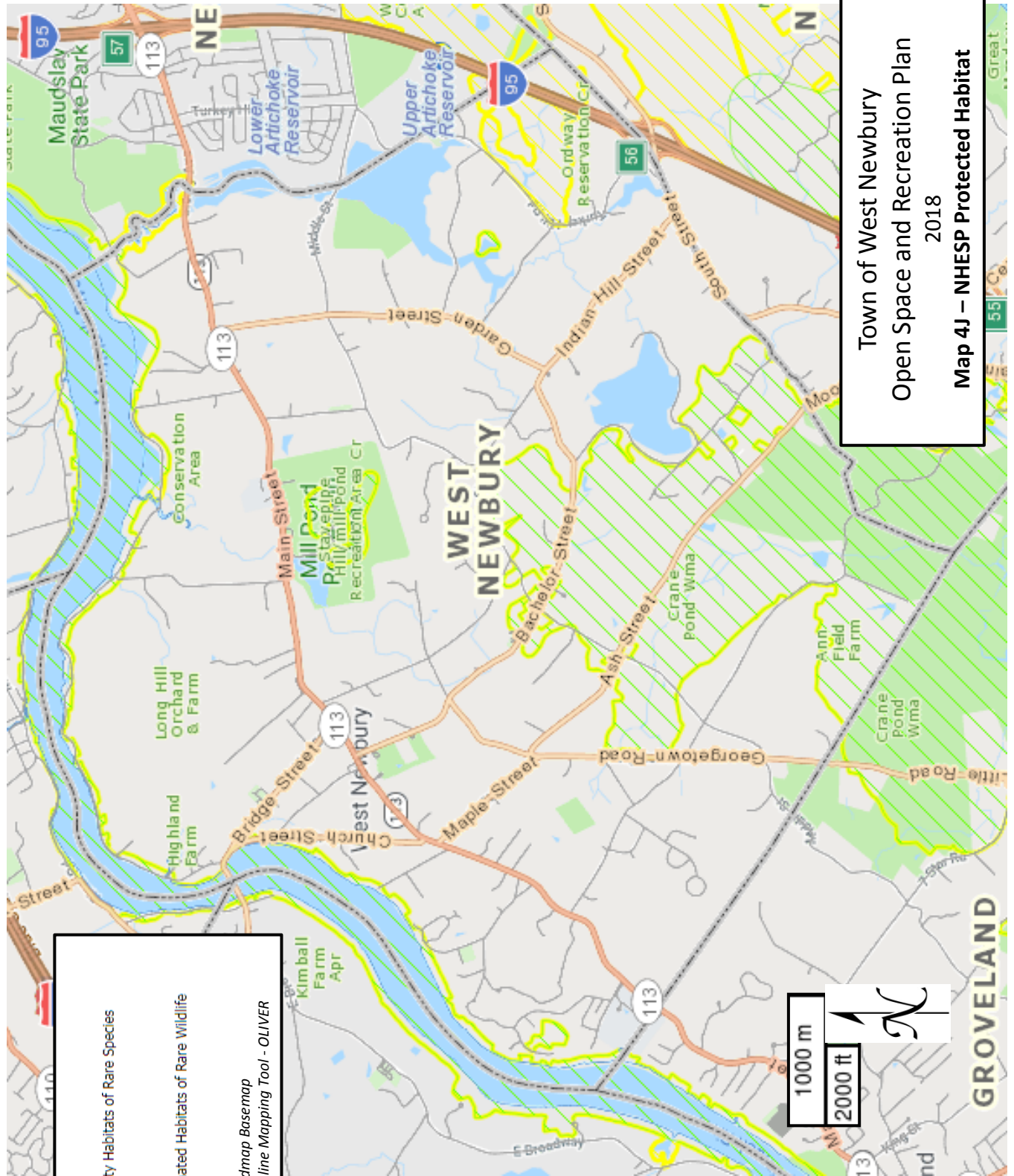


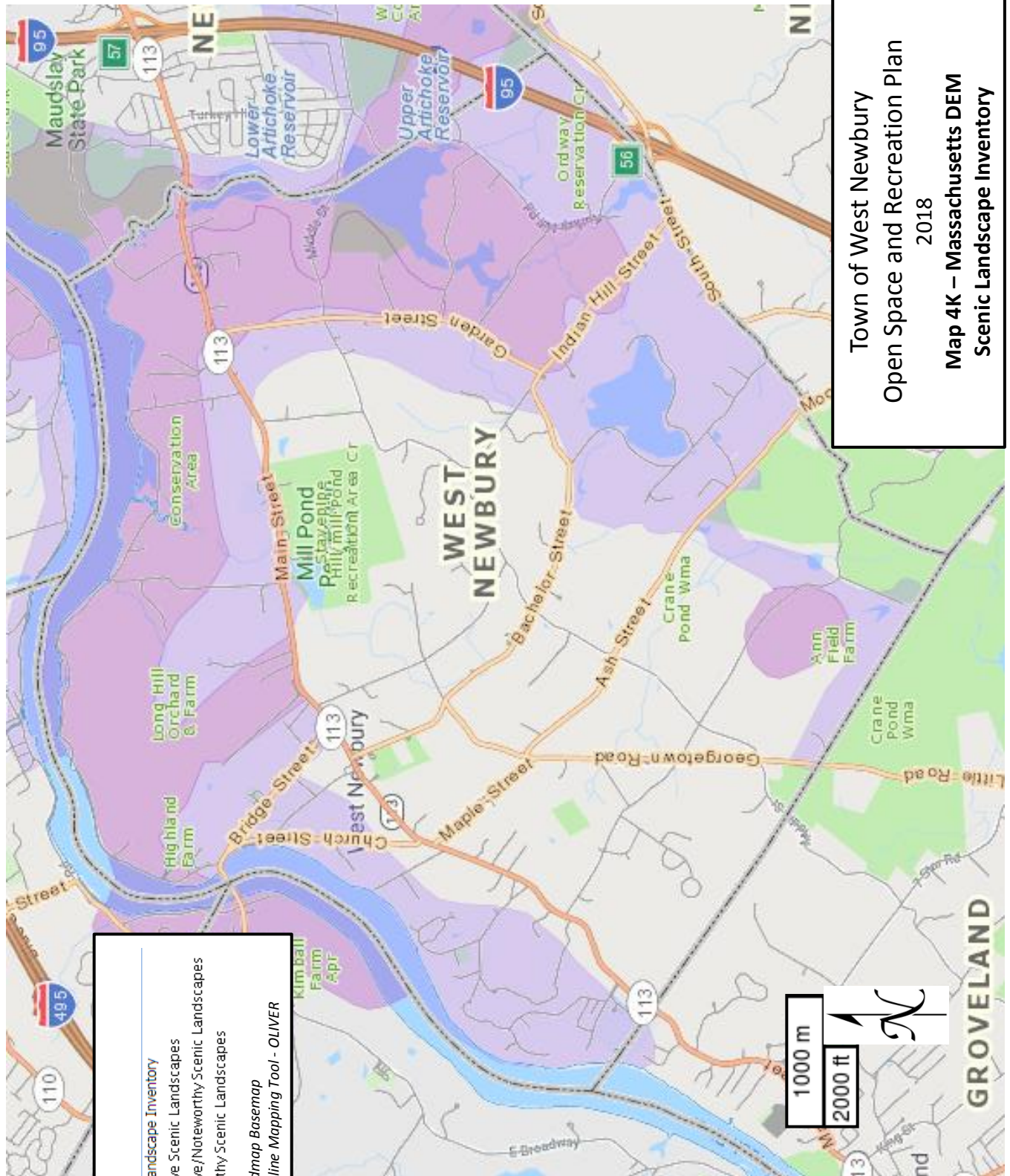












Town of West Newbury  
Open Space and Recreation Plan  
2018  
Map 4K – Massachusetts DEM  
Scenic Landscape Inventory



## **SECTION 5 • INVENTORY OF OPEN SPACE**

Open Space is a limited natural resource that requires protection from development for non-open space uses. Massachusetts Audubon in its report “Planning for Growth” estimates that between the years 2005 and 2013, 38,000 acres of forest land and open space were developed. Additionally, the Massachusetts DCR Forestry program estimates that 65 acres of forest land in the state is lost to development every day. As one of the most densely populated states, we need to guard the natural resource of undeveloped land as much as we can. This protection must start at the local level.

Besides contributing to the general quality of life in West Newbury open space increases land and housing values in the area. Massachusetts SCORP 2017 cited a Trust for Public Land 2013 survey which found that for every \$1 invested in land conservation, \$4 was returned to the economy. According to the National Association of Realtors, 57 percent of buyers prefer a home near open space areas as compared to a home that was not. Retirees seeking to downsize and relocate also prefer locales rich in open space areas. The success of recent housing developments that include trails connecting to larger trail systems or river views, such as River Hill and Ocean Meadow, bear out these statistics.

One of the Commonwealth requirements for the OSRP is that Section 5 sets forth an inventory of public and private open space and describes the “level of protection” against development that each identified parcel enjoys. We define open space for purposes of this inventory as undeveloped land that has value, as such, for one or more of the following reasons: water resources protection, river access, habitat protection, trail connections and recreational use, agricultural use, and for its scenic views that contribute to the rural character of West Newbury – a characteristic that citizens have indicated they value so highly. Each of the foregoing was identified as being important or very important to the respondents of the OSC survey.

Protection of open space parcels may be permanent, as in the form of deed restrictions, and very temporary, as in the case of special taxation programs such as Chapter 61. There also are lands with no protection that currently are open and used for recreation. In that case, the type of ownership also is a factor in determining the likelihood that it will remain undeveloped. This section will look at privately owned open space in West Newbury, as well as public and nonprofit ownership, and identify the type of protection that currently exists and whether additional action should be taken to enhance protection.

For ease of discussion, the town was divided into the 11 geographic areas shown in *Map 5A*, with each parcel identified by its area location.

### **A. Private Parcels**

As indicated by the relatively low population density discussed in Section 3, West Newbury is characterized by areas of extensive open space. Privately owned parcels may be developed at any time unless they are covered by some type of protection measure. This includes land subject to a deed restriction under M.G.L. Ch.131 limiting use to conservation purposes (CR), an agricultural preservation restriction (APR), and acquisition under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution for preservation of resources for recreational purposes.

Article 97 land is deemed to be permanently protected (even though it is possible to develop it for other purposes), because the process of releasing it from the protection of Article 97 is considered onerous. Notwithstanding the difficulty, conversion of Article 97 land occurs fairly routinely, even though the process requires, among other things,

a 2/3 vote of the state legislature and replacement of the land with land of equivalent recreational value. *Map 5-B* shows the private parcels in West Newbury currently considered permanently protected under these programs.

There are 11 parcels of land totaling 482 acres protected under APR, outlined in red. As shown on the map, these parcels combine to form four blocks of land protected under APR. Three of these parcels are located in the Long Hill/River Road area of town and the fourth in the Crane Neck Hill area. An additional nine parcels totaling 155.5 acres are protected by CRs held by the town, and nine parcels totaling 105 acres are protected by CRs held by Greenbelt, the Essex County land trust. These parcels are outlined in green in *Map 5-B*. All of these permanently protected parcels are *detailed in Matrix 5-1*.

Another category of privately owned open space in West Newbury is Chapter 61 properties. These are shown in *Map 5-C*. Classification as Chapter 61 land does not carry any level of open space protection. MGL Chapter 61 (forestry), Chapter 61A (agriculture), and 61B (recreation) are taxation programs by which a landowner is granted tax relief if land of over 5 acres in size is managed for one of the specific purposes listed above. Under a complicated regulatory scheme, the municipality is granted a limited right of first offer and first refusal when the landowner decides to convert the property to other uses or receives a bona fide offer to buy the property for other than the specified uses. (See: [www.mountgrace.org](http://www.mountgrace.org) for a comprehensive guide to these programs).

Chapter 61 does not protect open space; it merely grants a very constricted right for the town to purchase the property for market value ahead of a third party or to match a bona fide offer from a potential buyer. Recent years have seen owners of large properties with road frontage subdivide parcels piecemeal from a large parcel so the town is offered a right of first refusal only on buildable lots, one by one.

By this method, the town has been de facto deprived of the opportunity to purchase the original intact parcel that was subject to Chapter 61 because it is offered house lots with little or no open space value individually. Given the high market rates for lots in town, it is increasingly unlikely that West Newbury can afford to exercise its right of first refusal under Chapter 61 for already subdivided properties. *Map 5-C* shows the properties enrolled in the Chapter 61 program in town. These were evaluated for open space significance along with those parcels having no protection.

Privately owned parcels in West Newbury without permanent protection were evaluated for open space significance according to the following criteria: Environmentally Sensitive; Scenic Views; Hilltops; Watershed/Wellfield Protection; Greenbelt/Corridor/Trail; River Access; Agricultural; Active or Passive Recreation; Large/Contiguous Parcels; Possible School Site; Possible Affordable Housing; Proximity to Town Center.

As required by the Commonwealth, Matrix 5-2 lists the privately owned parcels in West Newbury that the OSC has determined to be of particular interest based on the criteria that were met. The matrix also shows the geographic area where these parcels are located and their current protection level. The fact that a parcel is not listed in the inventory does not mean that it will not (or does not) have value under some circumstances in the future. For instance, in view of the importance of river access, all riverfront properties are of potential interest, whether or not developed for residential use, although the OSC did not list these on the inventory because they failed to meet our definition of open space. A developed parcel could have value as open space if it provides an important trail link at some time in the future.

There is no public “as of right” access to parcels subject to agricultural restrictions under the APR program. Other than those private parcels subject to trail easements or enrolled under Chapter 61B (recreation) the public has no access to private open space parcels.



## B. Public and Nonprofit Parcels

At a special Town Meeting on November 13, 2000, an article approving the appropriation of a \$5 million land bond fund for the purchase of real estate for open space, water supply protection and/or enhancement, recreation and/or general municipal purposes was passed by 2/3 vote. This was also approved by ballot at the January 23, 2001 town vote. This fund was used to purchase several parcels of interest until its depletion in 2005. Other sources of funding for purchase of parcels for use as open space, recreation, water supply or general municipal purposes have included free cash, borrowing, donations and most recently CPA revenues. These parcels, with their purchase details, are listed below in Figure 12.

PARCEL	ACRES	TOWN MEETING	ARTICLE	FUNDING	USE
Riverbend	68	10/28/96	28	Borrow: \$205,000 Greenbelt: \$10,000 ConCom: \$11,298 Self Help Grant: \$273,702	Conservation
Craven	116.5	11/13/00	8	Borrow: \$575,000	Municipal
Cherry Hill	11.94	04/30/01	11	Free Cash: \$140,000	Water Supply
Cherry Hill	6.47	05/31/01	32	Gift (connected to purchase)	
Pipestave CR	213.13	10/29/01	6	Free Cast: \$15,000	Conservation
Dunn	71.5	04/29/02	5	Land Bond: \$3,500,000	Municipal
Cherry Hill	4	06/06/02	2	Land Bond: \$495,000	Passive Rec Water Supply Open Space
Cherry Hill	16	06/06/02	3	Gift (connected to purchase)	Passive Rec Water Supply Open Space
Andreas	6.88	10/20/03	19	Free Cash: \$350,000	Municipal
Andreas CR	2.76	10/20/03	20	Free Cash: \$(connected to purchase)	Water Supply
MacKean	0.28	10/20/03	21	Free Cash: \$12,000	Municipal
Mullen	34.19	10/17/05	18	Land Bond: \$1,005,000 Free Cash: \$195,000	Municipal
Berkenbush CR	12.67	07/24/06	7	Free Cash: \$200,000	Conservation
Indian Hill CR	21	10/22/07	5	Free Cash: \$112,400 Greenbelt: \$112,000 Self Help Grant: \$285,000	Conservation
Atherton CR	23	04/28/14	13	CPA: \$25,000	Conservation

Source: West Newbury Annual Town Reports

FIGURE 12

There are a total of 2163 acres of open space in West Newbury that is owned by the following public and nonprofit entities: Town of West Newbury; City of Newburyport; Commonwealth of Massachusetts; U.S. Government; Greenbelt; Cemeteries; Other Institutions. These parcels are *detailed in Matrix 5-3* and shown in *Map 5-E* along with the previously mentioned protected private parcels.

The Town of West Newbury owns 955 acres of open space within its boundaries. These parcels and their usage are shown in *Map 5-E*, and are detailed in *Matrix 5-3*. The Mill Pond/Pipestave Hill Conservation Area located in the Pipestave Hill area is the largest town-owned open space area. It is a 213-acre parcel that includes irrigated athletic fields; a pond for fishing and non-motorized boating; equine use amenities; and trails throughout the wooded and open fields. The Dunn Fields area is a 71.5-acre parcel abutting the Mill Pond/Pipestave Hill area that has historically been used for agriculture and has trails connecting to other town trail systems.

The Riverbend Area is a 129-acre parcel, located across Route 113 from the Mill Pond/Pipestave area, extending down into the Long Hill/River Road area. It offers improved trails and a rudimentary kayak put-in site. Riverbend also serves as a unique outdoor educational resource for STEAM program students at the Page Elementary School, behind which Riverbend is located.

The Withers Conservation Area in the Upper Artichoke area provides fishing access along the Lower Artichoke River, as well as a trail system. Additional conservation land with marked trails surrounds Hilltop Circle in the Brake Hill/West End area of town. This land, adjacent to Groveland's Town Forest, is the single largest area unbroken by roads, although it does contain water storage facilities (in separate parcels) for both towns.

Also of note is town-owned waterfront land along the Merrimack River on River Meadow Drive in the Elwell Square area, and a connecting parcel between Ash and Moulton streets in the Indian Hill area, both of which have potential trail connections. These are open to public use but have no improvements. See the detailed listings in *Matrix 5-3*.

Another 50 acres of open space in West Newbury is devoted to schools and public buildings, and their ancillary properties. This includes the fields at the Pentucket Regional High School and the Page School; the apartment building on the Page School property; and the Grange Hall; the Old Town Hall; and the Town Offices building parcels. All these areas are open to the public.

### **UNPROTECTED TOWN LAND**

Although town-owned properties acquired for general municipal purposes are not in imminent danger from sale or development for purposes other than open space or recreation, it should be recognized that they have "limited protection" as open space. These include town-owned properties that currently may be partially used for municipal or school purposes or were acquired for general municipal purposes. Such properties were not purchased for conservation purposes or subject to conservation or agricultural restrictions and could be developed for non-open space purposes or sold to third parties for development, but only by a Town Meeting vote. Several of these are large parcels with significant and popular mapped trail systems.

There are over 450 acres of land owned by the Town of West Newbury that the OSC believes should be considered for permanent protection as open space and recreation. These are described as follows:

**Dunn Field** (71.5 acres) is another third of this total area contiguous to Page School and Mill Pond. It contains trails and offers a significant view scape. Over the years, a new school and recreation uses have been considered for this land, most recently in October 2018, for major expansion of an active recreation complex. Walkers and horseback riders can follow the trails west to the abutting Pipestave Hill and Mill Pond trails, or head east through its often mowed fields to the Ocean Meadow development and beyond.

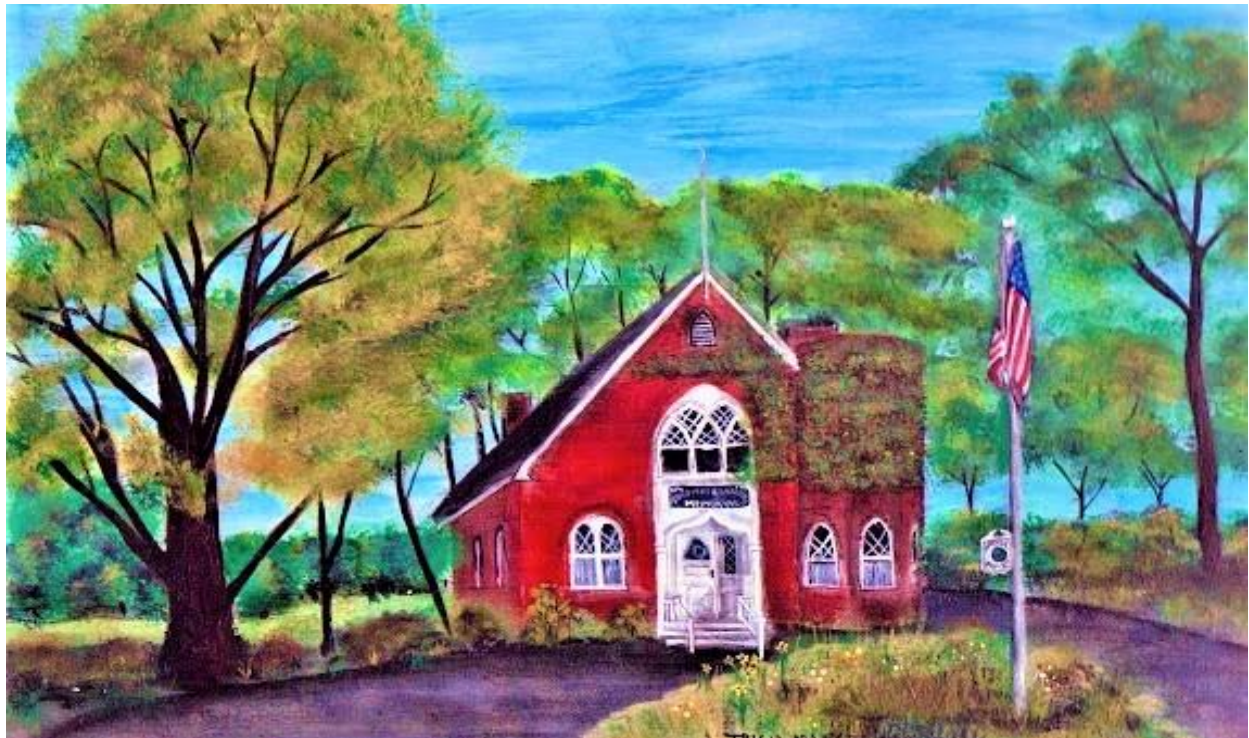
**Mullen** (34 acres) is a wooded parcel between Main and Church Street, across Route 113 from the new Drake's Landing residential development (on the former Daley property) and the Town Offices and "downtown" recreation

complex at Bachelor Street. A low-density senior and affordable town housing project was proposed for the Mullen area but was rejected by Town Meeting. Trails on this parcel connect with the town ramp at the bottom of Church Street.

**Riverbend West** (129 acres) abuts the protected Riverbend area north of Page School and reaches Coffin Street. This is a third of the area of trails and recreation opportunities that comprise Mill Pond and Dunn Fields. It is integral to the whole and links potential trails to the properties in the Long Hill area that are identified as candidates for permanent protection. This property was acquired from the Archdiocese of Boston as part of the purchase of the Mill Pond/Pipestave Hill property in the early 1970's.

**Brake Hill/Craven** (116.5 acres) complements the substantial town conservation areas at and around Hilltop Circle. As previously noted, together with land in Groveland, the area comprises the largest natural land tract not broken by bisecting roads. Brake Hill contains substantial improved trails that continue into Groveland and into the Hilltop Circle area that connects the high school with Hilltop Circle and Georgetown Road. The Brake Hill area contains water storage facilities for both towns, on separate parcels. (The West Newbury storage unit is being replaced in 2018-19, with some road construction through the east edge of this area).

There are 114 acres in municipal use for designated uses that need protection from conversion to non-recreational uses. These include the **Carr Post** (the original 1900 war memorial building on Main Street at the entrance to Drake's Landing) and the **Training Field** (on Main Street, adjacent to the G.A.R. Library and across the street from the Old Town Hall).



Tricia Mansfield painting

Town Meeting voters in April 2015 began the restoration process for the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building with approval of a Community Preservation Act grant of \$90,905 to stabilize the brick structure. Locally known as the Carr Post, the 1900 Gothic Revival building on Main Street served as a meeting place for veteran's organizations, and for a dozen years housed the town's library. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016.

Also included in this category are the **Bachelor Street Fields** and **Action Cove**; currently used for ballfields, the bandstand and a playground complex. One of our action items is that consideration should be given to permanently assuring that this valuable resource remains a public park by granting it Article 97 protection or a conservation restriction. These parcels merit monitoring but are unlikely to be converted to other uses.

## **OTHER GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTION-OWNED LAND**

### **City of Newburyport**

In addition to municipal open space owned by West Newbury, 201 acres of open space is owned by the City of Newburyport. These parcels abutting the reservoir system that feeds Newburyport's water supply are located in the Upper Artichoke Reservoir, Cherry Hill/Reservoir, and Indian Hill geographic areas.

### **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

The state also owns open space in West Newbury. Of the 410 state-owned acres, 390 acres comprise the Crane Pond Wildlife Management area in the Crane Neck Hill and Cherry Hill/Reservoir areas of town. This property is managed by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and extends into the neighboring Towns of Georgetown, Byfield and Groveland. This area is open year round to public access for hiking, cycling, hunting, snow shoeing and cross country skiing. The DEM owns a 0.5-acre parcel on the Merrimack River at the Rocks Village Bridge that is a heavily used boat launch spot. The remaining state open space is located east of I-95 in the Upper Artichoke Reservoir area of town.

### **United States Government**

The only federally owned open space in West Newbury is a 6.5-acre parcel in the Crane Neck Hill area owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Without street frontage or easements, the land has no official public access

### **Essex County Greenbelt Association**

Greenbelt is a private land trust active in conserving land in Essex County. Greenbelt owns 334 acres of open space in West Newbury. It holds an additional 49 acres of conservation restrictions on private land, as detailed in the previous section. While a number of these parcels are small or isolated, there is a significant collection of parcels in the Cherry Hill/Reservoir, Indian Hill, and Upper Artichoke areas connected by trails with public access. A total of 191 acres of open space is included in the Indian Hill Reservation, South Street Woodlots, Atherton, and Walker Meadow. All of these properties are open to public use for a wide range of passive recreation

### **Cemeteries**

Other properties with "limited protection" are the four cemeteries, totaling 21 acres in West Newbury. Cemeteries might not come to mind immediately as open space, but the Rural Cemetery Movement of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century is credited with starting the American Park Movement. The Rural Cemetery Movement sought to create burial grounds that also were places, in the increasingly urban landscape, where the living could find peace and solitude in the beauty of nature. (See: *Focus on Global Resources Landscape Architecture and the "Rural" Cemetery Movement* (Summer 2012, Vol.31, Num.4. [www.crl.edu](http://www.crl.edu))). Two Action Items identified in Section 9 of this OSRP recommend exploring acquisition of land for open space and cemetery use.

### **Other Institutions**

Other nonprofit ownership parcels in West Newbury are held by religious entities. The largest is 164 acres in the Lower Artichoke Reservoir area owned by the Society of St. John the Evangelist. This beautiful property consists of open fields and woods, and it has extensive frontage on the Merrimack River.



## C. Access to Open Space

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

As noted in Section 3, there are no Environmental Justice populations in West Newbury. The open space parcels with public access described in this section can be used by all West Newbury residents, as well as those from surrounding communities. *Map 4C* shows that all areas of town have roughly equivalent proximity to open spaces.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Based on the current self-assessment, there are accessibility shortcomings in private- or publicly-owned open space and recreational areas open to the public. A number of action items for the years ahead seek to address and correct this failure, as indicated in Section 9. Not having universally accessible open spaces and recreation areas takes on more local importance, given the town's aging population.

According to the 2017 Merrimack Valley Land Priority Plan (MVLPP), the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has made recreation for those with disabilities a priority. Over 11.7 percent of Massachusetts citizens — 46 percent of those over 75 years old — have a disability.



Sophiea Bitel photo

A summer sunset is reflected on Mill Pond

<b>MATRIX 5-1</b>					
<b>PROTECTED PRIVATE PARCELS</b>					
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2018 DATA</b>					
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	PARCEL	ACRES	STREET	PROTECTION	
				Status	Acres
Crane Neck Hill	R-04-010	24.0	CRANE NECK ST	APR	
Crane Neck Hill	R-04-020	14.7	CRANE NECK ST	APR	
Crane Neck Hill	R-04-030	5.7	CRANE NECK ST	APR	
Crane Neck Hill	R-04-040	17.0	CRANE NECK ST	APR	
Crane Neck Hill	R-04-050	63.0	CRANE NECK ST	APR	
Crane Neck Hill	R-05-030	37.0	BROWN ISLAND RD	APR	
Crane Neck Hill	R-05-040	25.5	BROWN ISLAND RD	APR	
Long Hill/River Road	R-13-0082A	135.1	BAILEYS LN	APR	
Long Hill/River Road	R-13-0700	108.0	BAILEYS LN	APR	
Long Hill/River Road	R-13-0720	30.0	BAILEYS LN	APR	
Pipestave Hill	R-24-130	22.0	RIVER RD	APR	
Total APR					482.0
Elwell Square	U-1-019	18.5	FOLLINSBEE LN	CR	
Brake Hill/West End	R-01-004	12.7	FARM LN	CR	
Ilisley/Kimball Hills	R-09-014	19.0	GEORGETOWN RD	CR	
Civic Center	R-10-001	24.0	GEORGETOWN RD	CR	
Civic Center	R-10-033	18.3	MAIN ST	CR	
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	R-16-006C	4.8	CHERRY HILL ST	CR	
Indian Hill	R-17-010A	3.2	INDIAN HILL ST	CR	
Pipestave Hill	R-26-004C	24.6	MAIN ST	CR	
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	R-27-40	30.6	PARSONS WOODS	CR	
Total CR					155.5
Elwell Square	U-1-027	7.6	CHURCH ST	GREENBELT CR	
Ilisley/Kimball Hills	R-09-014	41.0	GEORGETOWN RD	GREENBELT CR	
Indian Hill	R-17-001C	12.5	INDIAN HILL ST	GREENBELT CR	
Indian Hill	R-17-002	1.9	INDIAN HILL ST	GREENBELT CR	
Indian Hill	R-17-008A	4.8	GARDEN ST	GREENBELT CR	
Indian Hill	R-17-009	7.0	GARDEN ST	GREENBELT CR	
Indian Hill	R-17-038	2.6	INDIAN HILL ST	GREENBELT CR	
Indian Hill	R-18-010	19.0	SOUTH ST	GREENBELT CR	
Pipestave Hill	R-25-003B	8.4	MAIN ST	GREENBELT CR	
Total GREENBELT CR					104.8

<b>MATRIX 5-2</b> <b>UNPROTECTED PRIVATE PARCELS OF INTEREST</b> <b>FISCAL YEAR 2018 DATA</b>				Env Sensitive	Scenic Views	Hilltops	Watershed/wellfield	Greenbelt/Corridor/Trail	River Access	Agricultural	A/P Recreation	Large/Contiguous Parcels	Pos School	Pos Affordable Housing	Town Center
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	ACRES	STREET	CHAPTER 61	LAND CONSERVATION CRITERIA											
Brake Hill/West End	18.2	DOLE PL	No		X	X		X			X	X			
Brake Hill/West End	8.7	DOLE PL	No	X	X		X		X		X				
Brake Hill/West End	12.0	MEADOWSWEET RD	No	X				X			X	X			
Brake Hill/West End	3.8	TWIG RUSH LN	No	X	X		X	X			X				
Brake Hill/West End	7.4	TWIG RUSH LN	No	X	X		X	X			X				
Brake Hill/West End	26.0	KENTS CT	No	X				X			X	X			
Brake Hill/West End	3.3	KENTS CT	No	X				X			X	X			
Brake Hill/West End	9.3	KENTS CT	No	X				X		X	X	X			
Brake Hill/West End	19.0	MAIN ST	No	X				X		X	X	X			
Brake Hill/West End	13.0	MAIN ST	No	X				X		X	X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	18.8	MOULTON ST	No		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	2.4	MOULTON ST	No					X		X	X				
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	14.0	MOULTON ST	No		X		X				X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	36.0	ASH ST	No		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	4.8	ILLSLEY HILL RD	No		X	X	X	X		X	X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	38.0	ILLSLEY HILL RD	No			X	X	X			X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	27.8	MOULTON ST	No		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	15.3	BACHELOR ST	Yes		X			X			X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	9.3	BACHELOR ST	No					X			X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	34.7	BACHELOR ST	No			X					X	X			
Cherry Hill/Reservoir	18.7	CHERRY HILL ST	No					X			X	X			
Civic Center	14.6	CARLSEN RD	None	X				X			X	X			
Civic Center	14.5	MERRILL ST	None	X				X			X	X			
Civic Center	12.0	MAIN ST	None					X			X	X		X	X
Civic Center	8.5	MAPLE ST	None		X			X		X	X	X			
Civic Center	19.6	POOR HOUSE LN	None					X			X	X			
Civic Center	12.6	POOR HOUSE LN	No					X			X	X			
Civic Center	27.3	MAIN ST	No				X	X			X	X			
Crane Neck Hill	27.6	CRANE NECK ST	No		X	X		X		X	X	X			
Crane Neck Hill	70.0	CRANE NECK ST	No		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Elwell Square	0.9	WHETSTONE	No		X		X		X	X					
Elwell Square	0.1	WHETSTONE	No						X	X					
Elwell Square	14.8	MAIN ST	No		X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X

<b>MATRIX 5-2</b> <b>UNPROTECTED PRIVATE PARCELS OF INTEREST</b> <b>FISCAL YEAR 2018 DATA</b>				Env Sensitive	Scenic Views	Hilltops	Watershed/wellfield	Greenbelt/Corridor/Trail	River Access	Agricultural	A/P Recreation	Large/Contiguous Parcels	Pos School	Pos Affordable Housing	Town Center
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	ACRES	STREET	CHAPTER 61	LAND CONSERVATION CRITERIA											
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	13.5	BACHELOR ST	No				X	X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	40.0	MIDDLE ST	Yes, part sold			X		X		X	X	X	X		
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	4.5	ASH ST	No					X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	8.9	ASH ST	No		X			X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	12.7	ASH ST	Yes		X			X		X		X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	13.2	KIMBALL RD	No		X			X		X		X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	8.4	KIMBALL RD	No		X			X		X		X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	7.5	ASH ST	Yes					X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	10.2	ASH ST	No					x			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	8.0	ASH ST	Yes					X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	9.0	MIDDLE ST	Yes					X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	3.9	BACHELOR ST	No					X			X	X			
Ilsley/Kimball Hills	6.7	BACHELOR ST	Yes					X			X	X			
Indian Hill	25.0	PIKES BRIDGE RD	CH												
Indian Hill	35.0	INDIAN HILL ST	None		X		X	X			X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	12.0	RIVER RD	None		X		X	X	X		X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	7.1	BRIDGE ST	None		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	25.3	RIVER RD	None				X	X			X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	6.6	RIVER RD	None					X			X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	9.0	RIVER RD	None					X			X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	0.4	RIVER RD	None						X		X				
Long Hill/River Road	51.0	RIVER RD	None		X		X	X	X		X	X			
Long Hill/River Road	2.6	RIVER RD	No				X		X		X				
Long Hill/River Road	33.0	RIVER RD	Yes		X		X	X	X		X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	26.0	MAIN ST	No	X			X	X			X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	10.3	GARDEN ST	No					X							
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	11.0	MIDDLE ST	No	X			X	X			X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	5.0	MIDDLE ST	No	X			X	X			X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	18.0	MIDDLE ST	No	X	X		X	X			X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	9.0	MAIN ST	No		X					X					
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	31.8	MAIN ST	No	X	X		X	X	X		X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	67.0	EMERY LN	No	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Lower Artichoke Reservoir	38.0	EMERY LN	No	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			



<b>MATRIX 5-2</b> <b>UNPROTECTED PRIVATE PARCELS OF INTEREST</b> <b>FISCAL YEAR 2018 DATA</b>				Env Sensitive	Scenic Views	Hilltops	Watershed/wellfield	Greenbelt/Corridor/Trail	River Access	Agricultural	A/P Recreation	Large/Contiguous Parcels	Pos School	Pos Affordable Housing	Town Center
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	ACRES	STREET	CHAPTER 61	LAND CONSERVATION CRITERIA											
Pipestave Hill	15.1	MIDDLE ST	No			X		X			X	X			
Pipestave Hill	30.0	COFFIN ST	No		X			X		X	X	X			
Pipestave Hill	3.2	COFFIN ST	No					X			X	X			
Pipestave Hill	7.9	COFFIN ST	No		X			X		X	X	X			
Pipestave Hill	10.8	COFFIN ST	No		X			X		X	X	X			
Pipestave Hill	11.0	COFFIN ST	No			X		X		X	X	X			
Pipestave Hill	10.0	COFFIN ST	No					X			X	X			
Pipestave Hill	16.0	RIVER RD	No	X					X						
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	1.0	TURKEY HILL RD	None		X		X				X				
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	12.0	TURKEY HILL RD	None		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	61.4	ROGERS ST	None		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	2.3	ROGERS ST	None		X		X	X			X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	33.7	GARDEN ST	None		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	8.4	ROGERS ST	None		X		X	X		X	X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	10.5	ROGERS ST	No		X		X	X			X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	47.8	GARDEN ST	No		X			X			X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	68.4	POORE'S LN	No		X			X		X	X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	3.5	MIDDLE ST	No	X				X			X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	5.6	MIDDLE ST	No	X				X			X	X			
Upper Artichoke Reservoir	12.0	MIDDLE ST	No	X	X		X	X			X	X			

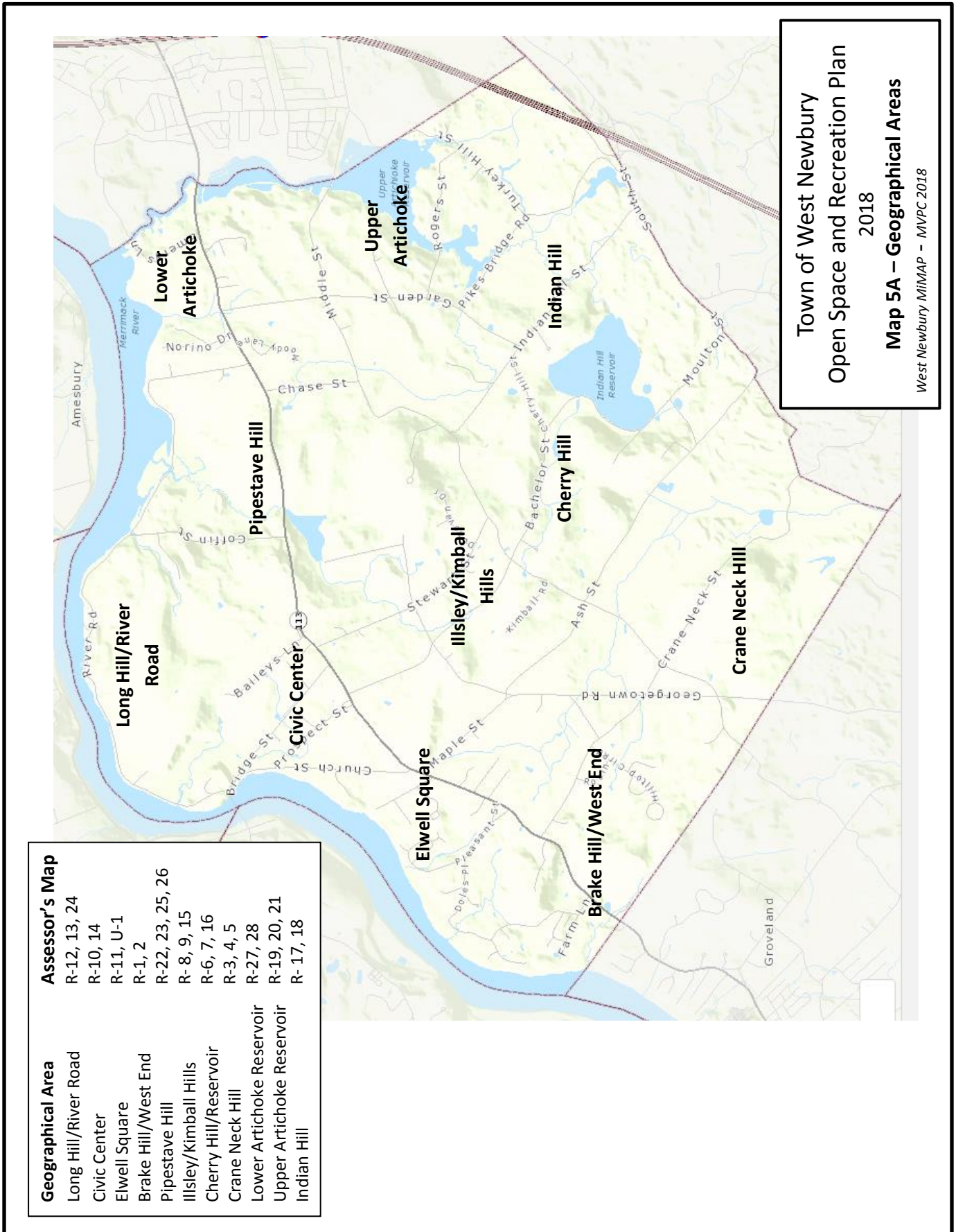
MATRIX 5-3												
PUBLIC AND NON PROFIT OPEN SPACE INVENTORY												
Assessors Listing		Lot Size	Street	Geographic Area	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use/Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Map	Lot	(acres)				(if other)						
R1	4F	0.52	CHESTNUT ST	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Water Dept	Water Supply	Access	Yes	No	RB	None
R2	6A	0.23	HILLTOP CIR	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R2	11	0.38	HILLTOP CIR	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R2	27	1.70	MAIN ST	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Water Dept	Water Supply	Access	Yes	No	RC	None
R2	35	116.50	MAIN ST	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R2	54	10.00	CRANE NECK ST	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None
R2	60	2.10	HILLTOP CIR	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R2	70	16.11	HILLTOP CIR	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R2	80	5.57	HILLTOP CIR	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R2	90	11.11	HILLTOP CIR	B Hill/W End	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R1	10	37.00	MAIN ST	B Hill/W End	PRSD		School	Active	Yes	No	RC	None
R1	20	1.50	MAIN ST	B Hill/W End	PRSD		School	Active	Yes	No	RC	None
R1	34A	1.90	MAIN ST	B Hill/W End	Greenbelt		Open, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R1	34B	1.70	MAIN ST	B Hill/W End	Greenbelt		Open, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R1	68	3.50	PLEASANT ST	B Hill/W End	Merrimac Cem		Cemetery	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R6	3	22.00	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R6	4A	5.70	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R6	13	8.75	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R6	23	1.75	SOUTH ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R16	10	6.66	MIDDLE ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RA	CR
R16	11	2.50	MIDDLE ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None
R16	12	11.88	MIDDLE ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	Water Dept	Water Supply	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R16	12A	6.47	MIDDLE ST	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None
R16	13A	6.88	KELLY BROOK LN	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R16	15G	0.28	KELLY BROOK LN	C Hill/Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R6	17	1.30	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	City of NPORT		Water	No	Yes	No	RA	None
R6	18A	28.40	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	City of NPORT		Shore, Roadway	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R6	18B	4.40	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	City of NPORT		Shore, Roadway	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R7	16B	3.50	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	City of NPORT		Water	No	Yes	No	RA	None
R7	17A	4.60	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	City of NPORT		Water	No	Yes	No	RA	None
R7	18A	0.10	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	City of NPORT		Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	None
R6	2	4.35	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	State of MA	DFG	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R6	4	115.00	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	State of MA	DFG	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R7	1	24.51	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	State of MA	DFG	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R7	2	20.98	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R7	3	69.00	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None

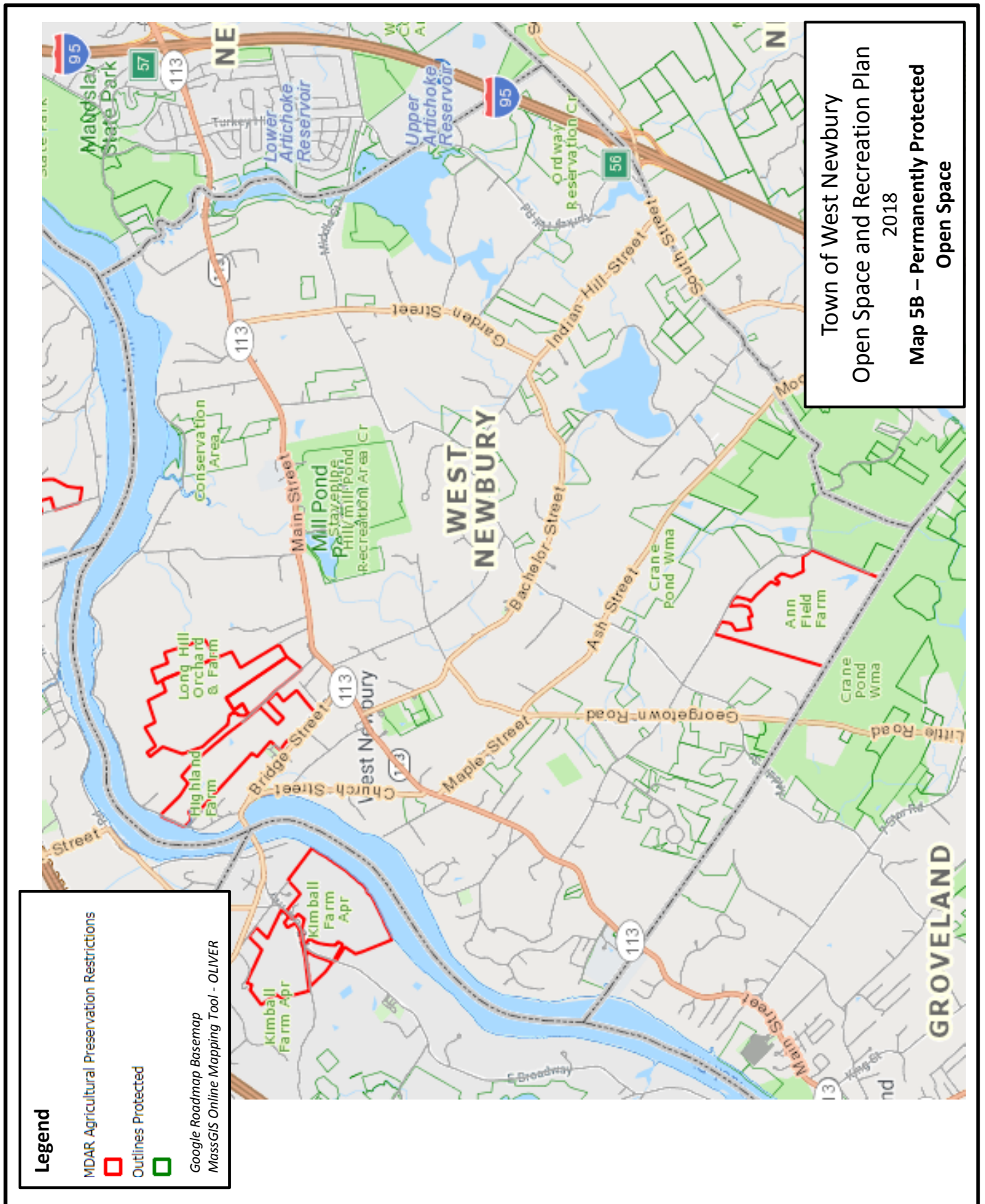
MATRIX 5-3											
PUBLIC AND NON PROFIT OPEN SPACE INVENTORY											
Assessors Listing	Lot Size	Street	Geographic Area	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use/Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Map Lot	(acres)				(if other)						
R7 5	12.10	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R6 10E	1.85	ASH ST	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R6 27	4.88	SOUTH ST	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R6 28	11.00	SOUTH ST REAR	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R6 29	10.00	MOULTON ST	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R7 20	12.25	BACHELOR ST	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R16 9G	3.50	MIDDLE ST	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open	Access	Yes	No	RB	None
R16 9D	18.56	MIDDLE ST	C Hill/Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R14 3A	1.99	HILLS CT	Civ Center	Town of WN	Housing Auth	Housing	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R14 3B	19.87	BACHELOR ST	Civ Center	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Fields, Park	Active, Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R14 3C	4.93	BOYNTON CT	Civ Center	Town of WN	Housing Auth	Housing, Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RC	None
R14 3D	2.90	BACHELOR ST	Civ Center	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R14 4A	1.11	MAIN ST	Civ Center	Town of WN	BOS	Parking, Gazebo	Contiguous	Yes	No	RC	None
R14 6A	4.39	MAIN ST	Civ Center	Town of WN	Housing Auth	Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RC	None
R14 59	9.00	POOR HOUSE LN	Civ Center	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R10 7	23.83	MECHANIC ST	Civ Center	Greenbelt		Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R10 47	13.00	MAPLE ST	Civ Center	St Ann's Ch		Open, Wet	Limited	No	No	RC	None
R3 5A	1.85	MIDDLE ST	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 5F	1.98	MIDDLE ST	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 6	2.50	GEORGETOWN RD	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 8	7.00	GEORGETOWN RD	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 9	6.00	MIDDLE ST	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 13G	6.50	GEORGETOWN RD	C N Hill	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R3 14C	28.70	CAPT PIERCE DR	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 16B	1.13	CRANE NECK ST	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet, Isolated	No	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 36	32.63	WOODCREST DR	C N Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R3 7	9.35	GEORGETOWN RD	C N Hill	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R3 10	2.50	MIDDLE ST	C N Hill	State of MA	DFG	Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	None
R4 11	23.00	CRANE NECK ST	C N Hill	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R5 1	78.00	BROWN ISLAND RD	C N Hill	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R5 2	11.00	BROWN ISLAND RD	C N Hill	State of MA	DFG	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R5 12	2.00	CRANE NECK ST	C N Hill	State of MA	DFG	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R3 28A	6.50	GEORGETOWN RD	C N Hill	Federal		Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None
R3 44	12.31	MIDDLE ST	C N Hill	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None

MATRIX 5-3												
PUBLIC AND NON PROFIT OPEN SPACE INVENTORY												
Assessors Listing		Lot Size	Street	Geographic Area	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use/Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Map	Lot	(acres)				(if other)						
R11	45	0.22	MARSHALL DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Access	Yes	No	RC	None
R11	51	4.88	MARSHALL DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R11	68A	0.26	RIVER MEADOW DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Right of Way	Access	Yes	No	RC	None
R11	70	0.70	RIVER MEADOW DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Isolated	Access	Yes	No	RC	None
R11	75	2.90	RIVER MEADOW DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Private Dock	Passive	Yes	No	RC	CR
R11	77	0.76	RIVER MEADOW DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R11	78	0.60	RIVER MEADOW DR	Elwell Sq	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R8	6C	2.70	MIDDLE ST	Ills/Kim Hills	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	None
R8	7	18.00	MIDDLE ST	Ills/Kim Hills	State of MA	DFG	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R8	6D	1.92	MIDDLE ST	Ills/Kim Hills	Greenbelt		Open, Wet	Contiguous	Yes	No	RA	None
R15	80	3.10	MIDDLE ST	Ills/Kim Hills	Greenbelt		Open, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None
R15	5	7.84	BACHELOR ST	Ills/Kim Hills	Walnut Hill Cem		Cemetery	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R8	10	12.71	ASH ST	Ills/Kim Hills	NEER		Animal Grazing	Passive	No	No	RB	None
R17	6D	2.06	CHERRY HILL ST	Indian Hill	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	6E	1.85	CHERRY HILL ST	Indian Hill	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	6F	2.64	MOULTON ST	Indian Hill	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	6G	2.26	MOULTON ST	Indian Hill	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	1A	67.30	MOULTON ST	Indian Hill	City of NPORT		Water Supply	No	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	5A	2.50	MOULTON ST	Indian Hill	City of NPORT		Water Supply, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	6A	5.20	MOULTON ST	Indian Hill	City of NPORT		Water Supply, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	35A	14.70	MOULTON ST	Indian Hill	City of NPORT		Water Supply, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R18	19A	14.90	INDIAN HILL ST	Indian Hill	City of NPORT		Water Supply, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	1D	21.16	INDIAN HILL ST	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open, Trails	Passive	Yes	Self Help (CR)	RA	CR
R17	10	23.01	INDIAN HILL ST	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	11B	10.00	PIKES BRIDGE RD	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R17	12	20.13	INDIAN HILL ST	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R18	18	17.21	INDIAN HILL ST	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open, Trails	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R18	19B	7.81	INDIAN HILL ST	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open, Trails	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R18	33	19.00	TURKEY HILL RD	Indian Hill	Greenbelt		Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R12	20	0.40	BRIDGE ST	L Hill/Riv Rd	Town of WN	BOS	Park	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R13	80	1.60	TRAINING FIELD RD	L Hill/Riv Rd	Town of WN	BOS	Park	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R13	130	0.46	MAIN ST	L Hill/Riv Rd	Town of WN	BOS	Driveway	Access	Yes	No	RC	None
R13	131	34.19	CHURCH ST	L Hill/Riv Rd	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Trails	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R24	1A	2.30	CORTLAND LN	L Hill/Riv Rd	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None

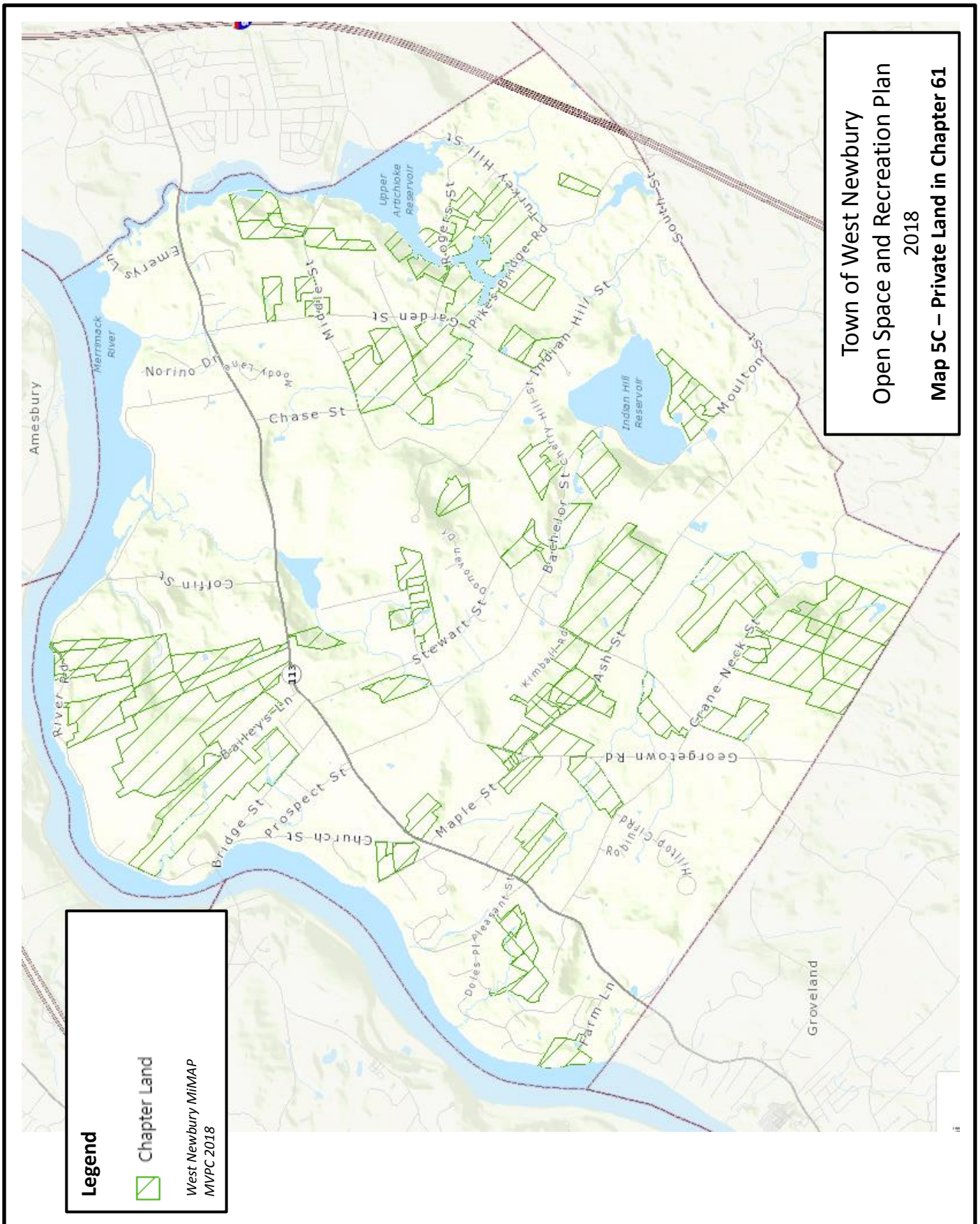


MATRIX 5-3												
PUBLIC AND NON PROFIT OPEN SPACE INVENTORY												
Assessors Listing		Lot Size	Street	Geographic Area	Ownership	Management Agency	Current Use/Condition	Recreation Potential	Public Access	Public Grant	Zoning	Degree of Protection
Map	Lot	(acres)				(if other)						
R12	1	0.49	CHURCH ST	L Hill/Riv Rd	State of MA	DEM	Boat Launch, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R24	15	5.00	RIVER RD	L Hill/Riv Rd	Greenbelt		Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RB	None
R13	51	5.00	BRIDGE ST	L Hill/Riv Rd	Bridge St Cem		Cemetery	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R27	10	6.00	MAIN ST	Low Art Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R27	38A	0.18	GARDEN ST	Low Art Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open	Contiguous	Yes	No	RC	None
R27	31	10.00	MIDDLE ST	Low Art Res	City of NPORT		Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R27	25A	5.75	GARDEN ST	Low Art Res	Greenbelt		Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R27	2	26.00	MAIN ST	Low Art Res	Society of SJE		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R28	16	31.76	MAIN ST	Low Art Res	Society of SJE		Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R28	19	67.00	EMERY LN	Low Art Res	Society of SJE		Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R28	21	38.00	EMERY LN	Low Art Res	Society of SJE		Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R27	16	3.88	MAIN ST	Low Art Res	All Saints Ch		Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RC	None
R27	37	4.68	GARDEN ST	Low Art Res	Laurel Grange		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R22	3	213.13	MAIN ST	PS Hill	Town of WN	PR, MP Comm	Open, Fields, Trails	Passive, Active	Yes	No	RC	GB CR
R23	23	129.11	MAIN ST	PS Hill	Town of WN		Open, Trails	Passive	Yes	No	RC	None
R25	17	50.11	RIVER RD	PS Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet, Trails	Passive	Yes	Self Help	RB	CR
R25	20	17.00	RIVER RD	PS Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Water, Shore	Limited	Yes	No	RB	CR
R25	20A	1.20	RIVER RD	PS Hill	Town of WN	Con Comm	Water, Shore	Limited	Yes	No	RB	CR
R26	19	71.50	CHASE ST	PS Hill	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Trails	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R25	17G	4.70	RIVER RD	PS Hill	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R26	10	3.31	CHASE ST	PS Hill	RURAL CEM		Cemetery	Passive	Yes	No	RB	None
R19	13	0.75	WEST OF I-95	Up Art Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	14	0.75	EAST OF I-95	Up Art Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Wet, Isolated	Limited	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	17	1.00	EAST OF I-95	Up Art Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RA	CR
R19	20A	9.14	OFF INTERSTATE 95	Up Art Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Wet	Limited	Yes	No	RA	CR
R20	11A	24.00	MIDDLE ST	Up Art Res	Town of WN	Con Comm	Open, Shore, Trails	Passive	Yes	No	RA	CR
R20	18	1.00	TURKEY HILL RD	Up Art Res	Town of WN	BOS	Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	1	2.00	TURKEY HILL RD	Up Art Res	City of NPORT		Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	6	35.00	TURKEY HILL RD	Up Art Res	City of NPORT		Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R20	17	7.00	ROGERS ST	Up Art Res	City of NPORT		Open, Shore	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	18	1.65	EAST OF I-95	Up Art Res	State of MA	DPW	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	19	0.86	SOUTH ST	Up Art Res	State of MA	DPW	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	20	17.06	EAST OF I-95	Up Art Res	State of MA	DPW	Open, Wet	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	8	30.83	TURKEY HILL RD	Up Art Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	10	55.15	TURKEY HILL RD	Up Art Res	Greenbelt		Open	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R21	2A	7.00	GARDEN ST	Up Art Res	Greenbelt		Open, Isolated	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None
R19	2	1.00	TURKEY HILL RD	Up Art Res	Quaker Cem	Town of WN	Cemetery	Passive	Yes	No	RA	None

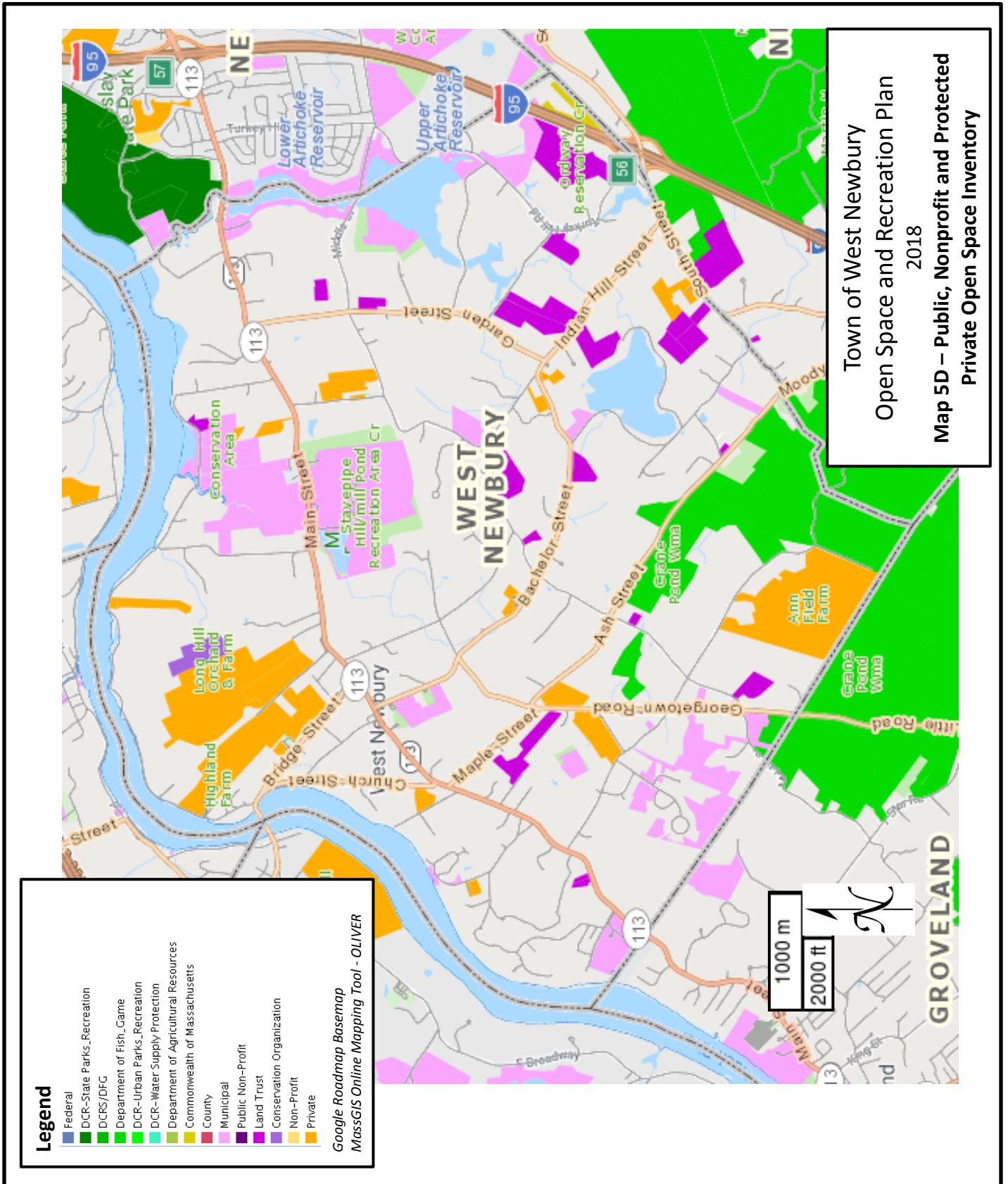


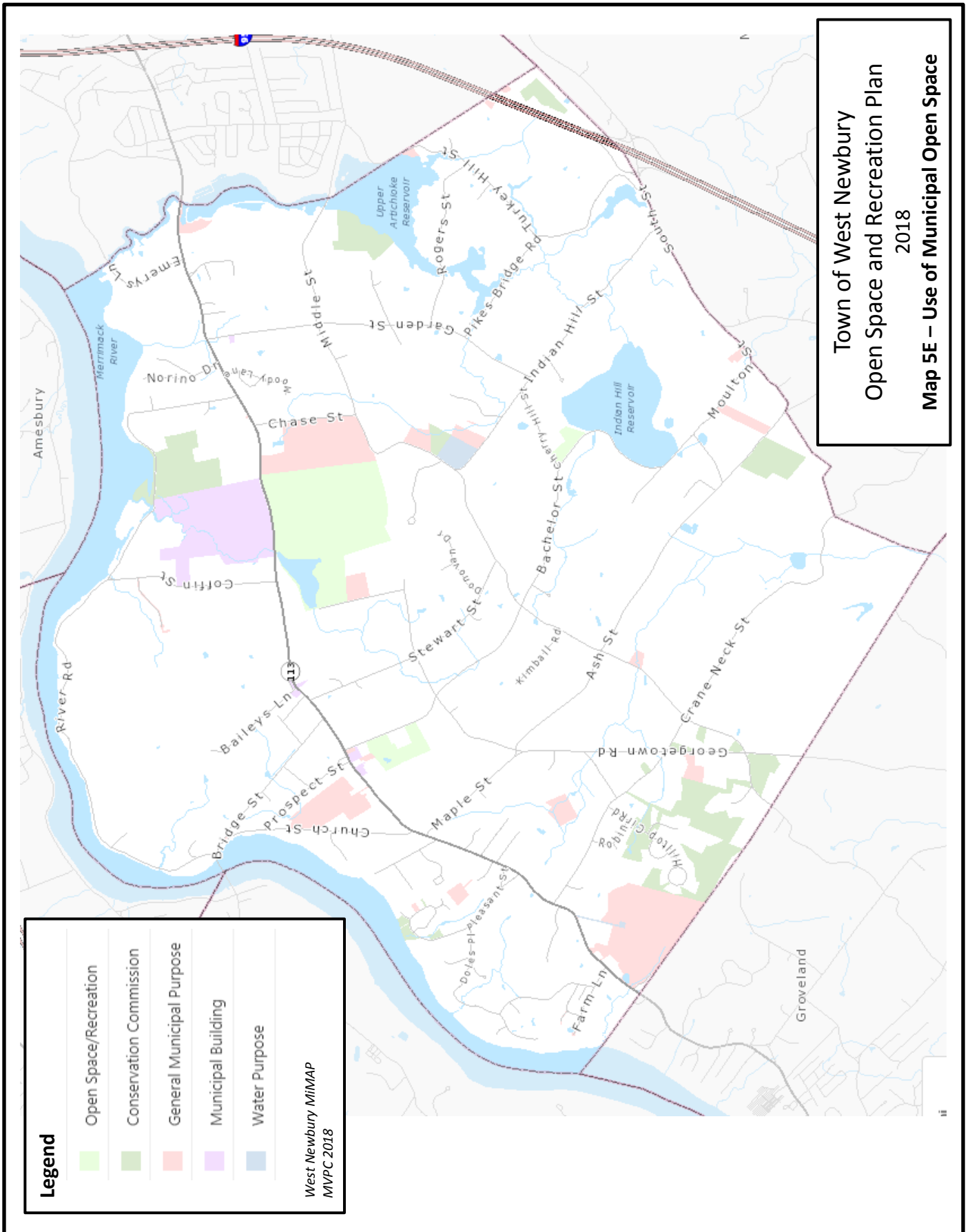












## **SECTION 6 • COMMUNITY GOALS**



**Steve Greason photo**

Vernal pools have been certified in West Newbury and are protected for their role in environmental life cycles. Many of these wet areas dry up in summer months.

### **A. Description of Process**

Community input is vital to the work of the Open Space Committee and the Park & Recreation Commissioners. This section details past efforts to solicit opinion; describes the community survey, its distribution and tabulation; and samples the survey response demographics. The 2018 OSRP is a revision of past plans and contains most of the same goals. Some of the action items articulated in 2003 and 2009 have been accomplished, and further progress has occurred, as summarized in the Introduction. Some needs have changed over time, so goals have been adjusted and refined to reflect that. In other cases, needs and goals remain and are reiterated as ongoing work.

#### **THE COMMUNITY IS SURVEYED**

The community survey again was drafted by the Open Space Committee, with input from the Park & Recreation Commissioners; was mailed to every household in West Newbury; and was available to complete on the original Open Space website. For details of this process, see Section 2-B. *(The survey is published in Appendix A and on the OSC section of the town website at [www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org).)*

The survey solicited input in the following categories: town priorities, preservation of open space, recreation, growth of the town, community preservation, and demographic data. In addition to multiple-choice answers, the mailed survey enabled residents to include handwritten, open-ended narrative comments in response to many of the questions. Online respondents could log comments directly.

The survey was distributed by bulk mailing to every household in West Newbury and was available to complete online. The completed surveys were returned either through the U.S. mail or collection boxes at the 1910 Building, the G.A.R. Library, and the West Newbury Food Mart. The survey also was posted online via Survey Monkey.

Downloaded responses then were merged with the completed hard-copy surveys, and the numerical portions were tabulated. The narrative responses were compiled and summarized.

## B. Open Space and Recreation Goals

These goals were developed collaboratively by the Open Space Committee, Park & Recreation Commissioners, members of town boards and committees, and townspeople. This type of effort is emblematic of the community spirit that has allowed West Newbury to accomplish so many of the goals defined in Open Space and Recreation Plans since 1996, and makes West Newbury a special place to live.

The goals are based on the town's current needs and will be used to help the OSC implement the action items defined in the remainder of the OSRP. As the town's needs change, these community goals (and related parts of the plan) will be reviewed and altered to reflect changes.

The following data was gathered from the 2016 survey and served as the foundation for these defined goals:

- **Preserve the town's charm, rural character, and sense of community** – In descending order of priority, respondents listed these physical characteristics that contribute to the town's rural character: open landscapes (fields and meadows); lakes, rivers, reservoirs and wetlands; forested landscapes; farms; roadside trees; space between neighbors; stone walls; traditional New England house styles; civic places; narrow roadways.
- **Protect and manage key natural resource areas, including water protection and large, contiguous undeveloped areas** – West Newbury residents clearly place a high value on open space. The preservation of land and the spending of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to that end were rated extremely high.
- **Provide passive and active recreational activities accessible to all townspeople** – In keeping with the demonstrated trend for the aging population to increase, respondents identified a need to expand accessible passive recreation opportunities. They specifically cited the importance of the trail system and its further development.

Meeting the demand for more active recreation programs and facilities also was a clear priority. With that in mind, in 2018, the PRCom drafted a proposal for expanded recreation on the town-owned Dunn Fields. The 72 acres off Chase Street abuts the Pipestave Recreation Area and is crisscrossed by trails that connect east and west.

The PRCom subsequently received CPC approval for \$51,500 to fund an engineering study of the comprehensive project on the site: a turf athletic field, parking, dog park facilities, concession stand, and a fitness trail. A warrant article at the Oct. 22 Special Town Meeting sought voters' endorsement of the CPA appropriation for the study. Voters failed to approve the PRCom request, primarily citing concerns about the process for assessing need; the funding sources; and the effect on neighbors. The Rec Com intends to revisit its plans with the OSC, Mill Pond Committee and other stakeholders.

### A PUBLIC FORUM EXPANDS THE VISION

As fall 2018 approached, OSC members sought public input on the committee's draft goals. An open forum was scheduled for the evening of Sept. 19, with invitations published via e-mail, through postings with online groups, and in print publications including the *Newburyport Daily News*. All town departments and committees, and stakeholding groups also were welcomed to weigh in.



The brainstorming session was thoughtful, realistic, and refreshingly creative. The OSC has incorporated many of the themes and suggestions into its 7-year Action Plan. What follows is an amalgam of participants' ideas:

- Emphasize climate change resilience
- Explore renewable energy
- Create playgrounds and trails for older residents
- Employ a sculpture park / public art display for accessible passive recreation
- Sustain native species and remove invasive species
- Enlist volunteers for land management
- Install interpretive signage for ecosystem examples, working farms, etc.
- Host more trail days
- Sponsor stream cleanups
- Expand on Garden Club improvements at Ferry Lane Park
- Create a locally sustainable community: food access, farmland, community gardens
- Provide better ADA compliance for accessibility
- Maintain the existing open space and trails
- Mill Pond Recreation Area concerns: trail relocation; improve wetland crossings; remove dead wood / fallen trees; dredge pond; inspect and manage dam; create a fish ladder
- Town cemetery: perpetual care issues; future space needs; "green burial" possibility
- Explore Workforce Housing Trust to create affordable housing



Public forum leader Brad Buschur gives the audience an overview of the town's open space issues before inviting input on individual priorities. The information gleaned from the September 2018 community brainstorming session helped to develop the 7-year Action Plan for the Open Space Committee.

Marlene Switzer photo

## **SECTION 7 • ANALYSIS OF NEEDS**



**John Dodge photo**

A tract of land between Dole Place and the Merrimack River has been the subject of Water Department testing as a potential town wellsite. The location also could provide car-top access or passive enjoyment of the natural setting.

### **A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs**

The environmental and open space inventories in previous chapters identify a wide range of resources that are important to the residents of West Newbury as indicated by survey responses. Some are already protected by federal or state regulations but could be enhanced by additional measures. Other resources currently are not regulated and will require some means of protection in order to be preserved. These resources are summarized in this section and include agricultural lands, drinking water supply, wildlife corridors, and surface waters.

#### **AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION/PROMOTION**

Agricultural land in West Newbury is an important historical, environmental and open space resource. Section 3 of this plan describes the historical progression of land use from agriculture to industry, and then back to agriculture as population declined. Much of the land continues to be characterized as prime agricultural land, as shown in *Map 4B*. In terms of environmental value, agricultural land serves a dual purpose by providing habitat for wildlife and minimizing residential development. The results of the OSC 2016 Community Survey also indicate the value of agricultural land as a means of maintaining the rural character and scenic vistas of the town. Contrary to these stated community values, agricultural land has been inadequately protected, and the number and size of agricultural parcels has steadily declined.

A number of properties have agricultural status under Chapter 61; however, given the value of residential house lots, most will not remain in agricultural use following a sale. In fact, many of the recent residential developments in the town were prior Chapter 61 properties. The only permanent protection of agricultural land is through an Agricultural Preservation Restriction agreement (APR) or other conservation restriction.

To preserve the value of agricultural lands, as identified by the state farmland inventory as well as residents in the Community Survey, additional means of protection must be pursued. This could include an educational outreach to current owners of both active and prior agricultural parcels about the various options and incentives for guaranteeing future agricultural use. Town purchase of important agricultural parcels or acquiring only development rights is another option for protection, especially given the possibility of using CPA funds.

The lease of town-owned land for agricultural use is a valid option that should be explored. Greenbelt sponsored a two-day workshop “How to Lease Your Land to a Farmer” promoting this practice in October 2018. Greenbelt is a valuable partner in our efforts to protect agricultural uses.

### **DRINKING WATER INDEPENDENCE**

The supplementation of West Newbury’s drinking water supply with water purchased from Newburyport has met the demand of residents on the town water system; however, it also has created vulnerability in terms of cost and availability of drinking water. In the Community Survey, approximately 75 percent of respondents put a priority on the purchase of land to protect ground water and drinking water resources. West Newbury has been actively identifying and evaluating potential groundwater resources for many years, but currently the WNWD believes only the property now being considered would be a cost-effective option toward water independence.

### **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

The BioMap2 report for West Newbury described in Section 4D identified several core habitats and critical natural landscapes totaling 2,979 acres and 1,785 acres, respectively. While the endangered species that may be present in these areas are protected under federal and state law, their habitat is not. The areas identified by the BioMap2 project then represent an important resource to be protected in order to maintain wildlife corridors and biodiversity. The BioMap2 report also evaluated the overlap of open space with the core habitat and critical natural landscapes in West Newbury.

As a percentage, 26 percent of the core habitat is currently open space and 33 percent of the critical natural landscapes are open space, but only a small amount of this open space is permanently protected. To protect these wildlife resource areas, the town should seek to increase the permanent protection status of these open space areas, as well as identify other possible parcels that could be protected as open space within these BioMap2 areas.

### **SURFACE WATER PROTECTION**

Section 4 describes the large number and types of surface water resources in West Newbury. Of particular interest to the community are the reservoirs that supply drinking water to the City of Newburyport (and indirectly the town) and the numerous water resource areas, including wetlands, riverfront areas, and vernal pools. Although surface water resources are protected by a number of federal and state regulations, there is an opportunity to enhance their protection through local efforts.

The approval of a Surface Water Protection Plan (SWPP) for the land surrounding the Artichoke and Indian Hill reservoirs is a state requirement for Newburyport. Because much of the land around these reservoirs is located in



West Newbury, the town would have to approve the SWPP. In the past, this paradoxical situation has led to conflict because of the town's need to purchase water that Newburyport pumps from reservoirs located within West Newbury's borders. The situation led to the defeat of a Town Meeting warrant article to approve a SWPP in 2009. Given the environmental protection benefits that such a plan would provide, and the limited impact it would create for land owners within the protection area, this is a resource protection matter West Newbury voters should consider.

Water quality in the Merrimack River is protected by federal and state regulation of the cities and industries that discharge treated wastewater into it. With increasing frequency - usually related to a heavy rain or flooding event - discharges of partially or untreated wastewater into the river have occurred. Given the size and number of upstream wastewater dischargers to the Merrimack, this has the potential to temporarily make the river unsuitable for recreational use. At present there are inadequate mechanisms to inform people who use the river as a resource that the water quality may have been affected. Communities along the river are investigating establishment of enhanced means of timely notification of untreated wastewater discharge.

Wetlands and riverfront areas in West Newbury are protected by federal and state law, but not local regulations. Given the amount of land in West Newbury falling under the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area designation, as shown in *Map 4-F*, and the threat of increased flooding potential due to climate change, open space in riverfront areas is a resource that must be maintained and enhanced. Many communities pass bylaws to provide additional protection for wetlands and riverfront resource areas that reflect the priorities and needs of their residents. This should be evaluated by relevant town boards and commissions and pursued as part of the OSRP action items.

A number of known and suspected vernal pools are located in West Newbury. Because this type of wetland often provides habitat for endangered species, there are additional protections under the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) for vernal pools. Certification is required in order for these resource areas to receive protection under this program. The certification process is open to residents, and research, regulatory and educational personnel. Because many residents may not be aware of this opportunity to certify vernal pools, or feel overwhelmed about participating in it, there is a need for public awareness, as well as technical support.

## **B. Summary of Community Needs**

Several areas of concern surfaced in the public hearings and in the community survey conducted in the summer of 2016. The needs most frequently cited by participants and respondents were: preserve the town's rural character; provide recreation opportunities for townspeople of all ages and abilities, including maintaining active recreation facilities, and creating more recreation/nature programs for youths and teens, in particular; develop and maintain trails; and develop Merrimack River access for fishing and boating.

### **PRESERVE TOWN'S RURAL CHARACTER**

"Rural character" emerged throughout the quantitative and narrative portions of the survey as the most striking and valued feature of the town, encompassing open space, working farms, access to nature and wildlife, as well as a sense of history, community and "small town feeling." Respondents repeatedly cited rural character itself or its attributes as very important to them and as their reason for choosing to live in West Newbury. This finding reflects a similar strong feeling expressed in the 2008 and 2002 surveys.

Additionally, and also tracking with responses from previous surveys, many 2016 survey respondents noted the town is losing, or is in danger of losing, its rural character as more building reduces open space and increases population and traffic. Respondents identified a number of different land parcels that should be preserved.



## **OFFER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL TOWNSPEOPLE**

The PRCOM is committed to providing and expanding programs for residents of diverse ages and abilities. The commission is exploring ways to employ CPA funding and state resources to acquire and create new recreational facilities and programs.

According to the 2017 SCORP, the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has made recreation for those with disabilities a priority. Over 11.7 percent of Massachusetts residents have some sort of disability; 46 percent of them are over 75 years old. In response to a growing segment of aging and disabled residents in town, the PRCOM is committed to identifying and modifying existing recreational facilities that could be accessible to residents with limited mobility. The 2017 SCORP reports that a phone survey showed a preference for passive recreation opportunities, perhaps reflecting the rising age of participants. At this time, there are no ADA-compliant passive or active recreational sites in town.

The PRCOM surveyed West Newbury residents in 2010 for input on recreational needs. Results included: support for an indoor swimming pool, an outdoor basketball court, at least one more all-purpose athletic field (preferably artificial turf), a senior/wellness center, more recreational opportunities for teens, more and better boating/river access/facilities, tennis courts, an enclosed dog park and more walking trails. The town does not have its own tennis courts, but residents are able to use the courts at Pentucket Regional High School, when available. This arrangement creates a conflict in spring and fall, when student demand for courts is greatest. The PRCOM is investigating possible locations and funding sources to construct tennis courts that will better serve residents year-round. The survey results also indicated an interest in a town swimming pool and a skateboard facility, but there are no active plans to construct these.

In general, town programs administered by the PRCOM are stable and well received. The town playing fields are used by West Newbury Youth Leagues, Pentucket Middle/High School, and regional town sports. Youth sports are played at Bachelor Field, Page School and Pipestave Hill. The PRCOM analysis in Appendix D shows overall field utilization at Pipestave is greater than 80 percent on weekends, with 100 percent use during the weekdays.

## **DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN TRAILS**

An extensive trail system is distributed throughout the town and is enjoyed for hiking, biking, riding and cross-country skiing. The 2016 survey respondents indicated 85.85 percent hike or walk the trails, 29.26 percent mountain bike, and 18.33 percent ride horses. The number of requests for trail maps provided by the OSC indicates increasing use of trails. Some survey respondents said they were unaware of West Newbury's recreational resources, including trails, and wanted information about them. Maps of trails on town owned parcels are available on the town website ([www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee/pages/hiking-areas-and-trail-maps](http://www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee/pages/hiking-areas-and-trail-maps)). The trail system lies on both public and private land. On private property, most trails are informal and their location is unknown to the public. In these places, permission for access and trail condition is uncertain. When such land is sold or developed, these "private" trails can be lost unless relevant boards, commissions or others identify the trails and campaign for preservation through grants or trail easements or relocation.

Over 30 miles of trails traverse public land. Knowledge of location and condition continues to be less than satisfactory. Maintenance and marking of most trails is a serious concern and there is a need for new linking trails across both public and private lands.



John Dodge photo

The Rocks Village Bridge connects West Newbury just beyond Ferry Lane Park to the Rocks Village Historic District in eastern Haverhill. The first simple bridge over the Merrimack was completed in 1795. The current five unique truss spans were built over three dates: 1883, 1895 & 1914. The 1883 swing span is a rare surviving example of a truss technology whose oldest example in America dates to 1879.

### **DEVELOP RIVER ACCESS FOR FISHING AND BOATING**

State-owned land at the base of the Rocks Village Bridge provides the town's much-used public access to the Merrimack River. Some 15.03 percent of respondents to the 2016 survey regularly use Ferry Lane Park and the disintegrating asphalt boat ramp at Rocks Village Bridge. The type of river use in survey responses was: 54.34 percent kayaking/canoeing, 15.76 percent sailing, 21.22 percent motor boating, and 32.48 percent fishing.

Past surveys have found that a large number of residents want more access to the Merrimack River other than Ferry Lane Park. Although it is not generally well-known, town-owned land could afford public river access at the bottom of Whetstone Street, along River Meadow Drive, behind the Pentucket Regional High School, and in the Riverbend Conservation Area. However, these access points are currently undeveloped and difficult to use. As riverfront parcels increase in value, the town will be unable to acquire additional river access.

Selectmen appointed a River Access Committee in response to a state proposal to create an oversized public access area at the bridge. This committee is exploratory and advisory. It has been meeting with all stakeholder groups for input. Suggestions include the state creating car-top boat parking on Church Street; changes to Ferry Lane Park to redirect the intersection of Church, Bridge and River streets on the West Newbury side of the river; and creation of

bike lanes and sidewalks along these streets.

### **COMPARISON TO THE 2017 STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)**

The state requires that all local OSRPs reflect consideration of the 2017 SCORP. This can best be accomplished through highlighting key similarities and differences between West Newbury's outdoor recreation needs and those statewide, as well as Northeast Region outdoor recreation needs in Essex and Middlesex counties. The 2017 SCORP indicates the heavily urban Boston area has the smallest percentage (1.4 percent) of the state's protected land. Next is the North region, with 14.6 percent of the aggregate in Massachusetts. Other regions have a substantially larger amount of protected land in the state's total: Central, 23.1 percent; South, 26.1 percent; West, 34.8 percent.

SCORP reports that proximity to open space increased land and housing values. A report of the National Association of Realtors found that 57 percent of buyers preferred a home proximate to open space. Retirees seeking to downsize and relocate also preferred locales rich in open space areas. In West Newbury, the success of recent residential developments that include trails connected to larger trail systems or river views -- such as River Hill and Ocean Meadow -- bear out these statistics.

The SCORP tabulated 780 responses, the overwhelming majority of which strongly favored outdoor recreation; 96.4 percent said it was "very important." The following types of outdoor activities were listed as those in which respondents most participated over the past 12 months: water-based (power boating, canoe/kayak), fishing, swimming (beach/lake/river, swimming pool, paddle-boarding, tubing); and trail-based (hiking, biking on/off road, cross-country skiing, walking/jogging on trails, mountain biking). At both the state and local levels, surveys indicate respondents strongly support expansion of trail-based and water-based activities. In West Newbury, respondents favor additional trails. As has been stated in previous local OSRPs, the 2016 survey confirms a desire for more access to the Merrimack River for boating and fishing.

### **C. Management Needs, Potential Change of Use**

While residential development pressure continues to reduce West Newbury's open space, there have been notable accomplishments in acquiring and preserving new open space parcels in town. The *Community Preservation Act* (M.G.L. Chapter 44B, CPA) creates a dedicated funding source financed by a 3 percent surcharge (less the first \$100,000 of assessed value) on each property tax bill. 10 percent of estimated revenues are allocated annually to each of the three CPA areas: *Community Housing*, *Historic Preservation*, and *Open Space and Recreation*; and 5 percent for Community Preservation Committee Expenses. The balance is allocated to a fund entitled *Undesignated Fund Balance*, which may also be expended on eligible projects. Under the statute, there is a state match which comes from fees assessed on Registry of Deeds transactions, which is annually distributed to CPA communities. The Community Preservation Committee determines if a submitted project is eligible, must vote to approve it, and if approved submits it as a Warrant Article. The expenditure of funds must be approved at Town Meeting in order for a project to proceed. For more information, see the CPC webpage at [www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org). There have been two votes seeking to reduce the amount of the surcharge which failed, albeit narrowly. However, as of late 2018 an article is planned for the annual Town Meeting that would, again, seek to reduce the surcharge from 3 percent to 0.5 percent.

Members of the open space and recreation communities supported the passage of the CPA in 2006 at the full 3 percent in order to assist efforts to preserve vital open space and recreation parcels and to receive the maximum state match. In fact, of the \$4.6 million accumulated through the surcharge and state matching funds, \$2.3 million



has been spent. By far, the largest amount of expenditures have been spent on renovations to the Page School under the historic preservation category. Since 2006, only \$55,000 of the CPA fund has been spent on open space projects and only \$50,000 on recreation projects.

## **MANAGEMENT NEEDS**

A significant amount of town-owned open space, both from acquisitions and existing land, creates an ongoing need for a comprehensive plan by which town-owned properties are consistently managed. Although the OSC will continue to pursue appropriate opportunities to preserve parcels of significant value, its members also will focus on the management challenges of existing open space and on promoting current passive and active recreation resources. The OSC has built strong partnerships with the Essex County Trail Association (ECTA) and Essex County Greenbelt (Greenbelt), as well as a dedicated band of volunteers who have helped maintain and improve the trails.

The OSC-proposed management process can be summarized as follows: An up-to-date list of parcels of significant value will be maintained to ensure efforts to preserve and protect key land. Critical public parcels will be addressed first, as will the use of unprotected town lands with open space potential. Creative ideas for financing and leveraging land acquisition will be explored.

The committee will undertake education of landowners about strategies for protecting their land that would benefit them and the town. These would include protecting valued vistas, trails, greenways and other land uses through easements, life estates and conservation restrictions.

A management plan will be drafted for the better care and use of town-owned open space lands. Within that plan, the OSC will continue to establish and foster partnerships with groups for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of open space. Current groups include: ECTA, Greenbelt, the own DPW and youths (through school community service programs, groups such as Scouts or sports teams, businesses and volunteers, such as a neighborhood stewardship program).

Trail management will become a higher priority for the OSC, beginning with a process to monitor and maintain trails. The OSC will explore having the town, through its DPW, assume more responsibility for trail and open space maintenance. Specific roles could be assigned to town officials and commissions (ConCom, PB and OSC), volunteer groups and non-profits (ECTA, Greenbelt).

The committee will advocate and use best trail management practices in wetland areas, as defined in the Wetland Trail Corridor Maintenance Plan approved by the ConCom and state. The OSC will continue to implement a trail signage plan. Ultimately, effective stewardship practices will be followed through ongoing maintenance of parcels and recurring trail needs.

The OSC will continue to advise the BOS on open space issues, and will maintain close communication with the PB and ConCom on same. The committee will continue to explicitly involve the PB in potential trails opportunities and easement facilitation, and will keep that board apprised of existing and potential trails. The ConCom will be advised of trails needs, maintenance, marking and construction.

Promotion of existing passive and active town recreational resources will occur through the Open Space section of the town website and trail maps available in key town locations. In keeping with the awareness of a changing diverse population, the committee will work to define and implement a plan to expand access and programs for youth, teens, seniors and those with disabilities.



The community's efforts to meet 40B/Affordable Housing requirements are of concern to most town boards and committees, and the OSC will continue to analyze its potential effect on open space. The implementation of the current Housing Production Plan adopted by the BOS in September 2018 may conflict with the goals of the OSRP. This shows the need to bring groups, committees, and the public with varying interests together to find common ground/vision and work together to advance those elements.

### **POTENTIAL CHANGE IN USE**

With respect to changes in land use, the challenges continue to be identifying and supporting new uses that are congruent with town values, including the community's active and passive recreation needs. Regarding large town-owned parcels, West Newbury needs a comprehensive planning process that considers the whole parcel and its potential uses before the land is cut up or sections are cut off for sale or other purposes. The OSC must work with other town boards, especially the PB and ConCom, to consider its goals in the planning and permitting process. Parcels identified as having significant value should receive special scrutiny for use that would affect open space or that could present opportunities for the community. When the town or other agents are considering land purchases, the OSC should advocate for arrangements consistent with open space and recreation goals.

Of particular concern is the potential for the BOS to sell town-owned land to address budget deficits. The OSC must participate in the decision-making process to prevent loss of valuable open space, preserve trail connections, and maintain essential wildlife habitats.

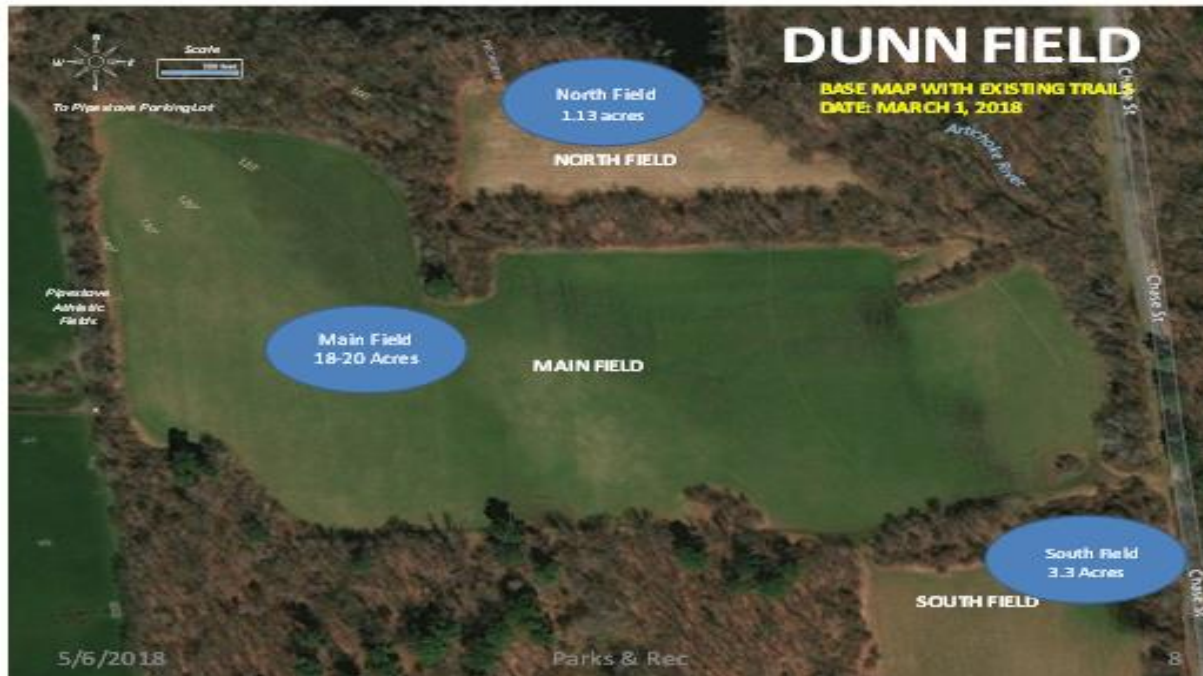
### **PROPOSED CHANGE IN USE**

#### **Dunn Fields Recreation Area**

In 2018, the PRCom developed a proposal to construct a multi-use recreational area on a large parcel of town-owned land, known as the Dunn Fields. The land currently is forested, with ongoing haying of some fields. Its trails form connection westward to the adjacent Pipestave Hill and Mill Pond area trails and eastward to trails created at Ocean Meadow, the town's first subdivision designed according to the Open Space Preservation Development bylaw.

Before recommending that Dunn Fields be developed, the PRCom reviewed five other parcels of town-owned land now used primarily for active recreation: Mill Pond Lower Field, Bachelor Fields & Action Cove, Brake Hill, the Mullen property and Dunn Field. Those areas were rated for suitability to support the following proposed amenities: parking, a multi-use athletic field, a retreat dog park, tennis courts/paddle ball, a walking fitness trail, and a senior center.

PRCom sought funds for an engineering study that would show the Dunn Fields parcel would support a centrally located active recreation site for a retreat dog park, fitness loop, two athletic fields (one grass, one artificial turf), two tennis courts, a concession stand and restrooms, with parking for all proposed uses. The active recreation sites would be located within three main fields: Main Field of 18-20 acres, North Field of 1.1 acres, and South Field of 3.3 acres, as shown below:



**Dunn Fields property (abutting Pipestave Recreation Area to the left) shows potential space for the PRCOM project.**

The PRCOM proposal came before Fall Special Town Meeting voters on Oct. 22, 2018, in a warrant article seeking approval of a CPA grant of \$51,500 to fund an engineering design plan for a conceptual study. The months leading up to the meeting set the stage for a vigorous debate on Town Meeting floor. A grass roots group opposed to the use of the Dunn property for athletic fields and parking initiated a campaign to marshal like-minded residents who would defeat the measure. The warrant article failed to secure the necessary approval from the assembled voters.

This is the second time that the PRCOM has been frustrated by voters turning down a comprehensive expansion proposal. Based on a 2010 questionnaire for West Newbury residents, to which 175 responses were received, the Selectmen funded a master plan created by Cammett Engineering for an active and passive recreation area between Action Cove and the Carr Post. The implementation of the plan was contingent, among other things on the purchase of the so-called Daley property. The plan included outdoor basketball, baseball field, multi-purpose athletic field, toilet building with storage space, two tennis courts, walking trails, a health and wellness center or recreation building, including indoor basketball court, swimming pool and office space. Town Meeting voters failed to approve the purchase, and the land subsequently was sold to a builder who, as of late 2018, is constructing a 34-unit Open Space Preservation Development there. The Master Plan for Daley, plus new plans for a retreat dog park, were used as starting points for the additional uses sought for the Dunn property.

#### **Open Space Preservation Development Bylaw**

Since the initial two subdivisions were constructed according to the town's Open Space Preservation Development bylaw (OSPD) in 2009 and 2016, significant issues surfaced related to the bylaw. In response, the PB worked to address parts of the bylaw that were perceived to need clearer definition, including contiguity of open space and increased property perimeter buffer zones. Specifically, the amendment brought to Town Meeting in fall, 2018, was intended to clarify the provisions for: Basic Minimum Number (Yield Plan); Modification of Dimensional Requirements; Contiguity of Open Space; Buffer Areas; Density Bonuses and Affordable Housing Units; and Increased Distance Between Residential Buildings.

These OSPD changes were put before Town Meeting voters on Oct. 22, 2018, in the form of a warrant article amending the bylaw. The measure failed to garner the required two-thirds approval. OSC believes continued efforts to amend the OSPD bylaw to yield higher quality open space should be pursued.

### **Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation (LGSPI) Overlay District**

A group of warrant articles to create a 20-acre solar overlay district off Coffin Street – with the possible preservation of 52 additional acres for conservation or recreation – was defeated at the May 2018 Annual Town Meeting. In spite of the offer of 52 acres of permanently protected open space, the opposition cited the negative effect on residential property values; lack of aesthetics for those within sight lines; possible health effects; the solar company's limited experience with a project of this scope; and lack of economic incentive for the town as reasons to defeat the re-zoning effort.

This Bylaw allows the town, through Town Vote, to designate a portion of the town as an area where a LGSPI can be constructed. The process for the parcel described above was contentious and sparked much debate over how to balance the mandates for supporting alternative energy sources with impacts on residential abutters and overall community character. While this particular proposal was not accepted by the town, the potential for an LGSPI created an opportunity to re-examine the LGSPI Bylaw. The LGSPI Bylaw language is based on language drafted by the Commonwealth. The Planning Board recently brought forth changes that would give broader power to the town in regulating these developments. Though the proposal did not make it to Town Meeting floor, it re-ignited the local debate. Foremost, it became clear that over-regulation would result in violating the State Zoning laws and jeopardizing West Newbury's Green Community designation. The West Newbury Planning Board continues to work on refining the Bylaw in a way that promotes solar while at the same time protects residential abutters and the town's character.

In creating this update to the OSRP, the OSC has been introspective about issues that should be addressed locally. It is a learning process, to be sure, but from our perspective, better inspection and enforcement by boards having jurisdiction for local bylaws is required. Going forward, committee members will seek to offer the PB open space perspective on relevant bylaw amendments having effect on open space preservation.

This town has been blessed with an abundance of open space attributed to a tradition of family farming. Now West Newbury's aging population portends more frequent instances of land coming out of Chapter 61 protection and other development challenges to large parcels with real preservation value. The OSC feels the need to be more vigilant about these potential changes in order to respond appropriately. Avoiding inefficient reactive measures will call for the committee to be proactive about the fast-changing real estate landscape.

There is a need for nimbleness if we are to preserve the fast disappearing agricultural and rural landscape and open spaces for resource protection. Serious consideration should be given to establishing a new bond such as the town approved in 2000 and/or establishing an open space trust fund from part of the undesignated CPA funds so that part of this reservoir of funds is guaranteed to be used to permanently protect open space.



## **SECTION 8 • GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**



**John Dodge photo**

Pike's Mill Bridge gives year 'round access to trails. Wetland crossings like this can be created with Community Preservation Act funding in response to Open Space Committee requests.

The over-arching goals of West Newbury's 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan are:

- To preserve the rural character, charm and sense of community;
- To protect and manage natural resource areas, including water resources and large, contiguous tracts of undeveloped land; and
- To provide accessible passive and active recreational activities for a diverse resident population of all ages and abilities.

The Goals and Objectives were developed based on priorities identified through responses to the 2016 Open Space and Recreation deliberations, as well as consultations with the PRCOM and other town boards and committees. A moderated, well-attended community forum in September 2018 produced realistic issues for the OSC and PRCOM to address. The anticipated suggestions to better maintain trails and add youth recreational programs took a welcome directional turn, with heartfelt discussions of more intrinsically important issues for West Newbury. There was an expressed concern about achieving climate change resilience, in spite of the generous diversity of natural resources



enjoyed in this community. “Create a locally sustainable community,” someone offered, to which many heads nodded in general agreement. Not an unrealistic goal, given West Newbury’s farmland and the open space that could support community gardens. The future vision holds promise, if we proceed proactively.

<b>FIGURE 13: A Proactive Approach to the Pressures of Change</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES</b>
<b>1.</b>  <b>Preserve the natural and historic “rural character” of West Newbury, while managing challenges caused by change.</b>	Protect properties that epitomize West Newbury’s character, including working farms, scenic vistas, and places of historic and/or architectural significance.	Town Appropriation Grant Land Trust Volunteers
	Encourage “sensitive” development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote development in keeping with the scale &amp; style of surrounding structures</li> <li>Support development of diverse housing sizes &amp; affordability</li> <li>Advocate for trail opportunities through proposed residential developments</li> <li>Preserve open spaces and vistas (including fields and forests ), stone walls and existing trees</li> </ul>	Town Appropriation Grant Land Trust Volunteers
<b>2.</b>  <b>Protect and manage natural resource areas that include water and large, undeveloped contiguous areas,</b>	Continue to create stewardship opportunities and manage trails and other open spaces.	Town Appropriation Grant Volunteers
	Support protection of surface & deep water resources.	Town Appropriation Volunteers
	Identify and protect wildlife corridors.	Volunteers
	Improve climate resiliency	Town Appropriation Grant Volunteers
<b>3.</b>  <b>Provide accessible recreational opportunities, both passive and active, for residents of diverse age groups, interests and abilities.</b>	Pursue better access to the Merrimack River for active and passive recreational uses.	Town Appropriation Grant Land Trust Volunteers
	Develop a maintenance plan for recreational amenities.	Town Appropriation Volunteers
	Identify trails and open space suitable for people with limited mobility. Work with other Town entities to make open space adaptations consistent with ADA regulations in order to enable access for all people.	Town Appropriation Grant Volunteers
	Expand and improve youth programs in keeping with demand.	Town Appropriation Grant Volunteers

## **SECTION 9 • 7-YEAR ACTION PLAN**



**John Dodge photo**

A fern-covered forest floor is criss-crossed by trails at Brake Hill and the Groveland Forest.

### **PLANNING GOALS**

The goals for West Newbury's OSC and PRCOM are: to preserve the town's rural character, charm and sense of community; protect and manage its natural resource areas; and to provide passive and active recreational activities for all townspeople. Each of these goals will require a complex series of actions over time. This 7-Year Action Plan is designed to help keep the OSC "on task," focusing on the myriad, wide-ranging efforts of many local officials and volunteers toward the achievement of our open space and recreation goals. The timetable for accomplishing the goals depends on an ongoing assessment of the current capacity of volunteer boards and own staff to pursue the goals in an efficient and comprehensive manner. The plan is detailed in Figure 14, with highlighted actions for each geographic area shown in *Map 9*.

The action plan is based on the town's current needs, but it will change with the community's priorities. The action plan will be an evolving document. As a result, the Open Space Committee and Park & Recreation Commissioners will conduct an annual "Plan Review" to evaluate implementation progress and, as needed, modification. In order for the plan to be successfully achieved, each action will require that a number of town boards, committees and

interested residents take on pivotal roles. The initials in the “Who’s Responsible” column refer to the group or groups that OSC believes is the most suitable to be responsible for spearheading and/or contributing to a specific action.

### FUNDING SOURCES FOR ACTION OBJECTIVES

West Newbury is a small town with limited resources. Accordingly, the objectives in the plan are formulated to the experience and expertise of existing boards and commissions to avoid the expenditure of additional funding. The town adopted the Community Preservation Act, leading to creation of the Community Preservation Commission in 2006. The OSC and PRCOM both have a long-standing close working relationship with the DPW. See Figure 13 for possible funding sources for Goals and Objectives.

<b>FIGURE 14</b> <b>7-YEAR ACTION PLAN</b> <b>Open Space and Recreation Goals and Objectives</b>		
<b>GOAL #1: PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER, CHARM AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY</b>		
<b><i>A. Encourage Sensitive Development of Private and Public Property</i></b>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Develop a comprehensive plan for each large town-owned parcel before it is sold or subdivided. Monitor proposals to sell town-owned land to resolve budget deficits in order to prevent loss of valuable open space, preserve trail connections, and maintain essential wildlife habitats.	OSC PR BOS	2019, and as needed
Protect properties that epitomize West Newbury's character, including working farms, scenic vistas, and places of historic and/or architectural significance.	OSC PB BOS HC...CC	ongoing
Integrate work of town boards regarding proposed development, especially the PB, ConCom and BOS. Recommend acquisitions in fee or easement that facilitate open space and recreation goals.	OSC PB CC BOS	ongoing
Explore creative ideas to finance and leverage acquisition.	OSC FIN BOS	ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information to landowners on tax advantages associated with techniques, such as life estates, conservation easements and deed restrictions.</li> <li>• Sponsor open space forums &amp; events dealing with land acquisition and protection.</li> <li>• Expand community outreach on value open space to adults and children</li> <li>• Educate landowners about granting easements to provide public access</li> <li>• Educate landowners about ownership options (e.g. Chapter 61, CRs, ARs, leasing to farmers)</li> </ul>	OSC	ongoing
Review inventory of valuable open space parcels annually to aid decisions about changes in land use.	OSC	annually
Work to improve OSPD bylaw to better protect open space values.	OSC PB CC	2019

**B. Protect Properties That Epitomize West Newbury's Character**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Conduct next phase of the Historic Sites Survey	HC BOS	2019
Monitor and inventory of stone walls.	DPW OSC HC	ongoing
Review guidelines and opportunities for Historic Preservation Easements	HC	2020
Research old roads to prevent losing any "rights of way."	OSC	2019
Explore an Open Space Bond or Trust Account dedicated to open space projects.	OSC	2019
Review opportunities for preserving town cemeteries	HC	2019

**C. Preserve and Protect Scenic Resources**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Enforce the town's Scenic Roads bylaw and the Massachusetts Shade Tree Act.	PB BOS BI DPW	ongoing
Encourage residential development sensitive to roadside views. Promote "interior" and "Green Neighborhood" developments that will preserve not otherwise protected farmlands and landscapes.	OSC PB	ongoing
Create a Tree Committee to advocate for care of existing street trees and formulate plans for planting and replanting. The town lacks such a committee to assess the health of the valuable tree stock lining West Newbury's state-declared Scenic Byways. To this time, the DPW has removed diseased trees, but there is no mechanism for evaluating the condition of trees or replacing those removed.	DPW	2019

**D. Protect and Manage Open Space Parcels**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Develop an Open Space Management Plan for town-owned parcels, employing the existing Riverbend and Mill Pond management plans as models.	OSC BOS CC	2020
Investigate the use & status of unprotected town-owned parcels for permanent open space protection.	OSC	ongoing
Create open space management roles for non-profits (e.g. ECTA, ECG), as well as volunteers, students (community service), sports teams & local clubs (e.g. Boy & Girl Scouts, West Newbury Garden Club, West Newbury Riding & Driving Club). Engage in expanded community outreach.	OSC PR	2020
Consider establishing a private West Newbury land trust.	OSC	ongoing



Practice the tenets of the newly enacted ConCom Trail Management Guidelines. Enlist the PB and the DPW in following best practices for monitoring construction & trail maintenance, especially with developments built according to the OSPD bylaw.	OSC DPW PB	ongoing
Amend the OSPD to improve quality and quantity of open space and buffers. Create an enforcement plan.	PB	2019
Form subcommittee to stay current with property listings and any proposed development of open space parcels.	OSC	2019

<b>GOAL #2: PROTECT AND MANAGE NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
<b><i>A. Protect Wildlife Habitats and Corridors</i></b>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Use existing resources and maps showing wildlife habitats and corridors in evaluating land for protection.	OSC CC	2019
Create database of parcels with CRs, Easements, APRs, and in Chapter 61.	OSC AO	ongoing
Pursue grant funding for protection of high-quality habitat lands.	OSC	as needed
Control invasive species, both plant & animal.	DPW .BOH .CC OSC	ongoing
Create outreach on benefits of planting native species.	Garden Club OSC	2019
Enact clean fill bylaw	BOH PB	2020
<b><i>B. Protect Drinking Water Supply</i></b>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Protect parcels identified as probable sources of new town water.	WD CC OSC	ongoing
Enact aquifer protection districts for existing and future well sites.	PB WD	2020
Create feasibility study to limit connections to town water until new sources are available	WD BOS	2019
Consider protecting existing water supply by increasing the buffer zone around reservoirs and other surface waters.	WD BOH PB	2020
Educate homeowners about contaminants to private wells.	WD BOH	ongoing

<b>C. Protect Surface Waters and Wetlands</b>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Lobby for 24-hour notice of upstream untreated sewer discharges to Merrimack River.	BOS OSC BOH	2019
Enact local wetlands protection bylaw	CC OSC	2019
Enact Surface Water Protection bylaw.	CC PB	2020
Strengthen West Newbury's partnership with Merrimack River Watershed Council to coordinate water protection efforts.	WD BOS OSC	2019
Educational outreach on vernal pool certification.	OSC CC	ongoing
<b>D. Improve Climate Resiliency</b>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Apply for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant	New subcommittee of PB, CC, DPW, OSC	2019

<b>GOAL #3: PROVIDE PASSIVE AND ACTIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR COMMUNITY</b>		
<b>A. Develop and Maintain Trails</b>		
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Organize a public trail stewardship program. Host workshops for best practices trail maintenance and trail mapping.	OSC GB	ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the local &amp; regional trail network</li> <li>Identify missing trail links</li> <li>Work with other towns &amp; groups to connect trails &amp; greenways</li> <li>Acquire permanent rights to use existing trails through private parcels</li> <li>Identify grants &amp; other resources to facilitate trail development</li> <li>Educate landowners about granting easements for trails.</li> </ul>	OSC PB	ongoing
Continue to improve the maps & information on trails for distribution through the OSC and Park & Recreation sections of the town website, at Town Hall and the GAR Library.	OSC PR	ongoing
Continue to improve public access to trails, including signage & designated parking	OSC	ongoing
Establish ADA-accessible trails at various locations.	OSC COA DPW	2019
Consider consolidating management of Mill Pond and Pipestave Recreation Areas	MPC PR OSC	2019
Establish enforcement mechanism for maintenance of trails required by the Planning Board as a condition of development.	BI PB	2019
Create Forestry Management Plan	OSC DPW	2020

**B. Develop New Recreation Opportunities for People of All Ages and Abilities**

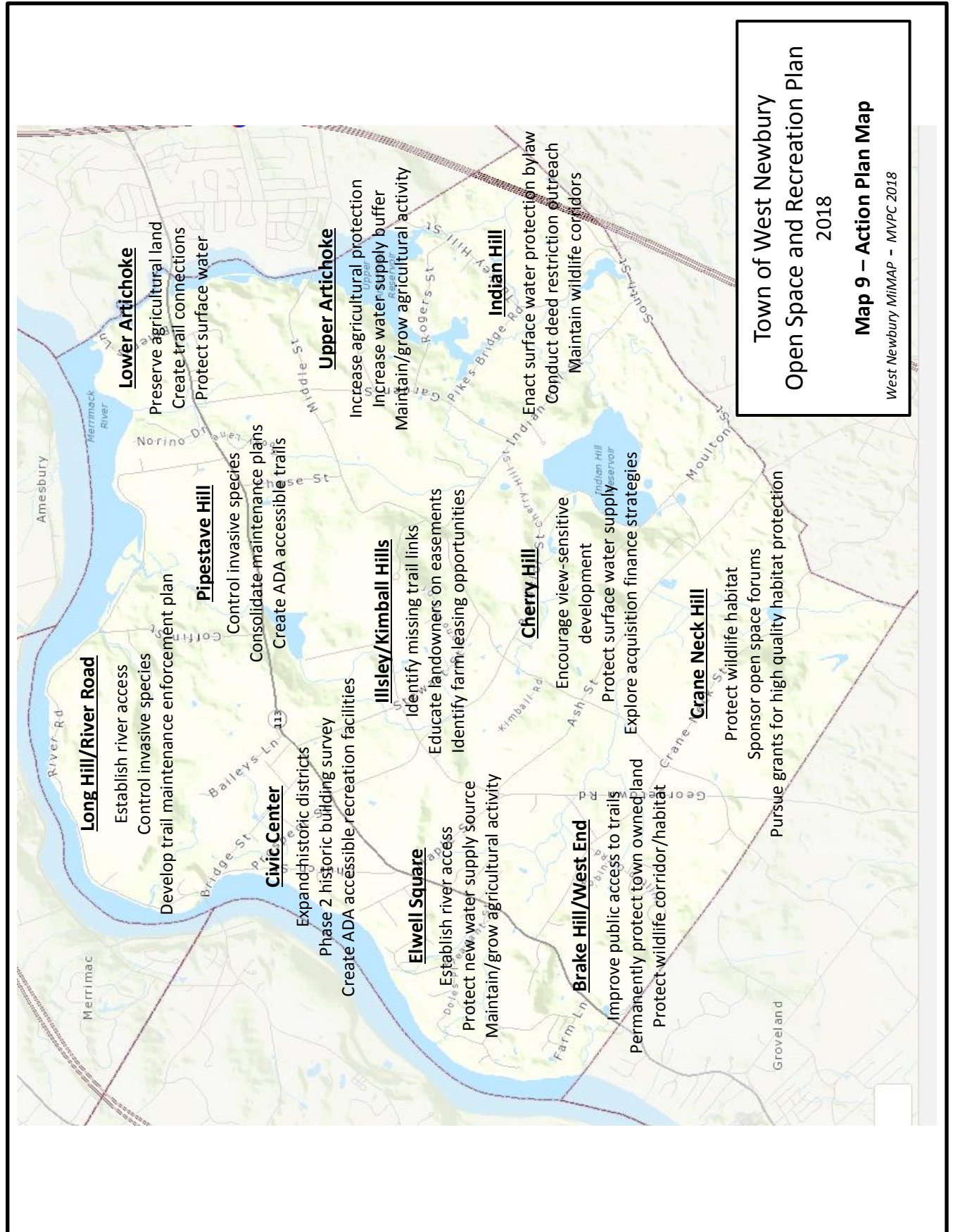
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Work with Park and Recreation commissioners in Merrimac and Groveland to define the scope and to implement a plan to expand youth recreation programs.	PR	2020
Continue to investigate the creation of a Community Center.	COA PR CCC	ongoing
Explore opportunities for adult recreation at school facilities	COA PR	2020
Analyze the need for recreational programs for people of different ages & abilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define and implement programs for non-sports-oriented youth and teens.</li> <li>• Define and implement a plan to expand access and create programs for townspeople with disability challenges.</li> <li>• Define and implement a plan to expand recreation programs for seniors.</li> </ul>	PR COA	2020
Conduct a feasibility study for providing indoor and outdoor activities for youth to senior citizens in the town's Community Center project.	COA PR	2020
Develop Park and Recreation content on town website to inform residents about availability of facilities and program offerings.	PR	2020

**C. Develop Merrimack River Access for Fishing and Boating**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>PRIORITY</b>
Identify riverfront parcel(s) suitable for launching car-top carried boats (E.g. canoes and kayaks) and evaluate riverfront parcels for public access.	RAC OSC	2019
Increase public awareness of existing river access points; promote their use and adopt a maintenance plan.	OSC RAC	2019

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>BOS</b> Board of Selectmen	<b>PB</b> Planning Board	<b>CC</b> Conservation Commission
<b>BOH</b> Board of Health	<b>OSC</b> Open Space Committee	<b>PR</b> Park and Recreation Commissioners
<b>COA</b> Council on Aging	<b>WD</b> Water Department	<b>DPW</b> Department of Public Works
<b>BI</b> Building Inspector	<b>TM</b> Town Meeting	<b>CPC</b> Community Preservation Committee
<b>ADA</b> ADA Coordinator	<b>MPC</b> Mill Pond Committee	<b>ZBA</b> Zoning Board of Appeals
<b>AO</b> Assessor's Office	<b>MVPC</b> Merrimack Valley Planning Commission	<b>HC</b> Historical Commission
<b>RAC</b> River Access Committee	<b>FIN</b> Finance Department	<b>GB</b> Greenbelt
	<b>CCC</b> Community Center Committee	<b>ET</b> Essex County Trail Association



**Town of West Newbury  
Open Space and Recreation Plan**

2018

**Map 9 – Action Plan Map**

West Newbury MiMAP - MVPC 2018



## **SECTION 10 • APPROVAL LETTERS**

In accordance with Massachusetts requirements, letters of approval for the West Newbury 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan issued by these entities are published on five successive pages:

West Newbury Board of Selectmen

West Newbury Conservation Commission

West Newbury Planning Board

Merrimac Valley Planning Commission

Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services.



Town of West Newbury  
Board of Selectmen

381 Main Street, West Newbury, MA 01985 | 978-363-1100, Ext. 115 | selectmen@wnewbury.org

February 19, 2019

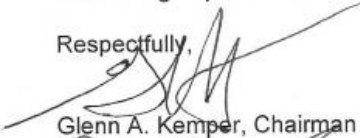
Patricia Reeser, Chairperson  
Open Space Committee  
381 Main Street  
West Newbury, MA 01985


Dear Ms. Reeser,

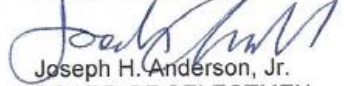
The Board of Selectmen approved the Open Space and Recreation Plan on February 19, 2019 and want to thank the Open Space Committee for their dedication and commitment to provide a 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan to preserve the town's charm and rural character, protect and manage natural resources and provide accessible passive and active recreation opportunities.

Special thanks to Jocelyne Cosentino, Frank S. Vetere, Patricia Mansfield, Annie Madden and Steve Greason for the photos and art shown throughout the plan. We look forward to working with the Open Space Committee and Parks and Recreation Commissioners to support implementation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and in so doing to preserve and enhance the environment and amenities of West Newbury.

Respectfully,

  
Glenn A. Kemper, Chairman

  
David W. Archibald

  
Joseph H. Anderson, Jr.  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

CC: Parks and Recreation Commissioners



## TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

381 Main Street, West Newbury, Mass. 01985

TEL: 978-363-1100 x126 FAX: 978-363-1119

December 3, 2018

West Newbury Open Space Committee  
Town Office Building  
381 Main St  
West Newbury, MA 01985

Dear Ms. Reeser,

The Conservation Commission has reviewed the draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by the West Newbury Open Space Committee. We believe that the Committee has accurately and comprehensively reviewed the Town's historical and physical background, inventoried existing facilities, land, flora and fauna, and set out a thoughtful analysis of resource and community needs.

We support the Plan's goals, objectives and recommendations as a responsible approach to preserving and protecting the Town's irreplaceable natural resources and its community values. We believe that the Plan will provide the Town with a template for maintaining and preserving natural resources and open space and its character while providing passive and active recreation opportunities for all residents.

We look forward to participating in its implementation of the Plan to ensure it remains a living document.

Very truly yours,

N. Dawne Fusco, chair  
West Newbury Conservation  
Commission



**TOWN OF WEST NEWBURY  
OFFICE OF THE PLANNING BOARD  
381 MAIN STREET  
WEST NEWBURY MA 01985  
978-363-1100 X125 Fax: 978-363-1119**

February 7, 2019

West Newbury Open Space Committee  
West Newbury Town Offices  
381 Main Street  
West Newbury, MA 01922

Re: Letter of Comment from West Newbury Planning Board

Dear Committee Members:

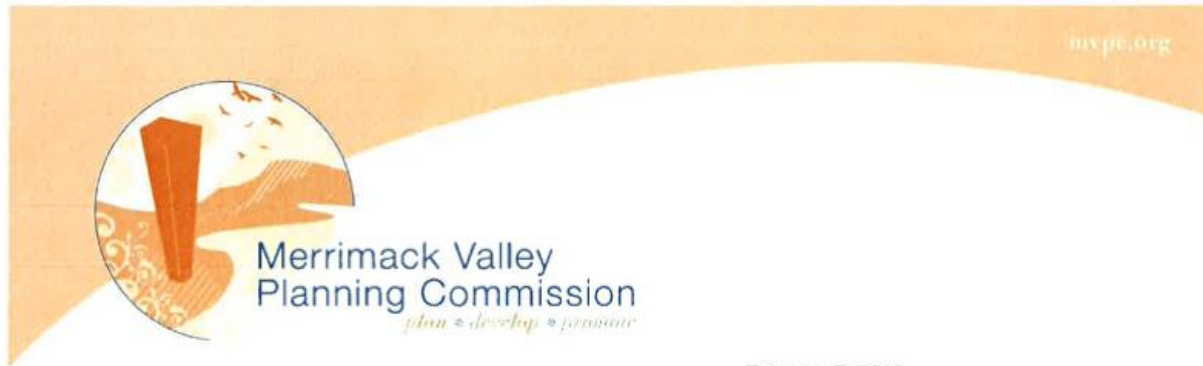
The West Newbury Planning Board has reviewed the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Recommended updates and corrections have been made to the satisfaction of the Planning Board.

The Board would like to thank the Open Space Committee for its efforts in preparing the updated Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Board appreciates the time and research that have been put into the Plan.

Sincerely,

Leah Zambarnardi, Town Planner  
On behalf of the West Newbury Planning Board





February 7, 2019

Patricia Reeser  
Chair, Open Space Committee  
West Newbury Town Offices  
West Newbury, MA

Re: West Newbury Open Space Plan Update 2018-19

Dear Ms. Reeser:

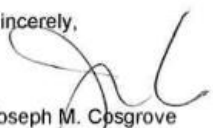
The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has reviewed the most recent draft of the 2018 update to the West Newbury Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by the Committee.

All who participated in the plan update are to be commended for the effort undertaken in inventorying the City's conservation and park resources and setting five-year action priorities. We can appreciate that it has been a long and arduous process. You and the Committee members should all be proud of bringing the plan update to successful completion. It contains valuable resource information and complements regional planning initiatives as well as the Town's recent ongoing planning work in housing, stormwater management and natural hazard mitigation. Based on our initial review, the plan update incorporates all required plan elements.

MVPC is fully supportive of the plan implementation goals and strategies which are consistent with both the Merrimack Valley Region Priority Growth Strategy and the Regional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016 Update adopted by the City and endorsed by FEMA.

We look forward to continuing work with Town in the years ahead in helping implement plan recommendations. Thank you again for your work and please contact me at (978)374-0519 x16 if we at MVPC can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Joseph M. Cosgrove  
Environmental Program Manager

160 Main Street, Haverhill, MA 01830

phone - 978/374-0519 • fax - 978/372-1890

Serving the communities of:

Andover Andover-Bedford Georgetown Groveland Haverhill Lawrence Merrimack Methuen  
Newbury Newburyport North Andover Rockey Salisbury West Newbury



*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>

March 21, 2019

Marlene Switzer  
Open Space Committee  
13 Follinsbee Lane  
West Newbury, MA 01985

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Switzer:

Thank you for submitting West Newbury'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 West Newbury to participate in DCS grant rounds through December 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

## **SECTION 11 • REFERENCES**

### **SOURCES**

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission  
West Newbury Water Department  
West Newbury Zoning Bylaws  
The Merrimack Valley Region and Its Economy, MVPC, 1994  
West Newbury Comprehensive Plan, 1999  
West Newbury Bicentennial Calendar, Historical Commission, 1976  
Mill Pond Diagnostic/Feasibility Study, West Newbury, MA, IEP Inc.  
Remote Sensing 20 Years of Change in Essex County, MA 1951-71, UMass Amherst, 1974  
Mill Pond Watershed Management Plan, 1996  
Local Roads Inventory Project, Town of West Newbury, MA Hayden / Wegman, 1994  
The Open Space Planner's Workshop, [www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/eea/dcs/osrp\\_workbook08.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/eea/dcs/osrp_workbook08.pdf)  
Department of Environmental Management, [www.state.ma.us/dem](http://www.state.ma.us/dem)  
West Newbury Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2009  
West Newbury Town Reports, 2008-2017  
20017 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)  
2016 West Newbury Open Space and Recreation Survey  
[www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee](http://www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee)  
[www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species\\_info/town\\_lists/town\\_w.htm#westnewbury](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species_info/town_lists/town_w.htm#westnewbury)  
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[www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/www/files/riveract.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/www/files/riveract.htm)  
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<https://mvpc.org/information-center/demographics/>  
[www.towncharts.com/Massachusetts/Demographics/West-Newbury-town-MA-Demographics-data.html](http://www.towncharts.com/Massachusetts/Demographics/West-Newbury-town-MA-Demographics-data.html)  
[www.amherstma.gov/1249/Land-Conservation](http://www.amherstma.gov/1249/Land-Conservation)  
[www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program](http://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-legacy-tree-program)  
[www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program](http://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program)

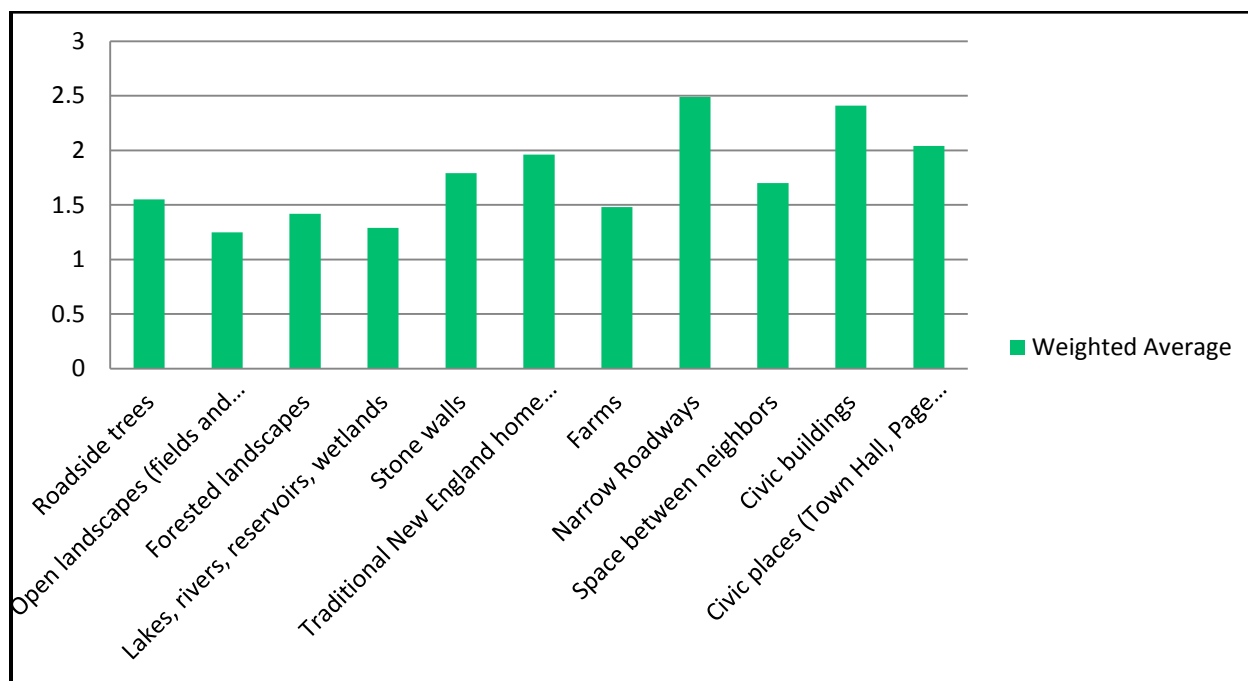
## **ACRONYMS**

<b>ACS</b>	American Communities Survey	<b>HCD</b>	(Mass.) Department of Housing and Community Development
<b>ADA</b>	Americans with Disabilities Act	<b>LGSPi</b>	Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation
<b>ANR</b>	Approval Not Required	<b>MACRIS</b>	MassCultural Resources Information System
<b>APRs</b>	Agricultural Preservation Restrictions	<b>MAPC</b>	Metropolitan Area Planning Council
<b>BOS</b>	(WN) Board of Selectmen	<b>MassWildlife</b>	Mass. Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
<b>BI</b>	Building Inspector	<b>MESA</b>	Mass. Endangered Species Act
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations	<b>mgd</b>	million gallons per day
<b>CMR</b>	Code of Massachusetts Regulations	<b>msl</b>	mean sea level
<b>CCC</b>	Community Center Committee	<b>MVPP</b>	Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program
<b>ConCom</b>	(WN) Conservation Commission	<b>NHESP</b>	Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
<b>CPA</b>	Community Preservation Act	<b>OSC</b>	(WN) Open Space Committee
<b>CPC</b>	Community Preservation Commission	<b>OSPD</b>	Open Space Preservation Development (bylaw)
<b>CR</b>	Conservation Restriction	<b>OSRP</b>	Open Space and Recreation Plan
<b>DAR</b>	(Mass.) Department of Agricultural Resources	<b>PB</b>	(WN) Planning Board
<b>DCR</b>	(Mass.) Dept. of Conservation and Recreation	<b>PRCom</b>	(WN) Park & Recreation Commissioners
<b>DCS</b>	(Mass.) Division of Conservation Services (part of EOEA)	<b>PRCW</b>	Parker River Clean Water Association
<b>DEP</b>	(Mass.) Department of Environmental Protection	<b>RAC</b>	River Access Committee
<b>DOT</b>	(Mass.) Department of Transportation	<b>SCORP</b>	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
<b>DPW</b>	(WN) Department of Public Works	<b>SFHA</b>	Special Flood Hazard Areas
<b>ECTA</b>	Essex County Trail Association	<b>SPR</b>	Site Plan Review
<b>EEA</b>	(Mass.) Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs	<b>STM</b>	Special Town Meeting
<b>EOEA</b>	(Mass.) Executive Office of Environmental Affairs	<b>SWPP</b>	Surface Water Protection Plan
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>TM</b>	Town Meeting
<b>FESA</b>	Federal Endangered Species Act	<b>USFWS</b>	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>FinCom</b>	(WN) Finance Committee	<b>WMA</b>	Wildlife Management Area
<b>GIS</b>	(Mass.) Geographic Information System	<b>WN</b>	West Newbury
<b>gpd</b>	gallons per day	<b>WNWD</b>	(WN) Water Department
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System	<b>WPA</b>	(Mass.) Wetlands Protection Act
<b>GREENBELT</b>	Essex County Greenbelt Association	<b>ZBA</b>	(WN) Zoning Board of Appeals
<b>HC</b>	Historical Commission		

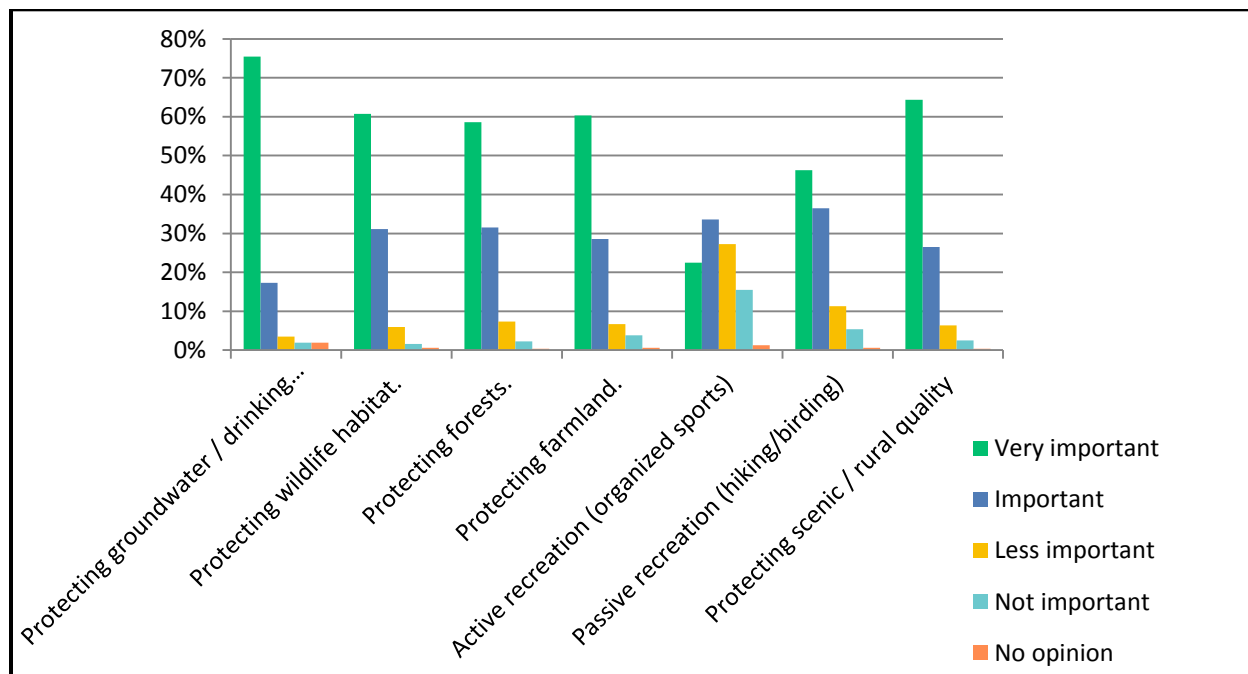


## APPENDIX A • COMMUNITY SURVEY

**Q1: What characteristics in West Newbury do you feel are important contributors to the town's scenic/rural quality?**



**Q2: How important is it for the town to continue to acquire land for...**

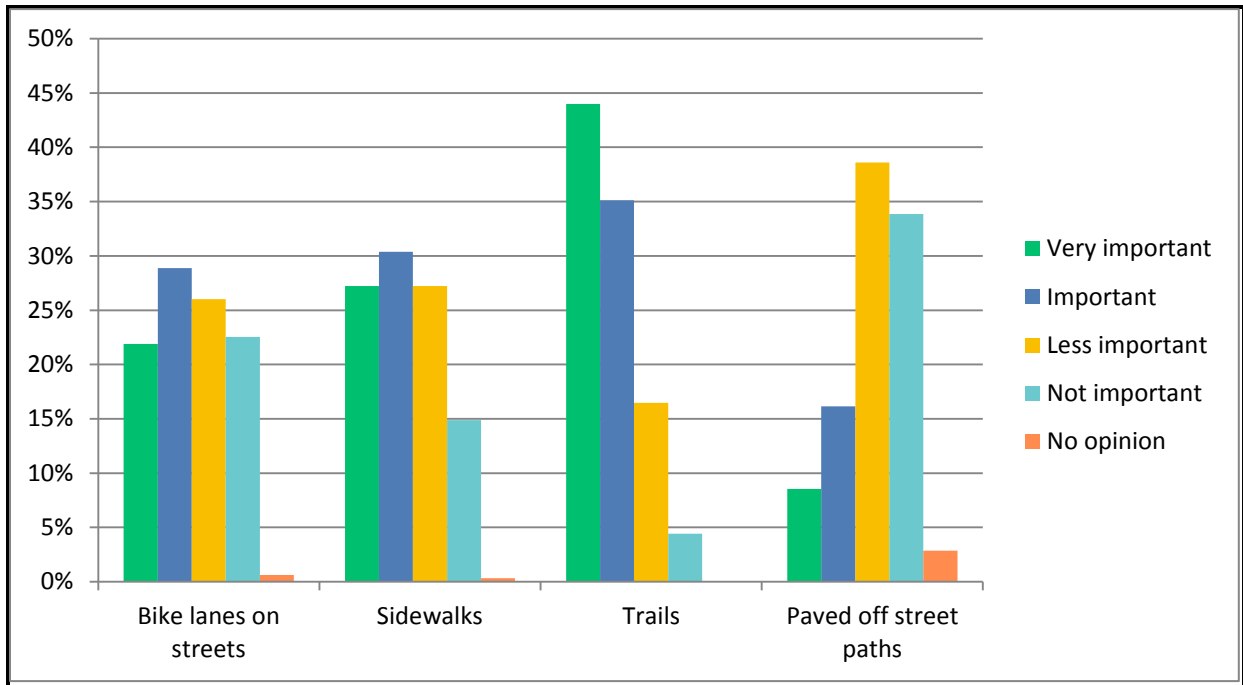


### DETAILED SURVEY RESPONSES

Q1: What characteristics do you feel are important contributors to the town's scenic / rural quality?										
Characteristics		Very Important		Important		Less Important		Not Important		Total
Roadside trees		56%	175	34%	107	8%	26	1%	4	312
Open landscapes (fields and meadows)		78%	251	18%	58	3%	10	0%	1	320
Forested landscapes		67%	212	24%	77	7%	23	1%	3	315
Lakes, rivers, reservoirs, wetlands		74%	234	23%	74	3%	9	0%	0	317
Stone walls		46%	145	32%	102	19%	60	3%	9	316
Traditional New England home styles		35%	112	38%	119	22%	71	4%	14	316
Farms		61%	195	31%	99	7%	22	1%	4	320
Narrow Roadways		23%	70	22%	66	38%	116	17%	52	304
Space between neighbors		46%	145	39%	123	12%	39	2%	6	313
Civic buildings		14%	43	41%	128	35%	109	10%	31	311
Civic places (Town Hall, training field, Page...)		28%	88	44%	139	23%	72	4%	14	313
Other (please specify)										
1	Corridors between open spaces for animal migration and movement.									
2	Trails are very important.									
3	Regional middle school and high school fields, track and tennis.									
4	Less rundown food store as informational meeting place with an appropriate "scenic/rural" sign.									
5	River access for kayak. Ferry Landing in bad shape.									
6	Vistas of open or forested undeveloped areas from town roadways.									
7	West Newbury really needs more of a downtown with restaurants, businesses and a reason, other than outdoor recreation, for a place to gather.									
8	Cemeteries.									
9	View sheds and scenic vistas, farm stands.									
10	Cap the population. In school they teach that growth is good for the economy with more tax revenue for the town, but that was before we had 7 billion people. Today, conservation is the goal. People live in West Newbury because it's rural. We're surrounded by nature. As we continue to build homes, we lose nature. We lose the very point of living here. Limit growth by any means necessary.									
11	Upgraded and improved cellular service.									
12	RESPECT THE FARMS IN TOWN.									

<b>Q2: How important is it for West Newbury to continue to acquire land for...</b>											
<b>Purposes</b>	<b>Very important</b>		<b>Important</b>		<b>Less important</b>		<b>Not important</b>		<b>No opinion</b>		<b>Total</b>
Protecting groundwater and drinking water resources	75%	240	17%	55	3%	11	2%	6	2%	6	318
Protecting wildlife habitat	61%	193	31%	99	6%	19	2%	5	1%	2	318
Protecting forests	59%	184	32%	99	7%	23	2%	7	0%	1	314
Protecting farmland	60%	190	29%	90	7%	21	4%	12	1%	2	315
Active recreation (organized sports)	22%	71	34%	106	27%	86	16%	49	1%	4	316
Passive recreation (hiking/birding)	46%	147	36%	116	11%	36	5%	17	1%	2	318
Protecting scenic and rural quality	64%	204	27%	84	6%	20	3%	8	0%	1	317
<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Other (please specify)</b>										
1	Trail easements.										
2	Less home building.										
3	I don't think we need to acquire more land.										
4	Do not buy any more land!!!										
5	Already own too much open space.										
6	Maintaining as much undeveloped land as possible is essential to preserving West Newbury's character as semi-rural.										
7	Water views and access are also critical.										
8	I've never heard anyone say, "I wish there were less parks in my town."										
9	Please do not acquire more land. In fact, we should sell some land that we already have, like the Mullen property.										
10	Important to preserve what we have, not focusing [on] future acquisitions.										

**Q3: How important is it for the town to provide an interconnected trail system by providing...**



ΩΩ



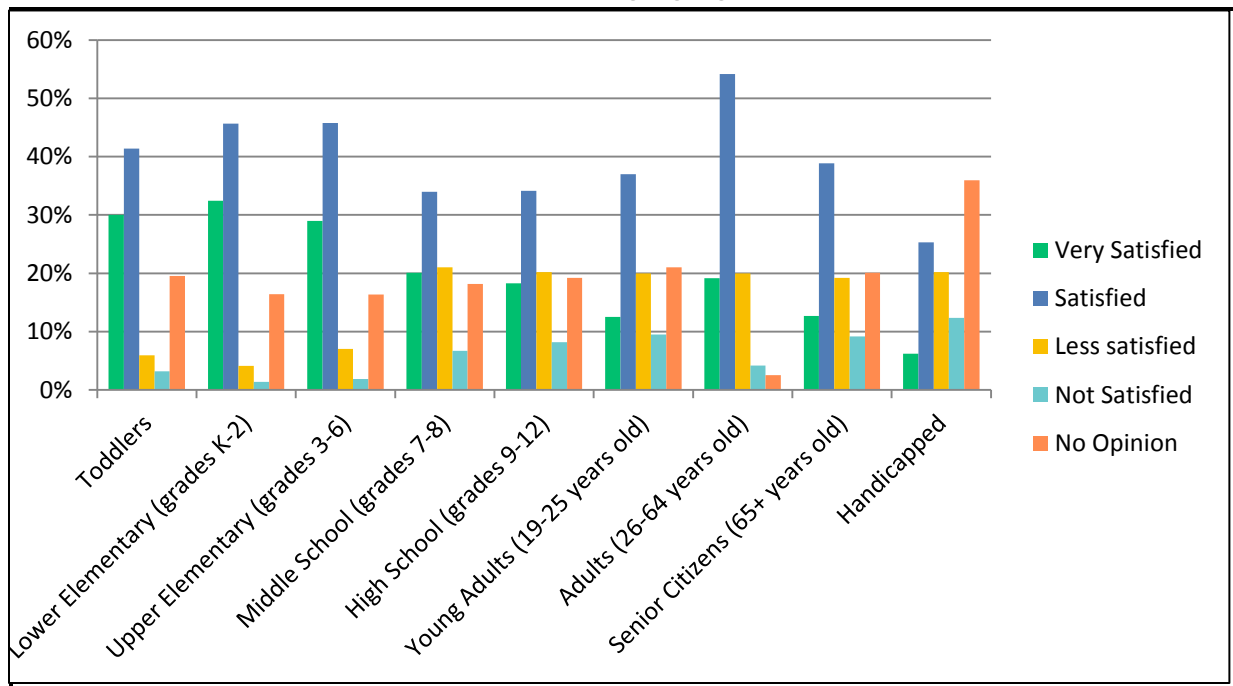
**Q3: How important is it for the town to offer an interconnected trail system by providing...**

Connection Means	Very important		Important		Less important		Not important		No opinion		Total
Bike lanes on streets	22%	69	29%	91	26%	82	23%	71	1%	2	315
Sidewalks	27%	86	30%	96	27%	86	15%	47	0%	1	316
Trails	44%	139	35%	111	16%	52	4%	14	0%	0	316
Paved off-street paths	9%	27	16%	51	39%	122	34%	107	3%	9	316
Respondents	Other (Please specify)										
1	Cars do not pay attention to bike lanes. Yes, sidewalks for Main Street ... very busy now, especially last 10 years. I would love to walk or bike to library, but sidewalks end on Main Street. Why is that? We are a small town. Connect us, "please." Gravel better than paved (off-street paths).										
2	Universal access paths of stone dust gravel, graded.										
3	Sidewalks on Main Street.										
4	Bike lanes on [Route] 113 only.										
5	No comment.										
6	Bike lanes are dangerous ... lend a false sense of security. Sidewalks are much more important for safety and are seriously lacking in town!										
7	Would LOVE sidewalks by the Page School and Millpond side of town. Many children are moving into the area, and it is difficult for them to be able to access those areas or walk safely to school or to Mill Pond.										
8	We need bike lanes! ...and safer places to walk!										
9	Interconnection to other communities.										
10	Some "paved" or, more specifically, handicapped access.										
11	Don't pave a path!										
12	It would be great to have other means of travel within town besides cars, but unfortunately we are a suburb, and suburbs exist for and by the automobile.										
13	MAKE THE SIDEWALK GO ALL THE WAY TO NEWBURYPORT. IT IS SO DANGEROUS TO TRY AND WALK DOWN [ROUTE] 113, ESPECIALLY BY PIPESTAVE.										
14	There are very few streets in West Newbury where I feel safe walking due to the almost complete lack of sidewalks.										

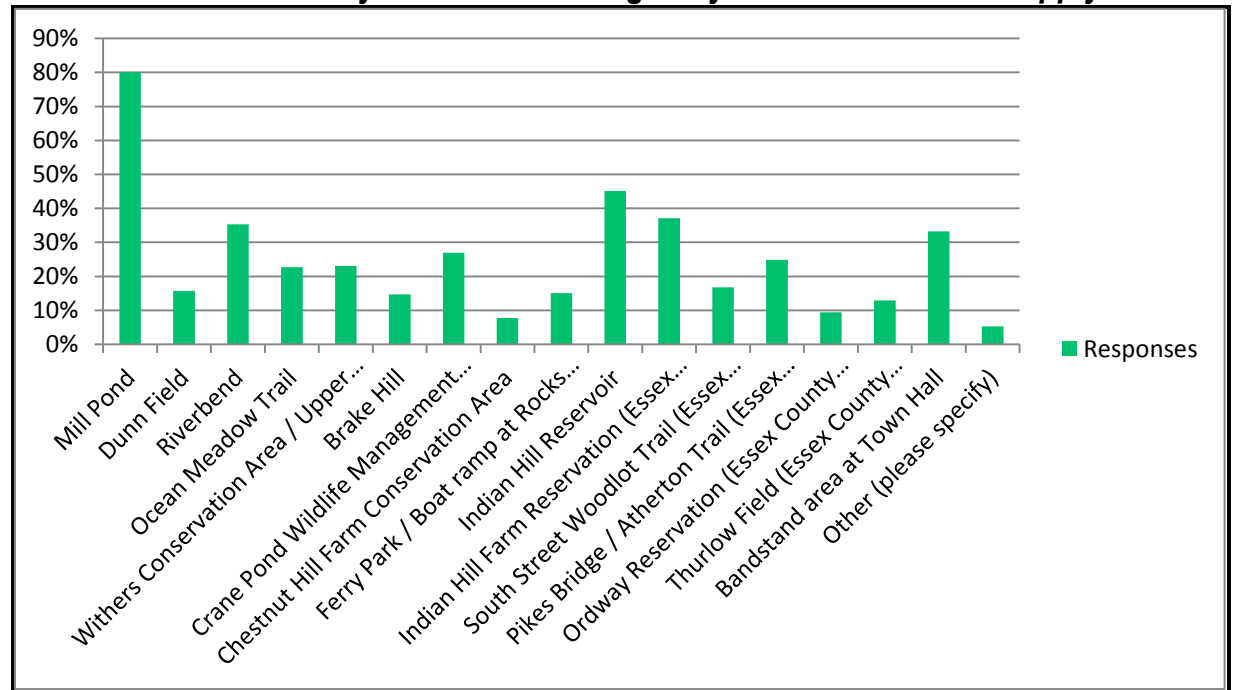
**Q4: Please identify the recreational activities in which you or your family participate or would like to participate. Check all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Playgrounds	41.80%	130
Walking on town roads	81.35%	253
Hiking / trail walking	85.85%	267
Running / jogging	46.30%	144
Horseback riding	18.33%	57
Mountain biking	29%	91
Cycling (road)	59%	184
Canoe / kayaking	54%	169
Sailing	16%	49
Motor boating	21%	66
Fishing	32%	101
Hunting	8%	25
Soccer	26%	81
Baseball	17%	54
Softball	13%	39
Indoor basketball	12%	38
Outdoor basketball	16%	50
Lacrosse	13%	40
Tackle football	7%	23
Flag football	11%	33
Golf	21%	65
Tennis	32%	99
Cross country skiing	43%	134
Ice skating	37%	114
Snow shoeing	54%	168
Swimming	31%	97
Bird watching	46%	144
Historic programs	35%	109
Senior programs	23%	71
Nature programs	47%	146
Art / music programs	45%	140
Other (please specify)	4%	11

**Q5: How satisfied are you with the town's recreational places for the following age groups?**



**Q6: Which passive recreational places in West Newbury do members of your household regularly use? Check all that apply.**



**Q5: How satisfied are you with West Newbury's recreational places for the following age groups?**

Age Groups	Very Satisfied		Satisfied		Less satisfied		Not Satisfied		No Opinion		Total
Toddlers	30%	66	41%	91	6%	13	3%	7	20%	43	220
Lower Elementary (grades K-2)	32%	71	46%	100	4%	9	1%	3	16%	36	219
Upper Elementary (grades 3-6)	29%	62	46%	98	7%	15	2%	4	16%	35	214
Middle School (grades 7-8)	20%	42	34%	71	21%	44	7%	14	18%	38	209
High School (grades 9-12)	18%	38	34%	71	20%	42	8%	17	19%	40	208
Young Adults (19-25 years old)	13%	25	37%	74	20%	40	10%	19	21%	42	200
Adults (26-64 years old)	19%	46	54%	130	20%	48	4%	10	3%	6	240
Senior Citizens (65+ years old)	13%	29	39%	89	19%	44	9%	21	20%	46	229
Handicapped	6%	11	25%	45	20%	36	12%	22	36%	64	178
Respondents	Other (please specify)										
1	No comment.										
2	At this time we have no children and, therefore, cannot judge this.										
3	Do not know what is available for last town categories.										
4	Handicapped is unknown.										
5	Senior and handicapped unknown.										
6	No opinion.										
7	No opinion.										
8	No opinion.										
9	Action Cove should be examined for safety.										
10	We need turf fields for sports.										
11	The one town playground is very difficult for young children (under age 3) to use.										
12	Specifically, the trail around Indian Hill Reservoir is perfect for wheelchairs, but the entry gate is blocked by 2 boulders preventing wheelchairs from entering. This could be fixed very easily.										
13	Action Cove Playground needs to be renovated in a manner that maintains the current playground character & provides more play area.										

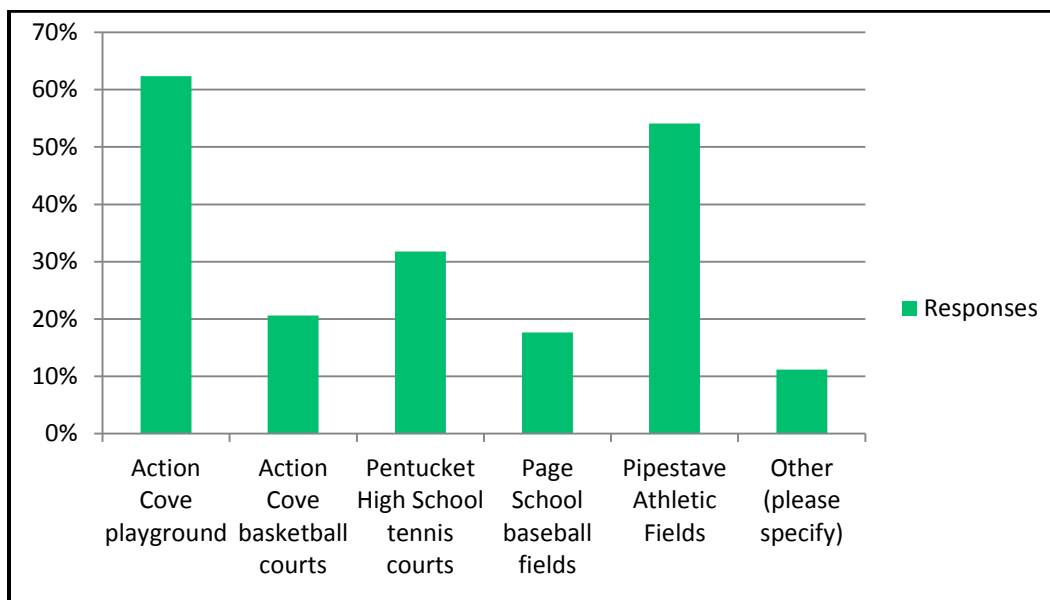


Q6: Which passive recreational places in West Newbury does your household regularly use?		
Answer Choices		Responses
Mill Pond	80%	229
Dunn Field	16%	45
Riverbend	35%	101
Ocean Meadow Trail	23%	65
Withers Conservation Area / Upper Artichoke Reservoir	23%	66
Brake Hill	15%	42
Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area	27%	77
Chestnut Hill Farm Conservation Area	8%	22
Ferry Park / Boat ramp at Rocks Bridge	15%	43
Indian Hill Reservoir	45%	129
Indian Hill Farm Reservation (Essex County Greenbelt)	37%	106
South Street Woodlot Trail (Essex County Greenbelt)	17%	48
Pikes Bridge / Atherton Trail (Essex County Greenbelt)	25%	71
Ordway Reservation (Essex County Greenbelt)	9%	27
Thurlow Field (Essex County Greenbelt)	13%	37
Bandstand area at Town Hall	33%	95
Other	5%	15

Respondents	Other (please specify)
1	Other trails.
2	Ash Street wildlife habitat.
3	Define "regularly."
4	Used to walk some of these areas ... health concerns prevent walking alone anymore but would like to if a group was available, just in case.
5	Emery House.
6	Many of the above are used occasionally.
7	Have used all the others but not regularly.
8	"Regularly"? None.
9	Please don't ban dogs on fields or woods acquired by town. I voted to approve purchase near high school, but it was not made clear that dogs would not be allowed there.
10	Would use more if there were not ticks, poison ivy.
11	Trails for hiking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, kayaking, biking.
12	Pipestave.
13	Cammett Park, Pipestave.
14	We don't personally "use" any of these on a regular basis but were Town Meeting supporters and/or Greenbelt supporters for these projects.
15	Make the boat ramp at the Rocks [Village] Bridge more accessible.

**Q7: Which active recreational places in West Newbury do members of your household regularly use? Check all that apply.**



Answer Choices		Responses	
Action Cove playground		62%	106
Action Cove basketball courts		21%	35
Pentucket High School tennis courts		32%	54
Page School baseball fields		18%	30
Pipestave Athletic Fields		54%	92
Other (please specify)		11%	19
Respondents	Other (please specify)		
1,2, 14 & 17	Pentucket High School track.		
3 & 13	None of these.		
4	More volunteer trail improvements - opportunities to help maintain our great trail system.		
5	Have used the others but not regularly.		
6	Page School playgrounds.		
7	Not Applicable.		
8	Cammatt Park.		
9	Notice of what can be used, when: Is there a track to run on? Can townsfolk use it?		
10	Pentucket Middle School track.		
11	We've used them all at one point, depending on age.		
12	Hiking through.		
15	Bachelor baseball fields.		
16	See above.		
18	Pipestave horse rings and cross country course.		
19	Kids are grown, but we previously used all of these locations.		

**Q8: Should improvements be made to any existing passive and recreational places?  
If yes, please list.**

Respondents	Responses
1	It's very important to me to have connectivity in open spaces, and having bike/pedestrian access to shared open space for passive recreation. Few of the open spaces are accessible to West Newbury's one sidewalk. Either protect land adjacent to the Main Street sidewalk or create more sidewalks / trails to allow for a less car-dependent town.
2	Add obstacle course with various challenges (pull-ups, etc.)
3	Some of the walkways/bridges at Mill Pond trails need some work from the winter.
4	More on the passive. Would be great to have a gravel path to walk - not "Mill-tick-Pond" but in an open area away from street. A loop around fields or some place in nature.
5	No.
6	Yes - Action Cove should have a mini-comfort station, MALE/FEMALE BATHROOMS - not the Port-o-Johnnys.
7	Clean the lake for swimming (Mill Pond).
8	Info re: passive recreation places posted in town hall?
9	It would be great if the tennis courts could be more accessible and be put at Action Cove.
10	Main entrance to Riverbend on Way to the River side - just up from the boat launch area. BAN duck hunting in Riverbend - too many children, pets, teens, and adults use this area, and duck population is dramatically down in 2016!
11	There is an interest in bocce. A couple of bocce courts would be nice.
12	(See second comment in Question 14.)
13	A place - NOT lifeguarded, very rustic - to swim in the Merrimack or anywhere else - natural lake or stream. River access for swimming is very limited and difficult.
14	Brush hog, mowing and weed-eating are very important for tick control. A walking 6'- to 8'- wide right of way in a field situation and weed-eat the wooded trails. Horse poop control would be helpful.
15	Fill wet sections in Riverbend or boardwalks or stepping stones. Town could play a more active mowing/weed-whacking role on trails and fields.
16	Pickleball is becoming a very popular activity for seniors. Many communities are simply "relining" their tennis courts for multi-use - tennis and pickleball. Since our Pentucket tennis courts are gone, we don't even have that option.
17	Please fix Ferry Park / boat ramp at Rocks Village Bridge!

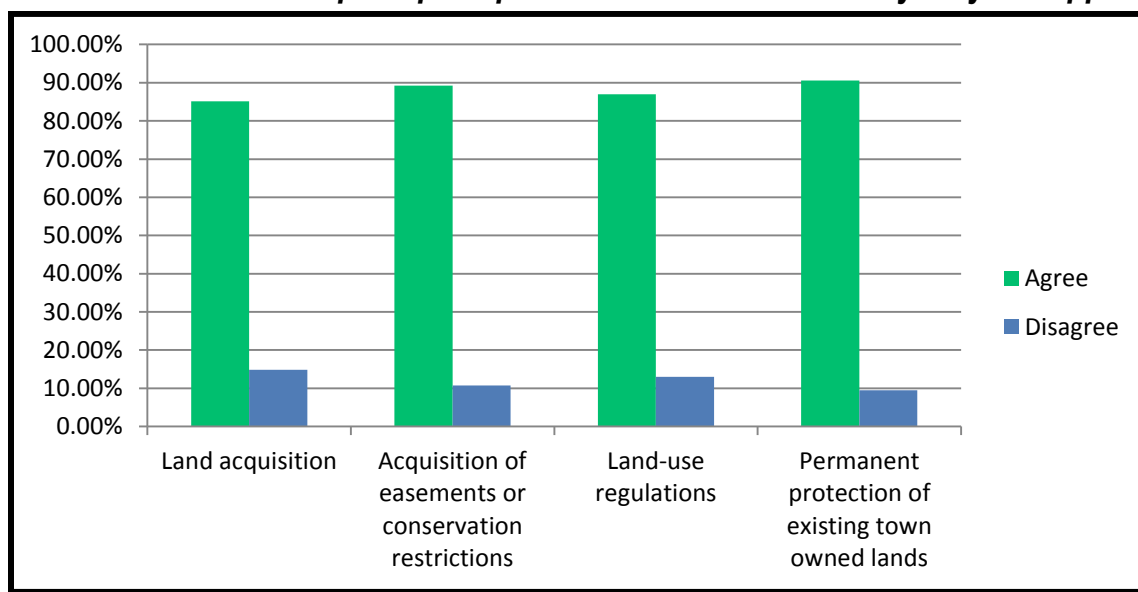
Respondents	Responses
18	Would be great to get the land around the Lower Artichoke (between Route 113 and Middle Street) behind water department. Use of active recreation places: Not anymore, but always thought not enough basketball space.
19	Action Cove: too beatup. Last choice. Too splintery, bees, not enough swings, layout challenging for families with multiple-aged children. More bathrooms (permanent) at all rec places. Mill Pond: more dock space, renovate building.
20	Home owners need assistance with how to eliminate invasive species on their properties and in public spaces (like bittersweet).
21	Yes. We need at least one more field (all-purpose) and an upper elementary (grades 3-6) playground, picnic areas, tennis courts, indoor swimming pool.
22	Repair boat ramp.
23	Promotion of trails.
24	Fields should be allowed to be used for haying by farmers in town.
25	Maps available for #6 (passive recreation places).
26	Ash Street wildlife habitat. Town DPW often dumps stone dust right before rainfalls. Stones wash into swamp. Over the years, it is becoming shallower. Pave road with speed bumps to slow speeders. Too many dead animals.
27	Care of wildlife migration pathways through existing spaces. And NO destruction of beaver dams (unless they are hazardous)..
	Action Cove Playground mostly for under-6 children. Find the wooden structure terrible with wood splinters and height of tunnels throughout. Grandchildren in 1st grade constantly hit head so had to walk bent down. Let's get something colorful like Bresnahan School.
29	I would love to see access for kayaks & shells to the river without requiring a big paved lot.
30	Tennis that isn't at a school.
31	Parking, trail clearing, more general population trails, and more handicap access.
32	Best to leave in natural state
33	Bathrooms at Action Cove. Spend more on things that people use instead of wasteful project after wasteful project.
34	Universal access trail at Mill Pond.
35	Would like a town pool for residents. Would like an indoor sports complex (i.e. basketball court) for town, not just use in school gym.



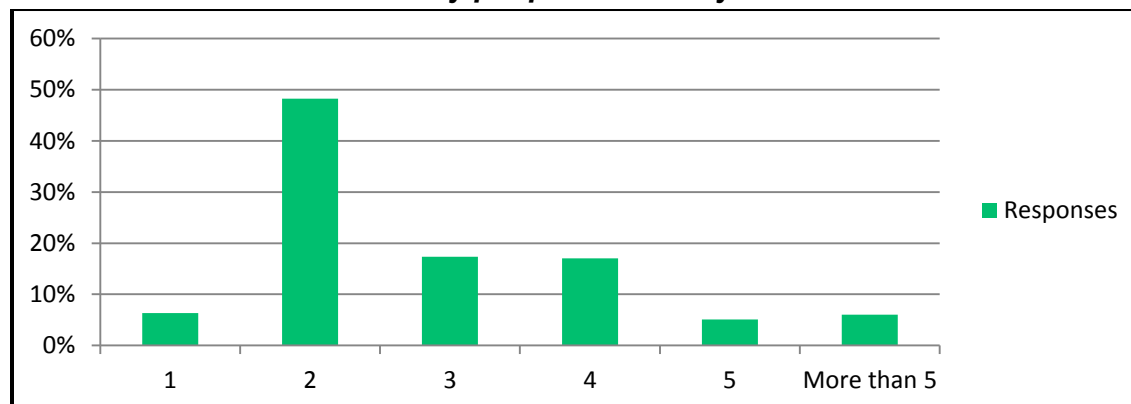
Respondents	Responses
36	Please put trash cans in the Indian Hill Reservoir area so people can throw away dog excrement. Enforce that people pick up after their dogs and perhaps do not allow them to run off leash.
37	Overall, the areas I frequent are well taken care of. (Use Mill Pond every day.) Thank you!
38	Keep plenty of clean-up crews hired!
39	We would love to use permanent bathroom facilities at Action Cove Playground.
40	Playground needs updating.
41	We don't need extra expenses and taxes.
42	No! Enough already!!!
43	Parking/boat ramp at Ferry Park, like Groveland. Should be able to use/share.
44	More mowing at the town land by the river, river meadow, and maybe better means to put kayaks in the river at these locations.
45	Access to Route 113 from Ocean Meadow Trail should be re-established. (Blockage by fence at Lords.)
46	The boat ramp at Rock's Bridge is of very little use due to its rough condition. Some work to remove large rocks and concrete chunks would smooth it and make it much more useable for small trailer access.
47	Better signage for trails
48	No opinion
49	We should design and construct body-weight exercise stations at appropriate places and Pipestave/HS/Riverbend etc. Low-cost / low maintenance / promote healthy activities.
50	Mill Pond / Pipestave areas. We have a leash law in town. All dogs should be leashed in these areas, just like all state parks in Massachusetts. The dog problem is out of control and dangerous, especially to horseback riders.
51	Active recreation areas at middle and high schools should be added to existing areas and well maintained.
52	Action Cove could use a good cleanup.
53	By volunteers + user fees if done for active recreation, or grants.
54	There is a disturbing amount of poison ivy in the area that limits my interest in using the trails with my children.

Respondents	Responses
55	Would love to see arts center and/or outdoor theater space added to Mill Pond, Pipestave, American Legion or as part of new community center!
56	More trail markings at Pipestave/Mill Pond area. It's easy to get lost!
57	Horses walking paths w/o cleaning up waste is a problem. Skate Park.
58	Mill Pond is a disgrace. Some dog owners don't deserve to own pets. Grandchildren can't walk w/o stepping in dog mess.
59	We don't know much about most of these places. It would be good to send out notices at least once a year to explain what the town has.
60	Dogs should be allowed at Pipestave again. Don't let a select few ruin it for the rest of us.
61 & 71	No opinion
62	Mill Pond or other place for swimming and possibly canoeing, as in Boxford.
63	(See comments in #14.)
64	Page School playground
65	Add bridges in Riverbend connecting Tupelo Trail to Heaven Point.
66	Update Action Cove with rubber ground surface and water spray area.
67	More regular brushing, cutting, pruning, blow-down clearance, vegetation management at Pike's Bridge & Atherton Trail. Also need trail work to address drainage and mud spots. Poison ivy treatment along trails and shoulders. We do not use some facilities anymore because of excessive poison ivy growing close to pathways.
68	Improve parking at Pipestave; both lots are over full at times. Either better scheduling or more spaces needed. Need parking for Riverbend.
69	Again, Action Cove is an aged wooden structure that takes a good amount of maintenance.
70	More parking is needed at Pipestave.
72	We need safer sidewalks. Sidewalks on more than just Main Street! And a bike lane for kids and adults!
73	Yes, better river access for car-top recreation.
74	More sports fields to accommodate youth and high school sports.
75	River access needs to be improved for car-top craft. Need more general viewing of the river and more river access areas added.
76	Merrimack Cemetery needs town resources to maintain its appearance, which is currently not up to what it should be.
77	Connect all with walking paths.

Respondents	Responses
78	Indian hill reservoir (greenbelt area) has water problems at the beginning of trail. As far as I can tell, this is in an issue at all seasons, with ice in the winter. Action Cove facilities are becoming old/dated and could use an upgrade. The recreation road around Indian Hill Reservoir (off Moulton Street) is in need of repairs. Additionally, a more well maintained / marked trail that continues around the full length of the reservoir would be great improvement
79	Not sure. Action Cove for safety?
80	Real bathroom and water fountain at Action Cove.
81	Action Cove is 25 years old. How about updating it for kids and expand into playground for seniors? Huge benefits.
82	Bridge to cross Parker River where beavers have caused flooding of Crane Neck Street as it goes to Forest Street, Byfield.
83	A dics golf course could be fun. It's an inexpensive install for 18 "holes," and the sport is becoming more popular.
84	I believe that the Pipestave fields, especially during spring sports, are at capacity. I would like to see the Dunn fields converted to playing fields. I also think it would be great to have additional field space close to Cammett/Bachelor fields due to its proximity to downtown and already established playing fields. For our most utilized fields - Pipestave and Bachelor field - it would also be beneficial to have plumbed bathrooms.
85	Mill Pond. Beautiful area with parking on site. Trails had been started and could be better maintained and developed.
86	IMPROVEMENTS ON ACTION COVE. ENFORCE LEASH LAWS AND DOG CLEANUP AT MILL POND AND PIPESTAVE. ROAMING UNLEASHED DOGS AND CLUELESS OWNERS LEAVING POOP AND CAUSING PROBLEMS. TOO MANY OUT-OF-TOWN PEOPLE THERE.
87	Action Cove: rundown and very splintery.
88	Parking is a problem at the Pipestave fields.
89	Need public tennis court(s). Newburyport has several; we have none.
90	A water [drinking] fountain at playground /fields. Expanded park at Ferry Landing for easier access to river.
91	Action Cove playground is in poor condition.

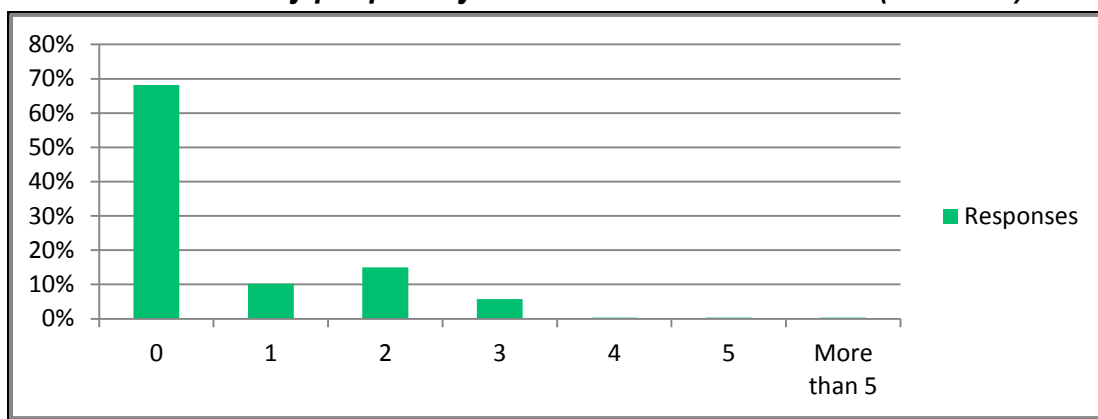
**Q9: What methods of open space protection for West Newbury do you support?**

Protection Methods	Agree		Disagree		Total
Land acquisition	85%	247	15%	43	290
Acquisition of easements or conservation restrictions	89%	257	11%	31	288
Land-use regulations	87%	241	13%	36	277
Permanent protection of existing town-owned lands	91%	268	10%	28	296

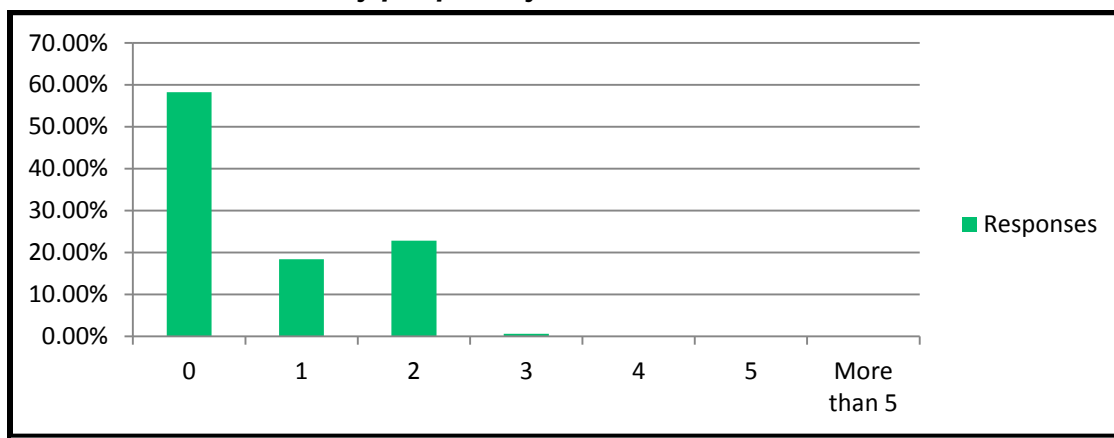
**Q10: How many people reside in your household?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
1	6%	20
2	48%	153
3	17%	55
4	17%	54
5	5%	16
More than 5	6%	19

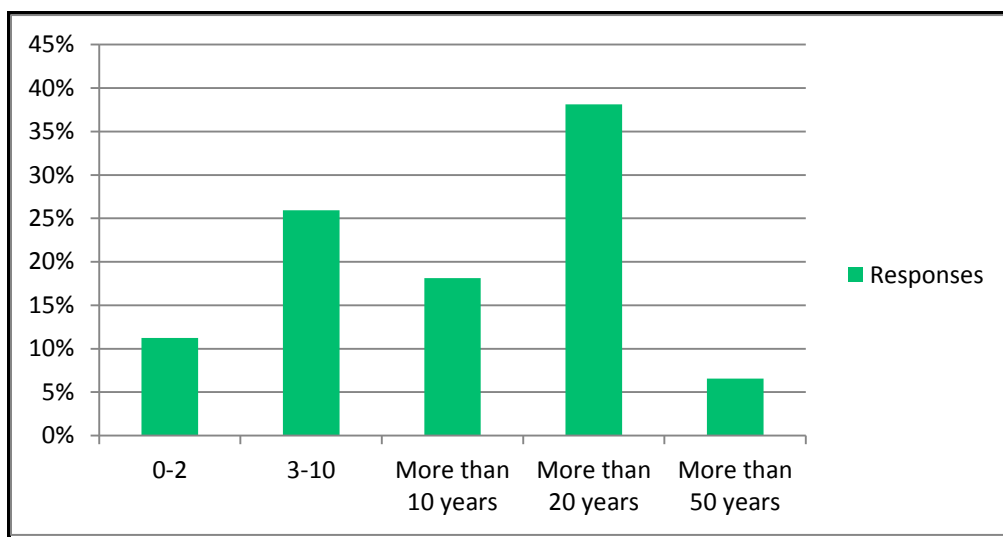


**Q11: How many people in your household are children (under 18)?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
0	68%	214
1	10%	32
2	15%	47
3	5.73%	18
4	0.32%	1
5	0.32%	1
More than 5	0.32%	1

**Q12: How many people in your household are 65 or older?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
0	58.23%	184
1	18.35%	58
2	22.78%	72
3	0.63%	2
4	0.00%	0
5	0.00%	0
More than 5	0.00%	0

**Q13: How many years have you lived in West Newbury?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
0-2	11%	36
3-10	26%	83
More than 10 years	18%	58
More than 20 years	38%	122
More than 50 years	7%	21

**Q14: Thank you for participating in our survey and helping to shape the future of West Newbury. Please feel free to share additional information or comments.**

This survey was distributed in summer of 2016. Responses reflect that time and may address issues that subsequently have changed.

- Question 2 is a biased question, poorly worded. Question 9 (Method of Open Space Protection) depends on cost. Question 9 (Land Acquisition) is a biased question.
- There seems to be a large influx of coyotes on Ash Street. What are some laws, where can we find them, for getting rid of these beasts?
- We think there should be space between houses. Some homes being built are very close to the existing ones. We need more businesses in town: a small restaurant, services, maybe unique flags with a branding in the center so you know it is our center and not just a post office and car repair. Make it attractive. I would certainly give the businesses my attention. Sidewalk to connect town, especially Main Street. Where is Ocean Meadow trail (Question 6)? Obviously more information is needed for the public; I don't know where these passive recreation places are. They sound lovely.
- We love the rural qualities of this town. There have been too many large homes built in the last few years that have taken away from the town's farmland! Save the family farm! We moved here 10 years ago because it was beautiful

and rural. TOO many new homes and developments. TOO many McMansions. Stone walls, farms and space between neighbors are very, very important.

- Cut dangerous branches over Route 113. We should not buy large parcels now. Consolidate existing land. No new large acquisitions.
- Get rid of BEAVERS!
- Protecting groundwater & drinking water resources and land use regulation are highly important. Already attend games at Action Cove and existing music at Bandstand and Annex. My grandchildren use all the active recreation places. I am not sure where the family goes for passive recreation.
- Thank you, OSC, for the excellent work you do! (Bike lanes on streets) are DANGEROUS!
- It would be nice to have a really good restaurant or cafe in West Newbury. You can't get a good cup of coffee unless you go to Newburyport! It would also bring more residents together. Pentucket High School tennis courts are wonderful! Don't know about open space protection methods of land acquisition, acquisition of easements or conservation restrictions, or land-use regulations.
- Not to be repetitious but I would love to see info about existing passive recreation places in town. I love Maudslay but get sick of driving there every day. As a relative West Newbury newcomer, I would be interested to know WHERE existing trails are now! Passive recreation, all except Mill Pond. (Question 6). Where does one find out about these places? Action Cove is reason grandchildren like to visit!
- Open Space Protection (Question 9): Keep farmland in use by leasing or owning by farmers. Less development.
- Dog walking every day at Mill Pond.
- We've been very disappointed with the ugly developments we've seen built the last few years. It's ruining the town's character. We should be protecting as much open space as possible. I watched Reading's last farmland turn into apartment buildings. I don't want to see it happen here. Unchecked development will turn West Newbury into just another suburb. Don't know about recreational places for toddlers, lower and upper elementary, middle and high school and handicapped.
- The proposed development at 365 Main St. (the Daley property) will be bad for the town. We would like to see a small number of houses and have the pond and wetland and existing field owned by either the town or Greenbelt, protected for wildlife and passive recreation connecting to Action Cove by trails. Same idea for Mullen property. It would be very nice if the Mullen land could be reverted to its original state: open fields overlooking the river and used for farming and/or passive recreation. Trails connecting Action Cove down to Rocks Village Bridge. The sidewalk on Route 113 should be extended to Newburyport. Permanent protection of town-owned lands and sidewalks are highly important.
- My grandmother grew up on her family's farm here in West Newbury. I grew up in Newburyport; spent most of my youth roaming the fields and forests of West Newbury or fishing at the Artichoke Reservoir as well as bicycling and horseback riding the back roads of West Newbury. The importance of space between neighbors depends on the neighborhood. Bike lanes on Main Street, South Street, possibly Bridge and Church. Sidewalks depends on neighborhood. Not sure what recreational places are available for seniors/handicapped. Can't say how satisfied I am. May not know where some of these passive recreation places (Question 6) are located. Example: Ocean Meadow Trail? May be using them but do not know this by name. Action Cove. Grandchild?? Pipestave for dog walking. Methods of open space protection are all subject to debate.

- Two grandchildren live and attend school in town.
- We love living in and walking in West Newbury. The concerts are a plus. Watching the grandkids play makes West Newbury special. We love the summer concert series and watch the kids play baseball. Thurlow Field is too tick-filled.
- The Question 2 key word is "continue" to acquire land for. We have a lot of trails that hardly get used, for example, how many people have used or hiked the land by Farm Lane/Chestnut Hill? Have questions about recreational places for handicapped. Have used all passive recreation places seldomly. Nothing permanent in protection of existing town-owned lands; we may want to sell for ROI at some point.
- Where are these passive recreation places (Question 6) other than Mill Pond and the bandstand area at Town Hall? Space between neighbors is extremely important.
- Open landscapes and space between neighbors are very, very, important.
- Our youngest child is 19. We have three grown children. As a younger family, we made use of playgrounds and athletic fields in town on a regular basis. I feel that with the expansion of the high school fields, there is now sufficient space devoted to athletic use. I use the trails on a regular basis and feel that we have devoted sufficient expense and property for this purpose.
- Land acquisition can use town funds to beautify the scenic quality of some of the more "valuable" parcels of real estate in the town. Funding must be allocated to protect those areas that are located in some of the less "exclusive" parts of town, as well, along Main Street, town center, etc. Current landowners whose land is desired for acquisition must be compensated at fair market value. If the town invests in these recreational places (Question 5), there is also an incurred cost for their ongoing maintenance and security. Therefore, they should be limited to use by town residents only.
- The town is not a substitute for a parent watching their kids while they play in the yard. Parents' responsibility for toddler, lower and upper elementary, middle and high school, young adults should be working or join a gym (Questions 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.)
- Beautiful town, good roads well-maintained and plowed. Do not know West Newbury recreational places; cannot judge. Land acquisition as a method of protection of open space should be subject to financing.
- Now use outdoor spaces, such as Mill Pond trails, Pipestave for walking, X-country skiing and snowshoeing. In past, used Action Cove playground, Action Cove basketball courts, Pentucket High School tennis courts, Page School ballfields and Pipestave athletic fields.
- Use more developed lands for any low income housing; don't use undeveloped properties. Permanent protection of existing town-owned lands very, very important!
- Sidewalks important for downtown, not important for rural streets. Mowed walking & hiking paths and trails for tick control is very important, such as all the circumference of the Dunn property, not just halfway!! Need more areas for canoeing/kayaking. Grandkids visit from time to time, use Action Cove. I walk the perimeter of Pipestave athletic fields. I agree with land acquisition, if affordable. Not sure what land-use regulation means.
- Grandchildren use Action Cove Playground.
- We have too many ball sports! Used to use Pentucket High School tennis courts, but they're gone.



- Protecting groundwater is more of a regional concern, as is protecting wildlife habitat and forests. Do we have any farmland left? More information needed. Question acquisition of easements or conservation restrictions as methods of open space protection in West Newbury.
- While I have heard many people complain about the new bank building, I think it is extremely important to have a TOWN CENTER. I applaud all restorations and new businesses but only those that respect the historic character of our town. I prefer mixed ages for any activity until truly "aged." No children; don't know about West Newbury's recreational places; both working at full-time jobs. Have hiked most passive recreation places, but not regularly. Would like UPDATED MAPS! The map sold in the library is quite old! The beautiful landscapes are one of the great things about West Newbury! Would love improved or underground electrical wires on Main Street! A dream!
- Question acquisition of easements or conservation restrictions and permanent protection of existing town-owned lands as methods of open space protection for West Newbury.
- Use Mill Pond every day!
- NO! to tackle football.
- Love the small town life ... do not want to see West Newbury get big like our neighboring towns / cities. Sidewalks on Main Street, maybe other busy areas, but not too much. Can't respond to some of the age groups' satisfaction with West Newbury's recreational places (Question 5) as we don't have representation for ourselves in that, and I don't want to assume I know what is satisfactory or not to others. We plan to check out and use all trails over time!
- Town By-laws XXXII (pg 55) Scenic Roads Bylaw. I fear this is being ignored. Suggest it be revised to put Open Space Committee in charge, not Planning Board. Rewrite to make enforcement workable. I am ready for a lands warden arborist who could enforce and etc. Open landscapes very, very important. Extended family uses passive and active recreation places. Acquire land to protect open space wisely. Permanent protection of town-owned land: It depends. Open space protection methods: Trading Up. Sell less desirable town-owned to buy more desirable. "Missed opportunity:" Sell Mullen, buy Sullivan.
- Sidewalks, especially where people cut through and drive really fast!
- Strongly disagree with land acquisition to protect open space in West Newbury.
- Please adopt a plan for issuing out rain barrels similar to what Newburyport does. Is there a website for this organization? I plan to take advantage of all the passive recreation places soon. Purchase back water supply from Newburyport.
- Farms and "off" of Main Street (example Hayden, Merrill, etc.) are less important. Not "Cooney." High school facilities are inadequate. Land acquisition for protecting open space: It depends. We have too much town-owned now. We need to sell some of our land.
- Sidewalks on very busy streets only.
- Very important to have traditional houses along Main Street.
- Have grandchildren who use playgrounds. Paved off-street paths adequate at present.
- Great town but would love a cohesive center in the area around the churches and new bank. For instance, improved Food Mart, replace eyesore car shop across from bank.

- Some recreational places for middle schoolers and high schoolers are okay, good; some are not. Question methods of open space protection for West Newbury.
- In recent years, traffic has increased. Would like to see more sidewalks on more sections of Main Street.
- Open Space Committee should consider more land to be made available to local farmers. Without it, we will lose the rural character of the town.
- Question West Newbury's recreation places for upper elementary (grades 3-6), middle school (grades 7-8), high school (grades 9-12), young adults (19-25 years old) and handicapped. Where is swimming?
- Too many houses going up. I can't believe the one on Main Street with the cat tail swamp right behind it. Also very sorry to see the old house across from the Post Office torn down. Would have liked to have seen the bank restore it. New bank building about 30 percent too large. Gorgeous town. Love it!
- I grew up in West Newbury, and everything it has to offer to both its residents and wildlife is why we want to buy here. We strongly believe in keeping land undeveloped and open for both residents and animals. Senior programs: This is very important!
- Narrow roadways are quite dangerous!
- Pave Ash Street Wildlife road. Add speed bumps to stop speeders, to save animal lives.
- I think the 50 mph zone between Parsons Woods and the Newburyport town line is dangerous for the few of us who live along that zone.
- Babysit grandkids. I believe Action Cove is behind in safety and usability. Take a look at what other towns are offering. Needs update in usage and safety. Put sidewalks in school districts.
- Cannot answer some questions about recreation. Elderly! Too old for a lot of things!
- We are very disappointed the beautiful house in the center of town is now a bank. We would love to see Action Cove Playground updated. Stone building on Main Street could be beautiful if work was done to it.
- Please also continue to support work towards affordable housing and improved and walkable "downtown."
- As a senior, I feel taxes are high, and the community does not have town services. Increased taxes for recreation and conservation are a hardship on the senior population.
- A poison ivy control plan should be implemented to spray herbicide on the overgrown poison ivy along the sides of the trails on the town land.
- Please keep West Newbury as rural as possible.
- The small back and side roads don't have enough room for bikes and cars. Recently paved and NOT safe off-tarmac for bikes or walking. Used sharp construction stone that is hazard for walking and bikes.
- One of the reasons we moved here from Boston area was for the open space, rural beauty, woods and wildlife, and lack of light pollution. It is truly special to enjoy all of these benefits in a town so close to the ocean!

- The taxes are outrageous and far too high! You are causing people to consider leaving their homes because we can't afford to live here with the obnoxious taxes and little to show for them!
- Mill Pond needs to be better monitored. Too many and multiple dogs off leash. Consider making it only for West Newbury resident use.
- The unpaved section of Ash Street is a wonderful habitat for wildlife. Suggest closing road to all vehicular traffic and providing bike / foot path for all to enjoy. Additionally, suggest working with Groveland to open Georgetown Road, which has become a dumping site.
- Have lived in town 88 years.
- Would it be possible to clear the weeds and brush along the roadside to improve sight lines? Improve the shoulders of the roads so bikers and walkers can stand off the road when traffic is heavy.
- Developments in town should be required to host connecting trails to maintain systems in town and allow communities to be connected and not isolated.
- We need to buy open farm land before spec builders destroy this town!! It almost feels too late already!
- The parking problem at the athletic fields at Pipestave Hill needs to be addressed. Overflow of cars parking all over the lawn and in the "trailer only" parking. Parks & Rec needs to address this ongoing problem so all can enjoy the area. It is not being shared properly.
- Set aside land for business / business park to give residents a break on taxes. More business will help spread tax base.
- More organized family-oriented activities would be a plus.
- The rural nature and open space in West Newbury are the reasons we chose to live here. Needs begin to change and, while this remains a priority, this town does not have a plan in place to support its aging population.
- The town should not be acquiring any additional privately-owned land. The town should abandon the precepts of the United Nations Agenda 21. Based on this survey, it is apparent that the town is in lock step with Agenda 21.
- Not sure what is meant by land acquisition and protection of town-owned land.
- Please, no expansion of sidewalks.
- Trail system and hikes are an asset.
- There are several areas that could use a lot of improvement, especially public land along the river, for example, the boat ramp at Rocks Village Bridge, the Riverbend trail, and the "public" area on River Meadow Drive. They are all supposedly public access but are too trashy or overgrown to be used. We do not need any more land acquisition; instead we need improvement / promotion of the land we already own. Another example is the squandered opportunity at Mill Pond; we could have put in a town beach when it was dredged years ago. What a resource that could be, like other towns have, plus jobs for teens as lifeguards. Also, there could be more areas designed for teens, such as a skate park or rec center.
- Very impressed with the progress made on the trail system in past few years. Need better advertising to make folks aware they exist.

- Trees are wonderful but should be cut back and moved away from roads, as they can cause driving hazards and tend to cause power outages.
- Sidewalks on Bachelor and Maple to Main Street would be nice!
- Would love sidewalks on the Page School side of town to connect to the existing sidewalks on the west side. Also, would love a youth center for teens from middle school to early high school.
- We love West Newbury's rural character (moved from Newburyport) and have enjoyed many of the public spaces. We have heard it suggested that the Open Space Committee and Community Preservation Committee are less inclined to expend resources to protect land these days. If that is the case, we would like to advocate for more active work to protect land from excessive development, even if substantial money needs to be spent. For instance, there is land off Middle Road and 113 that seems vulnerable to sale and development, and we would like the town to be more active in trying to protect such properties. Thank you for your work.
- Town trails are wonderful, but dogs at Mill Pond are a troubling issue.
- The importance of open spaces to the town, and diverse, multi-use friendliness of those spaces, is why our family moved to West Newbury. Thanks for your work.
- Require all dogs to be on leash at Mill Pond, It is an out-of-control dog park taken over by selfish people who cannot control their off-leash dogs.
- I am grateful for all the trail work that has been done in recent years. My husband and I take advantage of them regularly!
- Prioritize protecting undeveloped properties. The town needs to be proactive in creating funds necessary to protect large unique tracts of undeveloped property for water protection, view corridors, river access, wildlife habitat and trails for passive use. More stringent design standards should be adopted by the Planning Board; efforts to change state law to disallow ANR subdivision of land should be supported; town officials should be proactive in enforcing existing conservation restrictions.
- I think the community would benefit from some downtown energy...restaurant, cafe, coffee shop, etc.
- Need sidewalks; roads in West Newbury are dangerous.
- It was a shame that a prominent viewshed on Route 113 was marred by a massive solar installation that should have been put elsewhere. Convenience should not have been an excuse.
- We are currently seeing an unprecedented development of our town that quickly will change the characteristics that most of us deeply appreciate. The rural character and significant amount of forest, meadow and pasture strongly increases the value of town and our individual properties and should be maintained as much as possible. I would encourage the town to consider development restrictions, including something commonly done in western cities, such as requiring a portion of land to be put in conservation during the development process. We have a great town that I hope retains its fantastic character.
- Feel very strongly that we have lost a large portion of Wildlife Management trails due to the flooding from beaver dams! Thirty years ago, I could drive a car.



- I love this town. Great work, everyone!
- How did someone get a permit to build a house in a wetland on Main Street? This should not be allowed for many reasons.
- I am not pleased with the more recent huge homes built along Main Street and Chase Street. Builders should have to stay within certain aesthetic guidelines for homes being built on our Main Road,
- Please do not buy more land. Concentrate on managing what we already have.
- I think we have a great base of open space but should always be prepared to acquire new property to preserve the rural character of our town. Thank you for your efforts on this committee.
- It doesn't seem that town officials care anything for open space. They reject proposals that could preserve land, and allow developments that are against the character of the town, which is also against the Planning Board Mission Statement. When residents feel forced to move because of development, something is being done wrong.



**Photo courtesy West Newbury Riding and Driving Club**

Fall brings the Myopia Hunt Club to West Newbury trails for the traditional ride to the hounds in "pursuit" of the elusive fox.

## **APPENDIX B • ADA COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

In updating the OSRP, the lack of accessibility to the town's open space and recreation facilities became obvious to our committee members. To some extent, the failure to address the needs of those with less mobility is the result of a focus on traditional active recreation and grappling with the demands of preserving threatened open space. West Newbury consistently has endeavored to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in its personnel policies and accommodations in town buildings. However, the trails mostly traverse rough terrain and are in need of maintenance. And the growing demand for youth athletics is challenging PRCOM resources. Those issues have eclipsed the fact that a segment of the community is unable to enjoy the active and passive recreation opportunities where they live.

This is borne out by the 2016 survey conducted for this OSRP update. Over 40 percent of the survey participants were 65 and older. When asked, *"How satisfied are you with West Newbury recreational places for this age group?"* respondents (regardless of age) said for seniors 65+: 12.66 percent, Very Satisfied; 38.86 percent, Satisfied; 19.21 percent, Less Satisfied. For handicapped residents, respondents said: 6.18 percent, Very Satisfied; 25.28 percent, Satisfied; 20.22 percent, Less Satisfied. To the question, *"In what activities do you/family members participate/would like to participate?"* the following passive activities suitable for elderly and disabled residents, were cited: Nature programs, 46.9 percent; Bird Watching, 46.3 percent; Art/Music programs, 45 percent; History programs, 35.5 percent; Senior programs, 22.8 percent.

West Newbury is populated by an aging demographic whose needs will drive many future decisions. With this in mind, in January 2016, the BOS appointed a committee to investigate potential locations and appropriate amenities for a community center. The philosophy of a cross-generational facility has evolved from the Community Center Committee's examination of existing buildings and possible construction costs. In the course of its data collection, meetings with stakeholders and regular monthly meetings, members concluded that there was substantial support for a place where the town's residents -- young and old, able and disabled -- could interact and flourish. This facility will be constructed to accommodate both people with disabilities and the elderly.

The 7-year Action Plan in the 2018 OSRP includes a commitment to create recreational programming for people with disabilities. The ADA coordinator with the PRCOM and OSC will survey residents with limited mobility about their concerns, as well as their use of available programs and facilities. Acknowledging a need for special programming, the PRCOM will work to accommodate persons with disabilities, the elderly and preschool children in its existing programs.

The OSC will appoint a subcommittee to review all town trails and open space for accessibility. A short, handicapped-accessible path from the parking area to existing open space will be the first course of action. This will require considerable physical changes to both the parking area and the trail entry. A respondent to the 2016 OSRP survey observed that two large rocks at the entrance to a scenic trail around a reservoir impede wheelchair access. Such "low-hanging fruit" will be examined as a first priority in an effort to create accessibility as soon as possible. In addition, the committee is discussing passive recreation, such as a sculpture garden and scenic overlooks, to bring less physically able people into the community's natural beauty.

With the actions described in this plan, efforts to provide full compliance in the field of open space and recreation will continue. More detailed information on the status of access to existing recreational facilities, along with other documents pertaining to ADA compliance follows the summary.

## **A.D.A. Self-Evaluation**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Designation of ADA Coordinator**

See letter following the facility inventories appointing Glenn Clohecyc as the town's ADA Coordinator.

#### **Grievance Procedures**

- Grievance procedures for union employees are included in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of West Newbury, Massachusetts and Teamsters, Chauffeurs and Helpers – West Newbury Public Safety Dispatch, Union Local No 170 (see attached).
- Personnel policies for non-union employees are described in the Town Personnel Policy (see attached).
- Grievance procedures for the general public are outlined in the Town of West Newbury Equal Access to Facilities and Activities Grievance Policy adopted June 2, 2003.

#### **Public Notification Requirements**

The town has posted informational notices which indicate the law protects the rights of all persons (see attached). The town also has included generic nondiscrimination clauses in its collective bargaining agreement (see attached, Part III), and has specifically targeted discrimination on the basis of disability.

### **PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY: SITE INFORMATION AND TRANSITION PLANS**

#### **1. Cammett Park**

The Town of West Newbury Park & Recreation Commission is responsible for managing Cammett Park. The park contains two baseball fields and a small (non-regulation-size) soccer field that is superimposed on one of the baseball fields. The park is served by a paved parking area with two designated handicapped spaces. There is a solid surface pathway from the parking area to Field 1. There are no restrooms or other indoor facilities that are open to the public. There are bleachers at both fields with level grassed areas.

**Transition Plan:** Solid pathways are to be developed to Field #1 and Field #3 spectator areas. The two designated handicapped parking spaces are missing the required signage. The appropriate signage will be ordered and installed.

#### **2. Action Cove**

The Action Cove playground area is managed by the Action Cove Committee. Action Cove has a small gravel parking area with two designated handicapped parking signs. There are no rest rooms or other indoor facilities that are open to the public. There is one handicapped accessible portable toilet for public use. There are four picnic tables; one is handicapped-accessible.

**Transition Plan:** No required changes.

### 3. Pipestave Hill Athletic Fields/Riding Arena

Responsibility for the Pipestave Hill athletic and equestrian area is shared by the Board of Selectmen, Park & Recreation Commission, Mill Pond Committee, and the Essex County Greenbelt Association -- in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the Management Plan adopted Nov. 26, 2001. Pipestave is the center for the town's equestrian activities, offering two riding rings, riding trails and a cross country jumping course. The area sees heavy use of four regulation-size soccer fields and one baseball field. Handicapped parking and access was part of the soccer field design at Pipestave Hill.

**Transition Plan:** Provide a handicapped accessible portable toilet for public use. Handicapped parking is to be provided at the upper lot and hard trails constructed to spectator areas near the horse area.

### 4. Mill Pond Recreation Area

This area is primarily managed by the Mill Pond Committee, with assistance from the Department of Public Works. The passive recreation area is very popular for walking, cross country skiing, horseback riding, bicycling, fishing and ice skating. It is served by three gravel parking areas, a trail system, and an old camp building that the Mill Pond Committee uses for meetings and summer programs. The parking areas currently do not provide designated drop-off areas for the trails or the building.

**Transition Plan:** The building will be made accessible before summer through the addition of a ramp to be constructed from the rear parking area. Restrooms inside the one-story building then will be accessible. Two handicapped parking spaces will be created and the appropriate signage installed. An accessible picnic table will be added or will replace an existing table.

### 5. Page School

The Park & Recreation Commission manages town-supported youth athletic use of two ballfields and an indoor gymnasium at the Page School. It also operates a summer camp program there, which uses the outdoor and indoor facilities. A school playground there can be used by the public.

**Transition Plan:** The Page School underwent a large renovation project and addition in 2013, and the facility was made ADA Compliant at that time.

## **EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

The Town of West Newbury's Employment Practices are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act including; Recruitment, Personnel Actions, Leave Administration, Training, Tests, Medical Exams/Questionnaires, Social and Recreational Programs, Fringe Benefits, Collective Bargaining Agreements, and Wage and Salary Administration.

## **FACILITY INVENTORIES**

Inventories for each facility were completed and are included in the following pages.



## Action Cove Inventory

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths X
		Access to Open Spaces X
		Back and Arm Rests NO
		Adequate number X
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface N/A
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Located adjacent to accessible paths X
Trails	N/A	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
		Surface material
		Dimensions
Swimming Facilities N/A	Pools	Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
		Entrance
	Beaches	Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
		Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Location from accessible parking
	Access Routes	Shade provided
		Same experience provided to all (see transition plan)
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths (see transition plan)
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair(see transition plan)
	Equipment	Located adjacent to accessible paths X
		Berm cuts onto courts X
		Height X
		Dimensions X
Boat Docks	Access Routes	Spectator Seating No
		Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Handrails
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Fish Cleaning Tables
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	Interpretive Programs
		No
Services and Technical Assistance	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	Yes
		Yes

## Action Cove Inventory

<b>PARKING</b>			
Total Spaces		Required Accessible Spaces	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces	X
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	X		
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			N/A
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			N/A
<b>RAMPS</b>			
No Ramps			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

## Action Cove Inventory

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water		X	
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	X		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	X		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			N/A
<b>Entrances</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			N/A
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			

## Action Cove Inventory

<b>STAIRS and DOORS</b>				N/A
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	Comments/Transition	Notes
<b>Stairs</b>				
No open risers				
Nosings not projecting				
Treads no less than 11" wide				
Handrails on both sides				
Handrails 34"-38" above tread				
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)				
Handgrip oval or round				
Handgrip has a smooth surface				
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"				
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail				
<b>Doors</b>				
Minimum 32" clear opening				
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door				
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch				
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors				
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides				
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)				
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor				
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door				
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked				
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened				



## Action Cove Inventory

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>				N/A
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	Comments/Transition	Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor				
<b>At least one Sink:</b>				
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach				
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim				
Extends at least 22" from the wall				
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high				
Cover exposed pipes with insulation				
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)				
<b>At least one Stall:</b>				
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep				
Stall door is 36" wide				
Stall door swings out				
Stall door is self-closing				
Stall door has a pull latch				
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor				
Coat hook is 54" high				
<b>Toilet</b>				
18" from center to nearest side wall				
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture				
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor				
<b>Grab Bars</b>				
On back and side wall closest to toilet				
1 1/4" diameter				
1 1/2" clearance to wall				
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor				
Acid-etched or roughened surface				
42" long				
<b>Fixtures</b>				
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor				
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")				
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor				

NOTES : Handicapped portable toilets are used.

## Action Cove Inventory

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES				N/A
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
<b>Floors</b>				
Non-slip surface				
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored				
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft				
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor				
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>				
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet				
Hand operated push button or level controls				
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible				
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain				
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach				
<b>Telephones</b>				
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor				
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide				
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified				
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>				
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
<b>Switches, Controls and Signs</b>				
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach				
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor				
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible				
<b>Signs</b>				
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign				
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed				
Letters and numbers at least 1 1/4" high				
Letters and numbers raised .03"				
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color				

## Action Cove Inventory

<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
<b>PICNICKING</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	X		
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	X		
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	X		
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	X		

## Cammett Park Inventory

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	
Picnic Facilities  N/A	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Access to Open Spaces	
		Back and Arm Rests	
		Adequate number	
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths
			Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails  N/A		Surface material	
		Dimensions	
		Rails	
		Signage (for visually impaired)	
Swimming Facilities  N/A	Pools	Entrance	
		Location from accessible parking	
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired	
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water	
		Handrails	
		Location from accessible parking	
		Shade provided	
Play Areas (tot lots) N/A	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all	
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair	
Game Areas: *ballfield 2 *basketball 1 *tennis N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	Yes
		Berm cuts onto courts	Yes
	Equipment	Height	N/A
		Dimensions	
		Spectator Seating	Yes
Boat Docks N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Handrails	
Fishing Facilities  N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	
		Handrails	
	Equipment	Arm Rests	
		Bait Shelves	
		Handrails	
		Fish Cleaning Tables	
Programming  N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim	
		Guided Hikes	
		Interpretive Programs	
Services and Technical Assistance N/A	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		



## Cammett Park Inventory

<b>PARKING</b>			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces X	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	X		
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			N/A
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	X		
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	X		
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			See Transition Plan
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			See Transition Plan
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	X		
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	X		
Curbscut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	X		
Curbscut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	X		
<b>RAMPS</b> No Ramps at this location			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

## Cammett Park Inventory

<b>SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	X		
Disembarking area at accessible entrance	X		
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	X		
No ponding of water	X		
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	N/A		
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	N/A		
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	X		
<b>Entrances</b>			N/A
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			

## Cammett Park Inventory

<b>STAIRS and DOORS</b>		N/A (see note)	
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Stairs</b>			
No open risers			
Nosings not projecting			
Treads no less than 11" wide			
Handrails on both sides			
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip has a smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"			
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail			
<b>Doors</b>			
Minimum 32" clear opening			
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door			
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors			
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides			
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)			
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor			
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door			
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			

**NOTES :** No stairs or doors at this location

## Cammett Park Inventory

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>				N/A (see note)
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>	
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor				
<b>At least one Sink:</b>				
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach				
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim				
Extends at least 22" from the wall				
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high				
Cover exposed pipes with insulation				
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)				
<b>At least one Stall:</b>				
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep				
Stall door is 36" wide				
Stall door swings out				
Stall door is self closing				
Stall door has a pull latch				
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor				
Coat hook is 54" high				
<b>Toilet</b>				
18" from center to nearest side wall				
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture				
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor				
<b>Grab Bars</b>				
On back and side wall closest to toilet				
1 1/4" diameter				
1 1/2" clearance to wall				
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor				
Acid-etched or roughened surface				
42" long				
<b>Fixtures</b>				
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor				
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")				
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor				

NOTES : Accessible porta-potties are provided

## Cammett Park Inventory

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Floors</b>			
Non-slip surface			N/A
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor			N/A
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>			
			N/A
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
<b>Telephones</b>			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Switches, Controls and Signs</b>			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach			N/A
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor			N/A
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
<b>Signs</b>			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			N/A
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

**NOTES :** No floors, phones, drinking fountains etc. at this location



## Cammett Park Inventory

<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area</b>				<b>N / A</b>	
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>		
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides					
Lifting device					
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide					
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool					
Non-slip surface					
<b>SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use</b>				<b>N / A</b>	
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>		
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening					
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance					
Floors are non-slip surface					
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve					
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat					
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose					
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor					
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long					
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds					
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar					
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line					
<b>PICNICKING</b>				<b>N / A</b>	
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>		
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access					
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.					
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground					
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions					
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter					

**NOTES:** There are no swimming areas, showers or picnic areas at this location

## Mill Pond Inventory

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths      Parking area
		Access to Open Spaces      Yes
		Back and Arm Rests      No
		Adequate number      Yes
	Grills      N/A	Height of Cooking Surface
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths      Yes
	Picnic Shelters      N/A	Located adjacent to accessible paths
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		
Trails	See transition plan	Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities  N/A	Pools	Entrance
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
Play Areas (tot lots) N/A	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Shade provided
		Same experience provided to all
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
Enough space between equipment for wheelchair		
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Berm cuts onto courts
	Equipment	Height
		Dimensions
		Spectator Seating
Boat Docks    N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths      Yes
		Handrails      N/A
	Equipment  N/A	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
Programming  N/A	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Fish Cleaning Tables
		Learn-to-Swim
		Guided Hikes
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired	Interpretive Programs
		No
Services and Technical Assistance	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings	Yes

## Mill Pond Inventory

<b>PARKING</b>		See Transition Plan	
Total Spaces	Required Accessible Spaces		
Up to 25	1 space		
26-50	2 spaces		
51-75	3 spaces		
76-100	4 spaces		
101-150	5 spaces		
151-200	6 spaces		
201-300	7 spaces		
301-400	8 spaces		
401-500	9 spaces		
Specification for Accessible Spaces	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			See Transition Plan
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
<b>RAMPS</b>		See Transition Plan	
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			

## Mill Pond Inventory

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Site Access</b>			See Transition Plan
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			
No ponding of water			
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs			
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant			
3 ft wide minimum			
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).			
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch			
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>Entrances</b>			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	X		
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	X		
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	X		
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	X		
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	X		
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			N/A
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			N/A
Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened	X		
Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed			N/A
Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum			N/A
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			N/A
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			N/A

## Mill Pond Inventory

<b>STAIRS and DOORS</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
<b>Stairs</b>			
No open risers	X		
Nosings not projecting	X		
Treads no less than 11" wide	X		
Handrails on both sides			N/A
Handrails 34"-38" above tread			N/A
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)		X	
Handgrip oval or round	X		
Handgrip has a smooth surface	X		
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"	X		
1½" clearance between wall and handrail			N/A
<b>Doors</b>			
Minimum 32" clear opening	X		
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	X		
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch			N/A
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	X		
Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides	X		
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)	X		
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	X		
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	X		
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked			N/A
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened			N/A



## Mill Pond Inventory

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	X		
<b>At least one Sink:</b>			
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	X		
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	X		
Extends at least 22" from the wall	X		
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	X		
Cover exposed pipes with insulation	X		
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	X		
<b>At least one Stall:</b>			
Single user toilet room			
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	X		
Stall door is 36" wide	X		
Stall door swings out	X		
Stall door is self closing	X		
Stall door has a pull latch	X		
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor		X	40" to be adjusted
Coat hook is 54" high			N/A
<b>Toilet</b>			
18" from center to nearest side wall	X		
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	X		
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	X		
<b>Grab Bars</b>			
On back and side wall closest to toilet	X		
1 1/4" diameter	X		
1 1/2" clearance to wall	X		
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	X		
Acid-etched or roughened surface	X		
42" long	X		
<b>Fixtures</b>			
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	X		
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	X		
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	X		

## Mill Pond Inventory

<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Floors</b>			
Non-slip surface		X	
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored			N/A
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft			N/A
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	X		
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>			
			N/A
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet			
Hand operated push button or level controls			
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible			
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain			
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach			
<b>Telephones</b>			
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor			
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide			
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified			
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Switches, Controls and Signs</b>			
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	X		
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	X		
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible			N/A
<b>Signs</b>			
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign			See Transition Plan
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed			
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high			
Letters and numbers raised .03"			
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color			

## Mill Pond Inventory

<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			
<b>SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			N/A
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			
<b>PICNICKING</b>			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access		X	
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			N/A
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	X		
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions		X	
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			N/A

## Pipestave Hill Inventory

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES
Picnic Facilities N/A	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Access to Open Spaces
		Back and Arm Rests
		Adequate number
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Located adjacent to accessible paths
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.
Trails		Surface material
		Dimensions
		Rails
		Signage (for visually impaired)
Swimming Facilities N/A	Pools	Entrance N/A
		Location from accessible parking
		Safety features i.e. warning for visually impaired
	Beaches	Location from accessible path into water
		Handrails
		Location from accessible parking
		Shade provided
Play Areas (tot lots) N/A	All Play Equipment i.e. swings, slides	Same experience provided to all N/A
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Enough space between equipment for wheelchair
Game Areas: *ballfield *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths See Transition Plan
		Berm cuts onto courts N/A
	Equipment	Height N/A
		Dimensions N/A
		Spectator Seating No
Boat Docks N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths N/A
		Handrails
Fishing Facilities N/A	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths
		Handrails
	Equipment	Arm Rests
		Bait Shelves
		Handrails
		Fish Cleaning Tables
Programming	Are special programs at your facilities accessible?	Learn-to-Swim N/A
		Guided Hikes N/A
		Interpretive Programs N/A
Services and Technical Assistance	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired See Transition Plan	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings N/A	

**NOTES:** Handicap accessible porta potties are provided

## Pipestave Hill Inventory

<b>PARKING</b>			
<i>Total Spaces</i>		<i>Required Accessible Spaces</i>	
Up to 25		1 space	
26-50		2 spaces X	
51-75		3 spaces	
76-100		4 spaces	
101-150		5 spaces	
151-200		6 spaces	
201-300		7 spaces	
301-400		8 spaces	
401-500		9 spaces	
<i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance			See Transition Plan
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.			
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle			
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.			
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces			
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)			
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%			
Curbside to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present			
Curbside is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow			
<b>RAMPS</b> N/A			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Slope Maximum 1:12			
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails			
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft			
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface			
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom			
Handgrip oval or round			
Handgrip smooth surface			
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 2"			
Clearance of 1 1/2" between wall and wall rail			
Non-slip surface			
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction			



## Pipestave Hill Inventory

SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES			
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes
<b>Site Access</b>			
Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance			
Disembarking area at accessible entrance			
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed			
No ponding of water			
<b>Path of Travel</b>			
Path does not require the use of stairs	X		
Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	X		
3 ft wide minimum	X		
Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	X		
Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	X		
Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane			Hard packed pathways
Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"			No walls
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs			
<b>Entrances</b> N/A			
Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance			
Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors			
Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)			
At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door			
Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist			
Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space			
Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible			
Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened			
Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed			
Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum			
Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance			
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted			

## Pipestave Hill Inventory

STAIRS and DOORS				N/A
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition	Notes
<b>Stairs</b>				
No open risers				
Nosings not projecting				
Treads no less than 11" wide				
Handrails on both sides				
Handrails 34"-38" above tread				
Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)				
Handgrip oval or round				
Handgrip has a smooth surface				
Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"				
1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail				
<b>Doors</b>				
Minimum 32" clear opening				
At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door				
Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch				
Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors				
Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides				
Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)				
Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor				
Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door				
Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked				
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened				

## Pipestave Hill Inventory

<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules</b>				N/A
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition	Notes
5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor				
<b>At least one Sink:</b>				
Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach				
Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim				
Extends at least 22" from the wall				
Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high				
Cover exposed pipes with insulation				
Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)				
<b>At least one Stall:</b>				
Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep				
Stall door is 36" wide				
Stall door swings out				
Stall door is self closing				
Stall door has a pull latch				
Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor				
Coat hook is 54" high				
<b>Toilet</b>				
18" from center to nearest side wall				
42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture				
Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor				
<b>Grab Bars</b>				
On back and side wall closest to toilet				
1 1/4" diameter				
1 1/2" clearance to wall				
Located 30" above and parallel to the floor				
Acid-etched or roughened surface				
42" long				
<b>Fixtures</b>				
Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor				
One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")				
Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor				✓

NOTES: Accessible potra-potties are used

## Pipestave Hill Inventory

FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES				N/A
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
<b>Floors</b>				
Non-slip surface				
Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored				
Corridor width minimum is 3 ft				
Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor				
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>				
Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet				
Hand operated push button or level controls				
Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible				
If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain				
If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach				
<b>Telephones</b>				
Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor				
Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide				
Adjustable volume control on headset so identified				
<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b>				
Specification	Yes	No	Comments/Transition Notes	
<b>Switches, Controls and Signs</b>				
Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach				
Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor				
Warning signals must be visual as well as audible				
<b>Signs</b>				
Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign				
Within 18" of door jamb or recessed				
Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high				
Letters and numbers raised .03"				
Letters and numbers contrast with the background color				

## Pipestave Hill Inventory

<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer use</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides			N/A
Lifting device			
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide			
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool			
Non-slip surface			

<b>SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening			
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance			
Floors are non-slip surface			
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve			
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat			
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose			
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor			
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long			
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds			
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar			
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line			

<b>PICNICKING</b>			
<i>Specification</i>	Yes	No	<i>Comments/Transition Notes</i>
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access			
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.			
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground			
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions			
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter			





## Town of West Newbury Board of Selectmen

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381 Main Street, West Newbury, MA 01985 | 978-363-11 00, Ext. 115 selectmen@wnewbury .org

Mr. Glenn Clohecy  
5 Monroe Street  
Georgetown, MA 01833

Dear Glenn,

On June 11, 2018, the Board of Selectmen approved your appointment as a Americans with Disabilities Coordinator for the Town of West Newbury. Your term expires on June 30, 2019.

Respectfully,

Glenn A. Kemper, Chairman

David W. Archibald

Joseph H. Anderson, Jr.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

## **APPENDIX C • PARK AND RECREATION OVERVIEW**

The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners consists of three elected members who serve staggered three-year terms. The Park and Recreation Commissioners (PRCom) are responsible for the planning and administration of public playgrounds and recreational sites in West Newbury, which include:

Off Bachelor Street:

- Action Cove Playground
- Three baseball fields that are used for elementary school soccer during the fall
- A basketball court, which can be used as one large or two smaller courts
- The Snack Shack at the Bachelor Street site

Pipestave Hill, Route 113 / Main Street (located across from the Page School):

- Four multi-purpose athletic fields
- A baseball field, with outfield used for soccer/lacrosse/rugby

Page School Fields

- Two softball fields
- A gymnasium basketball court

Ferry Lane Park, at the intersection of Bridge and Church streets:

- Access to the Merrimack River via a boat ramp. The Garden Club maintains the plantings that include vintage peonies. The plants originally came from Cherry Hill Nurseries in West Newbury, which was world famous for its peonies. There is also a Bradford pear that was planted in memory of a former garden club member.

The Commissioners work closely with the town Department of Public Works, which maintains the fields, and the West Newbury Youth League, which uses the facilities. The PRCom is responsible for scheduling field usage and handling requests for field use by others.

At Pipestave, the field conditions vary depending on the use, sod durability, weather conditions and drainage. The DPW maintenance of the fields includes aerating several times a year, as well as engaging an on-going turf management consultant for field inspection and the development of an annual care plan.

Another responsibility of the PRCom is a Summer Recreation Program at the Page School. The six-week program provides summer activities for West Newbury children in grades K-6. About 50 children typically are enrolled in each one-week session. Administered by the PRCom, the summer program now is financially self-sustaining. In summer 2018, 163 different children participated in the program, many of them in more than a single one-week session.

Enrollment figures for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 youth sports programs are shown below:

<b>PARK AND RECREATION PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FIGURES</b>		
<b>SPORT</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	
	<b>Fall-2013 and Spring-2013</b>	<b>Fall-2016 and Spring-2017</b>
<b>West Newbury Youth League (grades 1-6)</b>		
Flag Football	No Program	140
Little League Baseball	125	140
Intramural Basketball	135	135
Lacrosse	120	250
Rugby	70	50
Soccer	280	260
Softball	40	40
<b>Pentucket Middle School (grades 7-8)</b>		
Babe Ruth Baseball	80	60
Intramural Basketball	80	80
Rugby	55	40
<b>Pentucket High School</b>		
Freshman Baseball	No Data	15
Cross Country	No Data	90
Lacrosse	No Data	90
Rugby	No Data	65
Soccer	No Data	110

SOURCE: West Newbury Park and Recreation Commission

For the past four to five years, the estimated number of participants in different sports for grades K-6 has increased from 635 to 880. That change represents about a 38 percent increase when Flag Football is included. Without Flag Football, the increased participation is 17 percent. Flag Football, added in 2014, is the most recent new offering to local youth sports.

### **PIPESTAVE MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS**

At Pipestave Hill, the PRCom works to provide scheduling and assess use of existing flat, multi-sport athletic fields along with ongoing parking concerns. These fields are used in the spring and fall by West Newbury Youth League (WNYL), Pentucket Youth Soccer Association, Pentucket Youth Lacrosse, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Pentucket Regional School District (PRSD). In fall 2018, the Pentucket Youth Football League requested field space, but the Pipestave schedule could not support this activity.

There are four athletic fields at Pipestave. In the fall, three are used and the fourth field is rested due to overuse. The total number of hours of weekly athletic field use for all sports activities at Pipestave was 133 hours in spring 2018 and 104.5 hours in the fall. In the Pipestave photo that follows, Field #4 includes a baseball field whose outfield includes a soccer/rugby/lacrosse field. The lower Pipestave field is composed of three fields (#5, #6 and #7). In the fall, only two fields are used, with the third rested because of overuse.

## Pipestave Hill Athletic Fields



Photo courtesy West Newbury Park and Recreation Commissioners

For spring and fall 2018, the overall field use at Pipestave exceeded 80 percent. During the weekday, only one field was open from 2:30-5 p.m. The term “use” of active recreation fields is defined here as the number of play hours per week divided by available play hours per week, which yields a percentage use based on the weekday timeframe of 2:30-7:30 p.m. and weekend timeframe of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The table below shows the use of Pipestave fields as a function of weekdays and weekends. The overall use of the fields is 93 percent, and the percentages are similar between fall and spring 2018. In the spring, there is a possible 172 hours of field time between the four fields, with 159.5 hours being used (92.7 percent usage). In the fall, there is a possible 111 hours of field time between the three fields, with 102.8 hours of field time used (92.5 percent usage).

Weekday/Weekend Use	Hours Scheduled	Spring 2018	Fall 2018
Weekday	2:30-5 p.m.	75%	66%
Weekday	5-7:30 p.m.	100%	100%
Saturday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	100%	60%
Sunday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	100%	89%
Overall Use		93%	93%

Pipestave field use is expected to increase in fall 2019 with the expansion of flag football to include 8<sup>th</sup> graders. That potentially could increase overall weekend field use to more than 90 percent.

### **Out of Space**

The Pipestave field use reflects the fact that other in-town and out-of-town locations have absorbed demand:

- Pentucket Youth Soccer Association (PYSA) relies on Groveland and Merrimac for the majority of its field requirements due to a lack of Pipestave field space.
- WNYL fall soccer for children up to 8 years old is played in the baseball diamond outfields at Bachelor Street fields.
- Pentucket Youth Lacrosse (PYL) relies, in part, on Pentucket Regional School District fields in the spring due to a lack of sufficient Pipestave athletic field space.
- Pentucket Youth Football (PYF) inquired about Fall 2018 space at Pipestave. There was no available space; PYF relies on field space in Groveland.

The challenge to the growth of youth athletics is evident in the current high percentage of weekday and weekend field use at Pipestave, and the demands that other in-town and out-of-town locations have absorbed.

### **SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TO INCREASE RECREATIONAL FIELDS**

In 2010, the PRCom distributed a questionnaire to West Newbury residents and received responses from about 30 percent of the recipients. The raw data of the questionnaire has been lost; however, the feedback received by the commission at that time was the foundation for developing a Master Plan for an active and passive recreation area, as part of the proposed acquisition of the Daley Property.

In August 2010, Cammett Engineering in Amesbury prepared a Master Plan of active and passive recreational activities that could be phased in over a number of years on the Daley property. The plan was funded by the West Newbury Board of Selectmen. The initial prioritization included an outdoor basketball court, a baseball field, multi-purpose athletic field, a toilet building with storage space, two tennis courts, two paddle tennis courts, walking or hiking trails, a health wellness center or recreation building containing a minimum of storage space, an indoor basketball court, swimming pool, and office space.

The Fall Town Meeting on Oct. 24, 2011, voted not to approve Article 16 that called for acquisition of the Daley Property with \$1,100,000 in CPA funds. The property subsequently was sold to a builder who now is constructing a 34-unit Open Space Preservation (residential) Development, Drake's Landing.

Six years later, the PRCom again focused on addressing the growing need for recreation facilities in town. The effort was informed by the active recreation needs identified in the Daley property Master Plan, and the desire for a retreat dog park expressed in the questionnaire responses. Residents at a fall 2017 Selectmen's meeting made it clear that there was keen interest in active and passive recreational activities in the community. The PRCom had its starting point to examine locations that could support those activities.

The result was creation of a warrant article for the Special Town Meeting on Oct. 22, 2018, seeking approval of an initiative supported by the Community Preservation Committee to expend up to \$51,500 of CPA funds to develop a Master Plan for a short- and long-term active and passive recreation vision. The proposal called for expansion of the Pipestave Hill Active Recreational Area to include the adjacent 72 acres of town-owned land known as Dunn Fields. Town Meeting voters did not approve the warrant article.



## ACTION COVE RESTORATION AND REHABILITATION

At Special Town Meetings in 2016 and 2017, a total of \$50,000 of CPA Open Space and Recreation funds was appropriated to sand, re-stain and rehabilitate the playground equipment at Action Cove. The funding included a professional study of the safety and other needs of the playground facility, which was conducted in September 2016. The staining and rehabilitation were performed to meet the needs identified in the Safety Inspection Report. The appropriations were separated into two phases, Phase I completed in 2016 and Phase II in 2017. The survey responses commenting on the condition of Action Cove were made before the appropriations and improvements to the popular playground were made.

## CURRENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Supporting all youth programs and activities in West Newbury
- Performing an overview of field maintenance and safety from participants' perspective
- Providing amenities at popular recreational sites (for example: porta potties, recycling, parking, etc.)
- Administering the town policies regarding use of recreational facilities
- Providing leadership, both supportive and creative, of town recreational programs.
- Providing and expanding programs for all interested children and residents are major goals of the Park and Recreation Commission. Members are exploring methods to use CPC funds and state funding to acquire and create new recreational facilities and programs. Public support of these endeavors will be essential.



Sophia Bitel photos

The Pipestave and Mill Pond Recreation Area offers a central location for athletic, trail and water activities in scenic town open space. Managing the effect of such heavy use is a constant challenge.

At left, Jackie Colby (led by Tango) is among an enthusiastic, ever-growing group of people who exercise and socialize their dogs in Mill Pond's diverse natural places.

## **APPENDIX D • MEETINGS, NEWS COVERAGE, REPORTS**

The Open Space Committee meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Town Offices. Agendas for these public meetings are posted on the town website, where change of date, time and/or venue also appear. Meeting minutes are posted on the town website after the committee has approved them, generally during the next monthly meeting. Executive Sessions are not open to the public, and minutes from these discussions are not posted. [www.wnewbury.org](http://www.wnewbury.org)

The *Newburyport Daily News* is a print and online 6-day/week publication that covers West Newbury as well as seven cities and towns in Massachusetts and one bordering community in New Hampshire. A correspondent who resides in West Newbury attends and reports on meetings and events of interest to readers. Published articles about the town are archived on the newspaper website. [www.newburyportnews.com](http://www.newburyportnews.com)

While the town no longer has an intensely local newspaper, a Facebook group named for a former community publication, *West Newbury News*, has seen steady growth in members. The FB group has served as a forum for diverse public opinion on issues of importance, including some that involve matters of open space preservation. The OSC has used this means of reaching residents to publicize a forum intended to elicit public opinion about open space issues. The annual fall trail hike also was posted on Facebook to reach a wider segment of residents. Another fledgling means of local communication is in email blasts to parents from town schools and from Town Hall to a subscribed distribution list.



**Photo courtesy of New England Equine Rescue-North**

Many of the grazing guests of New England Equine Rescue-North were saved from suffering and imminent death by its dedicated volunteers. The non-profit provides a safe haven primarily for horses, ponies and donkeys on 13 acres along Ash Street. Rescued animals are rehabilitated for adoption into new families.



## WEST NEWBURY OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

West Newbury, Massachusetts 01985

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Open Space Committee (OSC) met regularly during FY 2017. This report summarizes our key accomplishments from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018:

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

• **Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update:** The OSC continued the state-mandated process of updating West Newbury's previous OSRP dated 2009. A current OSRP is a condition for certain state grants and is intended to be a planning tool for town boards, departments, and committees. A subcommittee of the OSC met weekly to revise and update the OSRP using new mapping tools, results of the 2016 town-wide survey, and resources of other conservation agencies as well as input from other town boards, residents, and OSC members. The final OSRP will be complete in late 2018.

• **Collaboration on Open Space Issues:** The OSC served as a resource for and consulted with other town boards, committees, and individuals, including potential developers, on a range of issues relating to open space and trails. One of the more controversial projects that came before the OSC would have rezoned an 80-acre "priority parcel" as a solar overlay district and would have permanently conserved about 30 acres as open space. The OSC was split on the benefits of this proposal and Town Meeting defeated the rezoning.

In addition, the OSC advised the Board of Selectmen on Chapter 61 parcels. It consulted with the River Access Committee on the feasibility of providing car-top craft access to the Merrimack River at a number of locations in town. The OSC also collaborated with the Conservation Commission and Planning Board on the Drake's Landing residential development, providing advice about optimal trail locations, design, and development. Finally, members worked closely with local land trust Essex County Greenbelt (Greenbelt) on various issues relating to critical open space parcels in West Newbury. One such plan would have involved the purchase of a conservation restriction on nine acres of farmland on Main Street using CPA funds, thus preserving a piece of the town's agricultural heritage.

• **Open Space Management:** As part of creating the inventory of priority open space parcels required by the OSRP, the OSC revised its criteria for designating land for preservation. The newly revised list of valuable open space parcels is guided by the Mass Audubon MAP PR2 along with other traditional criteria used by the committee.

• **Trail System Improvements:** With the ongoing goal of creating a town-wide network of trails, the OSC continued to plan, develop, and maintain trails. Our Conservation Commission liaison and member provided invaluable assistance to help us create a Wetlands Trail Management Plan which was approved by the Conservation Commission, Board of Selectmen, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

In October 2017, the OSC sponsored its annual fall trail hike showcasing the former Walker Meadow, the latest addition to Greenbelt's West Newbury trail network. The meadow provides a link from the South Street Woodlots to the Indian Hill Reservation and the Atherton Trail Connector to Pike's Bridge Road.

• **Website Enhancements:** The OSC began to migrate content from its own website to West Newbury's municipal website. We believe this will create a more seamless portal to open space news and information. The new website will continue to offer maps of West Newbury trails and links to third-party open space and conservation resources as well as committee meeting minutes, schedules and agendas.

Visit:

[wnewbury.org/open-space-committee](http://wnewbury.org/open-space-committee)



Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,  
*Patricia P. Reeser*, Chairman  
November 2018

# West Newbury Open Space Committee

## FALL TRAIL HIKE

**Date:** Sunday, October 21, 2018

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Parking:** At Pipestave Hill

**Place:** Dunn Field, West Newbury



For full-size map, go to:  
[www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee](http://www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee)

➤ Enjoy our beautiful town in autumn - a one-hour scenic hike!

➤ Explore town-owned open space adjacent to Pipestave Hill.

➤ Walk 70 acres of forest and farmlands.

➤ Refresh with free cider and apples from Long Hill orchard.

For questions or cancellation due to weather, visit:  
[www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee](http://www.wnewbury.org/open-space-committee)